Elevate Short Form Development and Production Initiative Guidelines

Program overview

The Elevate initiative is a skills development program providing support for the development and production of scripted short films (live action, animation or web-series) to provide a calling-card for early to mid-career Western Australian filmmakers. Elevate is a multi-phased program involving high-level script and project development prior to moving into production. The program consists of two strands, Elevate30 and Elevate70 as detailed below.

In line with Screenwest's Indigenous Screen Strategy 2016-2020, and Screenwest's Diversity Equity Inclusion Plan 2018-2019 each Elevate strand will support at least one project with an Indigenous director and at least one project with a key creative (writer/director/producer) who identifies as CALD, LGBTQIA+ or as living with a Disability.
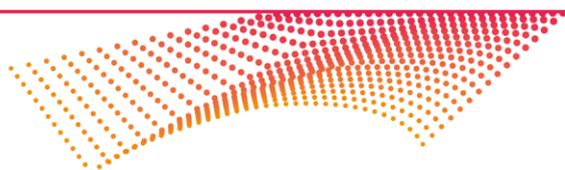
Elevate30
- For filmmakers that have completed at least one quality short-form project.
- Up to three teams (A producer with a director and writer/s, or a producer with a writer/director) will be selected to develop and produce a scripted short (live-action, animation or web-series), within one year of selection. One of these teams is identified as being an opportunity for an Indigenous director and one team with a key creative (writer/director/producer) who identifies as CALD, LGBTQIA+ or living with a Disability.
- Intended for projects **5-10 minutes** in duration.

Elevate70
- For more advanced filmmakers with a solid track-record in short-form filmmaking (or equivalent) but need an additional short/webseries for their career progression.
- Up to three teams (A producer with a director and writer/s, or a producer with a writer/director) will be selected to develop and produce a scripted short (live action, animation or web-series), within one year of selection. One of these teams is identified as being an opportunity for an Indigenous director and one team with a key creative (writer/director/producer) who identifies as CALD, LGBTQIA+ or living with a Disability.
- Intended for projects **10-15 minutes** in duration.

Teams are encouraged to apply with projects relevant to their long-form project.

There will be one intake in 2019 and both the Elevate30 and Elevate70 funding strands will run simultaneously.

Screenwest will appoint an Executive Producer to oversee the development, production and delivery of one or more of the selected projects at any stage of the initiative.

Funding available

Successful applicants may be offered up to a maximum of:

Elevate30: Up to $30,000 for the production of each project.

Elevate70: Up to $70,000 for the production of each project.

Successful projects will take part in specialised script and project development; teams will be required to attend development workshops or sessions.

High quality completed and fully delivered projects are eligible to apply for additional funds for distribution and festival costs.

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's Terms of Trade.
2. Be a producer submitting an application on behalf of a team including either: writer/director; or writer/s and director.
3. Be a WA resident filmmaking team (producer, writer, director). Screenwest may consider an application from a team with a non-WA resident writer, but in a competitive situation preference will be given to teams where all members are WA residents.
4. Warrant that the producer and/or director have the required level of minimum experience.
5. Warrant that the director does not have a theatrically released feature film credit or equivalent.
6. Warrant that the project has not already been shot.
7. Warrant that for the Diversity strand, one of the three key creatives (being producer, writer, director) are from an underrepresented and/or diverse group, appropriate to the roles. For the purpose of these guidelines, we are looking for creatives who identify as culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD); living with a disability and or sexuality and gender diverse, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer intersex and asexual (LGBTQIA+).
8. Warrant that for the Indigenous strand, the team have an Indigenous director attached.
9. Warrant that, if the project contains animation or CGI, the applying team can complete the project within the required timeframe.
10. Warrant that, to the best of their knowledge, they hold the underlying rights to the project at the time of application. Screenwest's funding cannot be used to purchase options or rights to a project.
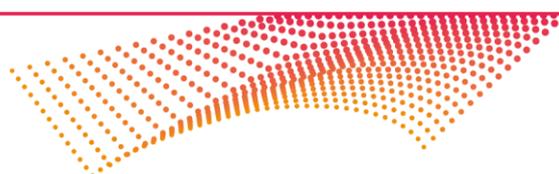
11. Warrant that the applicant or any member of the key creative team is NOT a student at a film school or similar tertiary film, television or digital media course or institution and that the project is not and will not contribute to any course of study.
12. If selected, warrant that the applicant and team are able to complete the film within one year of the date of the contracted date.
13. If selected, warrant that they can produce the project for the budget level they have applied for, as per the Screenwest Terms of Trade.
14. If selected, warrant that 100% of production and post production will take place in Western Australia.
15. If selected, warrant that they consent to an Executive Producer appointed by Screenwest, overseeing the development, production and delivery of the project.

The project subject to this application:

1. Cannot be submitted to both Elevate30 and Elevate70. Applicants must submit their project as either an Elevate30 project OR an Elevate70 project at Stage One of the application process.
2. Directors can apply with more than one project; however, it's not recommended to submit more than two projects. Directors will be limited to receiving funding for one project per Elevate round.

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

An Executive Producer or Production Company will be appointed through a competitive process by Screenwest to oversee the development, production and delivery of the selected projects. Screenwest will be calling for expressions of interest for this position.

