



Australian Government



DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM GUIDELINES: TALENT ESCALATOR

FIRST ISSUED 24 DECEMBER 2010
THIS VERSION ISSUED 9 NOVEMBER 2011

Screen Australia reserves the right to change its program guidelines from time to time. Please ensure you check the website for the latest version.

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with Screen Australia's Terms of Trade.

Targeted initiatives	4
Internships, producer placements, workshops and other professional development opportunities – drama	5
Springboard: Short Film Initiative	8
Short Film Completion Fund	12
Short Animation Production	15
Director's Acclaim Fund	17

We receive many more applications than we can support. Inevitably some applications will be unsuccessful and applicants may be disappointed by this result. However, Screen Australia's decision is final.

Screen Australia does not negatively discriminate on the basis of racial background, sexual preference, culture, language, gender, or physical or intellectual disability.

Specific requirements apply where there is Indigenous community participation or content involved in a project. Please refer to www.screenaustralia.gov.au/funding/business/Indigenous_Content.aspx

For enquiries please call toll free 1800 507 901
or email: development@screenaustralia.gov.au

Update log

25 January 2011

- **Acclaim Fund:** addition of 'Screen Australia will expect a clearly identifiable professional development outcome to be evident in the application' under 'Funding is for'; 'Eligibility criteria' formatted in bullet list for clarity.

1 February 2011

- **Acclaim Fund:** amendment to 'Eligibility criteria'.

24 February 2011

- **Acclaim Fund:** renamed Director's Acclaim Fund

17 May 2011

- **Internships, producer placements, workshops and other professional development opportunities – drama:** additional information included under 'Eligibility'.
- **Short Film Completion Fund:** additional information included under 'Eligibility'.
- **Director's Acclaim Fund:** clarification that applicants must be short drama film directors or writer/directors.

11 July 2011

- **Internships, producer placements, workshops and other professional development opportunities – drama:** amendment to 'Available funding'.
- **Director's Acclaim Fund:** amendments to 'Funding is for' and 'Eligibility'.

22 August 2011

- **Internships, producer placements, workshops and other professional development opportunities – drama:** amended funding amounts under 'Available funding'.
- **Short Film Completion Fund:** added new information under 'Funding is for'.

5 September 2011

- **Director's Acclaim Fund:** replaced AFI Awards with AACTA (previously AFI) Awards.

14 September 2011

- **Short Animation Production:** additional information included under 'Eligibility'.
- **Springboard Short Film Initiative:** guidelines updated for this initiative.

9 November 2011

- **Targeted Initiatives and Internships, producer placements, workshops and other professional development opportunities – drama:** Removed references to digital media and game practitioners. Amendments to Internships 'Eligibility'.

TALENT ESCALATOR PROGRAMS

Professional development for practitioners with a range of relevant experience. These are not entry-level programs.

The **Talent Escalator programs** help practitioners take strategic steps in building their skills, their careers and their slate.

The programs cater for producers, writers, directors, script editors and development executives:

- less experienced professionals, recognising their career and project development requirements. The aim is to provide practitioners with mentoring, market knowledge, and development and production expertise and
- experienced professionals, recognising that, in a rapidly changing local and international media landscape, they need to continually upgrade their skills and contacts as well as keep abreast of best practice.

To maximise the programs' diversity and effectiveness, Screen Australia works closely with State screen agencies and the industry to:

- proactively conceive and develop events and funding initiatives; and
- support innovative proposals from State agencies, other screen organisations and experienced practitioners.

The programs cover three areas:

- **Targeted initiatives** provide key development opportunities for producers, writers, directors, script editors and development executives by building their development and production skills. Guidelines for these initiatives are devised with partners, and are specific to the requirements of each program. Examples include *Script Factory: Script Developers Initiative*; *Wrestling the Redraft: A Developers Workshop*; *The High Concept Movie Workshop with Michael Hauge*. Check the Screen Australia website for current initiatives.
- **Internships, producer placements, workshops and other professional development opportunities (drama)** allow practitioners to expand their range of experience and gain exposure to best practices, domestically and internationally. Special internships or international producer placements such as the *New York Producer Internships* are also offered from time to time; check the website for details. Additional professional development opportunities include the *Director's Acclaim Fund*.
- **Short film programs** aim to strategically support the career trajectory of talented producers, writers and directors:
 - *Springboard Short Film Initiative*
 - *Short Film Completion Fund*
 - *Short Animation Production*.

