

GACD Film Festival 2026 – guidance for entrants

How to enter

1. Read this guidance document

2. Tell us you plan to enter

Complete the quick [Intention to Participate Form](#).


3. Formally submit your film in its final format

Send the required information as per this guidance document to admin@gacd.org by Friday 16 October 2026, 08:00 UTC.

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1. Overview

 Video is a powerful communication tool.

It allows for visual and auditory elements to be combined, making your message more engaging and memorable. It helps convey emotions and tone of voice – vital for complex or sensitive information. It can be easily shared and accessed online, making it a convenient way to reach a large audience. It allows for creativity in storytelling and can be used for a range of purposes, from influencing to informing to inspiring.

We invite all members of the Research Network to create a short film that influences, informs, or inspires your chosen audience, drawing on the work of your GACD project.



“With the GACD Film Festival, we hope to harness the creative power of films and provide an opportunity for the Research Network to flex their inventiveness in the digital world.”

Ekow Tachie-Mensah, GACD's Communications Officer

All eligible short films (less than five minutes in duration) will be showcased and celebrated during the Annual Scientific Meeting 2026 and across GACD's digital channels. Shortlisted films will be screened during the Film Festival Finalists Showcase, and two films will receive a prize (the 'GACD Oscars') awarded by our judging panel and the audience.

The deadline for submitting a film in its final format is **Friday 16 October, at 08:00 UTC**.

2. Eligibility

If you would like to enter the Film Festival, you must:

- **Be a member of the GACD Research Network.**

Note: a group of people is welcome to work on a film together but the majority of the team must be members of the Research Network.

- **Be registered to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting 2026.**

Note: where a group of people is submitting a film together, at least one member of the creator team must be registered to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting 2026.

- **Have permission from your project's Principal Investigator(s) OR your working group's co-chairs to enter the Film Festival.**
- **Permit** (and ensure that all production and distribution parties involved in your submission also permit) **the use of your film in GACD's various social media, digital and web platforms, as well as for additional screenings at other GACD events, consistent with the scope of GACD.**

3. Intention to participate



To let us know of your intention to participate in the Film Festival, please [complete this form](#) at your soonest convenience.

Only basic information is needed at this stage – this helps us to organise the relevant logistics for the screening at the venue. You can formally submit your final film nearer the time (see next section).

By letting us know you intend to participate, you are not obligated to formally submit a final cut. If you change your mind or are no longer able to enter, please let us know as soon as you can.

4. Formally submit your final film



To submit your final film, please email admin@gacd.org with the following information:

- ✓ Your name.
- ✓ Your GACD project ID and title OR your GACD working group title.
- ✓ The title of your film.
- ✓ A short blurb describing your film (100 words maximum).
- ✓ Your intended audience.
- ✓ Full acknowledgements.
- ✓ Confirm you have uploaded your film to the dedicated [Shared Google Folder](#) **OR** include an active and accessible link to your film.
- ✓ Confirm the creator team and all parties involved permit the use of your film in GACD's various social media, digital and web platforms, as well as for additional screenings at other GACD events, consistent with the scope of GACD.

Deadline for uploading your film and emailing us the above information: Friday 16 October, at 08:00 UTC.

Please stick to this deadline as it allows the GACD staff team time to organise the screening and the judging. If you can, please confirm with us that you are definitely participating (or not) as early as possible.

5. Competition prizes ('the GACD Oscars')

All entries to the Film Festival will be celebrated by the GACD community, organisers, and governance boards. The festival is about building an environment where creativity, innovation, and skill development are valued and supported. As such, all submissions will be awarded with a certificate to mark their hard work and engagement.

As an extra incentive for creativity and engagement two prizes will be awarded. The winners of both prizes will be announced by GACD's Chief Executive, Morven Roberts, during the formal close of the Annual Scientific Meeting 2026.

5.1 Shortlisting

As the Film Festival continues to grow in popularity, a shortlisting process has been introduced to ensure a high-quality showcase while allowing sufficient time within the ASM programme.

After the submission deadline, the GACD team will carry out an eligibility and compliance check to confirm that each entry has been submitted on time and meets the guidance set out in this document.

