



Australian Government



International Initiatives AISF and Screen Australia - Writer/ Director Virtual Sessions: Guidelines

Issued 21 April 2026

Screen Australia reserves the right to change its program guidelines. Please ensure you check the website for the latest version. These guidelines should be read in conjunction with Screen Australia's [Terms of Trade](#), [Information for Applicants](#) and [Information for Recipients](#) on the agency's website.

Accessibility

If you have accessibility requirements relating to submitting an application, please contact our Program Operations team via email at international@screenaustralia.gov.au, or phone 1800 507 901, so we can assist.

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1. Funding program

1.1. Overview

Screen Australia and Australian International Screen Forum (AISF) in New York are partnering to provide Australian screen creatives who have a high level of recent international success with the skills, knowledge, access, and relationships necessary to succeed in the global market and to help them attract international support, investment, and partnerships for Australian content and careers.

1.2. Available support

Up to eight delegates will be selected to participate in the AISF and Screen Australia online (virtual) program of roundtables, panel discussions, matched mentoring sessions, pitch training, strategic consultations, and introductions to and advice from a selection of influential New York-based screen professionals.

Each successful applicant will receive a grant of \$15,000, delivered in two payments, to:

- actively participate in the bespoke two-month (part-time) online (virtual) program of roundtables and master-classes with key international screen decision makers, as well as individualised 1:1 mentorship (\$2,500); and
- after completion of all program sessions and based on their learnings, the applicant will submit a proposal for the 2nd payment/drawdown. Proposal might involve; working with their attached key creatives to quickly refine and develop creative concepts and materials for the projects on their slate, and/or creating any suggested marketing materials and other strategies (including travel) to successfully pitch projects and themselves to potential co-development, talent development and/ or marketplace partners (\$12,500)

Applicants must be available to participate in all sessions, which will run from July to early Sept 2026. Session timetable will be made available in advance.

2. Inclusive Storytelling

For Australian screen content to effectively deliver cultural and economic benefits it must speak to, and be for, all Australians. Ultimately a diversity of ideas and a diverse workforce will grow the Australian screen industry, make it more relevant to Australian audiences and more competitive internationally.

Screen Australia is committed to building diversity, equity and inclusion into its

programs and into our engagement with the community.

Screen Australia encourages applications from applicants from all backgrounds, cultures and experiences. In particular, the agency welcomes applications from other under-represented groups.

Screen Australia strives to make its funding programs accessible by removing barriers for people who are d/Deaf, disabled and/or those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

3. Eligibility

3.1. Applicant eligibility

3.1.1. Eligible applicants

To be eligible for this program an applicant;

applying with a company must:

- be an incorporated company carrying on business in Australia, with its central management and control in Australia;
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN); and
- be registered for the purposes of GST if required by law.

applying as a sole trader must:

- be an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident (holding a permanent visa); and
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN); and

otherwise, meet Screen Australia's [Terms of Trade](#).

Eligibility criteria for the proposed delegate (screenwriter and/or director) attending the program:

- have credits that evidence a strong creative voice and global recognition as a creator and screenwriter and/or director on completed long form scripted episodic series and/or features;
- at least one of the above credits released in the last four years (i.e., released after January 2022) has:
 - screened on broadcast television or streamed on a subscription-based platform, and was 1 of the top 10 most-watched shows on that platform at time of transmission. [It is noted that data is not always readily available, especially historically, and assessors

will give benefit of the doubt based on press links and other media reactions about the title from time of release]; or

- streamed online on any reportable platform, with evidence of audiences/views in excess of 1 million or other evidence of trending on YouTube at time of release; or
 - premiered in official selection at Cannes, Toronto, Venice, Sundance, Berlin, SXSW, Series Mania festivals; or
 - been distributed and theatrically released in multiple major international territories; or
 - been a recipient of a significant international award such as awards from Cannes, Toronto, Venice, Sundance, Berlin, SXSW festivals or been nominated for Academy, BAFTA, or Emmy awards.
- and have:
 - one or more market ready long form episodic scripted series and/or features well suited for international partnerships; and
 - some existing experience and interest from international industry.

3.1.2. Ineligible applicants

Applicants are **not** eligible for this program if they have:

- been selected for and completed these Screen Australia programs; Talent Gateway, Talent USA: LA, or Talent USA: NYC.

4. Application Process

4.1. How to apply

Applications close **5pm AEST Thursday 21 May 2026** can be made via the Screen Australia [application portal](#) with the following materials:

4.2. Application Form

Through the application form, you must:

- provide all the information requested and answer the application questions
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria

- include all required supporting materials.

4.3. Required Materials

Applicants must upload the following materials with their application form:

- CV including credits applicable to the required credit criteria and details of any commercial, significant viewership and/or major festival or awards success.
- A proposal (maximum 10 pages) that includes:
 - detailed information on your current slate of projects
 - one or two nominated lead projects that you think would be best suited to workshopping through the program:
 - For each title mentioned on the slate provide:
 - logline,
 - synopsis,
 - the stage of development and what materials are currently available;
 - any secured development funding;
 - the estimated budget;
 - and information on the currently secured key creative, cast and marketplace attachments and/or interest where applicable; and
 - specific and intended professional/ business development goals for the program e.g., What are the current strengths and weaknesses of you / your company in relation to the aims of this program? Where are the knowledge gaps or barriers for international partnerships currently? What would you be hoping to learn /gain and then put into action after participating in the program? What international (and especially in relation to New York based) companies or creatives would be key meeting targets for you and your projects and why.

5. Assessment

5.1. Assessment Process

Complete and eligible applications will be reviewed and assessed by Screen

Australia staff members and/or industry specialists.

5.2. Assessment Criteria

Funding decisions will be made against the following equally-weighted criteria:

- **Proposal.** The strength of the proposal, the strength and diversity of the projects on the slate (and the creative talent attached to them), as well as the stage of development and suitability of the nominated lead project(s) for the program
- **International interest.** The amount of traction received internationally from the applicant's completed body of work
- **International strategy.** The clarity, research, and effectiveness of the applicant's proposed international strategy, as demonstrated through their intended professional and business development goals and meeting targets.
- **Experience.** The level of experience and knowledge of the applicant pertinent to the activity

5.3. Assessment priorities

Priority will be given to applicants:

- with an established talent agent and/or management in Australia and/or international.
- who are writer/ directors working in the A-list festival circuit and indie feature film space.

5.4. Decision and Notification

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by **Friday 26 June 2026**.

Where an application is unsuccessful, Screen Australia will advise the applicant of the decision in writing.

Screen Australia recognises the significant work that goes into the preparation and submission of applications. Due to the anticipated high volume of applicants, we are unable to provide individual feedback on individual applications.

6. Successful applicants

6.1. Contracting

Screen Australia will send an approval via email to successful applicants with information about contracting.

6.2. Terms of Support

Successful applicants will enter into an Activity Grant Agreement with Screen Australia. This will set out the terms of Screen Australia's support.

7. Contact

If you are unsure about your eligibility or have questions about the application form, please email us at international@screenaustralia.gov.au or call Program Operations on 1800 507 901.

Please note that we are not able to provide creative advice or suggestions to strengthen your application.

8. Privacy

Screen Australia collects personal information from individuals in different ways, including via funding applications, acquittal reports, or supporting material supplied with forms. Screen Australia will handle any personal information provided in connection with a funding application in accordance with its [Privacy Notice](#) relating to funding applications and its [Privacy Policy](#).