



Future Leaders Delegation - GDC 2025

Frequently Asked Questions (Issued 3 September 2024)

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1. Eligibility

Who can apply?

Emerging-to-mid career gamemakers who:

- Are Australian citizens or residents and meet Screen Australia's [Terms of Trade](#)
- Have released and/or published at least one game on a public platform (e.g. Steam, itch.io, etc.)
- Are actively working on at least one game
- Have not travelled to GDC in San Francisco before

What type of ABN (Australian Business Number) can I use to apply?

You may apply using a sole trader or company ABN.

In the case of a company, you must elect one person (the delegate) to attend GDC on behalf of the company.

The application must be submitted by the person who plans to attend GDC.

What dates do I need to be available to participate in the Future Leaders Delegation?

Delegates are required to be in San Francisco between dates 15-22 March 2025. Delegates are also required to participate in a pre-departure workshop session in Melbourne, February 2025. Screen Australia will liaise with successful delegates to book their flights and accommodation costs for the pre-departure workshop session in Melbourne. These costs will be covered separately from the up to \$10,000 granted for GDC.

Is there any flexibility on flight dates if I plan to stay in North America for a little longer before or after GDC?

Delegates are responsible for booking their own flights for GDC 2025 and may choose to stay for longer than the dates above. If the delegate does opt to stay longer, the delegate will be wholly responsible for all additional costs, including additional accommodation and travel insurance.

What if my availability changes after I have applied for or have been informed of a successful outcome?

If you are no longer able to participate in GDC or the pre-departure workshop you may no longer be eligible for the grant. If you are a successful recipient, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss this matter.

Am I eligible if I am already funded for a Screen Australia grant?

Having received Screen Australia Games funding has no bearing on eligibility for the Future Leaders Delegation. Please keep in mind that this initiative is aimed at emerging-to-mid career gamemakers.

I have been declined when applying for this grant before, am I still eligible to apply?

Yes, if you have been declined in the past, you may still apply. Reapplicants are encouraged to refine their applications before applying.

I am part of a studio, collective, or group of gamemakers. Can we apply as a team?

No, the Future Leaders Delegation initiative is for individual gamemakers. If you are part of a studio, collective, or group you must apply individually. We do not accept team applications.

2. Application Process

What does the criterion ‘the level of connection of the delegate to the wider gamemaking community and/or communities relevant to their practice’ mean?

Your gamemaking community is your peers or colleagues within games. This can refer to geographical community, but not exclusively. For example, you might be a non-binary gamemaker and connected with other similarly identifying practitioners. Or you could be making a puzzle game and be connected with that community. This criterion assesses how aware and present the applicant is within communities relevant to them/their practice.

What does the criterion ‘the alignment of the application with the diversity, equity, and inclusion aims of the initiative’ mean?

Please see the section 2. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion of the guidelines for information about Screen Australia’s aims.

3. GDC

Can I stay at a different hotel in San Francisco to the one designated by Screen Australia?

No, you are required to stay at the hotel that Screen Australia has reserved rooms for. This is so that we can better support and communicate with our delegation. Screen Australia will reserve hotel rooms and transfer the reservation to successful delegates. The room must be paid for by the delegate.

Is there anything I need to do after the GDC trip?

Yes, you will need to complete a short acquittal form on SmartyGrants. You may also be required to have follow-up meetings with your assigned mentor.

Will I need to apply for my own travel insurance?

Yes, you will be expected to apply for your own travel insurance to cover you for your trip.

Will I need a visa or ESTA to travel to GDC?

Entry requirements vary depending on personal circumstances. Please visit the [Smart Traveller website](#) for the latest guidance on overseas travel.

Will Screen Australia staff be available on the ground at GDC if I have any questions or concerns?

Screen Australia staff will travel to GDC 2025 alongside successful applicants to provide on-the-ground support. This may include opportunities for daily check-ins, attending meetings and sessions together, and social events.

4. Contracting and payment

Do I receive the grant upfront? Or will I be reimbursed for costs after-the-fact?

Following contracting, successful applicants will receive up to \$10,000 upfront to cover the costs for their trip to GDC 2025 in San Francisco.

5. Workshop

Do I need to attend the pre-departure workshop session in Melbourne?

Yes, attending the pre-departure workshop session in-person in Melbourne is mandatory. As a first time GDC attendee, the workshop will equip you with invaluable knowledge from local industry experts and GDC veterans and will also be a great opportunity for you to meet the other delegates.

If you have accessibility requirements relating to your workshop attendance, please reach out to our team so that we can make the necessary arrangements to accommodate for your needs.

6. Other

What if I have more questions?

If your questions are not answered in the guidelines or this FAQ document, please contact our Program Operations team by emailing games@screenaustralia.gov.au