

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

## OF THE COMPETITION

### Pierwiastek UMCS 2026 - National Film Festival

Regulations as of February 6, 2026

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## §1. DEFINITIONS

1.1. The **Organizer** of Pierwiastek UMCS 2026 (full title: Pierwiastek UMCS 2026 - National Film Festival) is the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS) in Lublin.

1.2. The **Partners** of the UMCS National Film Festival are: The City of Lublin, the Lublin Film Fund, the Lublin Branch of the Polish Society for Film and Media Studies, the Lublin Film Association, the International Institute for Media Education Foundation, and the UMCS "Chatka Żaka" Academic Cultural and Media Center.

1.3. The **Substantive Coordinator** of the project is the Institute of Social Communication and Media Sciences at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, UMCS; the **Technical Coordinator** is the UMCS "Pełny Metraż" Student Science Club.

1.4. **Pierwiastek UMCS National Film Festival** (hereinafter: the **Festival**) is an event held in the City of Lublin, following the tradition of promoting independent student cinema.

1.5. The film competition is organized as part of the UMCS National Film Festival.

1.6. The **Organizer's website** is located at: [www.festiwalpierwiastek.umcs.pl](http://www.festiwalpierwiastek.umcs.pl).

1.7. **Social media** channels intended for promotion include the profiles of the Organizer, Partners, and the Coordinator.

1.8. The **Submitter** is the person completing the application form for the film competition. The Submitter must simultaneously be the Author of the film and a university student who is **not** enrolled in an artistic major related to film production.

1.9. The **Author** of the film is the creator of the cinematographic work submitted to the competition.

1.10. The **Selection Jury** is a group of specialists from the film and creative industries associated with Lublin and the Lublin region, who will select the submitted films for the main competition.

1.11. The **Main Jury** evaluates the films qualified for the main competition. It consists of a minimum of three individuals appointed by the Organizer who work professionally in the film industry and/or at a university. The jury includes specialists with experience in film production, education, or film criticism.

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## §2. FILM COMPETITION

### 2.1. GENERAL INFORMATION

#### 2.1.1. Competition Requirements:

- Feature films, experimental films, documentaries, animations, music videos, and music films may be submitted.
- The **maximum duration** of the film is 20 minutes (including credits).
- Submitted films must **not** have been created as part of studies at universities or faculties with the formal status of an artistic university/faculty within the meaning of Higher Education and Science regulations.
- Films must not contain content offensive to any ethnic or social group.
- Films produced in a language other than Polish must include **Polish subtitles** (films in Polish may include English subtitles).
- One creator or team may submit **one film**.
- Films that have previously participated in or been awarded at other competitions may be submitted.
- Films that have already premiered online may be submitted.
- The deadline for submission is **March 27th, 2026**.
- Films may only be submitted by individuals with **student status** (holding a valid student ID) whose productions were completed while they were students.
- The **entry fee is 50 PLN**. Detailed information regarding the payment method will be sent via email after the application form is submitted.

2.1.2. The Organizer does not specify a theme for the submitted films.

2.1.3. Films produced by crews consisting mostly of students are eligible. The Submitter must be a student who completed the production during a non-artistic course of study.

2.1.4. When completing the application form, details regarding the field of study, degree level, and the Author's university must be provided. The Submitter must designate a staff member from their university to serve as their **Academic Supervisor (Mentor)** for the duration of the competition. If the Author completed the film during a different course of study than their current one, the Supervisor should be selected from the staff of the university they collaborated with during production.

2.1.5. The person submitting the film becomes a representative of their University.

2.1.6. The Selection Jury selects the submitted films, thereby qualifying selected titles for the film competition. The Organizer reserves the right to suspend or withdraw a film's

participation if these regulations are violated, if false statements are made during submission, or due to technical issues not caused by the Organizer.

2.1.7. Films qualified for the Main Competition are evaluated by the Main Jury. The primary evaluation criteria are defined by the award categories. The Main Jury selects winners in the following categories:

- Best Film
- Best Direction
- Best Screenplay
- Best Actress
- Best Actor
- Best Editing
- Best Sound Design
- Best Cinematography

**Additionally, the following are awarded:**

- **The Mayor of the City of Lublin Award** – for the film of the highest artistic value that features the City of Lublin, refers to its history, or was produced there.
- **The UMCS Rector's Award** – for the film of the highest artistic value that emphasizes the development of student culture, academic community relations, or university community cooperation.
- **The Polish Society for Film and Media Studies Award.**
- **The International Institute for Media Education Foundation Award** – for a production addressing broadly defined media education.

