International Initiatives: Global Fellowships Guidelines

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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 related 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

The **Screen Australia Global Fellowships** offer a prestigious international professional development and cultural exchange pathway for Australian screen practitioners seeking to accelerate their careers and contribute to the long-term success of the creative industries.

This initiative is designed for screen creators — including producers, directors, writers and development executives — who have established a professional track record and an international profile, and are seeking to significantly expand their international presence and career opportunities.

Through premium, in-depth mentorship and hands-on experience, participants will be embedded within some of the world's leading screen organisations and businesses, gaining direct exposure to global industry practices and networks.

The Screen Australia Global Fellowships responds to the increasing importance of international engagement and collaboration in the screen industry and supports Australian screen practitioners to deepen global relationships, develop international career pathways, and strengthen the Australian screen sector through knowledge exchange and collaboration.

Global Fellowships is a highly competitive initiative for exceptional practitioners who have demonstrated professional achievement, are seeking to take the next significant step in their career, and have the ambition to shape the future of Australia's globally connected screen industry.

All applicants must identify, source and secure their own Fellowship opportunities, including host organisation(s) and mentor(s). Screen Australia is unable to broker or arrange Fellowship activities on behalf of applicants.

Applicants are responsible for obtaining any required visas and permissions to undertake their proposed Fellowship activities. Screen Australia is unable to assist with visa applications or immigration processes.

1.2. Global Fellowships aims:

The Global Fellowships are designed to deliver outcomes for both individual practitioners and the wider Australian screen sector.

- **Career**: Provide a career-defining professional development opportunity that enables talented Australian screen practitioners to accelerate their careers, develop sustainable international pathways and establish themselves as future industry leaders.
- **Connection**: Create meaningful cultural, creative and commercial exchange between Australia and a diverse range of international markets, fostering long-term relationships, mutual understanding and ongoing collaboration.
- **Capacity**: Build the capability of the Australian screen industry by

supporting fellows to return with new knowledge, professional networks, international experience and innovative approaches that can be shared across the sector, strengthening the global reach and impact of Australian screen culture, content and skills.

1.3. Available support

The initiative aims to support up to **10 fellows per year**, with **one funding round annually**. Successful fellows will receive a non-recoupable grant of **$80,000–$100,000 per fellow**, depending on the scope and scale of activity.

There is flexibility to undertake activity either as:

- a single continuous international placement of up to 6 months ($80,000); or
- multiple international placements, premium executive shadowing and/or other professional development opportunities over a period of up to twelve months (up to $100,000).

The Fellowship recognises that sustained, in-depth international engagement delivers significant benefits to both participants and the Australian industry. Fellows will return with:

- expanded international networks and industry relationships;
- greater understanding of global screen markets and business models;
- exposure to new creative, development and production methodologies;
- enhanced opportunities for international collaboration, co-production and financing; and
- insights that can be shared with peers and institutions across the Australian screen sector.

Should you require assistance for carers' and/or accessibility costs to enable you to attend the Fellowship, this may also be arranged. Applicants can apply for carers' costs up to $3,000, or accessibility costs up to $3,000, or a combination of both up to $5,000 total.

2. Inclusive Storytelling

A diversity of ideas and a diverse workforce supports growth in the Australian screen industry by appealing to a wide Australian audience and making it competitive internationally. This delivers broad cultural and economic benefits.

As such, Screen Australia is committed to building diversity, equity and inclusion into its programs and into our engagement with the community. This ensures that the stories being told on screen are authentic and reflect the diversity of people and experiences within Australian society, both in front of and behind the screen.

This commitment includes diversity in industry events, speakers and industry discussions supported by Screen Australia. Screen Australia therefore expects that any supported industry events will reasonably reflect the diversity of the Australian community.

Screen Australia encourages submissions 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.

Screen Australia expects applicants to consider accessibility at all stages of their projects (for example, by engaging an access coordinator to support cast and crew) and to conduct their activities in accordance with best practice and their obligations under relevant legislation including the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth) and the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth).

