



Regulations 2021

Regulations Edition 2021 16 to 24 April 2021

1. Programming

The aim of Visions du Réel, International Film Festival Nyon, is to present films that, through their formal and aesthetic choices, provide personal and singular expressions and descriptions of past, present or future realities, freely interpreting the very definition of documentary filmmaking and its implementation.

As a general rule, the Festival also aspires to discover new films and new filmmakers and artists.

2. Sections

International Feature Film Competition

Contemporary documentary filmmaking through a selection of original and singular feature films.
Only world, international or European premieres are eligible.

Burning Lights International Competition

An international competition dedicated to new vocabularies and expressions, to research and to narrative and formal experimentation (medium length and feature films).
Only world, international or European premieres are eligible.

National Competition

A competition dedicated to feature and medium length films (co)produced by Switzerland.
Only world, international or European premieres are eligible.

International Medium Length and Short Film Competition

Contemporary documentary filmmaking through a selection of original and singular medium length and short films.
Only world, international or European premieres are eligible.

Opening Scenes

A section dedicated to first short films or student films, presented as world, international or European premieres

The invited filmmakers present their films as part of the Festival's official selection and participate in the Opening Scenes Lab, a customized programme of industry-related professional activities.

Grand Angle

Feature films that have already wowed audiences at other festivals or that will mark the coming year. Presented at least as world, international, European or Swiss premieres.

Latitudes

A non-competitive section (feature films) that aims to reveal a panorama of current documentary practices. Presented at least as world, international, European or Swiss premieres.

Other Sections

The Festival also has non-competitive sections that are not open for submissions and are programmed by the Artistic Direction in collaboration with Visions du Réel's Selection Committee and/or other programmers or guests. These sections are also subject to these Regulations.

3. Selection

The Artistic Direction of the Festival selects the films for the official programme, assisted by a Selection Committee made up of Swiss and international experts.

The Artistic Direction of the Festival reserves the right to choose the section in which the films will be presented.

The Festival may invite films that have not been selected for the official programme to be entered in the Visions du Réel Media Library to be viewed by buyers and professionals. These films are featured in a separate catalogue and can be viewed in the Media Library (VOD service for accredited professionals). The inclusion of these films in the Media Library is subject to a fee (see 2021 Media Library Terms & Conditions on the Visions du Réel website: www.visionsdureel.ch/industry/media-library).

The films selected for the Festival are included in the Media Library free of charge and buyers and professionals can view them in situ during the Festival and online.

4. Conditions for admission

- (a) All films selected by Visions du Réel (except for the films of the non-competitive sections) must be supplied in unencrypted DCP format. No other film formats will be accepted.
- (b) Production of the selected films must have finished in the 12 months preceding their screening at the Festival.
- (c) Definitions that are applied to films presented as premieres:
 - **World premiere:** the film has never been screened before nor been broadcast on television or online.
 - **International premiere:** the film has only been screened in one of its production countries and has preferably never been screened neither on television nor has had a theatrical release. Distribution on a VOD platform is acceptable in the context of a festival located in one of the film's production countries and if it took place with limitations, as much in terms of the number of spectators as of the duration.
 - **European premiere:** the film has been screened outside Europe, but has never been shown in any European country. It has preferably never been screened neither on television nor has had a theatrical release. Distribution on a VOD platform is acceptable in the context of a festival located in one of the film's production countries and if it took place with limitations, as much in terms of the number of spectators as of the duration.
 - **Swiss premiere:** the film has been screened in Europe, outside its production country, but never in Switzerland.

(d) Definitions applied to duration of films:

- **Short film:** up to 30'
- **Medium length film:** between 31' and 60'
- **Feature film:** over 60'

(e) A production company submitting a film for selection must keep the Festival informed of any screenings that may take place. Once the film is selected, the production company commits to no longer screen, broadcast or make the film available online before the first screening.

5. Registration and shipping of films for selection

All films sent for preselection must be registered online by filling in the entry form.

An entry fee of CHF 20.- applies for each film submitted. Registration is only considered completed, once the fee has been received by the Festival.

