



Screenwest (Australia) Ltd

ABN 43 620 492 300

Bill Warnock Talent Accelerator Initiative Guidelines

The Bill Warnock Talent Accelerator Initiative is a year-long skills development program for an early to mid-career Western Australian writer. This initiative will accelerate a writer's career by:

- Expanding their creative development skills, production knowledge and industry experience.
- Bridging the gap between their ideas and the market.
- Growing their industry contacts.

The writer may choose to undertake a series of bespoke activities or secure an exceptional placement opportunity with a reputable at-arms-length company / provider which may include hands-on writing experience or high-level industry mentoring.

Screenwest encourages applications from First Nations Australians and people from historically underrepresented groups.

Funding Available

- Up to \$100,000 for the year-long opportunity, comprised of:
 - Up to \$80,000 for professional skills development.
 - Up to \$20,000 for project development.

Screenwest funding is limited and competitive. The writer's skills development needs and development needs of the writer's slate will determine the level of support provided.

Eligibility

The applicant must:

1. Meet the general eligibility requirements in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Be an early-to-mid-career Western Australian resident writer who has:
 - Received State or Federal screen agency funding in the last three years.

- o Written at least one non-tertiary short film, online-series, or similar content that has been produced in the last three years.
- o Not written a feature film or national broadcast series that has been theatrically distributed or commercially released.

Applicants who have an overdue acquittal for any Screenwest funding programs are not eligible to apply.

Application Materials

This initiative has a two-stage application and assessment process.

Stage One: Submit an Expression of Interest via Smartygrants

The Expression of Interest is to include:

1. A cover letter (two page maximum) outlining up to three key professional development activities or placement opportunities you want to undertake in the next year (e.g. internships, employment opportunities, markets, conferences, courses); and how each of these activities will advance your writing career and slate of projects.
2. An overview of your current development slate of projects.
3. A current CV (two page maximum) that includes two professional references and a company bio (if relevant).

Expressions of Interest will be shortlisted according to the assessment criteria below.

Stage Two: Invitation Only

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit the following application materials:

1. An expanded proposal detailing all key professional development activities or placement opportunities you wish to undertake over the next 12 months.
2. A letter of commitment from the company / provider confirming the development activity or placement opportunity.
3. A project summary statement for one project on your current slate, addressing:
 - a. Project development history
 - b. Key personnel
 - c. Strategy to market and pathway to audience relative to market interest.
 - d. Detailed development plan outlining the objectives and tasks to be undertaken in the next stage of development.
4. A budget breakdown and rationale for each:

- a. professional skills development opportunity you wish to undertake; and
- b. project you are seeking development investment funding support for.

The budget line items must include wages and project development costs.

Applicants may be invited to an interview to expand on their application.

Assessment Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following assessment criteria:

1. **Benefits to Applicant:** The overall benefits to the applicant at this stage in their career.
2. **Creative:** The quality of the overall proposal including the quality and marketability of projects on the applicant's slate.
3. **Planning & Delivery:** The likelihood of achieving the activities proposed within the next year.
4. **Track Record:** The applicant's track record including the level of funding and support Screenwest has committed to the practitioner historically and the outcomes achieved.
5. **Benefits to WA:** The likely benefits and outcomes the opportunity will bring to the Western Australian screen industry.

Screenwest will weigh the above assessment criteria as it deems appropriate to best serve the purpose and strategic priorities of the organisation.

When reviewing applications, Screenwest considers if the applicant has multiple ongoing projects that could affect the quality and timely completion of additional projects.

Application Process

Prior to applying:

1. Read these guidelines and the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#). The Terms of Trade set out the core terms on which Screenwest conducts its business.
2. Review the online application form on SmartyGrants and make sure you have all required documents ready to submit with the application.

Discuss your application with the Screenwest Program Contact person if you have any questions.

How to apply

1. Complete an online application form through the [Screenwest SmartyGrants portal](#).
2. Attach all relevant documentation and supporting material. Refer to the 'Application Materials' section above.

After you apply

- Applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the general minimum eligibility criteria.
- A panel consisting of Screenwest Management and experienced industry representatives will assess all eligible applications.
- You can expect a decision within 8 weeks of the round closing date.
- Screenwest will advise applicants of the outcome of their application via email or phone.

Terms of Funding

- Successful applicants are required to enter into a written agreement/s with Screenwest. This agreement specifies the terms of funding and cash flow details.
- Professional skills development funding is provided as a grant and project development funding is provided as an investment.
- To note: Screenwest funding eligibility restrictions may apply to the successful applicant based on their proposal. Possible funding restrictions will be discussed with applicants during the final assessment process e.g. during the year-long program the successful applicant may be ineligible to apply for Screenwest travel funding. All funding restrictions will be outlined in the letter of offer to the successful applicant.

Program Contacts

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