3. Eligibility

Applicants and activities must meet Screen Australia's Terms of Trade, any general eligibility or other requirements listed on the agency's website (see Information for Applicants and Information for Recipients), as well as the specific eligibility criteria set out in these guidelines.

3.1. Applicant eligibility

3.1.1. Eligible applicants

Applicants must identify, source and secure their own Fellowship opportunity, including host organisation(s), mentor(s) and all proposed activity. Evidence of the host organisation's commitment must be provided at the time of application. Screen Australia is unable to broker or arrange Fellowship opportunities on behalf of applicants.

To be eligible for this initiative, an applicant must be eligible to apply for a visa for the country (or countries) of their proposed activity, and:

- an applicant applying as 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.
- an applicant applying as a **sole trader** must:
  - be an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident (holding a permanent visa);

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN); and
- otherwise meet Screen Australia's Terms of Trade.

3.1.2. Eligibility criteria:

The initiative is intended for Australian screen practitioners who have already demonstrated a level of international success and are seeking to significantly expand their global engagement, skills and career trajectory.

Eligible applicants must primarily work in one or more of the following screen creative leadership roles:

a) Producers
b) Directors
c) Writers
d) Screen development executives

Applicants will have an international profile in their area of screen practice, and the potential to generate meaningful outcomes for both their own career development and the broader Australian screen industry.

Applicants are expected to demonstrate a strong track record and be highly accomplished across multiple long-form produced works (i.e. feature films, episodic television or direct-to-audience projects), some of which may be higher-budget productions, that have achieved critical and/or commercial success and significant audience reach.

For the purposes of this initiative, long-form produced work means narrative or documentary content (please refer to the ACMA Guidelines for the definition of documentary) in a format that would generally be eligible for Screen Australia production funding and is produced for release as a feature film, television and/or direct-to-audience content.

A competitive applicant would typically demonstrate:

- that they have worked on several produced feature films, television or direct-to-audience credits in their area of practice;
- that such projects have had audience and/or industry impact;
- some existing international exposure; and
- a clear plan for how deeper international engagement will advance their career and their future work, and create benefits for the Australian screen sector.

This is **not an emerging practitioner initiative**. It is aimed at established practitioners who have already demonstrated professional achievement and industry impact and are seeking to accelerate their international career development, expand their global networks, establish a more significant

international presence, and gain knowledge of global screen industry trends and practices that will benefit both their own work and the Australian screen industry.

3.1.3. Ineligible applicants

Applicants are ***not*** eligible for this initiative if they are a past recipient of a previous Screen Australia international placement scheme (i.e. Screen Australia's Enterprise People and Screen Australia's Talent Escalator Internships programs).

3.2. Activity Eligibility

Applicants need to propose a meaningful professional development plan that involves working with, learning from or being mentored by one or more leading screen industry organisations and highly experienced international screen industry professionals based outside Australia. Such host organisations and professionals must be well established, internationally recognised, and have expertise relevant to the applicant's professional development goals. Their work should relate to key parts of the screen sector such as content development, production, financing, marketing or distribution.

For the avoidance of doubt:

- where a host organisation is headquartered outside of Australia but has an established presence in Australia, the Activity will not be eligible to the extent that it is proposed to take place in Australia; and
- Australian-based broadcasters or commissioning platforms (including SVOD services) are not eligible host organisations.

Please contact Screen Australia prior to submitting an application if there are exceptional circumstances (including accessibility requirements or caring responsibilities) which require applicants to propose activity in Australia (provided that at all times the host organisation is strongly international-facing and clearly delivers the objectives of the Fellowship).

Activities may include:

- professional placements at leading international screen organisations (based outside Australia) such as production companies, studios, sales agencies and distribution companies;
- executive shadowing and mentorship;
- exposure to creative development methodologies;
- participation in writers' rooms;
- exposure to production and post-production environments;
- exposure to international co-development and co-production environments;
- exposure to financing, sales and marketing activities;

- international festival and market attendance connected to the placement; and/or
- structured networking and industry engagement activities connected to the placement.