All eligible films will then be reviewed independently by the **Shortlisting Judging Panel**:

- Ekow Tachie-Mensah – Communications Officer, GACD
- Judge 2 to be announced
- Judge 3 to be announced
- Judge 4 to be announced
- Judge 5 to be announced
- Judge 6 to be announced

The digital judging panel will use the following criteria:

- Alignment with GACD's core remit of non-communicable diseases, implementation science, and low- and middle-income countries or underserved populations in high-income countries.
- Effectiveness of the film's key message and ability to reach the intended audience.
- Originality, creativity, and artistic merit.
- Clarity of communication throughout the film including structure, pacing, and technical execution.
- Scientific accuracy of statements and messages during the film.

The combined scores will be used to shortlist up to five films for the Film Festival Finalists Showcase.

5.2 The Judges Choice Oscar

The shortlisted films will be screened during the Film Festival Finalists Showcase at the Annual Scientific Meeting 2026. Following the screening, the **Showcase Judging Panel** will discuss the shortlisted films and agree on the Judges Choice Oscar winner, informed by the criteria outlining in Section 5.1.

The **Showcase Judging Panel** is:

- Ekow Tachie-Mensah – Communications Officer, GACD
- Judge 2 to be announced
- Judge 3 to be announced

5.3 The Audience Choice Oscar

Delegates present at the screening, including GACD project team members, governance boards, and funding agency staff, will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite film. The audience can use the same criteria as the judging panel to inform their vote, or they can simply choose the film that resonated with them most.

Voting will be anonymous. Only votes submitted in the designated time slot during the screening will be counted. The film with the most votes will be allocated the winner.

6. On the day

All films submitted on time and in line with the guidance will be proudly featured on the GACD website and shared across our social media channels. During the Annual Scientific Meeting, every entry will also be showcased through prominent QR codes and celebrated as part of the Film Festival, ensuring that all participating films receive recognition across the GACD community.

The shortlisted films will be screened on Day 2 of the Annual Scientific Meeting 2026 during the Film Festival Finalists Showcase. All delegates are warmly invited to attend this special screening, which will include a drinks reception and will be followed by the Gala Dinner.

The final agenda for the Film Festival Finalists Showcase will be shared one week before the Annual Scientific Meeting.



Entries that are shortlisted to feature in the Film Festival Finalists Showcase are requested to speak with GACD's Research Capacity Manager (Izzy Bandurek) **during the lunch break on Day 2 to check their film is playing as intended on the local audio-visual system.**

7. Technical requirements

- Every film formally submitted must be a final product. We will not be able to accommodate updated or further edited re-submissions after the deadline.
- Every film should be in horizontal format in full HD (1920 X 1080 pixels).
- **The length of each film should be no more than five minutes. Any films over five minutes will not be considered.**
- A film can be in any language; if it is not in English, English subtitles should be included in the frame.
- We can accept the following file types or sharing platform links:
 - MP4 files, uploaded directly to the [Shared Google Folder](#)
 - Windows Media Video file, uploaded directly to the [Shared Google Folder](#)
 - YouTube link (access must be granted for any password protected links)
 - Microsoft SharePoint link (access must be granted for i.bandurek@gacd.org)

8. Film content

GACD will welcome films exploring any topic related to a GACD project or a GACD working group. Content should be aligned with GACD's core remit of non-communicable diseases, implementation science, and low- and middle-income countries or underserved populations in high-income countries.

We suggest starting with deciding on your audience – for example, patients, local communities, policymakers, other researchers, or someone else – then moving on to your key message.

If you are struggling to come up with a theme or focus, you may wish to use one of the following:

- Adapting to your local context.
- Collaborations and partnerships.
- Impact beyond the project timeline.
- Developing implementation research capacity.

All types of artistic approaches are welcome: animation, documentary, video art, something else, or a combination.

Commercial or corporate films advertising for a product, device, or private business service will not be considered.

Your submission must be your own original work.

It must not be copied, must not contain any third-party materials and/or content (including background music) that you do not have permission to use, must not promote your own or third party goods or services or include any trademarks (other than those belonging to you).

It must not show inappropriate or dangerous behaviour, or otherwise be obscene, defamatory, distasteful, offensive, or in breach of any applicable legislation or regulations, or in breach of any confidentiality obligations owed by you to third parties.

If GACD has reason to believe your entry is not your own work, if a person objects to the inclusion of a video in which they are featured being in the Film Festival, or if your entry otherwise breaches these rules, then GACD reserves the right to reject or not consider the submission.

Note: If your project team has already created a film (for another purpose) that fits with this Film Festival's guidance (entry criteria, copyright permissions, and content guidance), you are welcome to submit it.