

Doc Viewing Room & Doc Work in Progress Lab 2026

Rules and Regulations

Following are the rules and regulations pertaining to the Viewing Room and Work-in-Progress Lab at Waves Doc Bazaar. The filmmakers can apply with their film either in the Viewing Room or Work-in-Progress Lab or both sections. Please read the following points carefully to make the best choice for your film. There is only one application form for all three sections - Viewing Room (VR) or Work-in-Progress Lab (WIP) or Viewing Room and Work-in-Progress Lab (VR & WIP).

The regulations which are specific only to Viewing Room Applications will have a prefix (VR), those specific only to Work-in-Progress Lab Applications will have a prefix (WIP) and those specific to both Viewing Room and Work-in-Progress Lab Applications will have a prefix (VR & WIP). The regulations without a prefix will be valid for all the three sections: VR, WIP and VR & WIP.

Common Guidelines

1. The application form is only for submitting the film to VR / WIP / VR & WIP sections. It does not grant access to the applicant as a delegate.
2. Only films from India and South Asia are eligible, i.e. a large part of the film photography should be based in India / South Asia. Else, the filmmaker or at least one of the Co-Producers of the film should be from India / South Asia. In case of an anomaly, please write to miffdocfilms@filmbazaarindia.com for clarification.
3. The application fees of INR 5000/- is non-refundable.
4. For Doc Film Bazaar 2026 –
 - a. Short film is a film of duration below 30 minutes
 - b. Mid length film is a film of duration between 30 to 60 minutes
 - c. Feature length film is a film of duration above 60 minutes or more

Note – The duration of the film is calculated till the end of the last shot of the film

5. At the time of application, the filmmaker will be required to submit a password protected, downloadable preview screener link of the film, so that our programmer can view it. With regards to the final upload of the film for the Viewing Room, our coordinator will get in touch with you in mid-May 2026.
6. The film to be submitted, whether complete or in the rough-cut, should contain hard-coded English subtitles, wherever applicable.
7. A filmmaker cannot use the logo of Waves Doc Bazaar or MIFF in their film or promotional material without permission of NFDC. A film in Waves Doc Bazaar or MIFF does not indicate that NFDC endorses the film in any way.
8. Waves Doc Bazaar is only a platform to present films. The programmer is not bound to give the filmmakers personal feedback on their submitted films. Only the films selected for

the WIP Lab will receive feedback from the mentors. Waves Doc Bazaar also does not provide individual guidance regarding festival strategy.

9. Once the application procedure is complete, Waves Doc Bazaar may ask for additional project information, if needed.

Application Form:

1. The email address and phone number provided by the primary contact person in the first stage of the application form shall be regarded as the single-point contact address between Waves Doc Film Bazaar and the applicant. Kindly ensure that the primary contact person is reachable at all times till the end of the Waves Doc Bazaar.

2. The contact details of the first producer mentioned on the application form will be published in the catalogue. Hence, please ensure that this belongs to the rights holder of the film who would be able to respond to potential future queries by international film professionals.

3. Word limits are to be adhered to wherever mentioned in the application form. Waves Doc Bazaar reserves the right to shorten and/or edit the text for the purpose of publication of selected projects in the Bazaar Catalogue.

4. Completed applications need to be submitted by the prescribed deadline. Waves Doc Film Bazaar will not take the responsibility for the exclusion of projects if complete information is not supplied by the above mentioned date.

5. The filmmakers are required to submit at least three film-stills and one director's photograph along with the application form. These should be three images from the film and not production/working stills. Waves Doc Film Bazaar reserves the right to crop the images as per design requirements.

6. Application will be considered complete only upon payment of the mandatory application fee.

7. By submitting the application form for Viewing Room and/or Work-in-Progress Lab the applicant hereby certifies, with regards to all third parties involved, that he/she has read and understood the rules and regulations listed, that he/she is legally authorized to submit the film for Viewing Room and/or Work-in-Progress Lab and that the information given by the applicant is true and correct. The applicant indemnifies Doc Film Bazaar and NFDC against any claims to the contrary.

Guidelines / Regulations:

(VR) For Viewing Room –

1. Films submitting to Viewing Room can be of any genre.

2. The Viewing Room is a platform for documentary films, short films and animations. Pilot episodes of doc web-series are not eligible for submission.

