

BAFTA Rocliffe New Writing Competition 2020 FAQs

WHAT IS THE ENTRY PROCEDURE?

There are four application windows over two years for the following categories:

- TV Comedy - 2020
- Film - 2020
- Children & YA s Media – 2021
- TV Drama - 2021

TV COMEDY

Applications for TV Comedy open on the 27 July 2020, 12pm. To apply for TV Comedy please submit a completed online application form along with your supporting materials by 10 September 2020, 5pm**. If you wish to apply for a bursary please complete a bursary form by 30 August 2020, 5pm (NOTE: this has changed from 15 August). The Online Showcase 03 November 2020 from 430pm until 6pm.

SUBMISSIONS: TV SitCom, Sketches and NEW FOR 2020 we'll also accept 5 x 2min webisode series.

Applications for TV Drama & Children's Media open in 2021 and dates will be announced in January 2021.

Please note, Rocliffe and BAFTA reserve the right to change these dates at any time and will publish any changes on the Rocliffe and BAFTA websites.

WHEN DO I GET MY REPORT OR IF I HAVEN'T RECEIVED MY SUBMISSION REPORT?

We send out the reports in the week running up to the event date. All reports are sent by WETRANSFER. You'll have 7 days to download it. You can email office@rocliffe.com with your script name and ID number to request it to be resent. All reports are kept on file up to 6 (six) months after the event date, we will do our best to resend any reports after this date but we cannot guarantee they will still be on our system.

WHAT SUPPORTING MATERIALS DO YOU REQUIRE?

We require two PDFs. One should contain your Supporting Materials, and one should be your Script Extract. Please name your files: 'Your Script Title – Supporting Materials' and 'Your Script Title – Extract'.

The Supporting Materials should be no longer than 3 pages (font size 12 Arial/TNR/Courier) and contain the following in this order:

- Short synopsis (25 words)
- Treatment or outline of the entire film, series or show (300 words max)
- Character breakdown of featured characters (50 words per character)
- 3 to 6 episode guides/storylines OR 3 to 6 sketch ideas (50 words each)
- Introduction to extract that sets the scene (100 words max)

No artwork or casting suggestions should be included.

The *Extract* should be:

10-page extract of the script numbered 1 to 10, typed and formatted to industry standards. Please follow standard script format and do not send full scripts. For information on formats, we recommend you look at [BBC Writersroom](#). **Please make sure none of the documents feature your name, so we can keep the competition anonymous.**

WHO CAN ENTER?

Anyone who is a British citizen or has been resident in the UK for five years prior to the entry deadline and is over the age of 18 at the entry deadline may apply. No previous writing experience is necessary! Previous winners of the competition are not able to apply again for three years.

WHY SHOULD I ENTER?

Finalists receive a selection of fantastic prizes, have their work read by execs, agents and producers sitting on the selection panel and jury, and have their work showcased at an (online) industry showcase at BAFTA. To be selected as a winner of the BAFTA Rocliffe Competition, your entry has to be read and recommended at least four times during the judging process. That's a lot of eyes on your work! Once the finalists are selected a team of directors, composers, artists, casting directors and actors get to work on creating a fantastic showcase of the work at BAFTA. At the event you receive live feedback from industry guests. You are then looped into both the Rocliffe Alumni Network and the BAFTA New Talent Network. Visit the [Rocliffe homepage](#) for updates on how previous finalists are doing.

WHAT DO I GET IF I AM SELECTED AS A FINALIST?

The BAFTA Rocliffe New Writing Competition offers you a fantastic industry showcase, industry introductions and career guidance to provide support in navigating the industry. You also become part of the Rocliffe Alumni Network and the BAFTA New Talent Network and are given access to BAFTA events and opportunities throughout the year.

WHO READS MY SCRIPTS?

Rocliffe have a team of dedicated readers who write a report for each entry and recommend submissions that best fulfil the competition criteria before passing the recommended scripts to the industry panel. BAFTA and Rocliffe invite knowledgeable industry panels and juries based on their expertise in each medium with proven track records. They are all practising professionals on the lookout for new talent.