The Festival reserves the right to disqualify any submission that does not meet eligibility criteria mentioned in these Regulations, without refunding registration fees.

A password-protected link (valid until the end of April 2021) to view the film must be provided, including the possibility for the film to be downloaded in order to facilitate the viewing process for the Selection Committee.

Submission deadlines

- **23 October 2020** for films finished by the end of September 2020
- **22 December 2020** for films finished by March 2021

The entry form must be filled in and the entry fee received before these deadlines.

Films sent for preselection must be in the original language with English subtitles. The online links must reach Visions du Réel by **31 December 2020** at the very latest.

6. Confirmation of selected films

Should the Selection Committee find a film of interest, the production company or the filmmaker will receive a preselection notice.

Films that are not selected will receive a refusal notice. However, if they are considered to be of interest for the Media Library, producers will receive an invitation to register the film in the Media Library (see 2021 Media Library Terms & Conditions).

Notification of final selection (with indication of the section) will be sent to the production company or the filmmaker by the end of February 2021 at the latest. The official selection will be announced during Visions du Réel's press conference (date to be confirmed). Disclosure of a film's selection to third parties is not allowed before that date.

All selected films will be added free of charge to the Media Library, a password-protected online platform accessible to all accredited professionals (see 2021 Media Library Terms & Conditions).

7. Documentation for selected films

For each selected film, the following material must be sent after receiving the selection notice. Visions du Réel reserves the right to use this material for the promotion of the film and the Festival.

- At least three horizontal stills from the film (digital images, 10 cm x 15 cm, 300 DPI, JPG)
- A photo of the filmmaker(s) (digital images, 10 cm x 15 cm, 300 DPI, JPG)
- A dialogue list with timecodes in English and/or French
- A file or a password-protected link of the final version of the film in high quality with English subtitles
- A file or a link to the film trailer (three minutes maximum)
- An international title in the language of your choice (which will be used by the Festival for all communication)
- Posters, flyers and other promotional material

8. Languages and subtitles

The films selected in the following sections — International Feature Film Competition; Burning Lights International Competition; National Competition; International Medium Length and Short Film Competition; Grand Angle; Latitudes and Opening Scenes — will be screened in their original language with English and French subtitles.

A copy of the film with embedded English subtitles must be provided for by the production company at its expense.

The French subtitles, if these exist, must also be provided. In the event that they do not exist, the Festival will create electronic subtitles in French. These French subtitles will remain the property of the company that produces them.

The producers and distributors of all selected films are required to add the Visions du Réel logo to their final DCP copy (as well as on the online version) and mention, in their promotional material (poster, press kit, trailer, website, etc.), the selection of the film at Visions du Réel, using the official logo that will be supplied by the Festival. Under no circumstances must the logo be modified without the permission of the Festival.

9. Shipping deadline of the screening copy

The screening copy (DCP) of the selected film must arrive on Visions du Réel's private and internal server by 24 March 2021 at the very latest. This deadline must be respected without fail in order for the Festival to ensure the best screening and subtitling possible during the Festival.

10. Shipping the screening copy

The screening DCPs must be uploaded to Visions du Réel's private and internal server (a personal code will be sent to you following the film's selection). In the exceptional case that the screening copy has to be sent by post, the shipping costs, including return, and import duties to Switzerland shall be paid by the sender.

11. The Festival's responsibility

For the physical copies for the parallel sections, the Festival insures the screening copy as soon as it arrives at the Festival's office and until it is handed over or sent back.

Should a film copy be lost or damaged during the Festival, Visions du Réel will pay the cost of a new copy based on current prices.

12. Participants' obligations

The films in the following sections — International Feature Film Competition; Burning Lights International Competition; National Competition; International Medium Length and Short Film

Competition; Grand Angle; Latitudes, Opening Scenes and Projections Spéciales— are made available to the Festival free of charge and without compensation to the rights holders.

A film cannot be withdrawn from the Festival once confirmation of its participation in Visions du Réel has been received following the official email notification of its selection.

The production company confirms that all image rights of the persons in the film have been cleared.

