

Bourse NOUVELLES VAGUES – Fondation Barrière for the Development of a First Feature Film

2026

Regulations

The **Bourse NOUVELLES VAGUES – Fondation Barrière** is an initiative of the **Biarritz Film Festival – NOUVELLES VAGUES** and the **Foundation Barrière** (to be held from Tuesday 23 to Sunday 28 June 2026), designed to support producer–filmmaker teams in the development of their first fiction feature film project (the first feature film requirement applies only to the filmmaker). The grant supports the process that follows the gestation and writing phase, enabling projects to be refined in order to approach the financing stage under optimal conditions. Improving the screenplay, refining dialogue, establishing a project budget, carrying out location scouting, VFX studies or music mock-ups, and beginning casting are all essential elements for strengthening a project at the financing stage.

The Grant offers support in three stages:

- **Mentorship**, consisting of individual guidance for the four finalist projects to identify their needs, strengthen their application materials, and prepare their public presentation during the Festival week;
- **Awarding of a grant** to the winning project, intended to support project development, with a value of €10,000 (ten thousand euros);
- **Ongoing support** from the Festival and the Barrière Foundation for the finalist projects, whether during production or film promotion.

Eligibility criteria

The eligibility conditions are as follows:

- The producer–filmmaker duo must present a project aimed at the creation of a first live-action fiction feature film (minimum 60 minutes according to CNC criteria).

- Applicants (filmmakers) must be at least 18 years old and under 35 at the time of application submission.
- The project must highlight a youth-focused narrative and reflect the issues shaping today's and tomorrow's world.
- The production company submitting the project must be based in France (including cases where the film is shot in a foreign language or in another country). All agreements concluded with the Festival are subject to French law and jurisdiction.
- The project must be a majority French production.
- A territorial connection to the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region—either through the subject matter or through the project leaders—is not mandatory but will be appreciated.
- Any project not selected may not be resubmitted in a future call for projects; however, the same applicant may submit a new project.

The following will not be considered: audiovisual and television documentaries, video games and sound creations, flow content, institutional productions and strictly promotional or advertising content, recordings of events and audiovisual reports, as well as any work that is controversial, offensive, defamatory, or otherwise harmful to the image or reputation of others.

Application

The call for projects is open from Monday 12 January to Thursday 12 February 2026 at 11:59 p.m

The application file must not exceed **20 pages** (excluding the screenplay/treatment), using a **12-point font**, and must include the following documents, in the order listed below:

Required materials:

- ▶ A summary (maximum 3–5 lines)
- ▶ A synopsis (maximum 1 page)
- ▶ An artistic statement from the author, including a free-form presentation outlining the project's social themes and its relationship to future generations (1 to 5 pages)
- ▶ A note specifying the current stage of development at the time of submission, the projected schedule, and how the Grant will benefit the project (maximum 2 pages). Shooting dates, even approximate, must be mentioned.
- ▶ CVs and filmographies of the author, producer, and production company
- ▶ An estimated project budget
- ▶ A provisional financing plan with breakdown by country (specifying “secured” or “in progress”)
- ▶ The screenplay (preferred) or the project treatment

Optional materials:

- ▶ A mood board or visual references, casting ideas, etc.
- ▶ Links to the filmmaker's previous works
- ▶ Territorial anchoring of the project in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region

All materials must be submitted **in French only**.

Only complete applications that meet the above criteria and are received between **12 January and 12 February 2026 at 11:59 p.m.** will be reviewed by the committee.

Once submitted, the application materials may not be modified during the selection phase. An update may be requested if the project is shortlisted.

Within a maximum of **7 working days** following the application period, the Festival will confirm by email to the producer whether the application is eligible. In the event of non-selection, the Festival will not provide feedback on the reasons for its decision.

Evaluation and selection process

1/ Selection of finalist projects

A committee composed of audiovisual and film industry professionals and the patron of the edition will select **four projects** eligible for the Grant.

Finalists will be contacted by email after the committee's deliberation and must respond within **five days** to confirm their participation and attendance at the Festival. If necessary, the Festival reserves the right to remove a project from the finalist list and replace it with another.

The announcement of the four finalist projects will take place in **mid-April 2026**.

2/ Mentorship

Each of the four finalist projects will benefit, in the weeks preceding the Festival, from individual mentoring sessions with industry professionals. The content of these sessions will depend on the specific needs of each project.

3/ Final presentation

The finalists will be invited to present their projects during the **Biarritz Film Festival – NOUVELLES VAGUES**, at a public pitch session on **Wednesday 24 June 2026**, in the presence of a jury, which will deliberate following the presentations. Presentations must be conducted **in French only**.

The Festival will cover the attendance of two representatives per project: transportation, hotel accommodation for two nights, and two professional accreditations granting access to Festival events.

Awarding of the Grant

A jury composed of young people aged **18 to 25**, along with the previous year's winner, will deliberate following the presentations. This discussion will be moderated by a representative of the Barrière Foundation and the patron of the edition, who will personally present the award at the announcement of the winner.

The jury will assess projects based on the following criteria:

- Artistic quality and originality of the project
- Relevance to the challenges of tomorrow's world
- Stage of development and justification for the need for the Grant
- Motivation of the applicant duo

The winning project will receive a financial grant of **€10,000 (ten thousand euros)** allocated to the project. The team will also be invited to engage with the Festival to benefit from tailored support according to their needs.

Communication

Grant recipients agree to acknowledge the Festival's support on all communication materials and in the film's credits, using the wording:

“With the support of the Biarritz Film Festival – NOUVELLES VAGUES as part of the Bourse NOUVELLES VAGUES – Fondation Barrière”,

along with the logos of the Festival and the Fondation Barrière.

Insurance and liability

Project representatives undertake to take out the necessary insurance for the realization of their project. The Festival reminds beneficiaries that they are covered only by their own insurance, whether for personal injury or civil liability.

Contact

For further information, please contact:

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