

Documentary Development Investment Fund Guidelines

This fund invests in the development of documentary projects with a clear pathway to audience, supporting the growth of a sustainable Western Australian screen industry.

Read these guidelines together with the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#) and [Glossary of Terms](#). The Terms of Trade outline our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as the terms and conditions on which Screenwest does business.

Eligibility

Applicant

The Applicant must:

1. Meet the eligibility requirements in the Terms of Trade.
2. Be a Western Australian Resident or a Western Australian Resident Company as defined in the Terms of Trade.
3. Hold the underlying rights in the Project at the time of application.

Our expectation is to be eligible for this funding an applicant needs to be developing a project that aligns with the requirements under the Documentary Production Fund guidelines.

Project

The Project must:

1. Be a documentary Project in one of the following formats:
 - a. Feature
 - b. Single
 - c. Series
 - d. Large format e.g. IMAX
 - e. Innovative documentary.
2. Satisfy the documentary definition test outlined in the [Australian Communications and Media Authority \(ACMA\) Documentary guidelines](#).

What can I receive funding for?

Our funding is a contribution to your Project's development.

Depending on the nature and stage of the Project, examples of the types of activities that may be supported include:

- Creation of pitch documents (e.g. outlines, treatments, pitch decks).

- Undertaking strategic filming and/or editing required to create a sizzle reel.
- Working with specialised researchers/writers.
- Attachment of producer/executive producers to secure market investment and/or advance the Project to production.
- Developing production schedules and budgets.

Your development budget costs should reflect the costs of the activities necessary to create the deliverables you have outlined in your application.

This program does not support

- Items/activities listed in Project ineligibility in the Terms of Trade.
- Screenwest Project development funding cannot be used to purchase or renew options or rights to a Project.

How much funding is 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.
- We may approve funding less than the requested amount, as guided by the recommendations made during the assessment process and available funds.

An Applicant can access a maximum of \$50,000 per financial year through all Screenwest Project development programs, excluding the Matched Development Investment Fund.

Funding is provided as an investment that is repayable if and when the Project goes into production.

Assessment Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. **Commercial:** The strength of the market interest (proof of market interest must be included in your application) and likely audience appeal of the concept.
2. **Creative:** The originality, quality, and strength of the concept.
3. **Planning and delivery:** The strength of the development plan, development budget, and the team's ability/track record to deliver outcomes.
4. **Benefits to Western Australia:** Cultural, creative and economic benefits of the Project and its ability to deliver outcomes in Western Australia. Projects that have higher Western Australian elements (e.g. locations, talent) will be more competitive.

5. **Diversity and inclusion:** How the Project supports our commitment to driving greater diversity, inclusion and equity in the Western Australia screen industry.

We will weight the above assessment criteria as it deems appropriate to best support its strategic purpose.

When reviewing applications, we also consider whether the Applicant has multiple ongoing Projects that could affect the quality or timely delivery of additional Projects.

Application Process

Read the [SmartyGrants](#) application form which lists the materials you will need to submit as part of your application.

We recommend you discuss your application with the [program contacts](#) before applying and let them know if you require any accessibility assistance as you complete your application.

How to apply

- Submit the online application form in SmartyGrants.
- Upload all required documents and supporting materials.

After you apply

- Applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the eligibility requirements in the Terms of Trade.
- Your application will be assessed by a panel of Screenwest management and experienced industry representatives who assess all eligible applications against the assessment criteria.
- We will notify Applicants of the outcome of their application by email or phone, within 8 weeks of the funding round closing date.
- Funding Recipients will enter into a Development Investment Agreement (DIA) with Screenwest.

Ready to start your application?

[Apply here](#)

Contact the team

Contact the team listed [here](#), or by emailing funding@screenwest.com.au.

Phone: +61 8 6169 2100

Toll free for WA regional callers only: 1800 463 043

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