IS IT STRICTLY ANONYMOUS?

All submissions are strictly anonymous. Only a limited number of Rocliffe and BAFTA administrators have access to applicant details and they do not participate in the judging process. The panellists and jurors do not see the names of those applying; finalists' names are only revealed once the final jury decision has been made. **Please do not include your name or any identifying features on your script or supporting materials.** All entries must feature the project's title. Our panel are only given the supporting materials and extract. If a panellist recognises a script, they discreetly inform the invigilator and the script is given to someone else to read and make a decision on.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY NAME APPEARS ANYWHERE ON THE SCRIPT OR MATERIALS?

We will either redact your name or send the submission back to you and ask you to re-submit. Your application will not be acknowledged until the correct materials are submitted.

HOW DO I ENTER?

Register an account with <https://apply.bafta.org/entrant/>

- Login to your account and select the 'Create Application' tab
- Create an application for the BAFTA Rocliffe New Writing Competition

Please ensure you find and select the correct category. We have two script call-outs throughout the year for TV Comedy, TV Drama, Children's Media, and Film applications.

Pay – please see HOW DO I PAY FOR MY ENTRY section for details

You will receive a submission email. Please ensure all details on your application are correct in the PDF attached to the email. Please contact apply@bafta.org if any information is incorrect and we will do our best to accommodate changes.

HOW DO I PAY FOR MY ENTRY

Payments are made after you have submitted your application form. Please ensure you have paid within 48 hours of submitting your application. To pay please follow these steps:

- After you have submitted your application you will be taken to an 'Application Submitted' page
- Select 'Preview invoice'
- You will be taken to a page showing your invoice
- Select 'Continue to payment'
- You do not need to enter a PO Number; please leave this box blank
- Type 'I AM SURE' where indicated
- Proceed to payment
- If you have applied for and subsequently been offered a bursary please do not pay for your application when prompted to do so. Your bursary will be applied by BAFTA and Rocliffe representatives after you have submitted.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T RECEIVE AN EMAIL

Please check you provided the correct email address and contact apply@bafta.org to enquire whether your application has been successfully submitted. The system is designed to automatically send you an email upon submission so if you have correctly submitted an application but do not receive an email it is most likely that the email address provided was incorrect. Please, do also check your junk folder. BAFTA and Rocliffe are not able to accept late entries from applicants who thought they had submitted when there is no record of submission.

HOW DO I WITHDRAW MY APPLICATION?

You may withdraw your application at any time by emailing apply@bafta.org, however we are unable to process refunds once payment has been made. Your application can be withdrawn after you have paid, but you will not receive reimbursement.

WHAT FORMATS DO YOU ACCEPT?

Please ensure entries are uploaded as a PDF.

DO I NEED TO SUBMIT ANY OTHER INFORMATION ALONG WITH MY SCRIPT EXTRACT?

Yes, please make sure to upload all the required supporting material alongside your script extract.

DO THE REQUIREMENTS CHANGE FOR EACH COMPETITION

TV Drama and TV Comedy calls require additional episode guides. Otherwise, each competition requires the same support materials along with the 10-page script extract.

HOW DO I FORMAT MY SCRIPT?

Scripts must conform to industry standard formats. We suggest looking at the [BBC Writersroom](#) website for more information. You don't need to buy expensive formatting software, there are free formats available (e.g. CELTX). Most professional writers use Final Draft. There are other software packages available ranging in price.

WHICH 10-PAGE EXTRACT SHOULD I PICK?

You should send your 10 **BEST** pages. You do not need to send the first 10 pages although you are free to if these are the best pages. Please check there are no formatting or spelling mistakes. Further advice from Rocliffe can be found [here](#).

HOW DO I WRITE A TREATMENT?

The treatment is an opportunity for the writer to present plot points, details and scope that cannot be presented in the 10-page extract, such as the characters' relationships with one another and how these will develop over time. They should be entertaining and engaging, and reveal the beginning, middle and end of the story or entire series within a tight word limit. The treatment needs to give the panel reading your script an idea of the WHOLE script or series and should also reference the extract. Further advice from Rocliffe can be found [here](#).

