GRANARY DIGITAL

Short film budget template (UK)

Enter quantities and rates. Subtotal, contingency and funding gap calculate themselves.

Section	Line item	Basis or note	Qty	Unit	Rate £	Cost £	In-kind value £	Source or quote
Example	*Director of photography (example, 4 days)*	*Example only. Not counted in the totals.*	*4*	*day*	*£575.00*	*£2,300.00*		*Example*
Story and rights	Rights clearance, worldwide, in perpetuity	Clearance of all rights, including repeat and residual fees		lump sum				
Story and rights	Music clearance	Budget clearance for every track you use		lump sum				
Cast and crew pay	Cast pay	Pay everyone at least the London Living Wage		day				
Crew	Spark	Granary indicative day rate from £350, plus VAT		day	£350.00			
Crew	Editor	Granary indicative day rate from £395, plus VAT		day	£395.00			
Crew	Camera operator	Granary indicative day rate from £450, plus VAT		day	£450.00			
Crew	Gaffer	Granary indicative day rate from £450, plus VAT		day	£450.00			
Crew	Sound recordist	Granary indicative day rate from £495, plus VAT		day	£495.00			
Crew	Director of photography	Granary indicative day rate from £575, plus VAT		day	£575.00			
Crew	Director	Granary indicative day rate from £750, plus VAT		day	£750.00			
Studio	The White Space, half day (4 hours)	Plus VAT. Crew are booked on top of the room		half day	£295.00			
Studio	The White Space, full day (10 hours)	Plus VAT. Crew are booked on top of the room		day	£395.00			
Insurance	Production package	Include a production insurance package		lump sum				
Specialist roles	Script supervisor	Consider this role		day				
Specialist roles	Stunt coordinator	Only if the script needs stunts		day				
Specialist roles	Intimacy coordinator	Consider this role for intimate scenes		day				
Specialist roles	Wellbeing facilitator	Consider this role		day				
Specialist roles	Licensed chaperone(s) for child performers	Licensed chaperones, as the rules require		day				
Catering	Meals, at least two a day, preferably hot	Caterer should hold a level 3 food safety certificate		meal				
Catering	Craft table	Plan for it alongside the meals		lump sum				
Access	Captions	Costs vary, so get quotes early		lump sum				
Access	Audio description	Costs vary, so get quotes early		lump sum				
Access	Access support for disabled or health-condition needs	Costed separately. Not counted towards the maximum award (BFI guidance summary)		lump sum				
Delivery	Each deliverable the funder requires	Include the cost of every deliverable on the funder's list		lump sum				
Marketing and festivals	Electronic press kit	Budget for an EPK		lump sum				
Marketing and festivals	Poster	Consider a poster		lump sum				
Marketing and festivals	Trailer	Consider a trailer		lump sum				
Marketing and festivals	Festival submissions	Current BFI guidelines allow up to £750 towards festival submissions (the March 2024 summary said £500)		lump sum				
Carbon reporting	Carbon calculator report	Cost of any environmental planning		lump sum				
Post-production	Edit, grade and sound	The guidance summary gives no figure. Get quotes		lump sum				

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Section	Line item	Basis or note	Qty	Unit	Rate £	Cost £	In-kind value £	Source or quote
Post-production	Post house services given in kind	Record the value of services given free. Cash cost stays at £0	1	lump sum	£0.00	£0.00		Record the value in column H

Totals

Subtotal (all lines, excluding the Example row)	**£0.00**
Contingency rate (guidance: 10% of subtotal)	10%
Contingency	**£0.00**
Total budget	**£0.00**
Funding secured so far (enter the amount in cash)	
Funding gap (still to be found)	
In-kind value, recorded and not counted in the total	**£0.00**

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Every figure used in this template, with where it comes from. Check current rules before you rely on them.

Figure	Value	Where it comes from	Note
Contingency	10% of the subtotal	Film Hub Midlands, Advice on budgeting a live-action short film (summary of BFI guidance, March 2024)	Check the guidelines of the fund you apply to. They change.
Access support	Verifiable access costs can be included, and the maximum may be raised to cover them	Current BFI guidelines. The March 2024 summary said access support did not count towards the maximum.	Put access costs on their own lines.
Festival submissions	Up to £750	Current BFI guidelines (bfi.org.uk, checked 5 November 2026). The March 2024 Film Hub Midlands summary said £500.	Check the guidelines of the fund you apply to. They change.
Crew day rates	Spark from £350; editor from £395; camera operator from £450; gaffer from £450; sound recordist from £495; director of photography from £575; director from £750	Granary Digital indicative rate card	Plus VAT. Indicative only.
The White Space (studio)	£295 half day (4 hours); £395 full day (10 hours)	Granary Digital rate card	Plus VAT. Crew are booked on top.
Cast and crew pay	Crew at least the London Living Wage or equivalent; cast at least the Equity minimum, including any buy-out fees	Current BFI guidelines (bfi.org.uk)	Producer, director and writer fees cannot be waived or deferred.

Sources: BFI, Applying for BFI NETWORK England short film funding (bfi.org.uk, checked 5 November 2026); Film Hub Midlands, Advice on budgeting a live-action short film (filmhubmidlands.org, a secondary summary of the March 2024 BFI guidance).

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Build the budget in sections, add a 10% contingency, and check the funder's current guidelines before you submit.

How to use this template

1. Work through the Budget sheet one section at a time. For each line you need, enter a quantity and a rate. The cost fills in by itself.
2. Leave any line you do not need blank. Blank lines are not counted.
3. Show in-kind help at its value in the In-kind column, and keep the cash cost at £0, so it is recorded without being counted as money spent.
4. Give every line a source in the last column: a quote, a rate card or a note of where the figure came from.
5. The contingency rate is set at 10% of the subtotal, the figure in the guidance summary. Check the guidelines of the fund you apply to before you submit.
6. Enter the funding you have already secured. The funding gap shows what is still to be found. If the budget is more than the request, show how the rest will be secured within twelve weeks of the deadline.
7. Access costs (captions, audio description and access support) sit on their own lines. The current BFI guidelines say verifiable access costs can be included and the maximum may be raised to cover them, so check the rules for the fund you apply to.
8. The Crew and Studio rates are Granary's indicative rates, plus VAT. Check them before you quote them to anyone.
9. The row marked Example is left out of every total. Overwrite it or delete it when you start.
10. The Figures and sources sheet lists every figure used here and where it comes from.

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