



Screenwest (Australia) Ltd  
ABN 43 620 492 300  
30 Fielder Street East Perth WA 6004  
P +61 8 6169 2100 | T 1800 463 043  
E [info@screenwest.com.au](mailto:info@screenwest.com.au)  
W [screenwest.com.au](http://screenwest.com.au)  
W [filminwesternaustralia.com.au](http://filminwesternaustralia.com.au)

## Fast Pitch: Matched Development Initiative

### Program overview

Universal and Screenwest are offering a one-off exclusive opportunity for a Western Australian writer to secure a development and first look option deal with Universal Pictures Home Entertainment Content Group (UPHE Content Group).

The recipient will receive up to a total of \$20,000 in development support towards a scripted feature film project. UPHE Content Group will have the first option to produce and distribute the film in Australia.

The aim of the initiative is to provide market-based development so that once the script is ready, it can fast track into financing and production.

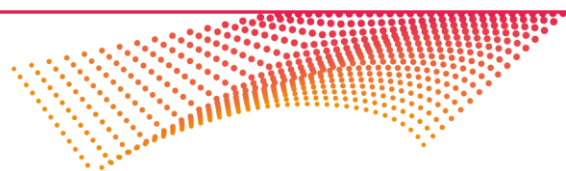
First round of shortlisted applicants will be required to pitch their projects to UPHE Content Group. Applicants who make it through to the next stage will then have four weeks to re-work and further develop their one-page pitch document. UPHE Content Group will work directly with the shortlisted applicants to provide them with additional story development guidance during this time.

### Types of Projects

- Features Films (Scripted)
- Projects must be under AUD\$10Million
- Projects in any genre can be submitted but special consideration may be given to the following genres:
  - Drama or comedy for the 45+ female audience
  - Live action family films
  - Indigenous Horror
  - The “Great Australian Comedy” (all demographics)
- Projects must not be under option by another company

### Funding available

Screenwest and UPHE will provide up to a total of \$20,000 in development funding for the successful recipient, along with an option agreement from UPHE to further develop and distribute the project in Australia. UPHE Content Group will negotiate all option deals.



## **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. Be a Western Australia writer (credited or non-credited)
2. Non-credited WA writers are eligible to apply but must be able to demonstrate a significant amount of experience (i.e. evidence of working with production companies on their projects) and a body of professional writing
3. Meet the general eligibility requirements set out in the [Screenwest's Terms of Trade](#).
4. Hold the underlying rights at the time of application. Screenwest's development funding cannot be used to purchase options or rights to a 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.

## **Terms of Funding Screenwest**

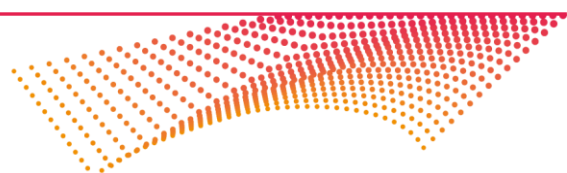
Funding is provided as an investment. Successful applicants will enter into a written agreement Development Investment Agreement (DIA) with Screenwest, specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver in order to receive payments.

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 fulfil 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.**

## **Terms of Funding UPHE Content Group**

UPHE Content Group Australia will negotiate and sign the option deal with the applicant.



## **How to apply**

Applicants will need to submit:

1. A completed Application Form;
2. Current CV (one page only; a bio will only be accepted in addition to a CV);
3. A one-page pitch document, including short synopsis, intended genre and a brief description of the target audience.
4. A two-page development plan for your project that outlines the progress of the project to date, the next steps and how you plan to use the development funding
5. An indicative budget on how the development funding will be allocated.

*If shortlisted applicants may be required to provide additional writing samples, on request.*

## **Assessment criteria**

1. The applicant's track record.
2. The quality of the overall proposal.
3. A clear and achievable development strategy.
4. Likelihood of the project being fully financed and being realised in Western Australia.
5. The projects market potential.

## **Additional considerations**

### **Indigenous Content and Participation**

Where there is Indigenous content or participation in any project, Screenwest requires that each applicant complies with protocols related to the treatment of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights (ICIP). For more information on ICIP, please refer to the Arts Law Centre of Australia.

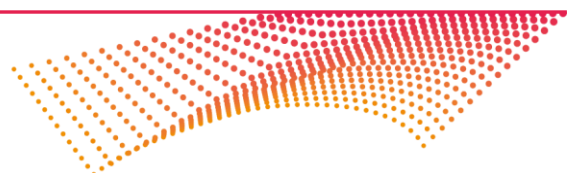
Written confirmation of the willingness of both the subject(s) and the community to be involved in the project is essential.

There must be strong indigenous representation on all projects that tell indigenous stories, through the involvement of an indigenous key creative or through thorough consultation and collaboration that is adequately budgeted for.

Please ensure you allow sufficient time for consultation so that people giving consent can more fully understand what they are consenting to.

Please note, these requirements apply equally to Indigenous and non-Indigenous filmmakers.

For information on what Content, Consent and Consultation means, please refer to the Screenwest website for more information on [Filming with Indigenous People, Content and Land](#).



For more detailed information on Indigenous Content and Participation protocols, please refer to [Screen Australia's Pathways & Protocols: a filmmaker's guide to working with Indigenous people, culture and concepts](#).

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 application materials must be submitted by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 5pm WST.**

Applicants should allow plenty of time to submit their applications as late applications will not be accepted.

All closing dates are listed on the Screenwest website and are published in the Screenwest e-newsletter. You can subscribe to the newsletter [here](#).

## **Submitting an application**

Applications can be emailed to [funding@screenwest.com.au](mailto:funding@screenwest.com.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://spaces.hightail.com/uplink/screenwest>

### **Hard copy applications**

*Post applications to:*

Development & Production Assistant - Scripted  
Screenwest  
PO Box 3275  
EAST PERTH WA 6892

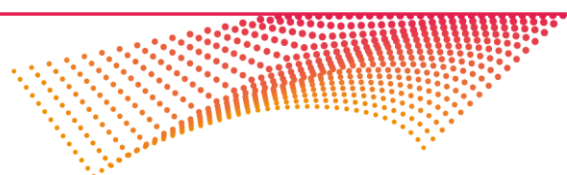
*Hand deliver applications to:*

Development & Production Assistant - Scripted  
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**

**Eva Di Blasio, Talent Development Manager**  
**Screenwest**

**T:** (08) 6169 2107

**E:** [eva.diblasio@screenwest.com.au](mailto:eva.diblasio@screenwest.com.au)

[www.screenwest.com.au](http://www.screenwest.com.au)

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 Talent Development Manager for an appointment or general advice well before the advertised closing date.