3. Please note that short films under 30 minutes are only eligible to apply for Viewing Room whereas Documentary and Animation projects of any duration are eligible for Viewing Room.

4. Films can be completed or in any stage of post-production. They should have either all or a large part of the principal photography complete. Films in pre-production are not eligible for this section.

5. This platform is most suitable for films seeking finishing funds / world sales / distribution partners / film festivals.

6. All complete submissions that have paid the application fee by the due date will be a part of the Viewing Room.

7. Waves Doc Bazaar has the right to reject the film if guidelines and regulations are not adhered to and/or submissions are incomplete/ in wrong format/ past due date or any other reason specific to the film submitted. The decision of the Waves Doc Bazaar team is final.

8. Application fee is not the same as the delegate registration fee. Filmmakers can choose to submit their film to the Viewing Room even if they do not wish to register separately as a delegate. However, by not registering as a delegate, the filmmaker will not have access to Bazaar or to the contact information of other registered delegates. Only the submitted film will be available to be viewed online by selected registered delegates. They will be able to contact the filmmaker via the Viewing Room software.

9. The filmmakers need not submit their entire films to be showcased in the Viewing Room of Waves Doc Film Bazaar, however they can choose to do so. They will be required to at least submit a film-clip of minimum ten-minute duration. This film-clip could be an assembly of several complete scenes from the film. **Kindly avoid submitting a trailer.** Trailers (if submitted) will be considered ineligible. Without any film material, the film will not be showcased in the Viewing Room.

10. All the applicants for the Viewing Room will have to sign an indemnity clause at the time of submitting the final footage to be uploaded on the Viewing Room software. The indemnity clause is available on the website. The procedure to upload the film-clip / film, along with the technical specifications will be sent to the applicant separately via email. This film-clip / film will have to be sent by the applicant latest by May 31st. A separate email will be sent to all participating applicants regarding this video in May, after the submissions have closed.

(WIP) For Work-in-Progress Lab –

Work-in-Progress Lab is a closed door lab / workshop. It is not a platform to showcase films. Viewing Room is the only platform at Waves Doc Bazaar to showcase complete/ incomplete films. Those who wish to apply for this Lab and also have their films showcased in the Viewing Room at Waves Doc Bazaar need to opt for 'VR & WIP Lab'. Please see the VR &

WIP section for the guidelines specific to this section. Those who wish to apply only for the WIP Lab can see the guidelines mentioned below

1. WIP is open only to documentary & Animation films above 30 minutes. Completed films are not eligible for Work-in-Progress Lab. The film to be submitted should be in its rough-cut stage or just before final edit. All or a large part of the principal photography must be complete, but not the entire post production. **Short films (under 30 minutes) are not eligible for Work-In-Progress Lab.**
2. A maximum of 5 projects will be selected for the Work-in-Progress Lab. The decision of Waves Doc Film Bazaar will be final.
3. A film which has applied to the Work-in-Progress Lab and has not been selected can choose to be showcased in the Viewing Room if the applicant is seeking visibility, finishing funds, distribution or film festivals for the film.
4. The Director and the Editor of the selected films will be provided free registration and accommodation to Waves Doc Bazaar to attend the Work-in-Progress Lab in Mumbai. In case, the Director cannot attend the sessions of the Work-in-Progress Lab, the film will be disqualified, and another project will be selected in its place.
5. The Producer of the film cannot attend the Work-in-Progress Lab in place of the Director and the Editor of the film cannot attend in the absence of the Director.
6. A rough-cut or rough assembly of the entire film (or a majority of it, but not a trailer) should be submitted by the applicant for the selection process. At the time of submission, the rough-cut of the film should be of a minimum duration of 35 minutes. Please submit the best possible cut of the film for consideration. The rough-cut should not be double of the intended final duration of the film.
7. The WIP Lab will be conducted in English. Hence, the film team will need to be suitably proficient in English. WIP Lab will take place in the month of June but the exact dates of the Lab will be informed to the selected participants.

(VR & WIP) For both Viewing Room & Work-in-Progress Lab

VR & WIP section is for those films that wish to apply for the WIP Lab and also be a part of the Viewing Room at Film Bazaar. In case you apply for this section, even if your film is not selected for the WIP Lab, it will be showcased in the Viewing Room.

1. VR&WIP Lab section is open only to feature-length animation and feature-length documentary films (above 30 minutes) which are not yet complete, i.e., their edit is not locked.

