

GUIDELINES

Early Development Grant



South Australian **Film Corporation**

Supporting the early development of outstanding, original and creative Australian screen content viable for production and/or post production in South Australia.

What is the scheme?

This scheme provides **early stage** project development funding.

What can be funded?

Early Stage Development Grant funds can be used towards:

- development of treatments, scene breakdowns and/or beat sheets
- development of first drafts from short documents
- development of mini-bibles and/or episode outlines for television or online series
- location recces, where relevant at this stage
- creation of sizzle reels or promotional trailers
- detailed research and development of factual pitch documents

How much can I apply for?

There is no cap but the development budget will need to be based on industry standard fees and charges and consistent with proposed deliverables. Amounts approved will be subject to the SAFC discretion and available resources.

When can I apply?

Applications are open at anytime.

Who is eligible?

In addition to the eligibility criteria detailed in the SAFC General Guidelines and Terms of Trade, applicants will generally be a South Australian resident Key Creative, individual or company.

If you are not a South Australian resident you must:

- provide evidence of a genuine co-production partnership with a South Australian producer
OR;

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- have at least one South Australian resident Key Creative attached AND;
- satisfy the SAFC that the project offers outstanding benefits to the South Australian screen industry

Key creatives are the individuals writing, directing and producing the project. If your key creative team does not have any screen credits in these roles, you will need to demonstrate that you have relevant skills, market knowledge and/or relationships to develop a project likely to find production finance.

The SAFC is committed to supporting increased participation in the industry of people from under-represented groups including women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, practitioners from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, those with disabilities, from LGBTQI communities and from regional areas. Priority will be given to teams including people from under-represented groups.

What projects are eligible?

We fund the development of:

- adult and children's television drama and narrative comedy including series, miniseries, web series and telemovies
- feature films
- factual and documentary television
- scripted and non-scripted web programs and series
- animation series
- narrative driven interactive and cross platform screen projects such as VR and AR

*Please refer to the SAFC General Guidelines and Terms of Trade for a description of the types of content we don't fund. For further guidance on the distinction between infotainment, lifestyle, magazine programs and documentary/factual programs refer to the advice on Screen Australia's website:

<https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/funding-and-support/producer-offset/guidelines/eligibility/format>

You must intend to produce or post produce your project in South Australia.

You must hold the necessary rights in your project.



What are the application material requirements?

You must submit all core materials listed on the application form.

For Early Development the SAFC assesses short documents and draft scripts. We prefer that you have opened a dialogue with a distributor, broadcaster or online content commissioner, however market support is not required at this point.

The creative materials required may vary according to the project type and the development stage it is at.

FEATURE FILMS:

Your short document should demonstrate the following:

- the key dramatic beats of your story and how they will play out within your chosen genre
- a clear beginning, middle and end
- identified pivotal story points
- the intended genre, tone and mood of the film

TV AND WEB DRAMA, NARRATIVE COMEDY AND CHILDREN'S TV:

We are generally looking for a preliminary pitch document and an indication of intended market.

We generally do not require marketplace attachment up front however we are unlikely to fund more than a mini bible without broadcaster interest.

If you have secured broadcaster development please indicate this in the 'previous funding' or 'other funding for this stage' section of your application form.

DOCUMENTARY AND FACTUAL:

Your pitch document should concisely describe:

- your subject matter
- your intended narrative, line of enquiry, or argument your intended stylistic approach
- your intended audience
- how you plan to tell your story (observational sequences, archival footage, interviews, recreations, etc)

If your program is reliant on the participation of a particular person or people you will need to have a document verifying that they consent to take part.



INTERACTIVE AND CROSS PLATFORM:

Your application materials should provide:

- a description of the story, journey or experience
- any visual designs or early prototyping
- information on intended audience and distribution strategy
- any web metrics or sales figures for previous interactive projects

How will applications be assessed?

Your application will be competitively assessed and a decision made as to whether and to what level it receives support against the following criteria:

- The strength and distinctiveness of the project and the submitted materials, relative to others seeking development support in a competitive environment with limited funding
- The plans for the use of the funding
- The potential of the project to reach its target audience and its viability in terms of anticipated talent attachments, financing and likely budget relative to market
- The track record of the Key Creative(s), including the financial track record and experience of the applicant and any Key Creatives
- The potential of the project to contribute to a robust screen industry and boost employment and business development in South Australia

If your application is not successful the project may be resubmitted if substantially reworked based on agency and/or industry feedback.

What conditions apply?

Additional funding information and conditions:

- funds are made available as a development grant
- if the project proceeds to production with the SAFC attached this development grant will form part of the SAFC overall contribution to the production funding
- if the project proceeds to production without the SAFC attached this development grant will be repayable
- 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 project
- other funding terms will be set out in the relevant contract issued by the SAFC

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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 Funding Support Officer at the SAFC on 08 8394 2029 or SAFC.Programs@safilm.com.au

The fine print

As with all South Australian Film Corporation programs, these guidelines take precedence but must also be read in conjunction with the South Australian Film Corporation General Guidelines & Terms of Trade and relevant application form. 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