TALENT ESCALATOR

Targeted initiatives

Screen Australia continues its support of the professional development of the industry through a range of project and skills focused events and other initiatives.

These initiatives provide key development opportunities for producers, writers, directors, script editors and development executives of various levels of experience, by building their development and production skills. They also provide practical experience to targeted teams or individuals in specific forms or genres by providing guidance or mentorship from leading industry professionals.

- Project-based initiatives are usually for writer, producer and director teams working on specific projects.
- Skills-based initiatives include seminars, tutorials, forums or networking events aimed at advancing specific skills using high-level industry professionals.

Guidelines are devised with partners, and are specific to the requirements of each initiative.

Check the Screen Australia website for details of current initiatives.

TALENT ESCALATOR

Internships, producer placements, workshops and other professional development opportunities – drama

Screen Australia recognises the value of practitioners gaining exposure to high-level practice in their chosen field. Such experience, whether in Australia or overseas, can help broaden outlook, hone specific skills and advance marketplace awareness as well as benefit the Australian industry more broadly. This program provides support for industry internships, producer placements, attendance at international script workshops, or other high-level professional development activities.

Applicants must have a clear strategic plan for their proposed funding, and applications will be looked at closely for the benefits not only to the recipient but to the industry as a whole. In the case of internships and producer placements the program is not intended to be a form of salary subsidy for the host company. In the case of international workshops it's important to note that acceptance into the workshop does not guarantee Screen Australia support. Successful applicants are only eligible for one high-level internship in their career.

This program does not cover documentary.

Available funding

Screen Australia will fund:

- up to two Screen Australia international producer placements per year
- up to three industry internships of up to \$30,000 each per year if they are international or up to \$15,000 each per year if they are domestic (Australia/New Zealand)
- up to four international workshop placements of up to \$25,000 each per year
- other activities as proposed by applicants, supported by a detailed budget.

An individual may only receive one high-level industry internship (including any separately offered specific internships) from Screen Australia during their career.

Funding is for

Support for writers, producers, directors, script editors, development executives and animators who have a significant professional development opportunity in their area of expertise, such as a domestic or international internship with a high-level company or highly experienced practitioner; or to assist with costs during the internship.

Applicants may use the funds to do work overseas or within Australia.

Support for the writer, writer/director, producer, or writer/producer who is participating in an international script workshop. Funding may cover the cost of registration, airfares, accommodation and other travel/living costs.

Support for other high-level professional development opportunities which will provide clear strategic career benefits.

Eligibility

- Only individuals may apply.
- Applicants must be a writer, producer, director, script editor, development executive or animator who has at least one significant key creative drama credit in their chosen field of the attachment or opportunity, and related success must be demonstrated.
- Internship or attachment applications must include a written invitation from the host individual or organisation confirming the intern's duties during the internship and expected outcomes. Where the host is an individual and a production company is involved, the company's written consent is also required.
- Internships are not available for script development proposals.
- International script workshop applications must:
 - have a draft or treatment (writers only) for a narrative feature film
 - have a written invitation from the workshop
 - be available to undertake the workshop.
- Previous development funding from Screen Australia or its predecessor agencies does not make the project ineligible for international script workshop support. However, a project can only be funded once through this program.
- Funding cannot be retrospective.
- For international internships, confirmation of your eligibility for the appropriate visa will be required.

Where the application relates to a project, Screen Australia expects the option or rights to be held by the applicant, or by them in conjunction with other key creatives.

Successful interns, together with their host company, may request Screen Australia funds be paid to the applicant through the company for insurance and liability purposes such as work cover. Conversely, applicants may be paid directly; however, they will need to pay their own insurance costs and include such costs in their internship budget.

