



Emerging Writers' Incubator

SBS, in partnership with Screen Australia, state and territory agencies Screen NSW, Screen Canberra, Screen Queensland, Screenwest and the South Australian Film Corporation, and with the assistance of the Australian Writers' Guild and Film Victoria through its Key Placements Scheme, have launched the **Emerging Writers' Incubator**: a new, national initiative to support the development of underrepresented fiction writing talent within the Australian screen sector.

Working with some of Australia's leading production companies, the Emerging Writers' Incubator will bring the industry together to contribute to greater inclusion amongst Australian screenwriting talent, by providing significant work experience in drama production for up to 18 emerging writers in total over the entire duration of this initiative, from diverse backgrounds and with lived experiences currently underrepresented in the sector over three years.

For the purposes of this initiative, underrepresented includes those who identify as First Nations Australians; those who identify as having culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds; those who identify as Deaf and disabled; those who identify as female or trans/gender diverse; those who identify as LGBTQIA+; and people located in regional and remote areas.

This year, one successful Western Australian candidate (Selected Writer), will be employed for a 12-month placement in a production company acclaimed for their delivery of Australian drama, with the placement commencing from approximately mid to late August 2021.

What is it?

The Selected Writer will work across the production company's entire fiction slate (irrespective of commissioning network / platform) performing many of, but not limited to the indicative duties list below:

Indicative role description

- Attend writers' rooms (as deemed appropriate by the production company – as participant, note taker, or observer); and
- Participate in the production company's development slate meetings; and

- Shadow the production company's development producers and/or producers (as appropriate), building capacity, on knowledge and honing industry / craft skills (including script editing skills); and
- Shadow producers in pre, shoot, post and screening stages of project (as appropriate); and
- Assist with devising and writing pitches; and
- Assist with assessing creative material (e.g.: pitches); and
- Assist with creative feedback (e.g.: script notes, script feedback meetings); and
- Attend pitch meetings (as appropriate); and
- Draft funding applications for script development.

The Emerging Writers' Incubator partners (SBS, Screen Australia and Screenwest) will provide total funding of up to \$80,000 to each production company as the salary for the writer (inclusive of superannuation, payroll tax, insurance, workcover). The production company will be ultimately responsible for ensuring that the Selected Writer is paid according to all applicable legislation and industrial awards including the superannuation guarantee and workplace insurance requirements.

A contribution toward relocation or travel from respective states (if applicable) may be available.

All intellectual property generated during this opportunity will be the property of the production company, but each writer's credit, where applicable, and associated benefits will be determined by AWG standard agreements. To the extent that a writer may subsequently be engaged as a writer of an episode of television, the Miniseries and Telemovie Agreement 2010 (MATA) (2021 rates) or Series and Serials Agreement 2008 (SASA) (2021 rates) will apply.

What Can I Apply For?

- A salary of \$80,000 per individual, to be paid by the host production company. If relevant, a relocation fee, capped at \$5,000 will be considered.
- Funding is not automatic, even if an applicant can demonstrate they meet all the assessment criteria.

Am I Eligible?

To be considered eligible for this program/initiative, the below general minimum eligibility applies.

Applicant Eligibility

The applicant must:

1. Meet the general eligibility requirements as set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Be a Western Australian resident as defined in the Screenwest Terms of Trade.
3. Be a permanent resident and/or citizen of Australia.
4. Be an emerging writer from an underrepresented background (as defined above) who has:
 - a. Participated in a scheme run by a major screen agency/organisation/broadcaster in Australia (e.g.: AWG Pathways (writer applicants only), Screenability, AFTRS Talent Camp, Plot Twist Programs, Cinespace's Package to Pitch, Impact Australia) and/or;
 - b. A writer or co-writer credit on a piece of completed narrative fiction (television episode, feature film, or webseries), or who is currently in development on a project with support from a broadcaster, major online content provider or screen agency/organisation) and/or;
 - c. A body of work in related areas (e.g. playwright).
5. If successful, be willing / able to relocate interstate in order to undertake this placement.
6. If successful, be available to undertake a paid placement for a period of 12 consecutive months, from approximately mid to late August 2021.

What Do I Need to Apply?

Applicants will need to provide:

1. A completed Application Form on SmartyGrants, including any additional information, documentation and materials listed in the form.
2. Up to 1-page statement outlining where you are at in your writing career and how participating in this scheme will benefit your career development.

3. Up to 1-page of your writing CV/credits.
4. A 10-page sample of screenwriting (for Stage One consideration).

Applicants must also provide as part of the application process for Stage One, a sample script. This will not be evaluated in Stage One but will form the basis of the Stage Two assessment.

5. A half-hour or hour episode of television writing, or feature film script (for Stage Two Consideration).

Note: A COVID risk management plan may be requested at any time during the application or assessment process.

How is my Application Assessed?

