

I Guidelines - Project Development - Seed Funding I

Seed funding is available for feature film, television drama series, telemovies, documentaries, animation and digital media projects.

I Aim of the Program I

This program recognises the need to support practitioners to dedicate time to fully explore the potential of their creative ideas, and develop them to treatment or proposal stage for pitching to the marketplace, and encourages the development of strong, original and compelling ideas.

Screen Tasmania encourages interstate applicants to form collaborations with Tasmanian key creatives at this early stage of development.

I About the Program I

Funding is available to practitioners to support the development of original and quality concepts and story ideas to treatment, proposal or bible stage. Funding for first and subsequent draft scripts, see Draft Funding guidelines.

I Amount I

Up to \$10 000

Budgets should be appropriate to the stage of development and level of experience of the applicants. Screen Tasmania funds writers at Australian Writers' Guild (AWG) standard rates. Not all applications will be approved at the maximum level.

I Funding Type I

Investment

I Deadlines I

Four funding rounds are held per year – approximately every 12 weeks.

I Who Can Apply I

Both emerging and experienced practitioners may apply for seed funding, either as individuals or teams. All applicants and projects must meet the general eligibility criteria, in addition to the following:

- at least one key creative (writer/content creator or producer) must be a Tasmanian resident
- no market place interest is required to apply for Seed Funding
- Emerging practitioners may be required to attach a third party collaborator or mentor with appropriate experience (for example, a script editor or producer), will need to be approved by Screen Tasmania
- Seed Funding is only available once to any one project. However, applicants seeking further development for a project that has been supported through the Seed Funding program may be eligible to apply for Draft Funding.

I How Applications Are Assessed I

Screen Tasmania funding is competitive. Screen Tasmania uses the following criteria to assess applications:

- the strength and originality of the concept/story idea
- the quality and rigour of the development notes, whether they articulate the issues facing the next stage of development, and outline strategies to resolve these issues and advance the project
- the mix of skills and experience of the creative team, and the likelihood that their experience will advance the project

- the suitability of the project in terms of target audience and proposed delivery platform(s)
- the career benefits to Tasmanian key creatives and/or attachments
- the economic and cultural benefits to Tasmania of the proposed project.

I What To Submit I

- Applicants must submit **three*** unbound copies of the following (**four copies must be submitted for projects with Indigenous content*):
- completed cover page
- completed application form
- project overview – one sentence pitch; and one paragraph synopsis
- experienced practitioners: 10-15 page outline of the project or a 10-40 page treatment
- emerging practitioners: 10-40 page treatment and the first 10 to 15 pages of the script
- documentary applicants may submit edited rushes in support of their application
- project rationale - detailing the background of the project; research undertaken to date; why the applicant has a commitment to it; target audience; how your project is original; and proposed delivery platforms
- development notes – a detailed assessment of your project in terms of future development - analyse its strengths and weaknesses, and detail the strategies you will use to address the perceived weaknesses
- CVs team members
- statement of copyright and chain of title documents (if work is based on an underlying work by an author other than the applicant)
- a statement outlining the key likely benefits to Tasmania both culturally and economically.

I Application Assessment Process I

Due to funding limits, no applicant can be guaranteed to receive funding. Applicants are advised to contact Screen Tasmania to discuss their application prior to submission.

Once submitted, applications will be assigned to an internal Project Manager and an external assessor will be commissioned to provide a written report on the proposal. The Project Manager prepares a board paper, which considers the project in relation to the selection criteria, and makes a recommendation to the board.

External reports inform the decision-making process but do not determine the outcome. They are intended to provide the board with independent professional analysis of the material. External reports are available to applicants when requested.

If the applicant is successful a ministerial letter will confirm the offer. A development agreement will then be provided to the applicant for execution.

Applicants should note that decisions by the Screen Tasmania Board are final and irrevocable. Projects that have been rejected will not be reconsidered for investment unless they have been substantially changed, developed or reworked. Applicants must discuss the project with Screen Tasmania before reapplying.

Applications must be received by close of business on the advertised closing date if delivered by hand, or must be post marked no later than the advertised closing date if sent by post.

I General Eligibility Criteria I

All applicants and projects must comply with Screen Tasmania's general eligibility guidelines as follows:

- applicants must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- applicants must be over 18 years of age
- applicants must have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- fulltime students are not eligible to apply
- applicants must be the originator of the script, the copyright holder, or have an option to the rights in any and all works on which the project is based.
- projects originating from outside the state are welcome, provided they are filmed predominantly in Tasmania and will generate substantial employment and/or attachment opportunities for the local industry
- applications from recipients of past grants, loans or investments from Screen Tasmania will not be considered if any outstanding funds or progress reports have not been acquitted satisfactorily. This will not prevent applicants from receiving more than one grant, loan or investment concurrently
- Screen Tasmania does not fund retrospectively
- funds are not available for projects of the following nature: purely educational; advertising projects; infotainment; lifestyle; travel; magazine; sports; education; game shows; current affairs; news programs; community television programs.