

NICHOLL FELLOWSHIP GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

As an official partner of the Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting, University of Manchester may recommend up to two screenwriters per year of the partnership to submit a feature screenplay to the Nicholl Competition.

Current MA Screenwriting students and graduates from the past five years (those graduating during or since 2021) are eligible for consideration.

If you would like to be considered you must:

- Submit a finished screenplay, in standard industry format (12 point courier), no shorter than 80 pages and no longer than 125 pages. The cover page of your screenplay should include only its title
- Submit a separate covering page with your screenplay that includes its title, your name and a logline
- Screenwriters and screenplays that have not yet received recognition from other programmes or competitions will be prioritised
- Be mindful of the [Nicholl Scoring Rubric](#)
- Meet the eligibility criteria set by the Nicholl Fellowship (see below)

If you wish to be considered for the Nicholl Fellowships you should submit your screenplay to jonathan.hourigan@manchester.ac.uk.

Applications will be open from midday, **Wednesday 1 July** until midday **Wednesday 22 July 2026**. This deadline is final. No exceptions will be made.

- Please note, The Nicholl Fellowships has partnered with The Black List and the Writers Guild Foundation to serve as portals for public submissions. Please visit <https://blcklst.com/> or <https://www.wgfoundation.org/> for more information. Submission via these avenues have their own criteria, guidelines and deadlines.

Entry criteria:

- [Full eligibility details can be found here](#)
- The entrant is responsible for ensuring that their name, address, phone number or any other identifying information does not appear on the title page or any other page of the script when applying
- An entrant's total lifetime earnings for motion picture and television writing may not exceed \$25,000 USD before the end of the competition. This limit

applies to compensation for motion picture and television writing services as well as for the sale of (or sale of an option on) screenplays, teleplays, stage plays, books, treatments, stories, premises and any other source material.

- Submitted scripts must have been written originally in English; translations will not be accepted.
- Collaborative work by two writers who share equally in its creation is eligible. Collaborative work for which one writer developed the idea and another writer wrote the screenplay is not eligible. Collaborative work by three or more writers is not eligible.
- Submitted scripts must be the original work of the entrant(s).
- An entrant (or writing team) may submit a maximum of one screenplay in the current competition.
- The Nicholl Competition only accepts feature length screenplays in standard industry format, to fit on U.S. letter paper size or A4 paper size in PDF format. The minimum page count must be 80 with a maximum page count of 125.
- Television pilots, episodic material or parts of a multi-part feature are not eligible.
- Screenplays must be submitted in PDF format.

FAQs

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM RECOMMENDED?

- Partners will notify writers if they have been recommended. The Nicholl Fellowships will then reach out to official partner-recommended writers for additional information.

CAN I PROVIDE AN UPDATED DRAFT AFTER I AM RECOMMENDED TO ENTER THE NICHOLL?

- Upon the partner's submission of a recommended writer's script to the Academy's Nicholl office, no substitutions of either corrected pages or new drafts of the entry screenplay are allowed.

[More details of the Nicholl Fellowships can be found here.](#)