

Low-budget short film budget

Production	
Producer	
Shoot days / crew size / cast size	
Date of this version	

Every line a two-day short on a small budget actually has, in the order the money should go. Quantity × days × rate = total, in £. Delete the lines you do not have; do not delete the contingency. The Excel version does the sums. How to keep this small is the low-budget guide at community.myfirstjobinfilmm.com/guides/low-budget.

Line	Notes	Qty	Days	Rate (£)	Total (£)
Script and people above the line					
Script / writer		1	1		
Director		1	1		
Producer		1	1		
Subtotal					
Cast					
Lead cast (per person per day)		2	2		
Supporting cast		2	1		
Extras / background		4	1		
Casting (room hire, self-tape)		1	1		
Subtotal					
Crew (per person per day)					
Director of photography		1	2		
1st AC / focus puller		1	2		
Camera trainee		1	2		
Sound recordist	pay this one	1	2		
Boom operator		1	2		
1st AD		1	2		
Gaffer		1	2		
Art / props		1	2		
Make-up and hair		1	2		
Runner		2	2		
Prep and wrap days (DoP, 1st AD, art)		3	1		
Subtotal					
Kit					
Camera body	hire house short-film rate; weekend as one day	1	1		
Lenses		1	1		
Lighting kit		1	1		
Sound kit (recorder, boom, lavs)	often the recordist's own	1	1		
Grip (tripod, slider, dolly)		1	1		
Monitors, media, batteries		1	1		
Expendables (tape, gels, gaffer)		1	1		

Line	Notes	Qty	Days	Rate (£)	Total (£)
Subtotal					
Locations					
Location fees		1	2		
Permits (council, film office)		1	1		
Cleaning and making good		1	1		
Unit base / parking		1	2		
Subtotal					
Art, costume, make-up					
Props and set dressing		1	1		
Costume		1	1		
Make-up and hair consumables		1	1		
Subtotal					
Travel and transport					
Van hire and fuel		1	2		
Fares (cast and crew)		12	2		
Parking and tolls		1	2		
Subtotal					
Catering					
Breakfast and hot lunch (per person per day)	the one line you must pay	14	2		
Craft table / water / tea		1	2		
Subtotal					
Insurance					
Public liability (£5m is what locations ask for)		1	1		
Kit / equipment insurance (hire houses require it)		1	1		
Employer's liability, if anyone is employed		1	1		
Subtotal					
Post-production					
Edit (suite or software)		1	1		
Grade		1	1		
Sound edit and mix	an hour of a real mixer is the best-spent money	1	1		
Titles, subtitles, captions		1	1		
Masters: ProRes, H.264, DCP		1	1		
Hard drives and backup		2	1		
Subtotal					
Music					
Composer		1	1		
Sync and master licences		1	1		
Subtotal					
Festival run					
Entry fees (see the festival plan)		20	1		
Screener hosting, poster, stills		1	1		
Subtotal					

Line	Notes	Qty	Days	Rate (£)	Total (£)
Paperwork and admin					
Accountancy / company		1	1		
VAT, if registered (on the lines that carry it)		1	1		
Subtotal					
Total before contingency					
Contingency, 10%	untouched until the day something breaks				
TOTAL					