Applicants must also meet the general eligibility requirements set out in Screen Australia's Terms of Trade.

Assessment process

Applications will be assessed by a combination of Screen Australia executives and industry specialists/peers as required. We will advise applicants of the success or otherwise of their application. Where an

application is unsuccessful, the reasons will be conveyed to the applicant, with a written statement of reasons provided on request.

Assessment criteria

When assessing applications for this program, Screen Australia uses the following criteria:

- The skills, experience and track record of the applicant, and the quality of their previous work
- The quality of the proposed program of work, study or attachment
- Where relevant, the reputation and track record of the host individual, company, or the quality and reputation of the international workshop
- The strategic career benefit to the applicant, and, where relevant, to the project
- The potential wider benefits to the Australian industry
- In the case of international script workshops or other project-related opportunities:
 - the quality of the writing and cinematic story telling evident in the project
 - the potential of the project to reach its target audience
 - the development notes, and the degree to which they articulate the issue faced by the next stage of development – the viability of the development plan.

Application materials

Applications must be made using the relevant Screen Australia application form, and include all supporting material listed in the checklist on that form.

Application timing

Applications can be submitted at any time.

Applicants for international workshop support are advised to submit an application well in advance of the workshop, allowing an eight-week turnaround for assessment.

Terms of funding

Funding is in the form of a grant.

Funding recipients must deliver

- A written report on completion of the internship, workshop or other activity.
- An expenditure report accounting for the funding received.
- In the case of international script workshops, a further draft of the screenplay incorporating development from the workshop.

Recipients may also be asked to participate in seminars or workshops to share their knowledge and experience with other practitioners.

Special internships are offered from time to time. Check the website for more information.

TALENT ESCALATOR: SHORT FILM PROGRAMS

Springboard: Short Film Initiative

Screen Australia is committed to galvanising the connection between short filmmaking and a feature film career.

We recognise the importance of short films in career building and raising marketplace interest around a first feature film.

Screen Australia's Springboard provides a one-of-a-kind opportunity for creative filmmaking teams to create a short film that speaks directly to their feature film screenplay, providing a strong showcase into the marketplace.

Springboard will target outstanding teams one step away from making their first professional feature film, and assist them with defining, writing and producing a short film that is a creatively and professionally relevant calling card to their first feature project.

A series of workshops plus intensive one-to-one development will tailor the process to support the specific needs of each creative team.

Springboard is about career building for the long term, providing an essential stepping-stone in a professional filmmaking career path.

What is it?

The Springboard initiative features a three-part workshop which will take place periodically between December 2011 and February 2012.

Through the workshops and regular development sessions, five teams will develop a short film project before three are selected for production.

The teams must have a feature film at first draft or beyond, towards which the short film will be thematically, tonally and visually focused.

Along with a developed feature script, teams will be asked to submit two potential short film ideas with their application and the initial workshop will be designed to help identify which of those ideas will be the best calling card for their feature.

Over three workshops – each three days in duration – teams will be supported to develop their creative vision. With input from the Screen Australia Development team and course convener Paul Welsh, they will hone their story and devise a feasible production methodology to ensure that the best short film is realised. In between each workshop, participants will be expected to intensively redraft and refine their short film projects.

At the end of the entire workshop process Screen Australia will select three projects to go into production, with a budget of up to \$150,000 per short film.

Workshop dates

Check the Screen Australia website for the workshop dates.

The first workshop will take place in December 2011. The two subsequent workshops are slated for mid-January and mid-February 2012 respectively.

The location of the workshops is TBC.

Course convener

Based in Scotland, Paul Welsh is a developer, commissioner and producer of live action and animated shorts, documentaries and feature films.

Paul's feature productions include *Skeletons*, winner of the Michael Powell Award for Best New British Feature, Edinburgh International Film Festival 2010. BAFTA nominated in 2011 for Outstanding Debut by writer/director Nick Whitfield, the film was developed from two related shorts featuring the main characters and central premise of the feature.

