

OPEN CALLS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, FUNDING

Sharjah film grant 2026

BY JACKLINE YANGI

Are you a filmmaker with a powerful story to tell? The Sharjah Film Platform Short Film Production Grant 2026 is now open, and it could fund your next big project.

Funding is primarily for film production, post-production processes, and technical and creative services. Qualified filmmakers' work will receive a total grant pool of up to 120,000 AED, approximately \$30,000 (sh138m) funding, and filmmakers will get a chance to premiere their films at an international festival.

The grant is open to independent filmmakers from anywhere in the world, applicants of all ages and backgrounds, and creators working across any film genre. Yet still, short films must have a maximum runtime of 50 minutes with credits.

Must be produced in both narrative and experimental formats and be accepted. Only unfinished films are eligible.

Applications must be submitted before the deadline, June 1, 2026 (11:59pm UAE Time).

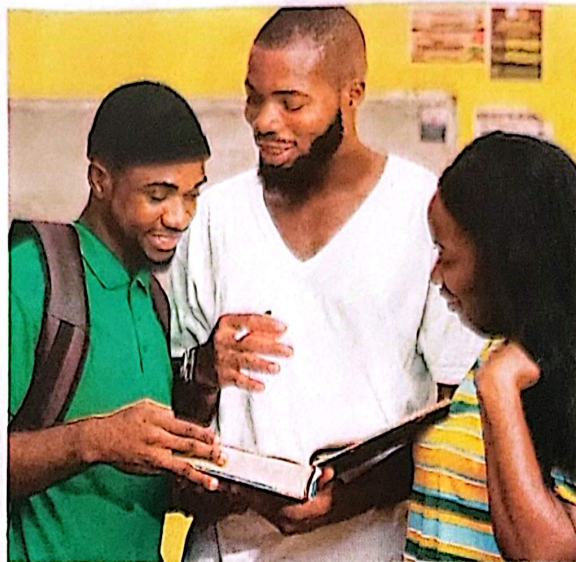
AI fellowship

Applications are now open for the Global Majority AI Fellowship 2026, a fully funded opportunity for civil society experts from the global south to participate in the first-ever United Nations Global Dialogue on AI governance in Geneva, Switzerland, taking place from July 6-7, 2026.

Key benefits include fully funded international travel, accommodation in Geneva, conference registration, access, networking with global AI policy leaders and visibility through international advocacy platforms.

The fellowship is open only to experts, activists, students, researchers, technologists, and civil society leaders working in AI governance, digital rights, climate and environmental justice, data justice, human rights and technology policy.

Deadline for applications is not indicated as applications will be rolled immediately. Use the link: <https://wp.me/p23f03-lqf>



258 MASTERCARD SCHOLARSHIPS 2026/27

Makerere University announces 245 undergraduate and 13 master's scholarships under the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme for students joining the Makerere University main campus in the 2026/27 academic year.

The offer includes 245 undergraduate scholarships and 13 master's scholarships, targeting young people from underserved backgrounds across Uganda and the region.

Undergraduate applicants must have applied for admission to Makerere University's main campus under the private sponsorship scheme 206/2027.

As master's applicants must have applied for admission to the main campus for the same academic year.

The scholarships are eligible to refugee or internally displaced persons, young people living in refugee host communities, young persons with disabilities from historically under-represented communities, including minority tribes, international students, and Ugandan youth at large.

With a commitment to give back to their communities, the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme focuses on developing transformative leaders.

Applications are free of charge and must be submitted through the online application portal: apply.mastercardfoundation.mak.ac.ug and for further information, applicants can email info@mastercardfdn.mak.ac.ug

The submission deadline is Friday, June 5, 2026, at 11:59pm, EAT.

REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES UP FOR GRABS

Akili za Kesho Ventures Company Limited invites applications for its June-November cohort for its fully remote online internship.

With available programmes in robotics simulation and modelling, cyber security and operations, data analysis and analytics, data migration and visualisation, software development and deployment.

Among others include: software testing and maintenance, hybrid mobile apps development, machine learning and artificial intelligence, ethical hacking, project management, grants writing and acquisition, internet of things and sensors programming, website development and deployment.

Enrollment is open between June 1 and November 31, 2026.

For applications <https://forms.office.com/r/qZdcRMTxwy> or email info@akilizakesho.com for inquiries and further information.

CALL FOR JOURNALISTS, DIGITAL CREATORS

Are you a journalist, digital creator, photojournalist, broadcaster, or storyteller passionate about migration, regional integration, labour mobility, and human-centred reporting?

The IGAD Media Awards 2026 are now inviting outstanding submissions that highlight migration, displacement, free movement, decent work, and regional co-operation across the IGAD region.

Benefits associated with these awards include: regional recognition, increased visibility, networking opportunities, professional credibility, a platform to amplify impactful stories, and contribution to responsible journalism.

Eligible applicants include journalists working in print media, television, radio, broadcast media, digital platforms, and multimedia journalism. Photojournalists, visual storytellers, multimedia producers, community media practitioners, indigenous language reporters, young and emerging journalists, editors and senior journalists.

Media professionals contribute to public understanding of migration, labour mobility, forced displacement, free movement and regional integration. Applicants must submit already published work.

No specific deadline for this opportunity. For submissions and more details, use the link: <https://wp.me/p23f03-ew3>

ESOs uplift programme

The Growth Africa Entrepreneur Support Organisations Uplift Programme 2026 is calling all Entrepreneur Support Organisations (ESOs) to apply for its uplift programme. It is a global funding opportunity designed to support young creatives and changemakers who are using art, culture and innovation to tackle real-world challenges.

The fully funded programme is designed to strengthen ESOs in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia, Ghana and Egypt, assisting them to scale the impact and better support social impact enterprises.

Some of the benefits include free participation, virtual workshops and practical learning sessions, programme redesign and execution

guidance, peer learning with ESOs across Africa, fundraising, partnerships, and revenue strategy support. Five ESOs will be selected for continued dedicated support after the programme.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The programme is open to organisations running as incubators, accelerators, innovation hubs, or business support programmes. Organisations must be legally registered.

Must as well work with businesses that generate revenue while intentionally addressing social challenges, economic, and environmental challenges with at least two years of experience.

Chief executive officers or managing directors must attend all workshops to ensure strategic continuity and decision-making authority. For more information and application procedures, apply via <https://wp.me/p23f03-137> before May 31, 2026.

PARADIGM FELLOWSHIP 2026

If you are a student, engineer, researcher, or early-career builder working on bold ideas, this is for you. The Paradigm Fellowship is a fully funded four-day retreat in Northern California bringing together top technical minds across AI, robotics, energy, aerospace, crypto, bioengineering and more.

Fellows will receive covered travel expenses, free lodging, meals, fireside chats with elite builders, networking with high-potential peers, and time to build and collaborate.

Ideal applicants for this fellowship include high school students with exceptional technical projects, university students in STEM fields, graduate researchers, engineers and developers, builders creating innovative products, founders and aspiring entrepreneurs. Apply by June 8, 2026 via <https://wp.me/p23f03-kR0>