- Short films (under 30 minutes) cannot apply for this section.

- Completed films are not eligible for the WIP Lab.

The film to be submitted should be in its rough-cut stage or just before final edit. All or a large part of the principal photography must be complete. The film should not have begun with their post-production processes like DI or final sound design.

2. Please read the previous guidelines pertaining to VR, WIP and common guidelines to get a better understanding of this section.

3. A film which has applied to the Work-in-Progress Lab and has not been selected can choose to be showcased in the Viewing Room if the applicant is seeking visibility, finishing funds, distribution or film festivals for the film

Film file upload guidelines for viewing room

This is a set of guidelines for all applicants. There is a two-stage process for submitting your film file.

1. To be viewed by Programmer Only - At the time of application, the applicant has to provide a downloadable link (Password Protected Downloadable Vimeo Link preferred) in the application form for the film programmer to view. This has to be the link of the entire rough-cut of the film or the completed film. Only the film programmer will have access to this file. This file is not going to be uploaded to the Viewing Room at Doc Film Bazaar 2026.
2. (VR and VR & WIP) To be viewed by Delegates at Film Bazaar - For Viewing Room, the filmmaker will be expected to submit at least a minimum of ten minutes of their film. However, we recommend that a filmmaker submits the entire film which will be shown in the highly restricted and safe environment of Viewing Room to the selected delegates who have access. The Viewing Room team will contact the filmmaker in May 2026 requesting them to upload the final film file/ film clip onto the Viewing Room server. This uploaded film file will undergo the process of digitalization and encryption, and will be stored in the server. This is the film file that will be viewed by the selected delegates of Waves Doc Bazaar 2026.
3. The upload process will only take place on receipt of the signed *Undertaking* from the filmmakers' end which can be sent to us via email as a signed and scanned document.

VR Access

The Viewing Room is going to be a restricted space. NFDC grants access to registered delegates according to their profiles (VR Access). Only if a delegate registers as a buyer, investor, film festival programmer, sales representative or distributor, they get access to view the films in the Viewing Room. However, the applicant will be able to filter this list even

further by deciding for themselves who, from them, gets access to view their film. They can choose to revoke a delegate's access if they wish to. They will be able to access this list on their MyFilmBazaar Account before the Film Bazaar begins, which will enable them to do so.

For e.g. if 100 people register as delegates and NFDC gives VR Access to only 50 delegates based on their profile, the filmmaker will be able to view the names and profiles of these 50. They can then further decide to give VR Access only to 20 delegates from this list and revoke VR Access to the remaining 30. The 30 people who THEY do not give VR Access to, will not be able to watch their film / film clip that they have submitted in the Viewing Room, even if they have access to other films in the Viewing Room. If they wish to view the filmmaker's film, they will be able to contact them personally via the VR Software and the filmmaker can then choose to respond to them. They will, however, be able to read information on the film (synopsis, contact details and film stills) as that will be a part of the Viewing Room Catalogue that is available to every registered delegate of Doc Film Bazaar 2026. (Please note: as an applicant of Viewing Room the filmmaker is not automatically a delegate to the Waves Doc Bazaar. If they wish to attend Waves Doc Bazaar 2026, they have to register as a delegate. As an applicant of Viewing Room, kindly refer to Registration Rules & Regulations to know more about it).

To ensure non-piracy of the films, NFDC is taking the following safety measures.

- **Watermark** - The email address of the viewer will appear as a watermark on the film image. This is an international practice followed by online film festivals and is a proven deterrent to piracy via screengrab.
- **Encryption** - The film-file is non-downloadable and in an encrypted format. Even if a plug-in was used to download the film it would not be viewable on any player available online.
- **Report of viewers** - All applicants will receive a cumulative report of every viewer of their film so that they know who viewed their film via the Viewing Room software.
- **Warning** - All delegates with VR access will be made aware that any kind of download is a legal offense and have to acknowledge the legal repercussions of misuse of the system, before logging into the Viewing Room software.
- In the physical Viewing Room in Mumbai, mobile phones will be collected before the VR Access delegates enter the room. This is to ensure that there is no possibility of screen recording.

Kindly read the FAQs and the Indemnity/Undertaking document before filling the form. If you have any specific query not covered in all three documents, kindly send an email to miffdocfilms@filmbazaarindia.com with the original title of your film as the subject of the email.

Thank you for your kind attention and all the best for your application.