



Industry Development Programs 2023

FAQs

Issued 27 April 2023

These FAQs should be read in conjunction with the guidelines for the BTL Next Step program, Production Crew Skills Training Fund and Transferable Skills & Returning Crew Training Fund.

What companies are eligible to apply for the Industry Development Programs 2023?

There are three different programs being offered as part of Industry Development Programs 2023.

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

- **BTL NEXT STEP** - Applicants for Stage One will be from production companies and screen industry providers who are able to provide opportunities for mid-career practitioners in the four identified roles (Line Producers, Production Managers, Location Managers and Post Production Supervisors).

Applicants who are already receiving production funding from Screen Australia may apply for additional support under this program (which will be provided separately as grant funding). Applicants who are not already receiving production funding from Screen Australia may also apply for this program if the projects are of scale and are well known to Screen Australia AND/OR are being provided by production companies with a strong and reputable track record.

- **PRODUCTION CREW SKILLS TRAINING FUND** - Applicants will be production companies/SPVs and screen service businesses who have undertaken a BTL crew skills need assessment for a given production/s and developed a Skills Development Plan that is ready to be funded by Screen Australia and implemented by a nominated Skills Development Officer.

Applications may be for significant productions across any formats and genres, with funding available up to \$80,000 per production. A co-contribution is strongly recommended.

Applicants who are already receiving production funding from Screen Australia may apply for additional funding under this program to support the implementation of a Skills Development Plan for the production (which will be provided separately as grant funding). Applicants who are not already receiving production funding from Screen Australia may also apply for this program if the projects are of scale and are well known to Screen Australia AND/OR are being provided by production companies with a strong and reputable track record.

- **TRANSFERABLE SKILLS & RETURNING CREW TRAINING FUND** - Applicants must be an Australian company, registered organisation, incorporated association or guild that has specialist screen industry expertise or experience in successfully delivering similar activities.

Applications must include activities that are new, original and inclusive and cannot be for programs already being delivered or funded.

What types of productions are eligible to apply for funding under the Industry Development Programs 2023?

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. This suite of programs is open to productions from across the screen sector including news, reality TV, lifestyle, current affairs, animation and games.

Competitive applications will be from productions that can provide evidence of the capacity to deliver significant career and professional skills development opportunities. Accordingly, applications from smaller sized productions may not be as competitive.

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 relevant Industry Development program guidelines.

Are games eligible for funding under the Industry Development Programs 2023?

Yes, games 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 a competitive round for each of the funding programs, accordingly games-based applications may not be as competitive.

Can I make multiple applications?

Yes, applicants may make multiple applications across the three 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.

What are the types of activities this funding can be used for?

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

In general terms across all programs, funding can only be used towards training and development costs and cannot be used to fund or substitute a paid crew role or professional attachment on any production.

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).

How much should I apply for?

- **BTL NEXT STEP** - Screen Australia will generally contribute a maximum of up to \$50,000 towards each placement (funding will be directly related to the length of the opportunity). An exception may be made for extended placements where there are significant benefits to the industry. For more information about what funds can be used for, please refer to the BTL Next Step guidelines.
- **PRODUCTION CREW SKILLS TRAINING FUND** - applicants can apply for up to \$80,000 from Screen Australia as part of this program. A co-contribution from the production company/SPV or screen

service business is strongly recommended.

- TRANSFERABLE SKILLS & RETURNING CREW TRAINING FUND - funding of up to \$50,000 will be provided to up to six companies to design and deliver initiatives that help people to identify transferable skills and to connect those skills to BTL crew jobs, or support BTL crew and practitioners returning to work after a break in their careers. Applications with co-contributions will be considered favourably.

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 funding be used towards crew positions on a production?

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

Funding provided under the Production Crew Skills Training Fund and the Transferable Skills & Returning Crew Training Fund programs can only be used towards training and development costs. 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.

Are there templates available for Skills Development Plans?

A separate Skills Development Plan is not required for the Production Crew Skills Training Fund program. Within the application form, applicants will be required to identify the skills needed, the training or skills development proposed to address that need, when the training or development will be delivered and who will deliver the training or development.

What type of qualifications and/or experience does a Skills Development Officer need to have?

Skills development officers should have extensive experience, knowledge and understanding of the screen industry, with the ability to implement and coordinate the stated activities that the applicant sets out in the Skills Development Plan.

Whilst it does not need to be a separate position or the only responsibilities of that position, it is recommended that the individual nominated has the capacity and resources available to successfully implement the plan being funded by Screen Australia.

What will make my application competitive?

Screen Australia is expecting that these funding programs will be competitive. We recommend that applicants read the guidelines in details and submit an application that clearly meets the aims and assessment criteria details in the relevant program's guidelines.

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

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

Screen Australia is committed to diversity throughout our sector, both in the content that we see on our screens and in the teams who make it. We want to see applications from companies led by and opportunities being provided for First Nations people; people who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; people who are Deaf, hard of hearing or with disability; people who are female or gender diverse; people who identify as LGBTQIA+; and people located in regional and remote areas.

All applicants should consider diversity, inclusion and equity, with opportunities that support the career development of workers from diverse backgrounds that reflect contemporary Australian life. Application budgets may include expenditure for accessibility, support or other costs for the implementation of the proposed activities to ensure opportunities being provided are culturally safe and accessible.

Can an individual apply for the Industry Development Programs 2023?

No, for all three programs applications are currently being accepted from Australian companies, registered organisations, incorporated associations or guilds. 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.

Individuals will be able to apply for Stage Two of the BTL Next Step opportunities, which will be announced in the second half of 2023. Subscribe to Screen Australia's [newsletters](#) and social media to be notified when this program opens for Stage Two applications.

If I have previously received Screen Australia funding for a production, can I apply?

Yes, applicants who are already receiving production funding from Screen Australia may apply for additional funding under these programs. However, funding can only be used towards training and development costs and cannot be used to fund or substitute a paid crew role or professional attachment on any production.

Also, 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, or returning to the industry after a career break).

Do I have to repay any funding I receive under Industry Development Programs 2023?

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

If I am successful for funding under these programs, do they 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 timing of closing financing for the project/s and any cashflow issues.

If an applicant successfully applies for an Industry Development Program 2023 grant, 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.

If I have a business that currently services the screen industry, can I apply for these programs?

Yes, a business that currently services the screen industry can apply for these programs as long as they meet all eligibility criteria set out in the relevant program guidelines.

If I have a business that does not currently service the screen industry, but is looking to expand into it, would I be eligible to apply?

No, if your Business does not currently service the screen industry, your entity is not eligible to apply.

Will these programs be run again in the future?

It is uncertain if these programs will be run again in the future. Screen Australia is currently reviewing industry development objectives and actions for future financial years which will determine the programs that it will run.

If I am not eligible for funding under the Industry Development Programs 2023, 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 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.

Who can help me provide training to address skills shortages?

There are a range of education institutions, training organisations and other entities that are experienced in delivering training and initiatives. Examples of these organisations include:

- Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS)
- National Institute of the Dramatic Arts (NIDA)
- TAFE in each state or territory
- Not-for-profit and private organisations, such as Bus Stop Films, Screenworks, Mercury CX, Wide Angle Tasmania, Media Mentors Australia, Screen Well, Arts and Cultural Exchange (ACE), Cinespace, AFI AACTA, First Nations Media, Accessible Arts, etc.