Assessment Criteria

Screenwest will assess all eligible applications against the following criteria:

1. The writer's career goals and benefit to the writer's career development if successful.
2. The writer's perceived ability to successfully engage with a production company slate across the 12-month period.
3. The standard of the supplied writing sample, and its demonstration of the abilities and skills of the writer.
4. The alignment of the writer with the diversity and inclusion aims of the initiative.
5. Alignment with [Screenwest's current Strategic Plan](#).

In evaluating the application Screenwest will take into account any information and weight the above criteria as it judges appropriate to best serve the purpose and strategy of the organisation.

Assessment Process & Timeline

The below process will be followed in assessing applications for this initiative:

Stage One

1. Screenwest will check the application meets the general minimum eligibility.
2. Any applications found ineligible will be reviewed by another Screenwest Program Manager.
3. Depending on the number of applications, Screenwest Management reserves the right to shortlist applications, prior to formal assessment.
4. All Stage One application materials, including the 10-page sample of screenwriting, will be assessed.

After Stage One assessment, a longlist of applicants from each state and territory writers will be compiled, and they will enter the second assessment stage.

Stage Two

1. The sample of screenwriting (either half-hour or hour episode of television writing, or feature film script) provided in Stage One will now be assessed.

Stage Three

1. After applications have been assessed, a shortlist will be circulated to the host companies, who will select the writers that they wish to progress to the interview stage. Companies may elect to interview as few or many writers as they choose. Each interview will involve a representative from Screenwest as well as representatives from key stakeholders SBS and Screen Australia.
2. Once all interviews have been completed both the host companies and the applicant writers will be asked to nominate their preferred choices.
3. Screenwest, SBS, and Screen Australia will use these nominations to determine the most suitable and appropriate match between company and applicant. Decisions will be communicated to applicants following final consultation and confirmation with the host companies.

Timeline

- Applications Open: Tuesday 4 May 2021
- Applications Close: Monday 31 May 2021
- Applicants Notified: Monday 2 August 2021
- Successful writers commence: From mid to late August 2021

All partners of this Initiative acknowledge and appreciate the effort that goes into applications but given the anticipated volume of applications, will not be able to provide individual feedback on each application.

Screenwest Diversity Statement

Screenwest is committed to reflecting the broad diversity of Western Australia's community on screen and behind the camera, through stories funded and practitioners supported.

Screenwest broadly recognises diversity as differences in:

- gender
- age
- Indigenous identity
- cultural and linguistic diversity (CaLD)
- disability
- sexuality and gender identities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and ace (LGBTQIA+)
- location (including regional and remote regions) and
- socio-economic status.

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](#).

There must be strong Indigenous representation on all projects that tell Indigenous stories, through the involvement of Indigenous key creatives and 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.

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](#).

Terms of Funding

1. Funding will be provided as a grant. This grant will be provided to the host company to pay the salary of the successful applicant over the year placement.
2. Successful recipients should expect to enter into a standard employee or contractor confidentiality and/or intellectual property agreement with the host Production Company before commencing the placement. SBS, Screen Australia and Screenwest reserves its right to request a copy of these agreements at any time.
3. At both the mid-point and the conclusion of each the placements the Selected Writer and the production company will each deliver a report offering an insight into how the placement is working for each party and suggestions for the ongoing shape of the initiative. Aspects of these may be published on the Screenwest website following consultation with the parties.
4. It is a condition of funding that successful applicants co-operate with Screenwest, Screen Australia, and SBS in any PR and press activity relating to their participation in the Emerging Writers' Incubator. Participants may also be asked to contribute to future seminars or workshops to share their experiences and knowledge with other filmmakers.

Deadlines and How to Apply

Applications must be completed in full and submitted by **5:00pm AWST on Monday, 31 May 2021**.

Acceptance of any additional application materials after this date is subject to Screenwest's discretion.

Applications will be accepted through the Screenwest SmartyGrants Portal, with application forms going live **Tuesday, 4 May 2021**. Do not email applications directly to individual Screenwest staff members.

You can start your application at any time once the portal opens. You can save your progress and return to it at any time before the deadline. **Do not start your application the day it is due.**

An application receipt will be automatically forwarded to the applicant from SmartyGrants 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 two working days.**

If you are unable to submit an application online or having difficulties, please call Screenwest on [+61 8 6169 2100](tel:+61861692100) or [1800 463 043](tel:1800463043) (WA regional callers).

Please note: the submission portal for all funding programs close automatically at **5:00pm AWST sharp** on the specified due date.

Allow plenty of time to submit your application in case of unanticipated problems. **Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

Who can I speak to about this initiative?

For more information about this program, please contact:

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www.screenwest.com.au

Please note that meetings with program contacts can be in high demand. It's best to telephone or email for an appointment or general advice well before planning to submit an application.

Applicants are **strongly** encouraged to discuss their applications before applying.