

## The Palestinian Students Film Awards

These awards are dedicated to recognizing and highlighting the best films produced in Palestine by university students. The awards recognize and support high-quality films that help preserve the Palestinian memory and heritage. The program seeks to reward creativity, initiative, and commitment with the protection and preservation of Palestine as a nation, its culture, and broad contribution towards the broader human civilization. This program will include. Participating films can include Fiction, Non-fiction/documentary, and Animation, and each category will be recognized in the awards.

### **The three categories include:**

Award for Short Film (Fiction): A total of AED 12000 will be awarded to the best film with a length of maximum 20 minutes.

Award for Short Film (Non-Fiction/Documentary): A total of AED 12000 will be awarded to the best film with a length of maximum 20 minutes.

Award for Short Film (Animation): A total of AED 6000 will be awarded to the best film with a length of maximum 20 minutes.

Special honorific mention 1: The jury will select one film from any category and can award this film an honorific mention with a prize of AED 5000

Special honorific mention 2: The jury will select one film from any category and can award this film an honorific mention with a prize of AED 5000

### **About the support to promote the films:**

Teams of students who are shortlisted among the awarded films will be supported to participate in international festivals. Indeed, winners will also be supported to participate in one international film festival. The winners will get additional financial support with registration and promotion costs so their films can be watched in these festivals. The total amount per film will not exceed US\$ 2000 that can be used for registration fees, marketing and promotion, as well as supporting travel of one of the producers.

### **About the assessment of the film:**

The jury and evaluation of these films will include filmmakers, producers, academics, and members of the initiative. The members of the jury will follow a criterion, which will include:

Award for Short Film (Fiction):

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Score Range</b>
<b>Originality and Concept</b>	The originality of the idea, the creativity of the premise, and the way it is linked to Palestinian heritage and memory, and the effectiveness with which the film establishes its fictional world or narrative concept around the notion of Palestine's history, present, and culture.	0–15
<b>Screenwriting and Narrative Structure</b>	Strength of the screenplay, including plot development, dialogue, character arcs, pacing, and overall narrative coherence.	0–20
<b>Direction and Creative Vision</b>	The director's ability to translate the script into a compelling cinematic work, including the clarity of vision, staging, and overall storytelling approach.	0–15
<b>Acting and Character Development</b>	The quality and credibility of performances, emotional depth, and how well the actors bring the characters to life.	0–15
<b>Cinematic and Technical Execution</b>	Quality of cinematography, editing, sound design, lighting, and production design. Evaluation considers how effectively the film uses available resources.	0–20
<b>Artistic Expression and Style</b>	The film's aesthetic qualities, including visual style, tone, atmosphere, and the creative use of cinematic language.	0–15

Award for Short Film (Non-Fiction/Documentary):

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Score Range</b>
<b>Relevance of the Topic</b>	The extent to which the film addresses the Palestinian heritage and memory socially, culturally, and historically as a significant topic while demonstrating awareness of its broader importance for the future of the nation.	0–15
<b>Originality and Creative Approach</b>	The degree of originality in concept, perspective, and storytelling approach. Judges assess whether the film presents a distinctive point of view or innovative treatment of the subject.	0–15

<b>Storytelling and Narrative Structure</b>	The film provides clarity of narrative, coherence of structure, pacing, and the film's ability to engage and guide the audience through the story or argument.	0–20
<b>Research and Ethical Representation</b>	Evidence of research, factual accuracy, and responsible representation of people, communities, and events. Ethical documentary practices are considered here.	0–20
<b>Technical and Artistic Execution</b>	Quality of cinematography, sound, editing, and overall audiovisual presentation. Emphasis is placed on effective and creative use of available resources.	0–20

Award for Short Film (Animation):

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Score Range</b>
<b>Originality and Concept</b>	The originality of the idea and the creativity in bringing Palestinian heritage and memory into the story and animation. The judges will assess how effectively the concept is developed through animation and whether it presents a distinctive perspective.	0–15
<b>Storytelling and Narrative Structure</b>	Clarity and effectiveness of storytelling, including narrative coherence, pacing, character development, and the ability to communicate ideas through visual storytelling.	0–20
<b>Animation Quality and Technique</b>	The quality of the animation itself, including movement, timing, consistency, and the effective use of animation techniques (e.g., 2D, 3D, stop-motion, or experimental methods).	0–20
<b>Artistic Design and Visual Style</b>	Strength of visual elements such as character design, backgrounds, color palettes, composition, and overall aesthetic coherence.	0–15
<b>Sound and Audiovisual Integration</b>	Quality and effectiveness of sound design, music, voice acting, and editing, as well as the synchronization between audio and animation.	0–15
<b>Creativity in the Use of the Medium</b>	The extent to which the filmmaker explores the unique possibilities of animation to enhance storytelling, symbolism, or visual expression.	0–15