

AWG The Creators: FAQs

This FAQ sheet should be read in conjunction with the AWG The Creators Guidelines.

If I was unsuccessful in the last round of AWG The Creators, can I apply again?

Yes, you are eligible to apply again, as long as you meet the eligibility requirements in the current program guidelines.

Credit Criteria

What is a sole writer credit?

A sole writer credit is for which you are the only writer credited as “Writer”, “Written by” or equivalent.

If you have a “Story by” credit on an episode but do not have a “Writer” or “Written by” credit, it cannot be included in the cumulative 5 hours of episode credits.

If you are the only writer with a “Writer” or “Written by” credit on the episode and another writer has a “Story by” credit, it can be included as a sole writer credit.

Can I include episodes that have not yet been broadcast in the cumulative 5 hours of episode credits?

Episodes that will be broadcast by June 30 2025 may be included in the cumulative 5 hours of episode credits.

Episodes that are scheduled to be broadcast after June 30 2025 cannot be included.

Projects that are still in development, in production or in post-production are not eligible and cannot be included in the cumulative 5 hours of episode credits.

Do I need to be the sole writer in my slate of 3-5 scripted episodic projects?

Applicants must be the sole writer on their lead project but the remaining 2-4 projects on their slate can have co-writers attached.

Can I include documentary or factual episodes in the cumulative 5 hours of episode credits?

No. Credits must be from scripted episodic drama or comedy series. The Creators is designed for writers working in scripted comedy and drama and applicants must demonstrate relevant experience to be eligible.

Can I include comedy sketches or segments of episodes in the cumulative 5 hours of episode credits?

No. Applicants need to have written the full episode to include it in their eligible credits. This means that segments of episodes or sketches cannot be included.

Can I include ads / shorts in the cumulative 5 hours of episode credits?

No. Eligible credits need to be from scripted episodic drama or comedy series, or feature films. Ads and shorts are not eligible for inclusion.

Can I include credits as a script editor or story producer?

No. Script editing, developing and story producing are all skills that are valuable for a writer working at this level, but writers must have their own body of work to qualify for this program. The Creators is designed for high calibre writers who are authoring their own work and who are in a position to pitch their ideas in the international market, in which voice and credits are important.

Where do my features have to have screened to be eligible credits?

Features need to have been acquired for distribution and released, or programmed by a festival.

For example, eligible features may have been screened in a cinema as a part of a theatrical release or festival screening, been distributed for home entertainment such as DVD, streaming or video-on-demand, or on TV or on an airline.

Features that have only been screened privately for cast and crew or family and friends are not eligible.

What is a “mainstage” theatre production?

A mainstage theatre production is one in which the cast are paid at MEAA minimum rates and the creatives are paid in line with guild or industry standard.

A mainstage theatre production includes those produced by professional companies; or independent productions in which all participants were engaged professionally.

It does not include student theatre productions, amateur theatre productions or independent productions on which participants aren't engaged professionally or are engaged on a profit share or co-operative basis.

A professional festival context is one in which all participants are paid appropriately, similar to the mainstage theatre definition. It does not include fringe festival contexts in which participants aren't paid or are engaged on a profit share or co-operative basis.

What if I have assigned the rights to my lead project to a company in which I am a partner or part-owner?

Your lead project must be unencumbered to be included in your application. This means you maintain full creative and financial control. If you have assigned the rights to your project to a company in which you have partial control, it cannot be included as your lead project, but it can be included on your slate as an additional project.

I don't know if I'm eligible, can I speak to someone?

Yes, you can chat to a member of the Program Operations Team to discuss eligibility criteria and application process (development@screenaustralia.gov.au), or a member of the Australian Writers Guild to discuss the program and program content (thecreators@awg.com.au). Please note that we are not able to provide creative advice or suggestions to strengthen your application.

I might not be eligible, should I apply anyway?

No. The Creators is a program for high-calibre mid-career writers and the eligibility requirements are designed to reflect this. If you don't meet the eligibility criteria, you should not submit an application. Ineligible applications will not be assessed.

I'm not eligible for the program, what else can I apply for?

We recommend taking a look at Screen Australia's other funding programs such as Story Development [link] and signing up for our Screen News where all new funding programs and opportunities are announced.

Applying

What do I need to provide in my application form?

- Detailed information on your current slate of projects, including:
 - Logline
 - Synopsis
 - Stage of development and what materials are currently available
 - Any secured development funding
 - The estimated budget
 - Information on any currently secured key creative, cast, marketplace attachment and/or interest (note: lead project should not have marketplace attachment as it must be unencumbered)
- Detailed information on the lead project such as a long synopsis, what makes it distinctive, how you would position it in the screen market - anything you would want to share in a pitch
- A statement speaking to your specific and intended professional development objectives - what do you want to get out of The Creators? Why this leadership opportunity and why now?

What is meant by "leadership" in the assessment criteria and in the professional development objectives statement above?

The Creators is designed to support Australian screenwriters to create, build, pitch and run their own shows. It aims to build the knowledge and confidence of Australian screenwriters so they feel equipped to move into leadership roles. This, in turn, will strengthen and develop the Australian sector more broadly as the skills gained through the program are put to use working with other writers and screen practitioners.

Assessment of applications will consider the suitability of the applicant for leadership in this context and their appetite to take on a leadership role in the Australian industry.

What supporting materials do I need to upload with my application?

- CV including credits applicable to the required credit criteria (i.e. credited role, duration in minutes, broadcast platform or release information, performance run dates and location). Bios will not be accepted.

- A writing sample (15 pages max) from a scripted project that has been produced that best represents you and your work as a writer

Program

How does contracting, payment and acquittal work?

Successful applicants will be contracted by the Australian Writers' Guild, who will issue a Participant Agreement.

Travel and accommodation will be organised for successful applicants by the Australian Writers' Guild, and per diems will be paid to successful applicants by the Australian Writers' Guild closer to the program dates.

Successful applicants will be required to deliver a report to the Australian Writers Guild after completion of the activity in Sydney.

Can I commute from home or make my own accommodation arrangements during the program?

No, The Creators is a retreat-style program and all participants must be able to 'live-in' and be available to attend The Creators workshops and events in Sydney between Sunday 19 October and Saturday 24 October 2025 (inclusive).