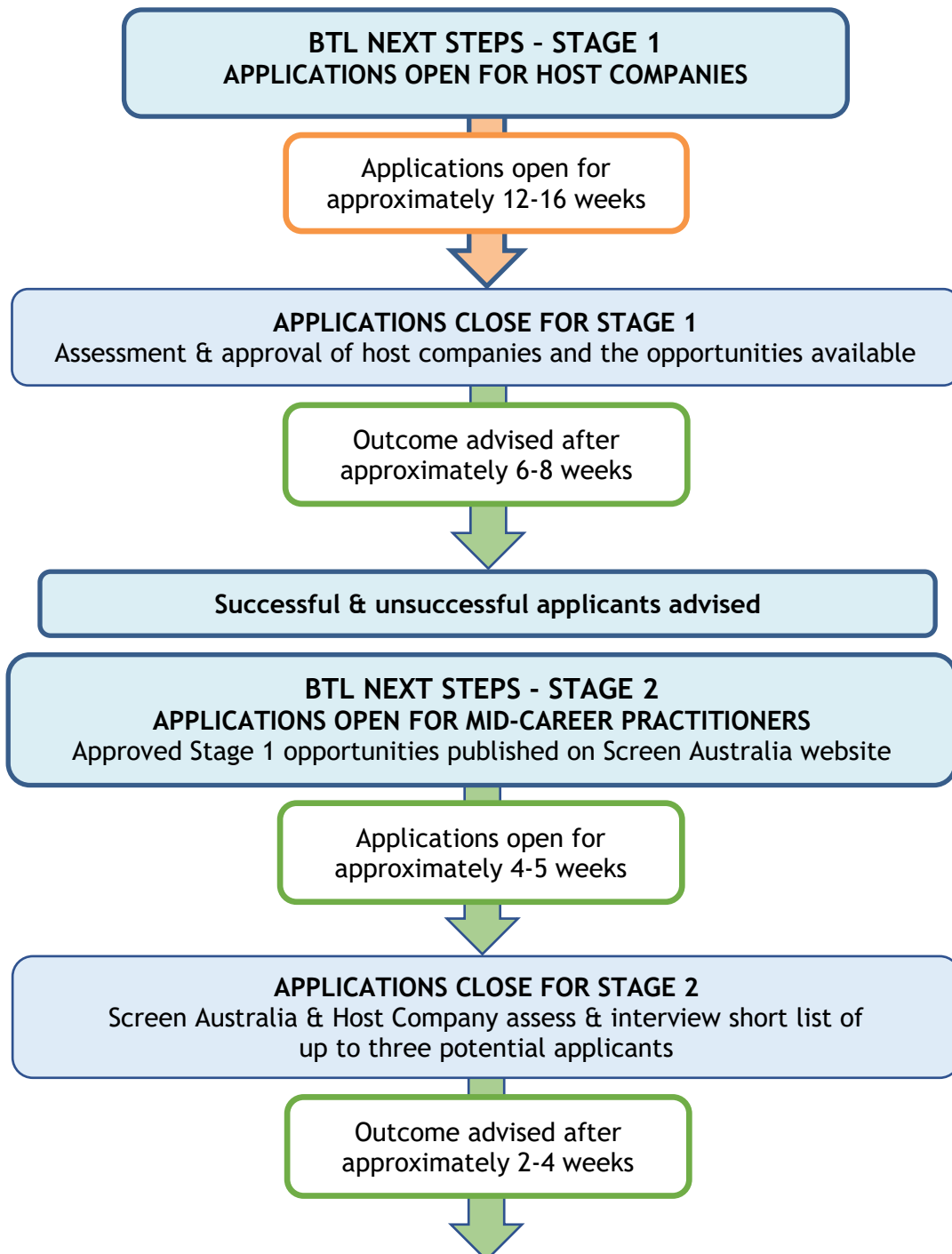


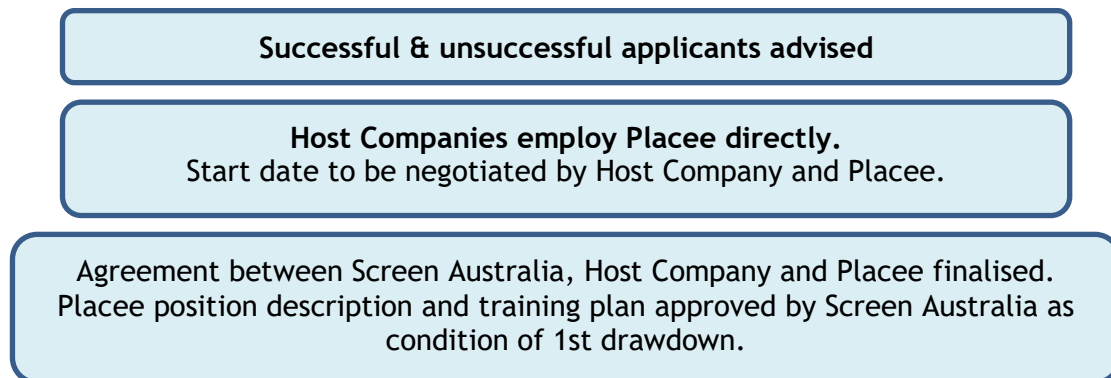
BTL Next Step Funding Program FAQs

Issued 27 April 2023
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The following general FAQs for the BTL Next Step Funding Program should be read in conjunction with the guidelines.

What is the two-stage process for the BTL Next Step Program?





What companies or individuals are eligible to apply for the BTL Next Step Program?

All applicants must be eligible under Screen Australia's [Terms of Trade](#) and be eligible for the specific and stated eligibility criteria for each stage of the program. Below are the key eligibility requirements - please refer to the Guidelines for more detailed information.

STAGE ONE - Applicants for Stage One will be **production companies and screen businesses** that can provide opportunities for mid-career practitioners to gain experience in one of the ten senior crew and leadership roles identified in the guidelines. Applicants must meet the criteria set out under "Who is eligible to apply for Stage One?" in the [Stage One guidelines](#).

STAGE TWO - Applicants for Stage Two will be mid-career practitioners with an active ABN who are ready to step up into one of the placement opportunities being offered, who have 2+ years of professional experience or otherwise meet the criteria set out under "Who is eligible to apply for Stage Two?" in the [Stage Two guidelines](#).

How much should I apply for?

STAGE ONE - Screen Australia will generally contribute a maximum of up to \$50,000 towards each placement. An exception to this funding limit may be considered for extended placements where the applicant can demonstrate in its application significant benefits to the industry. For more information about what funds can be used for, please refer to the [Stage One guidelines](#).

STAGE TWO - Individual applicants may apply for up to \$3,000 towards relocation costs and/or \$3,000 towards carer/support costs (in addition to the funding being provided to the company as part of Stage One). Please refer to the "What support is available?" section in the [guidelines](#).

What types of productions are eligible to apply for funding under the BTL Next Step Programs?

All types of productions are eligible to apply for funding under the Industry Development Programs as long as they meet the eligibility criteria set out in the relevant program guidelines.

