



Bill Warnock Writers Initiative

Program overview

The Bill Warnock Initiative is a comprehensive, year-long professional development program for early career Western Australian writers, who do not possess a theatrically or commercially released feature film credit or broadcast television credit and who are looking to develop their career in screenwriting.

The successful candidates will undertake opportunities that are tailored to the individual, which may include hands-on experience locally, nationally and/or internationally, script development and high-level industry mentoring.

To reflect Western Australia's rich, diverse community, and support the representation of this diversity in the WA screen industry, Screenwest strongly encourages writers with diverse cultural and social backgrounds to apply for this opportunity.

In line with Screenwest's Indigenous Screen Strategy 2016-2020, an identified opportunity for an Indigenous practitioner will be made available within this initiative.

The initiative is supported by Screenwest, in association with the Australian Writers' Guild.

Funding available

There will be one (1) round per financial year and is a two stage assessment process.

At Stage One, applicants will be shortlisted and will have the opportunity to receive a three (3) page script assessment (if applicable to the screenplay and it has not been previously provided by Screenwest or Screenwest initiative partners).

Stage One shortlisted applicants may be considered for other yet to be determined writer's skills development opportunities without undertaking a competitive round.

At Stage Two, up to two (2) successful applicants will be offered intensive, high-level, tailored support over the course of one (1) year. The level and type of support will respond to the development needs of each individual writer. The level of Screenwest's funding commitment will be determined by the assessment process and the total demand on available funds.

Screenwest management will ultimately work with the successful applicant to help facilitate and coordinate unique, high-level opportunities throughout the year based on the approved proposal.

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Email: info@screenwest.wa.gov.au www.screenwest.wa.gov.au

Eligibility

An application must first meet the following eligibility criteria in order to be competitively assessed for funding through this program.

The applicant must:

1. Meet the general eligibility requirements set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Be a Western Australian resident without a theatrically or commercially released feature film credit or broadcast television credit.

Screenwest will not fund projects that contain material that will bring, or is likely to bring the WA Government or Screenwest into public disrepute, contempt, scandal, or ridicule, or which might tend to reflect unfavourably on Screenwest.

Terms of funding

Funding is provided as a grant for practitioner development activities, and investment for project development. If you are successful, Screenwest will enter into a written agreement with you, specifying the terms of the funding and what you will need to deliver to receive payments.

Failure to fulfill acquittal and/or meet deliverable requirements as specified within the funding agreement is a breach of contract. If contractual obligations are not met, Screenwest has the right to recoup funds already paid to the applicant and it may disqualify the recipient from being eligible for future Screenwest funding until outstanding funds are paid back and the matter resolved with Screenwest.

How to apply

The application process will involve two stages.

Stage One – All applicants will need to submit the following:

1. A completed Application Form.
2. A cover letter briefly introducing the applicant and the screenplay.
3. A CV for the applicant.
4. The latest draft of one (1) TV series or feature film screenplay (or other materials, as agreed) written by the applicant which best exemplifies their current writing style and abilities. The title page dated with day, month and year, writer's name and draft number.
5. A one (1) sentence log line and a one (1) paragraph synopsis of the submitted screenplay.

Stage Two – Shortlisted Applicants

Shortlisted applicants will be notified by Screenwest and will be required to:

1. Submit a proposal document outlining a year-long development program tailored to your own strengths and weaknesses (max 3 pages). Please note this is not what will necessarily be funded, but is a starting point to work with if successful.
2. Submit 3-5 additional ideas for feature films and/or television shows. Each idea should not be more than a paragraph in length and should include the current state of the project (e.g. idea stage or treatment or first draft, etc.), as well as any creative attachments.

3. Participate in an interview process.

Applicants must ensure all requested material is completed and submitted together. Applications that do not include all requested material may not be accepted for assessment.

Assessment criteria

Screenwest competitively assesses eligible applications against the following criteria:

1. The quality of the idea and execution of the current draft.
2. Market potential and likely audience appeal of the project.
3. The likely chance of the project being realised in Western Australia (eg. in terms of budget, locations, etc).
4. Potential benefits to the Western Australian industry.

The assessment process will be heavily weighted towards the quality of the idea and the execution of the current draft.

Additionally for Stage Two Shortlisted Applicants:

1. Quality of the proposal submitted and how it pertains to the skills of the applicant writer.
2. Participation in the interview.

Screenwest will take into consideration whether the applicant has a number of concurrent outstanding projects in development or production that may impact on the quality and timely delivery of further projects as part of its assessment of the application.

Closing date

All closing dates are listed on the Screenwest website and are published in the Screenwest newsletter. To register for the newsletter go [here](#).

All application materials must be submitted by 5:00pm on the specified closing date.

Applicants should allow plenty of time to submit an application in case of unanticipated problems as late applications will not be accepted.

Submitting an application

Emailed applications

Applications can be emailed to funding@Screenwest.wa.gov.au. Applicants are to forward all required application materials in a single email. Application materials are not to be emailed directly to individual staff members.

For emails larger than 8MB, send via Screenwest's Hightail Account by following this link: <https://www.hightail.com/u/Screenwest>.

Hard copy applications

Post applications to:

Attn FAO - Development
Screenwest
PO Box 3275
East Perth WA 6892

Hand deliver applications to:

Attn FAO - Development
Screenwest
30 Fielder Street
East Perth WA 6004

Screenwest recommends that mailed applications are sent via registered post. No responsibility is taken for unregistered mail.

Application receipt confirmation

An application receipt will be forwarded to the applicant within two working days to confirm that Screenwest has received the application. **It is the applicant's responsibility to contact Screenwest if an application receipt has not been received within this timeframe.** Application material(s) will not be returned by Screenwest.

Program contact

Development Manager

E: funding@Screenwest.wa.gov.au
T: (08) 6169 2111
Toll free: 1800 463 043 (WA country callers only)

Applicants should note that just prior to a closing date consultations can be in high demand. Consequently, it is best to telephone or email the program contact for an appointment or general advice well before the advertised closing date.