13. Authorizations

After selection of a film, the Festival has the right to:

- Keep the high res video files of selected films in its archive for non-circulating use and educational purposes
- Share the film privately with selected journalists before the Festival
- Use all publicity material to promote the Festival
- Use short excerpts of the film for its video clips promoting some sections of the Festival

14. Debates

The first screening of the films presented in the following sections — International Feature Film Competition; Burning Lights International Competition; National Competition; International Medium Length and Short Film Competition; Grand Angle; Latitudes and Opening Scenes — is followed by a public debate. The filmmakers whose films have been selected in these sections are required to attend those debates.

15. Programming

The Artistic Direction of the Festival decides which films are selected. This decision is final.

Each film selected can be screened several times during the Festival.

16. Hospitality

The filmmakers whose films have been selected in the following sections — International Feature Film Competition; International Burning Lights Competition; National Competition; International Medium Length and Short Film Competition; Grand Angle and Latitudes are invited to Nyon as follows:

The Festival pays for accommodation (number of nights defined by the Festival) and meals for one person per film. In case of a co-direction, the Festival will pay for one double room as well as meals for two filmmakers.

The Festival does not pay for travel expenses or any other expenses. But the Festival will lend support in the search for funding with national institutions that are likely to financially contribute to travel costs. The requests to these institutions will have to be made by the filmmakers directly.

The filmmakers invited as part of the Opening Scenes Lab will have their transport, accommodation and meal expenses entirely covered by the Festival.

17. Festival jury and prizes

The International Feature Film Competition Jury will award the Grand Prize to the best feature film (CHF 20,000) and the Jury Prize (CHF 10,000) in the International Feature Film Competition.

The Burning Lights International Competition Jury will award the Grand Prize to the best medium length or feature film (CHF 10,000) and the Jury Prize film (CHF 5,000) in the Burning Lights International Competition.

The National Competition Jury will award the Grand Prize to the best medium length or feature film (CHF 15,000) and the Jury Prize (CHF 10,000) in the National Competition.

The International Medium length and Short Film Competition Jury will award the Grand Prize to the best medium length film (CHF 10,000) and the Grand Prize to the best short film (CHF 5,000).

The Youth Jury, composed of students from the region, awards the Youth Jury Prize – Medium Length film (CHF 5,000), as well as the Youth Jury Prize – Short film (CHF 2,500) in the International Medium Length and Short Film Competition.

The Prix du Public is awarded by the audience's vote for the best feature film in the Grand Angle section (CHF 10,000).

The Interreligious Jury awards a feature film from the International Competition that sheds light on issues dealing with meaning and sense of direction in life (CHF 5,000).

The Jury ZONTA awards the Prix ZONTA to a female filmmaker whose work reveals mastery and talent and that calls for the support for future creations (CHF 5'000).

The Opening Scenes section offers the opportunity to receive the IDFA Talent Award (travel and accommodation included), Meta Cultural Foundation – Slon Residency award (Romania) and the Tënk – Village Documentaire Residency award (Lussas, France).

18. Payment of prizes

Unless otherwise indicated, the prize money is paid (in CHF) directly to the filmmaker. They are responsible for redistributing this money according to the contracts they have with their partners.

19. Promotion and publication of prizes

All films that are awarded prizes in Nyon, in accordance with Article 17, must include in full view the official 2021 Visions du Réel award winner logo on their DCP, on their promotional materials and on the documentation for the national and/or international distribution of the DVD.

20. Conditions for participation

Participation in the Festival implies the unconditional acceptance of all articles set out in these Regulations. The Artistic Direction of the Festival alone is permitted to grant exemptions from these Regulations and to make exceptions.

The Festival reserves the right to change these Regulations at any time and without notification.

In the event of differences between the texts in the various languages, only the French version of these Visions du Réel 2021 Regulations is binding.

NB. Depending on the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic, Visions du Réel will take the necessary measures to fit Federal recommendations, by adapting its 2021 event (online or hybrid edition). If necessary, the Festival will communicate the decision taken by the board.

September 2020