Applicants should be aware that it is expected to be competitive for each round of the funding programs, including applications from productions that are of scale, accordingly applications from smaller-sized productions or companies may not be as competitive.

If I have previously received Screen Australia funding for a production, can I apply for Stage One for a placement on that production?

Yes, applicants who are already receiving production funding from Screen Australia may apply for additional funding under this program. However, funding can only be used towards training and development costs and cannot be used to fund or substitute a paid crew on any production. Please refer to the [Stage One guidelines](#) about what will and will not be funded.

Can I make multiple applications to the BTL Next Step Program?

STAGE ONE - Applicants may make one application per round for the BTL Next Step Program, but may offer to provide multiple opportunities for the same role or across multiple roles within that one application.

STAGE TWO - Applicants may submit one application per round and select one Placee opportunity when applying, giving strategic consideration to how that opportunity will best support their career advancement.

Where multiple opportunities are offered for the same role in locations outside of the main production hubs on the East Coast, Screen Australia may provide exemptions in that round that allow applicants to select up to two opportunities when applying for the same role. Please refer to the “Placee opportunities” section in the [Stage Two guidelines](#) for each round of the program.

Can I apply to another Industry Development Program if I have applied for the BTL Next Step Program?

Yes, applicants may make multiple applications across separate Industry Development Programs, however, each application must be for different activities (one activity cannot be funded by multiple programs) and remain within the limits set for the programs.

My production is not currently receiving any funding from Screen Australia, am I still eligible to apply?

Yes, a production not currently receiving any funding from Screen Australia can still apply as long as they meet all eligibility criteria set out in the [Stage One guidelines](#).

What are the priority areas that Screen Australia is hoping to address with this program?

