

CINEKID SCRIPT LAB 2026-2027

Cinekid Script LAB calendar outline:

- Selection procedure
 - Entry form online: 3 March 2026
 - Application deadline: 25 May 2026
 - Selection interviews: 24, 25 and 26 June 2026
 - Selection results: In the week of 29 June 2026
- Programme
 - Residency at Cinekid for Professionals: October 11 (arrival in the morning) – 16 2026
 - Individual (online) session: December 2026 / January 2027
 - Residency at Berlinale: February 2027
 - Individual aftercare (online) session: April 2027

REGULATIONS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Cinekid Script LAB is a unique six-month script-training programme for writers with a children's feature film or episodic project. The programme takes place from October until April. It offers tailor-made coaching and training; answering to the needs of each project.
2. Cinekid Script LAB is supported by the Creative Europe MEDIA programme and is a collaboration between Cinekid for Professionals and six European Institutes: Athens International Children's Film Festival (GR), Flanders Audiovisual Fund (BE), Norwegian Film Institute (NO), Swedish Film Institute (SE), Netherlands Film Fund (NL), and the Icelandic Film Institute (IC).
3. The final selection consists of maximum 15 projects:
 - a. Up to 6 projects are selected through our partner institutes (as listed above). Please note that the institutes inform the project about their nomination beforehand.
 - i. When selected through one of the partnering institutes, the participation fee is covered by that institute.
 - b. Up to 9 projects are selected through our open call. When selected through the open call, the participation fee of €6.500, - is for your own account.
 - i. Participation is only possible when the fee is paid before the start of the first residency.
4. Cinekid allocates max. three scholarships that each covers 50% of the participation fee. These scholarships can only be assigned to participants from: countries with low production capacity, as indicated by Creative Europe; an eligible country (EU countries and [some participating non-EU countries](#)) not providing scholarships for this kind of training; or participants from eligible countries in any other proven situation of need for financial support. We encourage participants to apply for financial support with

their national/regional funding bodies first. Which projects will receive a scholarship will also be announced in the week of 29 June 2026.

ELIGIBILITY

5. Submissions must be either feature length films or episodic projects, and can either be fiction or documentary, animation or live-action.
6. Projects must be written for an audience between 3-14 years old. Projects should be written from this audience's perspective.
7. Only projects that have a production company attached are eligible, and a signed contract with the writer(s) might be requested after the submission.
8. Projects that have already been submitted for the Script LAB are not eligible for selection, unless there have been significant changes since the previous application.
9. Only entry forms that have been submitted before the deadline of 25 May 2025, 12:00 CEST will be considered for selection.
10. Projects can only be entered by submitting our digital Cinekid Script LAB entry form on our website - <https://forms.cinekid.nl/>

SELECTION CRITERIA

11. The main selection criteria are the viability and quality of the plans, and the demonstrable talent of the writers.
12. Cinekid strives to present a selection of projects that reflects on the current society in all its diversity, both in terms of the story, and the cast and crew.
13. Our priority is with original stories instead of (book) adaptations.
14. We require the following information in English:
 - a. Logline (max. 35 words)
 - b. Synopsis (max. 250 words)
 - c. Treatment or draft of the script (depending on the project stage)
 - d. Short description of the main characters
 - e. Scriptwriter's statement (max 250 words, please include why you want to make this film or series)
 - f. Scriptwriter's biography and link(s) to their previous work
 - g. Motivational letter (please state why you want to participate in Cinekid Script LAB, including a description of what you are looking for in the training and what the expected result will be)
 - h. Director / Director's statement & biography (if applicable) (max 250 words)
 - i. Producer / Producer's statement & biography (max 250 words)
 - j. Stage of development, language, anticipated length, target audience, genre, live action / animation, original story / adaptation / remake.
 - k. A statement regarding how you intend to reduce the environmental impact of your project's development and production.
 - l. A reflection on how your project addresses diversity and inclusion, either in its story or through casting and crew choices.
 - m. Financial plan (including already secured finance and total budget).

SELECTION

15. Selection procedure

- a. An international selection committee will read and discuss all the submitted projects. After the second selection meeting, we will invite a number of the applicants for an interview on 24, 25 or 26 June.
- b. Please note that Cinekid receives many applications and cannot provide each project with personal feedback on their submission.

16. Selection email:

- a. If selected, you will receive an email in the week of 29 June 2025. In that email, we will ask you to confirm your participation, to provide invoicing details (if relevant), and to send us the following information for our press release within 48 hours.
 - i. English title of the project
 - ii. Participating writer(s)
 - iii. Director(s) (if applicable)
 - iv. Producer(s), production company/companies, and country/countries

17. Selected for Cinekid Script LAB:

- a. Cinekid Script LAB accepts a maximum of two writers (or writer/director) per selected project.
- b. Cinekid covers:
 - i. For max. two participants per project: 5 nights of hotel accommodation in Amsterdam and Berlin.
 - ii. For max. two participants per project: a Cinekid for Professionals accreditation and a Festival accreditation for the Berlinale.
- c. Selected projects will be featured in the Cinekid Script LAB booklet.
- d. Finished film projects that participated in the LAB should mention Cinekid Script LAB and display the Cinekid logo in their credits. Preferably the following sentence should be mentioned in the credit list: "<film title> participated in Cinekid Script LAB <years of participation>." Please contact professionals@cinekid.nl to request the correct version of the logo.

18. The submission of an entry implies acceptance of these regulations.

19. Cinekid reserves the right to change all dates mentioned and the participation fee.

For all further questions, kindly contact us at professionals@cinekid.nl.