Funding will be provided as a grant. Successful applicants will enter into a Production Grant Agreement (PGA) with the Executive Producer specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver to receive their scheduled payments.

The Executive Producer will enter into a written agreement with Screenwest, specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver to receive their scheduled payments.

Screenwest management and the Executive Producer will work with teams to assist with Chain of Title and all aspects of the contracting process.

Filmmaking teams will not be permitted to enter pre-production or receive any drawdown funding until all of the funding conditions have been met.

Screenwest requires that all freelance crew and cast be paid in accordance with the producer's obligations under the law.

Screenwest and the EP will have final approval over the following:
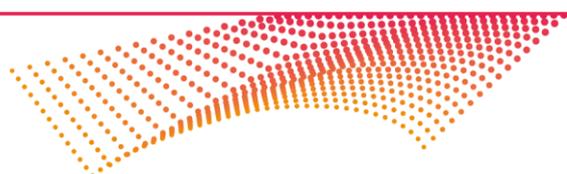
1. Final script;
2. Key Heads of Department; and
3. Budget and Shooting schedule.
4. Rough cut and Fine cut
5. Final cost reporting

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

Stage One
Applicants will need to submit:

1. A Completed Application Form;
2. Completed script/s;
3. A statement of how this film will elevate the directors and the filmmaking team career path (no more than a page);
4. Director's Statement (no more than two pages); and
5. An example of the Director's previous work (via online link only).
   - *Please only submit one example link and limit your material to under 20 mins.*
   - *Please ensure you select the example that you feel best represents your directorial voice and style, as assessors will only be watching one example.*
   - *Please check your link works when submitting, as Screenwest may not have the opportunity to follow up on corrupt links.*

Stage Two
If an applicant is shortlisted to Stage Two, the applicants will be required to submit the following additional materials within two weeks of being notified:

1. A cover letter outlining all documents submitted;
2. Directors Creative Vision Statement (include any supporting creative materials e.g. story boards, concept drawings);
3. Producer's Statement;
4. Writer's Statement/Notes;
5. Proposed Production dates, including Pre-Production, Production and Post-production dates;
6. A fully itemised A-Z short film production budget;
7. CVs of the key creative team;
8. Outline of the intended festival/marketing and/or distribution plan;

Teams may be required to attend an interview during the Stage Two assessment process.
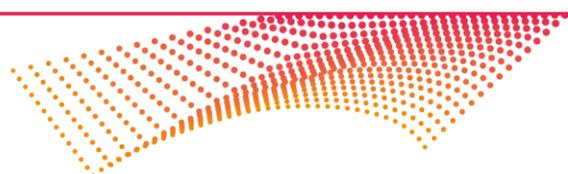
Additional application requirements:

- Ensure that all attachments have page numbers, and include a project name, date, and producer name in the header.
- Ensure scripts include a title page with draft number and date.
- Refer to Screen Australia's Tools and Insights for Shorts for notes on how to write story documents.
- Refer to Screen Australia's Hot Shots Short Film Budget Template document as the guide on budgeting for the production.

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

Assessment criteria

This is a two-stage assessment process. If shortlisted, applicants may be required to submit additional materials and /or be interviewed

An assessment panel made up of Screenwest, the Executive Producer and an industry representative will competitively assess eligible applications against the following criteria:

Stage One:
1. The originality, strength and distinctiveness of the script;
2. Evidence of a distinctive directorial voice and compelling storytelling style in the Director's Statement and in the example of the Director's previous work; and
3. Evidence of how the project will elevate the director and filmmaking teams career.

Stage Two:
In addition to the above assessment criteria for Stage One, the following criteria will be considered for Stage Two:
1. The skills, experience and track record of each of the key creative team;
2. The viability of the budget and schedule in relation to the script, and a production approach that embraces the budget parameters of the fund; and
3. The potential to enhance the career opportunities and skill-base of the key creatives involved, and the benefits to the WA screen 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.
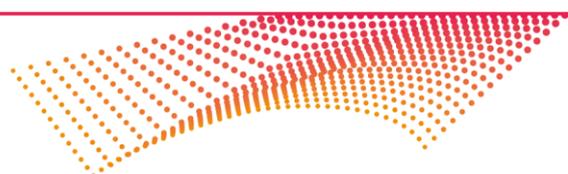
Closing date

All closing dates are listed on the Screenwest website and are published in the Screenwest e-newsletter. You can register for the newsletter here.

All application materials must be submitted by 5:00pm WST 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

Applications can be emailed to 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
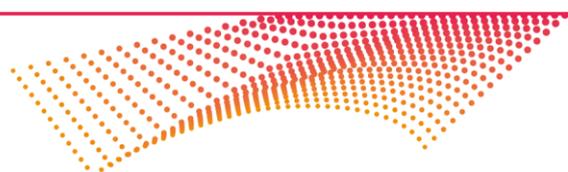**Screenwest**
T: (08) 6169 2107
E: eva.diblasio@screenwest.com.au

Projects with Indigenous key creatives are encouraged to contact:

Devina McPherson, Indigenous Manager
Screenwest
T: (08) 6169 2112

E: devina.mcpherson@screenwest.com.au

Projects applying for the Diversity Strand are encouraged to talk to contact:

Simone Flavelle, Diversity Manager
Screenwest
T: (08) 6169 2107
E: diversity@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 program contact for an appointment or general advice well before the advertised closing date.