For the BTL Next Step program, Screen Australia is currently targeting 1st Assistant Directors, Art Directors, Editors, Line Producers, Location Managers, Post Production Supervisors, Production Accountants, Production Managers, Special Effects (SFX) Supervisors and Sound Designers.

Will the host company be involved in the selection of the Placee?

Yes, as part of Stage Two, host companies will review the applications received for their opportunity, interview up to 3 short-listed candidates (with a Screen Australia representative present at the interviews) and liaise with Screen Australia as required for the assessment of Stage Two. Screen Australia will have the final approval of successful applicants.

Is Screen Australia wanting to see applications for this program from companies led by and opportunities provided for people from diverse backgrounds?

Screen Australia strongly encourage applications from companies led by and/or providing meaningful career advancement opportunities for women, people who are non-binary or gender diverse; First Nations people; people who are Deaf/deaf or disabled; people who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; people who identify as LGBTQIA+; and people located in regional and remote areas.

Do I have to repay any funding I receive under the BTL Next Step Program?

No, funding is provided to successful applicants as a non-recoupable grant.

If I am successful in funding under Stage One of this program, does the funding need to be included in the budget and/or finance plan for the project/s?

Whether these funds are included in the budget and finance plan for the projects/s is an issue for the Producer, and Screen Australia encourages Producers to take professional advice and manage this accordingly. Subject to the circumstances of your project/s, expenditure on production attachments may attract the producer offset rebate, if it meets the definition of 'qualifying Australian production expenditure', and satisfies other requirements under the Producer Offset legislation (and the guidelines).

It may also be possible for expenditure on production attachments to meet these requirements without being included in the production budget (although lenders will only lend against anticipated QAPE which is included in the budgeted cost, so this should be taken into consideration if relevant to your project/s).

If these funds are included in the budget and finance plan, please be aware that Screen Australia will only be able to contract the funds when the identity of the attachment is confirmed and approved, and this may not happen until after pre-production has commenced. Producers are encouraged to take advice regarding how this may potentially affect the timing of closing financing for the project/s and any cashflow issues.

Can funding be used towards crew positions on a production?

No, funding cannot be used to fund or substitute a paid crew role on any production or project.

Funding provided under the BTL Next Step Program can be used towards the costs of employing a practitioner placement position. This position must be supernumerary and not substitute a paid crew role. Funding cannot be used retrospectively nor can it be used for training or skills development for individuals who are already working at the grade or in the role they are moving to unless there is a detailed case that the move will mean they are working differently (e.g. moving from one genre/format to another).

Please refer to the specific guidelines for more information about what type of activities the funding can be used for.

If an applicant successfully applies for the BTL Next Step Program, are they eligible to apply to other Screen Australia programs?

Yes, successfully funded applicants can apply to other Screen Australia programs as long as they meet the eligibility criteria of the relevant program.

Do I need to pay award rates for people being trained or supported as part of these programs?

Yes, Screen Australia expects that all employees are remunerated at the applicable recognised industry rate including wage (at least award minimum rates), superannuation, overtime and other entitlements under the appropriate award.

Can an individual apply for Stage One of the BTL Next Step Program?

No, applicants must apply as an Australian entity. You will need to read our [Terms of Trade](#) to ensure you are eligible for Screen Australia funding.

If I am not eligible for funding under the BTL Next Step, where else might I go to resource myself or my business?

Screen Australia has programs for a range of sector activities and support. Please refer to the Screen Australia [funding and support pages](#), and subscribe to the [e-newsletter](#) for updates from industry insiders and new program or initiative launches.

State and Territory screen agencies have programs for a range of sector activities and support. Please refer to your State/Territory funding agencies.

Guilds and Societies have programs for a range of sector activities and support. Please refer to individual Guilds and Societies.

If you are new to the screen industry, Screen Australia's [Getting Started](#) resource may assist you in your planning.

What will make my application competitive?

Screen Australia expects that the BTL Next Step program will be competitive. We recommend that applicants read the guidelines in detail and submit an application that meets the aims and assessment criteria details in the relevant program's guidelines.

Screen Australia's focus with this program is to address crucial skills shortages and long-term skills development, which includes a focus on employment outcomes and career progression for BTL practitioners.

If you have any questions after reviewing the funding program guidelines, the application form, and these FAQs, please contact Program Operations on 1800 507 901 or via email at [Industry Development](#). Please note that Screen Australia is unable to provide creative advice or suggestions to strengthen your application.