In co-production with Rohfilm (Berlin) and Liz Watts of Porchlight (Sydney), Paul's second feature *Lore* is currently posting in Australia. Directed by Cate Shortland (*Somersault*, *The Silence*), the film is based on Rachel Seiffert's novel *The Dark Room*, a story of survival set in Germany at the close of WWII.

Alongside features, Paul founded and manages one of the UK's foremost talent development organisations, DigiCult. Through the cult and also working independently for film funds including EM Media, Paul has developed, commissioned and executive produced over 50 shorts for Creative Scotland, UK Film Council, Channel 4 and BBC Scotland amongst others.

In recent years, these short productions have included:

Paris/Sexy (w/d: Ruth Paxton), LSFF UK Film Council Award for Best Short 2011; *Rite* (d: Michael Pearce), Rushes Soho Shorts, Best Long Form Drama 2011; *The Taxidermist* (w/d: The Berties), Palm Springs, Best Live Action Short 2009; *Dog Altogether* (d: Paddy Considine), Venice Silver Lion 2007, BAFTA Best Short 2008; *Over the Hill* (w/d: Peter Baynton) McLaren Animation Award EIFF 2007; *Tracks* (w/d: Martin Smith) BAFTA Scotland Best Short 2006; *Dupe* (w/d: Chris Waitt) BAFTA Scotland Best Short 2005.

Over the last 10 years, Paul has built a strong reputation for developing emergent UK talent, distilling his approach into process-based workshops for story and script under the title *The Story Room*. He presents internationally for film funds and script development initiatives including Think/Shoot/Distribute (LFF) and SoS (The Bureau).

Eligibility

Springboard is aimed at outstanding aspiring filmmakers with a demonstrable commitment to a professional feature film career.

Screen Australia selects up to five teams, comprising a producer in partnership with either a director and writer or a writer/director. The exact mix will be at our discretion.

- Only teams as described above can apply.
- The teams must have a feature film in development that is at first draft stage or beyond.

- Directors are encouraged to work with writers, but teams may include a writer/director.
- Directors and producers must have at least one exceptional short film credit (including films made at film schools) in their respective roles.
- Directors with completed funded features or substantial television drama experience are not eligible. There is no upper limit on the experience of writers or producers, although applicants should be aware that the intention of the initiative is to develop emerging creative teams.
- Animation projects are not eligible for funding under this program. Short animation projects are funded under Short Animation Production (see www.screenaustralia.gov.au/animation).
- Applicants may submit projects that have unsuccessfully applied for funding through other Screen Australia programs but they must provide evidence of significant changes since the previous application. A project can only be submitted twice to this program.

Applicants must also meet the general eligibility requirements set out in Screen Australia's Terms of Trade.

Funding is for

The five teams initially selected will:

- attend all three workshops, with workshop costs covered by Screen Australia. Travel and accommodation expenses are reimbursed for participants who live outside the host city (TBC), up to a maximum of \$800 per person, per workshop, on presentation of receipts and a tax invoice.

The three teams finally selected will:

- be supported for full production of their short films with a maximum budget of \$150,000 per film. Each film will be shot and completed on a digital format and will be up to 15 minutes in length, including credits, in line with major festival requirements.

The offer is valid for three months from selection and contracting is expected to be completed in that time. Screen Australia expects the short films to be completed and delivered within six months of contracting. Exceptions to this will be subject to approval by Screen Australia.

Assessment process

Applications for this program, including the selection of teams whose short film will be funded for production, will be assessed by a combination of Screen Australia executives and industry specialists as required. Screen Australia will advise applicants of the success or otherwise of their application. Where an application is unsuccessful, the reasons will be conveyed to the applicant, with a written statement of reasons provided on request.

Assessment criteria

Selection of the five teams participating in the workshops will be based on assessment against the following criteria:

- The skills, experience and successful track record of each of the key principals, their ability to undertake the feature and proposed short, as evidenced in previous work and interview (if applicable).
- The originality, strength and distinctiveness evident in the feature film screenplay.
- The feature project's potential to reach its target audience.
- The potential strength of the concept and underlying premise of the short film ideas submitted and their strength as a calling card for the feature.
- The professional development benefits for the key creative team.

