



Feature Film Development Track Guidelines

Program overview

The Feature Film Development Track Fund provides project development funding to Western Australian scripted features at various milestones for up to one consecutive year. Successful applicants will work toward quality, distinctive, feature film projects with strong Western Australian outcomes that are capable of reaching their target audience and attracting further investment and/or market interest. Projects are assessed at each milestone by a panel including the Screenwest Development Coordinator and external industry experts. Feedback is provided to successful applicants at each stage.

Funding available

There will be two intakes per financial year.

Successful applicant(s) may be offered up to a maximum of \$25,000 per assessment /milestone stage. Successful applicants may apply for additional funding at up to three subsequent milestones to a limit of \$50,000 over the course of the track year. Projects will be assessed by Screenwest Management and two external assessors at agreed upon milestones (specific to each project's needs). This panel has absolute discretion at any time to remove a project from the track, if it has not progressed sufficiently.

Please note:

- There is a Production Company limit per financial year of \$50,000 across all project development funds (except Matched Development): Feature Film Development, Emergency Development and Documentary and Television Development.
- Funding will not be awarded retrospectively, for example, fees for drafts written prior to submitting an application are not eligible.
- The level of Screenwest's funding commitment will be determined by the assessment process and the total demand on available funds.

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 production company, key creative or individual. If you are not based in WA, please provide evidence of a genuine co-production partnership with a WA-based company or producer and satisfy how this project offers outstanding benefits to the WA screen industry.
3. Hold the underlying rights to the project at the time of application. Screenwest's development funding cannot be used to purchase options or rights to a project.

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4. Include at least one individual among the creative team (executive producer, producer, director, writer) who has a feature film credit that has been theatrically-distributed, or commercially released in the past five (5) years or, in the absence of this, demonstrated market interest in the project.
5. Be in good standing with all previous Screenwest funds and programs. Applicants who have an outstanding acquittal report and/or deliverable(s) or have not fulfilled their contractual obligations relating to prior Screenwest funding are not eligible to apply unless an alternative arrangement is agreed with Screenwest prior to application. Applicants should contact Screenwest directly for advice on their specific situation.

The project that is subject to this application:

1. Must be destined for theatrical distribution as a feature film.
2. Current beneficiaries of Screenwest's Slate Investment Fund or projects that are a part of the Feature Navigator year-long program are not eligible for Feature Film Development Track funding.

If an application has been unsuccessful in receiving support in the past, it cannot be re-submitted to Screenwest unless it has been substantially changed, developed or reworked. A document must be included with the application listing specific changes made to the re-submitted application. Screenwest may not accept a re-submitted application if the Development Manager determines the project has not changed substantially.

Screenwest will not fund projects that contain material that will bring, or is likely to bring the Western Australian 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 an investment. Successful applicants will enter into a written agreement with Screenwest, specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver to receive payments.

It is the Producer's responsibility to obtain and renew (i) the entire copyright in all material commissioned and/or acquired by it for the development of the Project, (ii) all necessary consents to permit the development of the Project, and (iii) all necessary consents to permit the Project to be produced and exploited.

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

Applicants are required to submit:

1. A completed Application Form.
2. Cover letter listing all submission materials submitted.

3. If the project has been submitted and declined funding previously, a document listing specific changes made to the re-submitted application is required.
4. A document containing a log line, one paragraph synopsis and a one-page detailed synopsis.
5. A development budget that breaks down the investment from all investors, including the Applicant. The applicant is expected to include acceptable rates for fees when preparing the development budget. Screenwest has created a guide for [Acceptable Budget Figures – Feature Films](#) to assist in preparing an application.
6. The latest draft script or full treatment. The script or treatment must have a title page with project name, draft number, full date (day/month/year), writer name and if applicable, producer's name.
7. If only a treatment is submitted, then a sample script from the writer must also be provided.
8. A clear development strategy outlining the objectives and tasks to be undertaken throughout this stage of development (e.g. writer's notes and a clear strategy from the producer on how they are going to move the project forward to commissioning).
9. If a Director is attached to the project, a link to their show reel is to be provided.
10. CVs (one page) for each of the project principals and, if applicable, a company profile indicating past success in producing and pre-marketing projects.
11. Any letters of support from key cast and/or interested parties.
12. Letters or emails of intent or other documentation giving proof of marketplace interest.
13. A marketing/production financing strategy.

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, current draft and/or supporting materials.
2. The participation of a local producer and key creatives.
3. The strength of the development strategy and likelihood it will be achieved to a high standard.
4. The ability and/or track record of the writer and team in feature film.
5. Market potential or interest and likely audience appeal of the project.
6. The likely chance of the project being realised in Western Australia considering budget, locations, and other creative elements.
7. Potential benefits to the Western Australian industry.

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.

Screenwest seeks to reflect the diversity of Western Australia's community on screen and behind the camera, through projects funded and practitioners supported. The funding panel will take into consideration diversity elements of a submission during the assessment process.

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 should 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 Funding Admin Officer - Development
Screenwest
PO Box 3275
East Perth WA 6892

Hand deliver applications to:

Attn Funding Admin Officer –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

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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.