

About the FIMS Film Festival Critics Lab

Film festivals are dynamic non-profit ecosystems where creative practitioners (filmmakers, producers, writers, actors, cinematographers, composers) meet industry (sales and talent agencies, distributors, investors), the press (critics), and public audiences. The **FIMS Film Festival Critics Lab** will offer 20 graduate and upper-year undergraduate students the opportunity to attend up to eight films at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Participants will be introduced to the practice of film criticism through reading and writing festival coverage and film reviews, and then participants will have an opportunity to publish excerpts of those reviews via the FIMS Instagram account and MakerThinker.org.

Participation includes:

- one (1) ticket for up to eight (8) films at TIFF between Wednesday, Sept 13 and Saturday, Sept 16 (up to 2 films per day for 4 days; **participants are expected to prioritize their course schedules when determining their availability for the daily Festival screenings**);
- daily round trip bus fare from London to Toronto on screening days; and
- bagged lunch on screening days (optional).

Selected participants are committing to:

- attend the Lab's online Opening Workshop on Tuesday, Sept 5th;
- attend at least 1 of the 8 eight available festival screenings;
- complete **one 250-word film review per film** attended, to be submitted as soon as possible following the screening but no later than Monday, Sept 25th; and
- attending the Lab's Closing Workshop and Lunch in early October (date TBA).

Applications will close on Friday, August 25th at 5pm. Apply using the online form, including the following information:

- your name, Western email address, and attach a resume or CV;
- include a 250 word statement about why you want to participate in the FIMS Film Festival Critics Lab (i.e. how the Lab will contribute to your personal, educational, and professional goals; describe any past involvement with the film industry or film festivals, including professional or volunteer work as well as general attendance; etc); and
- choose a film you have recently seen and write a 150-word description that provides just enough information to encourage someone else to watch it (avoid spoilers) (note: you are encouraged to use emotive language when talking about the film, meaning don't just describe the film, communicate something about what it feels like to experience this film).

Application form: <https://forms.office.com/r/YL4RF1Hr19>

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Principal Coordinator, Professor Nataleah Hunter-Young at nhuntery@uwo.ca.