Please note: From the teams participating in the workshop, selection of the three whose short films will be funded for production will be based on further assessment against the above criteria as well as:

- The team's capacity to deliver the short film project on time and on budget.
- The likelihood that production of the short film will significantly enhance the viability of the feature project.

Application materials

Applications must be made on the relevant application form, and include all supporting material listed in the checklist on that form. Applications missing supporting documents at the time of submission will be deemed ineligible.

Application timing

Check the Screen Australia website for the deadline. Turnaround time will be six weeks from the application deadline.

Terms of funding

Screen Australia requires a credit for its support if a short film developed during the workshop stages is subsequently produced, with or without Screen Australia funding. All press and publicity must have Screen Australia Springboard acknowledgement.

Screen Australia funding for the short films selected for production will be in the form of a grant, and no copyright interest will be required.

Funding recipients must deliver

All five teams must deliver a completed short film screenplay and any other delivery items in accordance with the legal contract.

The three teams who go on to produce the short must deliver DVD and Digital Betacam copies of the completed film, plus related paperwork including an audit report and press kit.

TALENT ESCALATOR: SHORT FILM PROGRAMS

Short Film Completion Fund

Screen Australia's Short Film Completion Fund provides finance for distinctive and creatively ambitious short films that show outstanding potential but lack the funds to finish.

Screen Australia is committed to galvanising the connection between short filmmaking and a feature film career. We will favour the completion of shorts that have a clear professional development benefit and stand to showcase talent at local and international film festivals, as well as act as a 'calling card' to promote longer-form opportunities for directors, writers and producers.

The Completion Fund will seek to target outstanding talent on a strong trajectory towards making their first professional feature film.

Successful recipients of the Short Film Completion Fund will be expected to deliver their completed short film to Screen Australia within four months of contracting.

Available funding

A maximum of \$40,000 is available per project.

Funding is for

- Post-production to completion on non-film formats, of one-off live action short films up to a maximum of 15 minutes, including credits (for animation projects, see Short Animation Production www.screenaustralia.gov.au/animation).

Format: Films shot in any format can apply. We acknowledge that many filmmakers have access to crews and equipment that have allowed them to shoot their short film on 16mm or 35mm. However, our funds can only be used for a non-film finish. We encourage digital shorts that focus on screenplay, direction and performance rather than 16mm or 35mm production values.

International Festival Materials (including 35mm blow-ups): Acceptance into some of the top-tier international film festivals may lead to the requirement for additional marketing and screening materials. Applications for such materials can only be accepted under Screen Australia's Marketing Program, and only then if the guideline conditions are met (see International Festival Materials at www.screenaustralia.gov.au/marketing).

Budget: You must submit an A-Z budget with quotes covering all line items for completion of your film to delivery (see www.screenaustralia.gov.au/filmmaking/budgeting/a_z.aspx).

Producers should be aware that Screen Australia has a special arrangement with the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA) whereby cast are contracted on the Actors Feature Film Agreement (AFFA) with a reduced buyout of 40 per cent. This means cast must be paid at a minimum of the basic negotiated fee (BNF) with a 40 per cent buyout to cover Australian TV

rights at 20 per cent and Australian ancillary rights at 20 per cent. Producers should endeavour to acquire these rights prior to their shoot. **Note:** Cast and crew payments can be deferred but must be award minimums in accordance with our Terms of Trade. In addition, applicants applying for Short Film Completion Funding will need to supply industry standard agreements for all cast and crew with their application. On a case-by-case basis and where appropriate, Screen Australia may allow producers to include cast costs in their budget for completion funds.

If you are intending to apply for Short Film Completion Funding please familiarise yourself with the program guidelines and Terms of Trade before you commence production. If you have any queries please call Development Administration on 1800 507 901.

Eligibility

- Only teams may apply.
- Directors with feature or substantial television drama experience are not eligible.
- Only films of 15 minutes and under (including credits) will be accepted, in line with major festival requirements.
- Applicants must be able to provide a viable budget, post-production plan and strategy to reach delivery
- Animation projects are not eligible for funding under this program. Short animation projects are funded under Short Animation Production.

