



Aniwow! 2026

21st China (Beijing) International Student Animation Festival Call for Entries



[Aniwow!] China (Beijing) International Student Animation Festival

I. Competition Categories

A. Animation

Dynamic-image works in which movement or character performance is created frame by frame, including both narrative and non-narrative works. Animated short films may be made using hand-drawn animation, computer animation, stop-motion animation or other frame-by-frame techniques. Motion capture and puppet performances recorded through real-time manipulation are not eligible. Animated short films must be under 30 minutes in length, with at least 75% of the running time created frame by frame. In narrative animated shorts, the performances of the principal characters must be created frame by frame. If the final presentation of a submitted work closely resembles live-action footage, entrants must provide additional written, visual and video materials explaining how the work meets the requirements of this category. Trailers, advertisements, and excerpts from animated feature films or animated series are not eligible.

B. Comics and Picture Books

Non-single-image works that primarily use images to convey a complete story or creative concept, usually supplemented by text and presented through a sequence of panels or images. Excerpts from existing works and commissioned advertising or promotional works are not eligible.

C. Digital Art

Digital artworks in which the audience participates in the experience in some form, or short films that employ digital visual-effects technologies or artificial intelligence for narrative expression. This category comprises two strands:

Interactive Art: works emphasising audience participation and real-time interaction, including virtual reality, augmented reality, mixed reality and interactive installations;

Digital / Intelligent Moving Image: short films created using digital visual-effects technologies such as computer-generated imagery, motion graphics and AI-generated imagery, including narrative, experimental and animated works.

Excerpts from existing works and commissioned advertising or promotional works are not eligible.

D. Digital Games

Digital game works operating on electronic media platforms that allow users to interact through video devices. Excerpts from existing works and commissioned advertising or promotional works are not eligible.

II. Awards

A. Animation

Baiyang Award for Best Chinese Animated Short Film — 1 winner

Baiyang Award for Best International Animated Short Film — 1 winner

Best Animation Director — 1 winner

Best Animation Story — 1 winner

Best Visual Style — 1 winner

Best Character Animation — 1 winner

Best Music and Sound — 1 winner

iQIYI Golden Petal Award for Best Animated Short Film

iQIYI Golden Petal Award for Best Character Design

iQIYI Golden Petal Award for Best Market Potential

B. Comics and Picture Books

Best Comic — 1 winner

Best Picture Book — 1 winner

C. Digital Art

Best Interactive Art — 1 winner

Best Digital / Intelligent Moving Image — 1 winner

D. Digital Games

Best Game Work — 1 winner

Best Game Art — 1 winner



III. Selection and Jury

The judging process for the Baiyang Awards of [Aniwow!2026], the 21st China (Beijing) International Student Animation Festival, consists of two stages: selection and jury deliberation. During the selection stage, professional selectors will choose works for the official selection, which will be presented publicly. During the jury stage, the jury will select nominees and award winners from among the selected works. The jury will comprise renowned professionals and scholars in animation, comics, digital art and games, as well as senior representatives of relevant institutions. Works will be assessed on their ideas, originality and artistic quality, in accordance with the principles of fairness and impartiality.



IV. Submission Format Requirements

1. Animated works and digital short films in the Digital Art category must be submitted in an MP4 container using H.264 encoding for the preliminary selection. If selected, entrants must also provide a MOV or MP4 file encoded in ProRes 422, with a video bitrate of at least 6 Mbps, a resolution of at least 1920 × 1080p, and an audio bitrate of at least 128 Kbps. High-quality compressed or uncompressed files are preferred.

2. Comics and picture books must be submitted as digital TIFF or JPEG files, together with a fully laid-out PDF version. The image size must be no smaller than A4 and the resolution no lower than 300 dpi. If selected, entrants must also provide a Chinese–English bilingual reference sheet for all text appearing in the work.
3. Interactive works in the Digital Art category and works in the Digital Games category must include at least three minutes of screen-recorded gameplay/operation footage or live footage showing the interactive experience. Minor editing and subtitles may be used to explain the concept more clearly, but conceptual showcase videos or promotional CG animations will not be accepted. The video must be submitted in an MP4 container using H.264 encoding, together with a PDF document describing the work. If selected, entrants must also submit an executable version of the work (for example, an interactive HTML5 webpage, a desktop .exe or .app file, or a mobile APK or iOS application), together with a PDF user guide. The documentation should include information on the project files and the required operating environment.
4. All entries must include a 50–80-word synopsis.
5. All moving-image entries must include English subtitles.

Selected works must submit one poster and at least three still images in TIFF or JPEG format.