2.1.8. The Organizer reserves the right not to grant an award in a given category if none of the submitted films meet the expected standards.

2.1.9. Submitting a film is done by completing the application form on the Organizer's website.

2.1.10. The winners' announcement and the award ceremony will take place during the final gala of the Pierwiastek UMCS 2026 Film Festival on **April 24, 2026**, at the ACKiM UMCS Chatka Żaka in Lublin.

2.1.11. Winners in individual categories will receive festival statuettes, diplomas, and/or other material prizes.

## **2.2. COMPETITION STAGES**

2.2.1. **Film Submission (Feb 13, 2026 – March 27, 2026)** – Films must be submitted via the application form by the deadline. The Organizer reserves the right to extend the submission period.

2.2.2. **Official Selection** – The Selection Jury selects films for the competition. Results will be announced by March 31, 2026, on the Organizer's website. The Selection Jury's decision is final.

2.2.3. **Selection of Winners** – The Main Jury appointed by the Organizer selects the winners in each category.

## **2.3. PROMOTION**

2.3.1. The Organizer reserves the right to use fragments of qualified films free of charge for promotional purposes on the website, social media, and other materials. 2.3.2. This right applies to both the current and future editions of the Festival.

## **2.4. COPYRIGHT**

2.4.1. Only films to which the Author holds the rights (including copyright and related rights) may be submitted. The Author must ensure that:

- They hold the economic copyrights to the film (including works used within it) or possess appropriate licenses.
- They hold related rights or appropriate licenses.
- The distribution of images of persons in the film does not violate their personal rights.

2.4.2. The Organizer may withdraw a film if it violates third-party copyrights or personal rights. 2.4.3. In the event of third-party claims against the Organizer regarding copyright or personal rights violations, the Author is obliged to indemnify the Organizer and cover all associated costs (**Art. 392 of the Civil Code**). 2.4.4. The Organizer is not liable for copyright infringements by the Submitter and/or Authors. 2.4.5. Submission grants the Organizer the right to free, full, and repeated screenings during the current edition of the festival.

## **2.5. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

2.5.1. The Submitter must provide a link to a cloud storage service (e.g., Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive) where a copy of the film is stored. The file must be downloadable to an external hard drive and must remain in the cloud until submissions close. 2.5.2. The file must be named with the original title of the film. 2.5.3. The Organizer is not responsible for technical submission issues (e.g., server failures). 2.5.4. The Organizer reserves the right to adjust the file format for screening purposes.

## **2.6. USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)**

2.6.1. If the Author used AI tools at any production stage, they must include a clear statement in the end credits specifying how the tool was used.

## **2.7. DISQUALIFICATION**

2.7.1. The Organizer may disqualify a film at any stage if it violates these regulations, social norms, the law, or contains vulgar or hate-speech content.

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## **§3. PERSONAL DATA (GDPR)**

3.1. Pursuant to Art. 13 of the GDPR, the **Data Controller** is the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin.

3.2. Contact the **Data Protection Officer** at: [iod@mail.umcs.pl](mailto:iod@mail.umcs.pl).

3.3. Data is processed for participation in the Festival and organizational contact.

3.4. **Legal basis:** Art. 6(1)(a) GDPR (consent for image use) and Art. 6(1)(e) GDPR (public interest task under the Law on Higher Education and Science).

3.5. Data will be stored for **5 years** after the Festival ends.

3.6. Data may be shared with authorized entities or those under data processing agreements.

3.7. Data will not be processed automatically (no profiling).

3.8. The Submitter provides their own data and the Authors' data, declaring they have obtained their consent.

3.9. Providing data is voluntary but necessary for participation.

3.10. The Organizer may process data to qualify films, screen them, select winners, and send info about future editions (non-commercial).

3.11. You have the right to access, rectify, restrict, and object to processing.

3.12. Consent (for image use) can be withdrawn at any time via [iod@mail.umcs.pl](mailto:iod@mail.umcs.pl).

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## **§4. FINAL PROVISIONS**

4.1. Participation implies acceptance of these regulations. Matters not covered will be resolved by the Organizer.

4.2. The Organizer reserves the right to change dates, duration, or cancel the festival/competition.

4.3. Questions: [\*\*kn.pelnymetraz@mail.umcs.pl\*\*](mailto:kn.pelnymetraz@mail.umcs.pl)