

TV WRITERS DEVELOPMENT GRANT

› Supporting South Australian practitioners to develop outstanding, original and creative TV Drama series

what is the scheme?

This program seeks to provide South Australian screen practitioners with the opportunity to develop high end television drama with the clear potential to reach a wide global audience. This funding will aim to ensure that TV projects are as strong as possible when competing in the market place. The SAFC are looking for engaging storytelling that will connect with audiences.

what is on offer?

The SAFC will fund development expenses up to \$40,000 for further development of up to two TV drama series.

Funding provided is to be used for:

Series bible, story room, series outline, brainstorming sessions, plotting sessions, scene breakdowns, research, completion of pilot episode script, materials to assist in securing production financing and market partner, script editors, consultant fees, table reads, teaser trailers, or proof of concepts.

On application, the applicant must suggest an appropriate budget relevant to the development plan. All budgets must include a plan to deliver a script for a pilot episode.

The SAFC will not fund the acquisition of the option or legal fees under this program.

who is eligible?

In addition to the eligibility criteria detailed in the SAFC General Guidelines and Terms of Trade, applicants are expected to be a South Australian (SA) resident with teams consisting of:

- / a SA resident writer; or
- / a SA resident producer or director; or
- / an interstate team providing an opportunity for at least one SA resident writer's involvement in the next stage of development.

Note: A solo SA resident writer, writer/director or director must include plans to attach a producer and other key creatives, to demonstrate a viable pathway for the project to move into financing and production.

Where a producer or an executive producer is attached their meaningful and continued involvement in the project must be evidenced within the development and financing plans for the project.

Interstate writing partners and/or producers must have at least four "eligible drama credits" as defined by Screen Australia.

what projects are eligible?

To be eligible, applicants must apply with a narrative driven drama TV project that is:

- / A series intended for commercial release (broadcaster, major online platform, subscription channel);
- / Projects that have been successful in receiving Matched Market funding from SAFC are NOT eligible to apply.

what are the minimum application materials requirements?

- / A one page synopsis;
- / A story document relevant to the project:
 - a treatment (10 pages). (A writer without previous credits must submit 3 sample script scenes (up to 5 pages) from the writer's previous work (TV, short films, feature or online drama), OR a scriptment – a document that is part script, part treatment and may include visuals or illustrations (up to 30 pages), OR a draft script (up to 120 pages, 12 point Courier font))
- / A development budget;
- / For high-end television, a copy of proposal materials used to secure the written interest from a major international company (i.e. broadcaster or internet streaming company) such as a pitch/concept/story document, episode breakdowns, proposed team, etc.;
- / Development plan; Up to four pages that describes the team's creative vision, outlines the progress of the project to date, identifies the current challenges and the tools and approached that will be used to explore and address these in the next stage of development. This should include notes from the writer, director and script editor (where attached);
- / A draft of the pilot episode if available;
- / If you are applying as a sole writer, director or writer/director, or writer and director team, please also briefly describe the genre and intended target audience, the budget level relative to the potential audience, any marketing and distribution plans, the benefit of the project to the career and business objectives of the team, as well as your plans for attaching a producer;
- / If a producer is attached, a producer's statement that identifies the genre, the intended target audience, the budget level relative to the potential audience as well as the marketing and distribution plans and the benefit of the project to the career and business objectives of the team;
- / If an EP is attached, written confirmation that demonstrates the EP's meaningful involvement;
- / For high-end television, written evidence of strong and genuine interest from a major international company (i.e. broadcaster or internet streaming company), outside the ANZ territory, which can commission projects and has its own transmission network;
- / Agreements for key creatives that are attached to the stage of development applied for (e.g. writer's agreement, script editor's agreement);
- / Any application material that evoke the tone and mood of the project;
- / Evidence of Chain of Title where the applicant (and intended contracting party) is not the sole original creator;
- / CVs for all key creatives;
- / For projects being submitted after a previous unsuccessful application, a summary of the substantial changes that will make it eligible for consideration.

Note: If a project has previously been assessed and declined for funding under SAFC's Development, Matched Market, Short Film or any TV special initiatives it must provide evidence of substantial changes since the previous submission. This summary statement and the application materials will be taken into account when considering whether or not SAFC will accept the application and assess it again for funding.

After two unsuccessful submissions, no further applications for that project will be accepted other than in circumstances that are deemed to be exceptional.

how will applications be assessed?

In addition to the relevant assessment criteria detailed in the General Guidelines, the application will be assessed by SAFC Executives and industry specialists on:

- / the dramatic potential of the concept, strength and distinctiveness of the story within its own genre and the potential of the story and characters to engage an audience;
- / the progress of the project to date, the degree to which the development plan identifies and articulates the challenges present in the current material while also offering potential strategies to address them in the next phase of development;
- / the readiness of the script, if available, for production and perceived effectiveness of the financing strategy for the series;
- / the relevant skills, experience and credits of the team;
- / the number of SA team members;
- / the team's understanding of the market and audience for their project, the viability of the intended budget relative to the potential audience and the intended platform of distribution;
- / the perceived viability of the development budget;
- / the perceived viability of the project in terms of financing and marketability.

what special conditions apply?

Additional funding information and conditions:

- / only one application per team. Writing partners can only submit one application.
- / funds are made available as a development grant;
- / the applicant must own or control the necessary rights in the project (such as an option and assignment agreement) in accordance with the SAFC General Guidelines and submit the appropriate service agreements (eg writers, script developers/editors and directors agreements) with the application;
- / the SAFC receives a development credit on the draft script cover page, script delivery materials and visual teaser credits, as well in the tail credits of the produced film;
- / if the TV series does not shoot in South Australia, the development funds will be repaid to the SAFC;

how do I submit my application?

Applications and support materials are submitted via the SAFC online application form on the SAFC website.

The application process is detailed in the SAFC General Guidelines & Terms of Trade. After reading the SAFC General Guidelines & Terms of Trade and confirming eligibility, applicants are required to discuss their applications with the SAFC prior to submitting a completed application.

where can I find out more?

- Read the SAFC General Guidelines & Terms of Trade
- Visit the Funding & Support section of www.safilm.com.au
- Contact the SAFC on 08 8394 2000

Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content and communities

Applications involving or dealing with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander material should include appropriate permission from the relevant community.

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultant may be appointed by the SAFC to provide an assessment of the application to ensure that appropriate consultation is taking place and that the use of the material is appropriate and acceptable to the relevant community and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities generally.

The SAFC recommends that applicants refer to the guidelines developed by Screen Australia entitled: "Pathways & Protocols: a filmmaker's guide to working with Indigenous people, culture and concepts" which can be downloaded from the following link: <https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/getmedia/16e5ade3-bbca-4db2-a433-94bcd4c45434/Pathways-and-Protocols>

This guide is intended to provide practical advice about the ethical and legal issues involved in the transfer of Indigenous cultural material to the screen.

The fine print

As with all South Australian Film Corporation programs, the following guidelines must be read in conjunction with the South Australian Film Corporation General Guidelines & Terms of Trade and relevant application form. These guidelines are applicable to the funding round corresponding to the above date. Please check our website for any updated guidelines for future applications. At its sole discretion the SAFC may vary its Guidelines and Terms of Trade, including variations to percentages and the cap value for Production Investment. Applicants are required to discuss their applications with the South Australian Film Corporation prior to submitting an application.

SAFC General Guidelines & Terms of Trade and the relevant application form can be found at www.safilm.com.au