The poster should be in a 50 × 70 cm aspect ratio/format and have a resolution of at least 300 dpi.



V. Registration and Submission

The Festival will apply a rigorous submission procedure to ensure that all works are received safely, properly stored, accurately classified, carefully assessed and duly considered for awards. All entrants should read these submission instructions carefully and submit their works correctly to avoid errors that could delay the assessment process.

1. There is no entry fee for the Baiyang Awards of [Aniwow!2026], the 21st China (Beijing) International Student Animation Festival.
2. All submissions and judging will be administered through FilmFreeway. Entrants should submit their works via the following link:

FilmFreeway:

<https://filmfreeway.com/Aniwow2026>

Higher-education institutions are welcome to submit works collectively. For any questions concerning submissions, please contact us by email.

Official email:

aniwowcuc@163.com

3. The submission deadline is 14 September 2026. All entries must be submitted before the deadline.

4. The Organising Committee will use the information provided on the entry form to notify nominees and winners and to send certificates, trophies and prize money. Entrants must therefore ensure that all registration information is accurate.

(For more detailed registration and submission instructions, please refer to the official website: <http://aniwow.cuc.edu.cn/>)



VI. Notes

Unless otherwise specified, the following definitions apply throughout this document:

1. “Organising Committee” refers to the Organising Committee of [Aniwow!2026], the 21st China (Beijing) International Student Animation Festival.

Office address: School of Animation and Digital Arts, Communication University of China

Postal address: Organising Committee of the China (Beijing) International Student Animation Festival, School of Animation and Digital Arts, Communication University of China, No. 1 Dingfuzhuang East Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China

Postcode: 100024

Telephone: +86 10 6578 3476

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2. “Author” refers to an entrant who has completed registration in accordance with the Organising Committee's procedures. Authors must provide accurate personal information when registering. Although the Organising Committee does not conduct substantive verification of users' identities, entrants whose personal information is inaccurate or invalid may lose opportunities for their works to be recommended for publication or presentation through various media.
3. “Work” refers to a work created by the Author in a form prescribed by the Organising Committee and falling within the scope of the competition. Whether or not the work receives an award, the Author retains copyright in accordance with the Copyright Law of the People's Republic of China.
4. “Publication” means making a work available to the public within the scope prescribed by the Organising Committee. Unless exceptional circumstances apply, once a work has been published it may not be withdrawn or deleted.
5. The Organising Committee will not accept works whose publication or dissemination is prohibited by law, or which contain any of the following:

- a. content opposing the fundamental principles established by law;
 - b. content inciting ethnic hatred or discrimination, or undermining ethnic unity;
 - c. content insulting or defaming others, or infringing their lawful rights and interests;
 - d. other content prohibited by laws or administrative regulations.
6. In order to respect copyright and better protect Authors' lawful rights and interests, each Author must agree to the following declaration upon submission: "I hereby declare that I am the copyright holder of this competition entry. I participated in the creation of this work and accept responsibility for any disputes arising from copyright issues relating to images, story, music or other elements. I agree that, for the purposes of promoting the competition, the Organising Committee may broadcast, screen, exhibit and publish the work through relevant media without payment of a fee. I have completed the entry form truthfully and accept responsibility for the information provided."
7. As a general rule, submitted works will not be returned. Entrants should retain the original version of their work.
8. Plagiarism and unauthorised copying:
- a. Plagiarism and unauthorised copying refer to appropriating another person's work, whether unchanged or altered, without the original author's consent and presenting it as one's own.
 - b. The Organising Committee does not have the capacity to monitor fully for plagiarism or unauthorised copying. However, once such conduct is discovered, it reserves the right to disqualify the work concerned. The Organising Committee accepts no legal liability for such infringement; all legal liability shall be borne by the person who committed the plagiarism or unauthorised copying.
 - c. Where judicial authorities or copyright holders request background information concerning an alleged infringer, the Organising Committee has a duty to assist by providing such information.
 - d. Authors submitting works to the Organising Committee are deemed to agree to the corresponding measures described above. Where the conditions set out above are met and the Organising Committee takes measures such as disqualification, it shall bear no liability to the entrant for breach of contract or any other legal liability, including liability for damages suffered by the Author where an allegation of infringement is ultimately found to be unfounded.

The Organising Committee of the Festival reserves the right of final interpretation of the above provisions. In the event of any conflict with the laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China, the latter shall prevail.

Organising Committee of the 21st China (Beijing) International Student Animation Festival

School of Animation and Digital Arts, Communication University of China

August 2026