Applicants are encouraged to design bespoke Fellowship programs that respond directly to their career aspirations and professional development goals, while leveraging the unique opportunities offered by their host organisation(s).

When designing their Fellowship, applicants may wish to consider the following:

- travelling with the host organisation and/or mentor to major international markets, festivals and industry events as part of the activity plan;
- exploring placements and opportunities within Australia's Official Co-production partner territories, particularly where these opportunities support international collaboration and long-term industry connections;
- seeking opportunities that align with their cultural background, identity, lived experience and community networks;
- exploring First Nations-to-First Nations collaborations and cultural exchanges; and/or
- exploring opportunities in emerging global markets and in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.

4. Application Process

4.1. Single Application per annual round

Each applicant may only submit one application per annual deadline.

4.2. How to apply

Applications close **5pm AEDT Thursday 11 February 2027** and can be made via the Screen Australia application portal with the following materials:

4.2.1. 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; and
- include all required supporting materials.

4.2.2. Required materials

Applicants must upload the following materials with their application form:

- **International Professional Profile:** A summary of their career and

professional achievements, including:

- executive summary of career-to-date, and the applicant's unique selling proposition as a creative; and
- reportable screen credits including:
  - evidence of commercial performance, audience reach and/or industry recognition; and
  - major festival selections, awards or other significant achievements.

- **Career Development Plan:**
  - career aspirations over the next five to ten years;
  - the strategic importance of the Fellowship to those goals;
  - a detailed activity plan developed in partnership with the proposed host organisation(s) and any secured mentor(s). A template for the activity plan is provided in the application form; and
  - industry benefit and contribution to the Australian screen sector.
- **Host Organisation(s) Support:** A signed letter from each proposed host organisation and any secured mentor(s) identified in the activity plan, confirming:
  - their commitment to the applicant and proposed Fellowship;
  - the activities and opportunities that will be provided;
  - the anticipated duration and scope of the applicant's engagement with the organisation and/or mentor;
  - the level of access to personnel, meetings, activities or other professional development opportunities to be provided; and
  - the value and anticipated outcomes of the placement.
- **Host Organisation(s) Bio:** A short bio of the host organisation(s) and bios of the key mentors involved with the Fellowship activity.

5. Assessment

5.1. Assessment process

Complete and eligible applications will be reviewed and assessed by Screen Australia staff members and/or appointed industry specialists.

All applications involving First Nations content or participation will be assessed or co-assessed by First Nations Assessors.
Some applications involving representation of communities and culture may be assessed by Specialist or Cultural Assessors.

5.2. Assessment criteria

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

- **Track Record:** The applicant's track record, professional achievements, creative excellence and demonstrated capacity to benefit from, and contribute, to the Fellowship opportunity.
- **Fellowship Opportunity:** The quality, calibre and relevance of the proposed placement, mentorship and/or professional development activity, including the strength of the host organisation(s) and proposed mentorship opportunities.
- **Career Impact:** The extent to which the Fellowship will accelerate the applicant's professional development and support the achievement of their medium and long-term career objectives.
- **Industry Benefit:** The anticipated contribution of the Fellowship to the Australian screen sector, including knowledge sharing, international relationship building and opportunities for future collaboration.

5.3. Decision and notification

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in writing by Friday 2 April 2027.

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 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, including the following key terms and conditions:

- Screen Australia's relationship with successful applicants will be one of grantor and grantee.
- Screen Australia will not be party to any agreement with the host organisation(s). Successful applicants will be responsible for entering into appropriate arrangements with the host organisation(s).
- Successful applicants will be responsible for obtaining and maintaining

appropriate travel, medical and other insurance relevant to their Fellowship activities.

- Successful applicants will be responsible for required visa applications to their activity locations and acknowledge that Screen Australia is unable to assist in this process. Evidence that such required visa(s) have been obtained must be provided as a condition precedent to any Screen Australia funding being released to a successful applicant. It is recommended that each applicant seeks legal advice and understands the requirements of any destination and likelihood of obtaining the visa before applying for this Screen Australia Global Fellowships initiative.

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.