Applicants must also meet the general eligibility requirements set out in Screen Australia's Terms of Trade (see the Screen Australia website).

Funding cannot be retrospective. Screen Australia funds are only for genuine completion and delivery materials.

Projects that are unsuccessful in applying for this program may only reapply if the project and application have been substantially reworked. Two consecutive unsuccessful applications will make the project ineligible for this program.

Assessment process

Applications will be assessed by a combination of Screen Australia executives and industry specialists as required. Screen Australia will advise applicants of the success or otherwise of their application. Where an application is unsuccessful, the reasons will be conveyed to the applicant, with a written statement of reasons provided on request.

Assessment criteria

When assessing applications for this program, Screen Australia uses the following criteria:

- The originality, strength and distinctiveness evident in a cut of the short film.
- The project's potential to reach its target audience.
- The professional development benefits for the key creative team.

- The skills, experience and successful track record of each of the key principals and their ability to undertake the proposed project, as evidenced in previous work.
- The viability of the proposed budget and post-production strategy and, where relevant, the strategy for raising the remaining finance.

Application materials

Applications must be made on the relevant Screen Australia application form, and include all supporting material listed on the checklist on that form.

Application timing

Check the Screen Australia website for the deadline.

Terms of funding

Funding is in the form of a grant. Screen Australia will not require a copyright interest.

Screen Australia requires a credit for its support.

Funding recipients must deliver

All delivery items listed in the PIA (Production Investment Agreement), including DVD and Digital Betacam copies of the completed film, plus related paperwork including an expenditure report and press kit in accordance with your Grant Investment Agreement.

TALENT ESCALATOR: SHORT FILM PROGRAMS

Short Animation Production

Screen Australia supports the production of short animation as a means of career progression for leading emerging animation talent, with particular emphasis on the director.

Screen Australia recognises the benefit of a professional approach to animation production, and encourages the team to have the support of an established animation studio, or at least a team with a division of labour that reflects industry best practice. Screen Australia also believes that short animation can be a strong opportunity for an established animation studio to progress the careers of leading internal creative staff.

Screen Australia appreciates the unique characteristics of animation production. It is labour-intensive, requires a special set of skills, and usually involves very long periods of production.

The Short Animation Production Program aims to support the production of animation projects which are original in subject matter and style. Such projects will further develop Australia's mainstream and commercial animation industry in the context of the rapidly evolving field of digital and visual effects.

Available funding

Applications can be for up to \$150,000 per project for production, or up to \$40,000 per project for post-production.

Successful recipients of Short Animation funding will be expected to deliver their completed films within 12 months of signing the contract.

Funding is for

- One-off animations up to 15 minutes.
- Production or post-production.

Eligibility

- Only teams may apply.
- Screen Australia expects an application for funding to come from the producer.
- Directors are encouraged to work with writers, as is common in a professional environment.
- Directors and producers must have credits in their respective roles on at least one short film.
- Directors with completed funded animated features or substantial animated television experience are not eligible. However, there is no upper limit on the experience of writers or producers.

Applicants must also meet the general eligibility requirements set out in Screen Australia's Terms of Trade.

Projects that are unsuccessful in applying for this program may only reapply if the project and application have been substantially reworked. Two consecutive unsuccessful applications will make the project ineligible for this program.

Assessment process

Applications will be assessed by a combination of Screen Australia executives and industry specialists as required. Screen Australia will advise applicants of the success or otherwise of their application. Where an application is unsuccessful, the reasons will be conveyed to the applicant, with a written statement of reasons provided on request.

Assessment criteria

Screen Australia will take the following considerations into account when assessing applications for this program:

- The originality, strength and distinctiveness of the idea and screenplay, and the suitability of the animation style.
- The professional development benefits for the key creative team, in particular the director &/or animator.
- The skills and successful track record of each of the key principals and their ability to undertake the proposed project, as evidenced in previous work, and the quality of support from an established animation studio (if attached).
- The viability of the proposed budget and production or post-production schedule and, where relevant, the strategy for raising the remaining finance.

