



Documentary Development Investment Fund Guidelines

This fund invests in the development of documentary and factual programming to support and grow a sustainable Western Australian screen industry.

Screenwest funding is a partial contribution to the next stage of development.

Screenwest encourages applications from First Nations Australians and people from historically under-represented groups.

Funding Available

- Up to \$25,000 per project application.
- There will be a minimum of two competitive rounds per financial year.
- Funding is not automatic, even if an applicant can demonstrate they meet all the assessment criteria.
- Screenwest may approve funding less than the requested amount, as guided by the recommendations made during the assessment process and the total demand on available funds.

Eligibility?

To be considered eligible for this program, the below general minimum eligibility applies.

Applicant / Company Eligibility

The applicant / company must:

1. Meet the general eligibility requirements set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Be a Western Australian Resident with a registered Australian Business Number (ABN) or a Western Australian Resident Company, as defined in the Screenwest Terms of Trade.

Non-Western Australian applicant Producers/Production Companies will only be considered where they can demonstrate they will bring significant cultural and/or economic benefits to Western Australia.

Project Eligibility:

The project must be a documentary project in one of the following formats:

- Feature
- Single
- Series
- Large format (e.g. IMAX)
- Innovative documentary project.

Resubmissions

Projects must clearly demonstrate substantial changes (as determined by Screenwest Management) if the project has previously been declined twice for funding.

Application Materials

All applications must include:

1. A log line, one paragraph summary and a detailed synopsis, and information on format and timeslot.
2. A detailed development budget. The applicant is expected to include acceptable rates for fees when preparing the development budget.
3. The latest draft script, preliminary treatment or a detailed concept document including character outlines and episode synopses.
4. A detailed development plan outlining the objectives and tasks to be undertaken throughout this stage of development and intended outcomes (e.g. story notes and a clear strategy from the producer on how they are going to move the project forward to commissioning.
5. CVs (one page) of the project principals and, if applicable, a company profile indicating past success in developing and producing projects.
6. Letters or emails of intent or other documentation giving proof of marketplace interest.

Assessment Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. *Commercial*: the strength of the market interest and likely audience appeal of the concept.
2. *Creative*: the originality, quality, and strength of the concept.
3. *Planning & Delivery*: The strength of the development plan, budget, and the team's ability/track record to deliver outcomes.
4. *Benefits to WA*: Cultural, creative and economic benefits of the project and its ability to deliver outcomes in Western Australia.

Projects that have higher Western Australian elements (eg. Locations, talent) will be more competitive.

5. *Diversity*: how the project supports Screenwest's commitment to the creation and growth of diverse representation, including overall diversity of projects funded by Screenwest.

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

First Nations Australian Content

Screenwest supports the telling of First Nations Australian stories by First Nations Australian creatives and storytellers.

There must be strong First Nations Australian representation on all Scripted projects that tell First Nations Australian stories, through the involvement of First Nations Australian key creatives and thorough consultation, incubation and collaboration that is adequately budgeted for.

Diversity Statement

Screenwest is committed to reflecting the broad diversity of Western Australia's community on and off screen, through content funded and practitioners supported.

It is important that you / your team of key creatives authentically represent the story and characters in your application.

Screenwest recognises diversity broadly as differences in gender; age; Indigenous identity; cultural and linguistic diversity (CaLD); disability; sexuality and gender identities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and ace (LGBTQIA+); location (including regional and remote regions) and socio-economic status.

Application Process

- Before applying, read these guidelines and the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#). The Terms of Trade set out the core terms on which Screenwest conducts its business.
- Review the online application form on the [SmartyGrants portal](#). Make sure you have all the required documents ready to submit with the application.
- Discuss your application with the Screenwest Program Contact.

How To Apply

- Complete an online application form through the [SmartyGrants portal](#).
- Attach all relevant documentation and supporting material.

Contact the Program Manager if you require accessibility assistance.

After You Apply

1. Applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the general minimum eligibility criteria.
2. A panel consisting of Screenwest Management, and experienced industry representatives will assess eligible applications.
3. You can expect a decision within 6-8 weeks of the funding round closing date.
4. Screenwest will advise applicants of the outcome of their application via email or phone.

Terms of Funding

- Project development funding is provided as a repayable investment.
- Any Screenwest project development investment repayment obligations must be met.
- Successful applicants will enter into a Development Investment Agreement (DIA) with Screenwest outlining funding conditions, cash flow details and the deliverables required for scheduled payments.

Program Contacts

General Enquiries

Ellie Gaisford, Production Funding Team Coordinator

T: +61 8 6169 2109

E: ellie.gaisford@screenwest.com.au

Program Manager

Melissa Hayward, Documentary Executive

T: +61 8 6169 2116

E: melissa.hayward@screenwest.com.au

Toll Free: 1800 463 043 (WA regional callers only).