

**NABA**

NUOVA ACCADEMIA  
DI BELLE ARTI



**FONDAZIONE  
CINEMA  
PER ROMA**

IV Edition  
Deadline: 28.02.2025

 **PITCH  
CONTEST**

# Z-PITCH CONTEST

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## IV Edition

Fondazione Cinema per Roma and NABA, Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti present the fourth edition of the **Z-Pitch** contest—an initiative for current students and recent graduates (up to 2 years from graduation) of Italy's Schools of Cinema and Media Design.

For this fourth edition, Fondazione Cinema per Roma and NABA have confirmed the collaboration with other major training organizations to expand the referral network and further implement training tools and channels.

The contest aims to give voice to generation Z and to showcase to film and television professionals the ideas of talented student and graduate authors and film makers, who are able to identify important current issues and tell stories in an original manner using audiovisual media.

### Call for participants

The call for participants is public and free-of-charge, and is open to original and non-produced audiovisual storytelling projects (including documentaries and animations) for feature film or serial projects. The rights of the applicant projects must NOT have been transferred to third parties. Students and recent graduates (who have attained a degree or academic diploma in the past two years) from Italy's Schools of Cinema and Media Design may participate in the contest.

### Art. 2 - Entry Procedure

Entry is free. Applicants can register **from Monday, 2 December 2024 to Friday, 28 February 2025 by 6:00 pm.**

Only projects received within the deadline will be accepted for the pre-selection phase. All projects must be submitted using the following link: [Z-pitch Entryform | ROME FILM FEST \(romacinemafest.org\)](#)

Each application must include the following materials:

- entry form, duly completed in all its parts
- concept of the project in the form of subject/treatment for feature films or subject + bible for serial projects - with any notes and aims by author/director, totalling a maximum of 10 pages

### Conditions of participation

In order to participate in the selection process, all projects

- project synopsis (max. 500 characters including spaces)
- log line summarising the original strength of the concept (max. one or two sentences)
- treatment, moodboard or other visual or editorial support materials (optional, but highly recommended)
- Showreels or representative works of the creative team lasting no more than 5 minutes (optional, but highly recommended) - these materials must be accessible online through links to platforms (such as Vimeo, YouTube, etc.)
- bio of the author (or group of authors) with any links to the filmography of the author and co-authors. Please specify dates of birth in each bio.

All the aforementioned materials may be submitted in Italian and/or English.

All entry materials will be used exclusively for the purposes of the pre-selection and final selection phases. Direct authorisation from the proprietors is required for any subsequent use of the materials. The aforementioned materials will be retained in the archives of Fondazione Cinema per Roma and will not be returned.

### Art. 3 - Participation Requirements

#### Project contact person

The person who enters the project in the Z-Pitch Contest assumes the responsibility of being the lawful authorized representative of all right-holders of the work, guarantees that the project does not violate the rights of any third party, and indemnifies the organizing bodies against any claims for damages from third parties. Each contact person may submit one project only for the contest.

The organisers may request documents attesting to the originality of a project if there are doubts or reservations and may verify membership to a national film academy or school.

The contact person is also required to have received consent to participate and to comply with the entry and award procedures from all participants in the project. must be submitted with complete entries and all the materials described above.

Only students enrolled in Italian academies and film schools or recent graduates (who have attained a degree or academic diploma in the past two years) from the same institutions may participate in the Z-Pitch contest. Participants must enter their phone number and email address on the form (an institutional student address for students) and state of student or graduated status and the

year of graduation. Entries with candidates or even a single team member born before 1997 will not be accepted.

Only original projects that have not yet been produced and that are in the development or pre-production phase may be entered. Projects whose rights have already been optioned and/or assigned to third parties will not be accepted.

Projects that have already participated in other contests are allowed as long as they have not already been awarded.

Projects that are merely pornographic in nature, incite violence and discrimination, or violate human rights are not allowed.

The representatives of the pre-selected projects undertake to ensure their attendance at the Z-Pitch event to be held in Rome at Casa del Cinema in April 2025 and will organise their trip independently and at their own expense, potentially with support of the school or academy to which they belong. The organisers strictly exclude any sharing of the expenses incurred to participate in the event.

Participation in the project will take place at the applicant's own risk and under their own responsibility, explicitly exempting each of the organisers from any indemnification obligations, except in cases of proven fault and/or liability.

Entry of a project implies full acceptance of these regulations, as well as of the decisions of the selection committee, which are final.

#### **Art. 4 - Terms and duration**

Applicants can register from **Monday 2 December 2024**. The entry deadline for projects is Friday **28 February 2025** (by 6 p.m.).

Entries received after this date will not be considered.

#### **Art. 5 - Selection and prizes**

The entries received will be evaluated by a selection committee made up of competent professionals from the two organising institutions and the other participating organisations. The committee will pre-select 8 projects.

The finalist projects will be announced by the **end of March 2025**.

Each of the finalist projects can be represented by a maximum of 3 members of the creative team in the activities related to the Z-Pitch contest (by way of example but not exhaustive: masterclass, final pitch and award event, any other initiatives).

The 8 finalist project teams will be offered the opportunity to:

- participate in one or more advanced education master classes (modules to be defined) and in the preparation of the face-to-face pitching session, coordinated by NABA and Fondazione Cinema per Roma with the help of the other participating organisations and external professionals.
- present their projects at a face-to-face pitching session, to be held in-person in April 2025, in front of a competent and qualified audience (made up, among others, by professionals from the audiovisual sector). Each project will have up to 5 minutes for the oral presentation and up to 3 minutes for additional video content (not mandatory). At the end of the session, a selection of the professionals present will offer their specific feedback on the projects, enabling the creative teams to undergo a real "market crash test" and to have a preview of how their project is received by end users.

At the end of the process, a panel of judges appointed jointly by NABA and Fondazione Cinema per Roma will announce two awards: one for the best pitch and one for the best project. In addition, for this edition there will also be an award for the best animation project. The three awards may be awarded to the same project or to three different projects, at the discretion of the panel. The creative teams of the winning projects will be given further advanced education opportunities by means of ad hoc tutoring focused on preparing their projects for Italian and international market platforms.

The members of the creative team of the winning project will also receive free accreditation to the next edition of the Rome Film Festival.

#### **Art. 6 - Acceptance of the regulations**

Participation in the call for participants entails compliance with these Regulations. Individuals entering projects are responsible for ensuring they are legitimately authorised to do so.