

I Guidelines - Project Development - Draft Funding I

Draft 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 importance of original ideas and highly developed scripts to a successful screen industry, and encourages practitioners to dedicate time to develop quality draft scripts and prototypes.

I About the Program I

Funding is available to practitioners to support the development of scripts from first draft onwards. Draft funding is also available for animation pilots and digital media prototypes.

I Amount I

Draft Funding - up to \$35 000*

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.

** Higher amounts may be considered on a case-by-case basis for animation and digital media prototyping and pilots with evidence of strong marketplace attachment, and will need to be discussed with Screen Tasmania's Project Manager prior to application.*

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 draft funding. All applicants and projects must meet the general eligibility criteria, in addition to the following:

- applicants must be writer or content creator and producer teams, with the exception of feature film projects. An individual writer may apply for a maximum of one round of draft funding to develop a feature film project before attaching a producer
- applicants can apply to this program with the same project more than once, but are also encouraged to seek other sources of funding (for example, marketplace co-investment and/or other funding agencies)
- applicants must have a demonstration of market place interest for all television drama, television animation, documentary and digital media projects. Feature film projects are not required to have marketplace interest at this stage
- emerging practitioners may be required to attach a third party collaborator with appropriate experience (for example, a script editor or producer) to be approved by Screen Tasmania
- interstate practitioners - Projects originating from outside the state may apply for funding, provided that they are intended to be filmed predominantly in Tasmania and will generate substantial employment opportunities for the local industry

Interstate practitioners are encouraged to form collaborations with Tasmanian key creatives. Where there is no Tasmanian practitioner in a key creative role (that is, producer, writer/content creator, director) then one Tasmanian resident must be attached to a member of the creative team (that is, producer, writer/content creator, director or script editor) and will need to be budgeted for within the maximum development budget.

Alternatively the attachment could be funded directly through Practitioner Development as a grant.

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 of the writing as evidenced in the submitted treatment or script
- 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/support will advance the project
- the quality and detail of the market strategy – including analysis of target audience and proposed delivery platform(s)
- the strength of marketplace interest and/or commitments (that is, any matched funding)
- the viability of the project in terms of the proposed budget and financing strategy
- 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

Feature film

Applicants must submit three unbound copies of the following:

- completed cover page
- completed application form
- project overview – one sentence pitch; and one paragraph synopsis
- treatment or draft script
- emerging practitioners must submit a draft script or a treatment developed through Screen Tasmania's Seed Funding program.
- experienced practitioners may submit either a treatment or draft script
- project rationale - detailing the background of the project and why the applicant has a commitment to it
- 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 current problems
- development strategy - project history to date; role of each project team member; development specifics and timelines
- market strategy - outline target audience; research undertaken to date; how your project is original; proposed delivery platforms; and marketplace interest if available

- CV key project 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

Documentary

Applicants must submit three unbound copies of the following:

- completed cover page
- completed application form
- project overview – one sentence pitch; and one paragraph synopsis
- an extended outline or preliminary treatment
- project rationale - detailing the background of the project and why the applicant has a commitment to it
- 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 current problems
- development strategy - project history to date; role of each project team member; development specifics and timelines
- market strategy - outline target audience; research undertaken to date; how your project is original; proposed delivery platforms
- demonstration of genuine market place interest
- CVs team members
- signed release forms for key participants
- 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

Television drama

Applicants must submit three unbound copies of the following:

- completed cover page
- completed application form
- project overview – one sentence pitch; and one paragraph synopsis
- for TV Drama Series - Series Bible and draft scripts (if available)
- for Telemovies - Draft script
- project rationale - detailing the background of the project and why the applicant has a commitment to it
- 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 current problems
- development strategy - project history to date; role of each project team member; development specifics and timelines
- market strategy - outline target audience; how the project fits within the broadcasters schedule; research undertaken to date; how your project is original; proposed delivery platforms

- demonstration of genuine market place interest
- 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

Digital media / Animation

Applicants must submit three unbound copies of the following:

- completed cover page
- completed application form
- project overview – one sentence pitch; one paragraph synopsis; and proposed development platforms
- project rationale - detailing the background of the project and why the applicant has a commitment to it
- design document – including story development, concept art and level design
- art style document – including stand alone illustrations and animation
- sound style document
- scoping document (if relevant) - examining the technical, creative, market and audience potential of the project
- 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 current problems
- development strategy - project history to date; role of each project team member; development specifics and timelines
- market strategy - outline target audience; research undertaken to date; how your project is original; proposed delivery platforms; proposed business partners and publishers
- demonstration of genuine market place interest
- 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 script. 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.

One copy of submitted materials will be kept on file at Screen Tasmania to satisfy our reporting requirements, regardless of whether the application was successful or not.

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.

