

Rules and Regulations

The Pitch: SFC | Rendez-vous Industry

An initiative by



in collaboration with



SHORT FILM CORNER
RENDEZ-VOUS INDUSTRY
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

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1 Subject of agreement

The Lab is an annual program at SFC | Rendez-vous Industry with the ongoing desire to support more short film projects in the making, and not only those that have been completed. Conceived as a working space rather than a showcase, The Lab welcomes projects at two crucial steps of the creative process — writing and editing — when films are still fragile, open, and full of possibilities. Benefiting from mentorship with internationally renowned experts, each project gets tailor-made sessions aiming to sharpen and enhance its filmmakers' own singular voices, and to find support at key stages prior to completion. Sheltered from the usual distractions, filmmakers are invited to work on what matters most: story, rhythm, and intention.

A short film project in development from Switzerland is automatically selected to participate in The Lab – Writing Hub in collaboration with Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur. The selection of the funded project is based on the judgement of a jury of experts following a pitch at Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur. The writer/director of the selected project gets a covered participation in the programme, which includes tuition, travel, and accommodation at The Lab – Writing Hub. The selected project will be announced at the Industry Award Ceremony of Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur.

2 Selection process

The call for submissions is announced approx. one month before the application deadline.

A panel consisting of representatives from Kurzfilmtage and SFC | Rendez-vous Industry reviews the submissions.

Three selected projects will be invited to the festival to pitch in front of a jury of experts on Saturday, 7 November 2026 who will select the winning project. Travel and meal expenses are not covered.

The panel cannot accept previously submitted and rejected projects for re-evaluation. Each project can only be supported once.

The panel's decision is irrevocable and will be communicated to the applicants approx. two weeks prior to the pitching event. Applicants are not entitled to an explanation of the jury's decision.

3 General terms and conditions

The application must be signed by the author/director of the film.

Applications must be submitted in English and contain the following:

- Signed registration form
- Project synopsis (max. 1 page)

- Author(s)'s intention note(s) (max. 1 page)
- Links to previous audiovisual works (max. 2) and/or teaser/visual materials related to the submitted project: we will only accept links to watch online, please do not send us files to download
- Complete provisional Timeline of the project's development (month/year)
- Specific needs at each stage of development and fields of expertise you are interested in (music, career development, production & financing, others...). Please make sure to develop as much as possible in accordance with the film's timeline and your needs
- Moodboard
- Motivations to take part in The Lab at the SFC Rendez-vous Industry in Cannes in case of selection (max. 1 page)
- Producer's note (if applicable, max. 1 page)
- CVs of team members (writer, director, producer/production company, if applicable)
- Script in English (no word-count limitation)
- Additional materials (optional): i.e. estimated budget, financing plan, etc.

All promotional materials as well as the film's opening and closing credits must contain the following information about the project's funding:

The logos of SFC | Rendez-vous Industry and Kurzfilmtage placed before or after the credits listing all public and private institutions that supported the project. The SFC | Rendez-vous Industry participation is mentioned under «Credits» as follows: Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, SFC | Rendez-vous Industry – The Lab 2027.

4 Formal criteria

Swiss short film projects from the field fiction, documentary and animation are eligible for selection. School productions (including films by enrolled students, graduation projects of BA or MA programmes) can be submitted. The film's length must not exceed 59 minutes.

Installations, performative works, and didactic or instructional films are not eligible.

SFC | Rendez-vous Industry is open to individual authors or creative teams developing international short film projects. It is therefore open to writers, directors, and producers.

Filmmakers and producers who are Swiss citizens or who have been living and working in Switzerland for at least four years can apply.

Applicants confirm their availability for all sessions. The working language of SFC | Rendez-vous Industry is English; thus, a good knowledge of English is essential in order to participate.

5 Services

The services to the selected project consist of

- Participation in the full programme of SFC | Rendez-vous Industry: The Lab – Writing Hub 2027 consisting of:
 - Two personalized script-mentoring sessions, with time to work on the script in between (March & May, TBC) - online
 - Tailor-made program made of plenary & individual sessions on topics such as pitch deck & project dossiers, pre-sales, production & financing, career development, music composition...
 - Festival circuit & distribution keynote
 - Introduction to the SFC | Rendez-vous Industry & market overview
 - Access to the SFC | Rendez-vous Industry general events and opportunity to meet with filmmakers & producers present in the various programs, with two accreditations granted to the project-holders
- Tuition costs, travel, and accommodation will be covered for up to two participants attached to the project.

The exact schedule and coordination will be arranged in exchange with SFC | Rendez-vous Industry.

6 Applicable law

The present rules and regulations are subject to Swiss law. This provision also applies to all agreements based on these rules and regulations or on accompanying documents. The place of jurisdiction is Zurich, Canton of Zurich.

7 Final provisions

These rules and regulations enter into effect on 15 July 2026.

Any amendments to these rules and regulations must be approved by SFC | Rendez-vous Industry.

8 Application deadline

The application must be submitted exclusively via the link on the website and no later than 17 September 2026, 23:59.