Application materials

Applications must be made on the relevant Screen Australia application form, and include all supporting material listed on the checklist on that form.

Application timing

Check the Screen Australia website for the deadline.

Terms of funding

Funding is in the form of a grant. Screen Australia will not require a copyright interest.

Screen Australia requires a credit for its support.

Funding recipients must deliver

DVD and Betacam copies of the completed film, plus related paperwork in accordance with your Grant Investment Agreement.

TALENT ESCALATOR

Director's Acclaim Fund

Screen Australia recognises the importance of filmmakers maintaining momentum following critical acclaim of their short drama films.

This fund provides support for the next stage of professional development for short drama film directors or writer/directors whose short has received significant acclaim (see eligibility below) within the last 12 months.

Available funding

Screen Australia will fund:

- Up to \$15,000 for short film directors or writer/directors.

Funding is for

Support for the next stage of professional development for short film directors or writer/directors **who have not yet made their first feature**. For example, to fund a mentorship, to attend a high-level workshop or to explore other significant opportunities that may be presented to them.

Please note: these funds are not intended to be used solely for single-draft funding. While script development may be a component of an application, proposals that include an outwardly engaged directorial opportunity will be given preference, such as a mentorship or significant collaboration, or a specialist workshop that supports the applicant's directorial aims and career goals.

Screen Australia will expect a clearly identifiable professional development outcome to be evident in the application.

Applicants may use the funds for their proposal within Australia or overseas.

Eligibility

Applicants must be short drama film directors or writer/directors who have not yet made their first feature and within the last 12 months have:

- **Cannes Film Festival:** Had their short film selected In Competition, or won Best Short Film or Honourable Mention in Short Filmmaking in Critics' Week
- **Berlin International Film Festival:** Won the Golden, Silver or Crystal Bear for Short Film
- **Venice Film Festival:** Won the Premio Orizzonti award for short film
- **Melbourne International Film Festival:** Won the Grand Prix for Best Short Film or Award for Best Australian Short Film
- **Sydney Film Festival:** Won the Dendy Award for Best Short Film, Yoram Gross Animation Award or Rouben Mamoulian Award
- **Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival:** Won the Grand Prix, Special Jury Prize, Best Animation or Audience Prize in the International Competition

- **Annecy International Animated Film Festival:** Won the Annecy Cristal or Special Jury Award for short films
- **AACTA (previously AFI) Awards:** Won Best Short Fiction or Best Short Animation
- **Sundance Film Festival:** Won International Jury Prize for Short Film
- **Academy Award®:** Been nominated for an Academy Award® for Best Short Film or Best Animated Short Film.

In exceptional circumstances Screen Australia will consider on a case-by-case basis directors or writer/directors who have received more than one honourable mention at any of the above festivals.

Eligible applicants must include a written statement detailing their proposed development plan and how it will provide clear strategic career benefits.

Applicants must also meet the general eligibility requirements set out in Screen Australia's Terms of Trade (see Screen Australia website).

Assessment process

Applications will be assessed by a combination of Screen Australia executives and industry specialists/peers as required. We will advise applicants of the success or otherwise of their application. Where an application is unsuccessful, the reasons will be conveyed to the applicant, with a written statement of reasons provided on request.

Assessment criteria

When assessing applications for this program, Screen Australia uses the following criteria:

- the quality of the proposed development plan and the strategic benefit to the applicant's career
- if applicable, the reputation and track record of the entity providing the opportunity
- if project-based, the potential of the idea submitted.

Application materials

Applications must be made using the relevant Screen Australia application form, and include all supporting material listed in the checklist on that form.

Application timing

Applications can be submitted at any time.

Terms of funding

Funding is in the form of a grant.

Funding recipients must deliver

- A written report on completion of the agreed activity.
- An expenditure report accounting for the funding received.

Recipients may also be asked to participate in seminars or workshops to share their knowledge and experience with other practitioners.