WHAT DOES THE INTRODUCTION NEED TO INCLUDE?

This is an opportunity for you to illustrate where the extract comes within the body of the script and the story. State the genre if it's a feature film, give context to the world. Think of it as your once upon a time... if it is a TV series then state if it is a mini-series and what episode the extract comes from. Used effectively it can also create the entire atmosphere of the piece – horror, comedy or thriller. The introduction should be used to contextualise the extract and set the tone for what the readers are about to read, even if you have provided the first 10 pages as your script extract. Further advice from Rocliffe can be found [here](#).

WHAT IF MY EXTRACT IS LESS THAN 10 PAGES?

That's fine. You can send us up to 10 pages but you can submit less than 10 pages.

CAN I SEND MORE THAN 10 PAGES?

No, you must not send more than 10 pages. Any more than 10 pages will not be read.

WHY ARE YOU NOT ACCEPTING SHORTS?

We sometimes change our criteria or introduce new criteria.

CAN I SUBMIT IF I AM NOT A UK CITIZEN OR RESIDENT?

Unfortunately this initiative is only open to writers who have resided in the UK for five years' prior to the closing date criterion applies only to the lead writer.

WHY DO YOU CHARGE AN ENTRY FEE?

The fee covers the admin, production and reader costs.

WE ARE A TEAM OF WRITERS, CAN WE SUBMIT OUR PROJECT?

Yes of course, however you must nominate a 'lead' writer who will receive all of the communications from Rocliffe and BAFTA. That writer is responsible for informing their fellow writers of any updates.

All writers on the project are given equal billing in alphabetical order unless they request otherwise.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS ONCE I HAVE SUBMITTED MY SCRIPT?

Once your script has been submitted, we send the scripts to our script readers to review. None of the other details provided on your application form are sent to the script readers. The readers then read and recommend the scripts with the most potential.

The long list is then sent to an industry panel. If a panellist feels a script has potential, another member of the panel reads it. If the script gets two yesses it goes through to the short list.

The shortlisted writers (up to ten projects) will then have five days to rewrite their materials in light of feedback.

The short list is then read by the industry jury who meet and select the three winning finalist scripts. This means each winning entry has been read and recommended at least four times.

CAN I AMEND MY SUBMISSION AFTER I HAVE SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION?

Yes, if you have omitted materials or vital information please email apply@bafta.org. Do not fill out an additional application form.

CAN I AMEND MY DETAILS AFTER I HAVE SUBMITTED THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM?

Yes, please email apply@bafta.org with any changes to your details and we will amend your application if possible. It is only possible to make changes before the final entry deadline. After this date no changes can be made.

WHAT IF I ACCIDENTALLY SAY THAT I CANNOT ATTEND THE EVENT ON THE APPLICATION FORM?

Don't worry. We will assume that you will be able to attend. The question is a prompt so that people will double check before entering. Do not submit an additional application form.

DO I NEED TO HAVE WRITTEN A FULL SCRIPT OR JUST AN EXTRACT?

Yes, the extract will need to come from a full episode or feature film that you have written.

WHEN WILL I HEAR IF I HAVE BEEN SELECTED OR NOT?

Notifications are sent out three weeks prior to the showcase.

IF MY FULL SCRIPT THAT MY EXTRACT HAS COME FROM IS BELOW 80 PAGES, OR ABOVE 120, WILL I BE DISQUALIFIED?

No. We recommend that the length should be dictated by industry standards, i.e. a half hour show should be 20-28 pages, a TV Drama episode between 50-55 pages and a feature 70-120 pages.

DO I HAVE TO WRITE A TREATMENT FOR A SKETCH SHOW OR COMEDY SERIES?

Yes, as you need to show how the sketch show will sustain as an entire series. Please give a brief description of how the sketch show would progress over a whole series. For example, are there recurring characters or themes? We suggest you look at the formats of show outlines for *League of Gentlemen* or *Little Britain*.

CAN I SUBMIT AN ADAPTATION?

