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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS - FEATURE FILMS

AL ESTE – COLOMBIA 2026

9th Central and Eastern European Film Festival

November 19–22 — Medellín

November 25–29 — Bogotá

Registration for this call for applications is free.

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AL ESTE – Colombia is part of the international network of the AL ESTE Film Festival, dedicated to the promotion and circulation of independent cinema, with a special emphasis on the film industries of Central and Eastern Europe. Through its programming and activities, the Festival seeks to create spaces for cinematic and cultural exchange between Europe and Latin America.

The AL ESTE Film Festival – Colombia invites producers from Colombia, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Caucasus to submit feature-length films for its two official competitions: AL ESTE and VIDAS CRUZADAS.

The call for entries is open to films completed between 2025 and 2026, in accordance with the conditions established for each competition.

The official competition will take place in Bogotá. Some of the selected films may also be screened in Medellín, depending on the Festival's schedule.

I. CALENDAR

- Call for entries opens: August 21, 2026.
- Call for entries closes: September 18, 2026.
- Announcement of selected participants: October 15, 2026.
- Deadline for submitting materials: October 4, 2026.
- Competition dates: November 25–29, 2026.
- Awards ceremony: November 29, 2026, in Bogotá.

II. COMPETENCES

1. AL ESTE

Competition for feature-length fiction films.

Eligible entries must be films produced in Colombia and in countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, completed between 2025 and 2026.

There are no restrictions on subject matter.



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2. CROSSING LIVES

Non-fiction feature film competition.

Films produced in Colombia and in countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, completed between 2025 and 2026, are eligible to participate.

The theme is open.

Running Time

Films must have a minimum running time of 60 minutes and a maximum of 140 minutes, including end credits.

III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Premiere and Exclusivity in Colombia

Films must not have been released in Colombia at the time of submission.

Once their selection has been officially announced, films may not be released, publicly screened, or made available to the public in Colombia—whether in movie theaters, at other festivals, in cultural or public exhibition venues, on streaming platforms, on free or paid digital platforms, or through any other form of public access within Colombian territory—until the end of the Festival.

Screenings or premieres held outside of Colombia do not affect a film's eligibility.

2. Previously Submitted Works

Films that have been screened in previous editions of AL ESTE – Colombia are not eligible.

3. Confidentiality

Those responsible for selected films must keep the selection confidential until it is officially announced by the Festival.

IV. REGISTRATION AND PRELIMINARY SELECTION MATERIALS

Registration must be completed using the Festival's official form.

To complete the registration, you must provide:

- General information about the film.
- Information about the producer or the person responsible for registration.
- Country of production.
- Year of completion.
- Running time.

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- Category for which the film is entering.
- Genre.
- Synopsis.
- Technical and creative credits.
- Contact information.

Screening copy

An accessible viewing link must be provided for the selection committee, hosted on Vimeo, YouTube, Festhome, Frame.io, or another similar platform.

The link may be password-protected. In that case, the password must be provided on the registration form.

Films whose original language is other than Spanish must have embedded subtitles in Spanish or English in the screening copy.

V. SELECTION PROCESS

Selection will be carried out by the Festival's evaluation committee, composed of the programming team and invited collaborators.

Each competition will feature a minimum of four selected films. The final number of films in competition will be determined by the Festival based on the schedule and availability of the films.

The Festival may issue direct invitations to the competitions.

Selection Notification

Selected filmmakers will be notified directly via the email addresses provided on the registration form.

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide a valid email address and to ensure it remains active throughout the selection and screening process.

Once participation is confirmed, the Festival will publicly announce the selection.

VI. MATERIALES DE LAS OBRAS SELECCIONADAS

1. Screening Copy

Selected films must provide a final screening copy.

Digital files in MP4, MOV, QuickTime, or ProRes 422 formats, with a minimum size of 3 GB, as well as copies in DCP format, will be accepted.

The copy must correspond to the original version of the film and be technically suitable for screening.

2. Subtitles

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Films will be screened for a Spanish-speaking audience. If the film contains dialogue in languages other than Spanish, it must include the necessary subtitles for screening.

Subtitles must be provided as a separate file in .srt format.

If the film does not have Spanish subtitles, the Festival may translate them from a properly synchronized English subtitle file.

The Festival will not translate from subtitle files in other languages.

The .srt file must use the following synchronization format:

00:00:27:16 --> 00:00:28:56

Each line must include its corresponding numbering and the start and end times.

3. Promotional Materials

Selected films must provide:

- Trailer.
- Stills or photographs from the film.
- Official poster.

Optionally, they may also provide a press kit and other promotional materials they deem relevant.

The Festival may use these materials to promote and publicize the selected films and its activities across digital, print, and audiovisual media.

4. Submission Method

Submissions must be made primarily in digital format.

Productions may use their own file-transfer services. If a production does not have a file-transfer service, the Festival will provide a Filemail link for receiving the materials.

For international entries, submission of materials must be exclusively digital.

In the case of Colombian films, physical submissions may exceptionally be accepted in Bogotá and, when necessary and upon prior coordination with the Festival, in Medellín.

If the production chooses to send a DCP or other physical medium, it must bear the full costs of shipping, insurance, customs, storage, and any other expenses associated with the shipment.

5. DCP and KDM

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If an encrypted DCP is used, the production must provide the necessary KDMs well in advance to allow for the corresponding technical tests. The Festival will not cover the costs associated with the generation, management, or extension of KDMs.

VII. BROADCASTING RIGHTS

The person responsible for the submission declares that they have the necessary rights and authorizations to authorize the screening of the film in Colombia.

They also declare that they have the appropriate authorizations for the use of music, soundtracks, archival material, images, and other elements protected by third-party rights incorporated into the work.

The selection of a film implies free authorization for its screening as part of the AL ESTE – Colombia 2026 Festival, in accordance with the Festival's established schedule.

Selected films may have between one and three screenings during the Festival, depending on the final schedule. Generally, up to two screenings are planned in Bogotá and, possibly, one additional screening in Medellín.

VIII. SCREENING FEE

The selected films will participate in the Festival without being charged a screening fee.

IX. NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS

A single producer may submit as many films as they wish.

A maximum of one film per category may be selected.

Therefore, a producer may have up to two films selected, provided that each belongs to a different category: one film in AL ESTE and one film in VIDAS CRUZADAS.

X. JURY AND AWARDS CEREMONY

The films selected for the competition will be evaluated by a jury composed of national and international professionals from the film and cultural sectors.

The jury will select one winner per category. There will be no ties.

Special mentions or honorable mentions may be awarded.

The jury's decision is final.

XI. AWARDS AND BENEFITS

The winning films will receive:

The Al Este Jaguar Trophy.

A Jury Prize Certificate of Merit.

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Selected films will receive:

Official selection certificates.

Accreditation for Festival activities, subject to availability.

Selected films may be considered for direct inclusion—subject to agreement with their producers—in the competitions and/or programming of AL ESTE editions in Peru and France.

XII. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Participation in this call for entries implies knowledge of and acceptance of these rules.

The Festival may disqualify a film if it is determined that the information provided in the registration is false or if the film does not meet the established requirements.

Any situation not expressly covered in these rules will be resolved at the discretion of the Festival organizers.

XIII. QUESTIONS

Inquiries regarding this call for applications will be addressed within the deadlines set forth in the schedule via:

programme@alestfestival.com

Subject: CONSULTATION—CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS – [FILM TITTLE]