If it is your own book or play that you want to adapt, and you own the rights, then adaptations are fine. It is also fine if the material is out of copyright, but you need to have acquired the rights. If you are adapting the work of someone else then you need to show that you have permission to do so. Please contact office@rocliffe.com with any queries.

CAN I SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE EXTRACT?

Yes. You can submit multiple applications, but ONLY if you are submitting different extracts each time. You will need to go through the same steps that you did with the first entry and it requires an additional fee for each entry.

WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU NEED ON THE TITLE PAGE?

Script title pages are not necessary, but all pages of your entry must include the script title and NO other identifying features or personal details.

WHAT SORT OF SCRIPTS ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

The script can be about anything. It's all about the quality of the writing.

HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE RECEIVED MY SCRIPT?

You will receive an automatic submission email once your application has been received. We look at every application that is submitted to us. Once the competition has closed, we will email everyone who has entered with the announcement dates.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I OPTION OR SELL MY SCRIPT OFF MY OWN BACK, OR THROUGH THE HELP OF THE INITIATIVE, BEFORE THE END OF THE COMPETITION?

Great news! We will help you shout about it and assist you with agent representation on the deal should you not have representation already.

WILL BAFTA OR ROCLIFFE EVER HAVE ANY RIGHTS OR PERCENTAGE OVER MY SCRIPT? No. You wrote it, it's yours. We will never have any rights over your work.

CAN I ENTER SHORT SCRIPTS INTO THE FILM CALL?

Yes, short film scripts will be accepted, but this can vary on occasions. Please always make sure the current call out allows for shorts to enter.

DO YOU OFFER A SCRIPT READING AND ANALYSIS SERVICE?

Rocliffe offer this service. Click [here](#) for further information.

DOES IT MATTER THAT MY SCRIPT ISN'T COPYRIGHTED?

It doesn't need to be copyrighted. But if you feel more comfortable doing so, you can do it with the Writers Guild. Click [here](#) for further information.

HOW WILL I BE INFORMED OF COMPETITION DEVELOPMENTS?

Writers will be notified at each stage of the competition: long list, short list and winners will all be notified of their progression to that stage. If you are entering as part of a team, the lead writer will be notified and they are responsible for informing the rest of the writing team.

WHAT IF I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM BAFTA OR ROCLIFFE SINCE RECEIVING MY CONFIRMATION EMAIL?

If you haven't received any communication from us then there will be an issue with your email address or server. Please email office@rocliffe.com with your direct phone number and you will receive a response within two working days.

CAN I ATTEND THE BAFTA ROCLIFFE NEW WRITING SHOWCASE IF I HAVEN'T BEEN SELECTED?

Yes, absolutely! There is a lot to be gained from the experience as well as the fact that it is a wonderful networking opportunity. Please email office@rocliffe.com if you would like to attend and introduce yourself to Rocliffe representatives at the event. We will do our best to introduce you to people attending. As the event for 2020 and 2021 will be online you can tune in from anywhere. The showcases are not recorded.

DO I GET A FREE TICKET TO THE EVENT IF I ENTER?

No. However, if you contact office@rocliffe.com saying you would like to attend then we will see whether it is possible to arrange a complimentary ticket if available.

WHAT ARE THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION? Please consult our Terms and Conditions.

DO YOU TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PRIZES I HAVE WON FROM OTHER SCREENWRITING COMPETITIONS?

No, the selection process is completely anonymous. None of the panellists know who you are or know your track record. The competition is purely based on the strength of the writing submitted.

WHEN DO I GET A STATUS UPDATE ON MY APPLICATION?

All writers are informed of the status of their application approximately three weeks prior to the showcase event date by email. The finalists will receive a telephone call.

WHEN DO I GET MY FEEDBACK REPORT?

All writers are sent their feedback reports in the week leading up to the showcase event date by WeTransfer. You will have one week to download it. If you haven't received an email in this time frame please contact office@rocliffe.com.

CAN I ENTER MY SCRIPT INTO OTHER COMPETITIONS AT THE SAME TIME?

Yes, you can enter as many other competitions as you like without affecting the status of your submission to this competition.