

GUIDELINES

Screen Production Fund



South Australian **Film Corporation**

The Screen Production Fund supports the production of outstanding scripted and unscripted content for any screen that generates significant economic outcomes for the South Australian screen industry.

Projects funded under this scheme are expected to be substantially produced and post-produced in South Australia.

The SAFC will prioritise projects that include:

- the commercialisation of South Australian owned Intellectual Property (IP)
- increased investment into South Australian businesses
- increased exports of South Australian owned IP
- the employment of South Australian key creatives, department Heads, cast and crew
- South Australian screen businesses including screen service and post-production companies

What is on offer?

The Screen Production Fund supports the production of film, television, online and virtual reality (VR) projects.

Projects must be for commercial release via theatrical, broadcast, or major digital content platform.

Producers may receive **up to 10%** of Qualifying South Australian Expenditure. Approval is subject to available funds.

SAFC investment is in the form of a non-recoupable grant. The SAFC considers this grant as 'assigned equity' to the SA producer.

Who is eligible?

The applicant must:

- read the SAFC Terms of Trade
- be able to prove that they own or control the necessary rights to produce the project; and
- have a confirmed marketplace agreement from a recognised distributor or exhibition platform.

The SAFC prioritises applications from South Australian resident producers or South Australian production companies.

Non-SA production companies must partner with a South Australian producer or co-producer. The partnership must be a genuine co-production* arrangement.

*A partnership is a genuine co-production when the SA company receives a share in the following revenue streams:

- Producer's share of copyright
- Producer fees
- Overheads
- Producer offset margin
- Producer recoupment position from offset and other producer sourced funding
- Producer's equity

What projects are eligible?

The following projects are eligible for funding under this scheme:

- narrative-driven drama and documentary stand-alone or series; both live action and animation; and
- narrative-driven immersive which do not contain gamification elements.

Projects must have market attachment from a:

- recognised distributor or,
- recognised exhibition platform (e.g., a broadcaster, exhibitor, or major online content provider)

Projects are expected to have:

- marketplace investment and the rest of the finance plan confirmed; and
- a plan for domestic and international commercial release to a significant and demonstrable screen audience

Post-Production

Producers that spend over \$250,000 in South Australia on post-production, digital and visual effects must apply for the SA PDV Rebate for this part of their budget.

If applying for SA PDV Rebate the Qualifying South Australian Expenditure for post-production must be separate from the total Qualifying South Australian Expenditure and cannot be counted twice.

Producers spending under the threshold for the SA PDV Rebate may apply for post-production funding through the Screen Production Fund but must meet all evaluation criteria including having market attachment. Please see SA PDV Rebate guidelines for eligibility criteria [here](#).



Which projects are ineligible?

- Projects without confirmed market attachment.
- Short films, games and formats ineligible under SAFC Terms of Trade.
- Projects that have been declined twice for funding from this program.
- Projects seeking completion or post-production funding without market attachment.
- Retrospective funding. Projects cannot have commenced pre-production before the SAFC decision date. (Documentary projects that have shot some time critical elements may still be eligible to apply).

All applicants must contact the SAFC Production Executive before applying.

Evaluation Criteria

The Screen Production Fund intends to support a pipeline of screen production in South Australia. Projects which are scheduled to deliver production activity across available calendar weeks will be highly regarded.

- SAFC will take the following criteria into account when considering which applications best achieve this purpose: **South Australian-owned Intellectual Property:** the extent to which the project commercialises South Australian owned IP and generates inward investment and export revenue for South Australian-owned screen businesses.
- **South Australian Employment:** the likely employment of South Australian above the line creatives, the number of South Australian Heads of Department, the number of South Australian cast and crew (equivalent FTE) and the engagement of South Australian screen service companies including post-production companies. South Australian Professional Crew and Service Companies can be found by visiting the [Crew and Services Directory](#)
- **South Australian Expenditure:** the level of Qualifying South Australian Production Expenditure likely to be incurred and the ratio of that to the requested contribution from the SAFC. Details of qualifying South Australian Expenditure can be found [here](#).
- **Creative Team:** (i) Creative Team: (i) The track record and the relevant skills of the writer, director and producer. (ii) The ability of the team to launch an exciting new South Australian talent. (iii) the ability of the team to deliver the project.

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- **Market Strength:** The strength of any attached market commitment.
 - **Audience:** The project's potential to reach its audience in relation to: (i) the team's understanding of the film's audience. (ii) The attached cast. (iii) The quality of any proposed above-the-line creatives and Heads of Department. (iv) The commerciality of the project.
 - **Viability:** The likelihood that the project can be realised with reference to: (i) its budget size relative to its intentions. (ii) Its proposed schedule. (iii) Its finance plan and the strength, the quality and status of the deals in it. (iv) The likelihood of securing the proposed talent within budget and schedule. (v) The track record of the producing team and their advisors.
 - **Story & Script:** In relation to: (i) the quality of the writing and screen storytelling. (ii) The strength and distinctiveness of the idea within its own genre. (iii) The readiness of the script to move into production. For un-scripted works, a story treatment can be submitted instead of a script.
 - **Diversity and Inclusion:** (i) The authenticity of voices and representation. (ii) The diversity of the key creative team. (iii) The opportunities for career progression for practitioners from underrepresented groups. (iv) How the project will advance the targets set out in the SAFC's 10-year Diversity & Inclusion Strategy.

SAFC Diversity & Inclusion Strategy (2022-2032)

Applicants will be required to articulate how their project will advance the progression of the SAFC's [Diversity & Inclusion Strategy](#). This can be achieved by considering the following:

- *Opportunities* – How will the project provide opportunities for diverse South Australian film makers?
- *Skilling* – What skills will diverse South Australian film makers gain from their involvement? SAFC expects that career escalation opportunities will result in ongoing career pathways;
- *Networks* – How will the project connect diverse film makers with mentors?
- *Resources* – How is the production resourced to support diverse South Australian practitioners? Will work plans change in response to including diverse practitioners?
- *Access* – What barriers impact access for diverse South Australian practitioners?

In evaluating the project, the SAFC will consider any information and weight criteria as it judges appropriate to best serve the SAFC's strategic objectives.

The SAFC may contact any party that is identified in the application. The SAFC may discuss their involvement in the project unless the applicant requests otherwise.

Further Support

SA Revolving Loan Facility

The SA Revolving Loan Facility is a financing facility administered by the SAFC. Through the SA Revolving Loan Facility, the SAFC provides secured loans to finance South Australian production.

Generally, there are two types of loans available under this scheme:

- Producer Offset Loans to cash flow the Producer Offset for eligible Australian productions;
- Distribution Guarantee / License Fee Loans to cash flow distribution guarantees or license fees from reputable distributors and broadcasters.

For more information please see the [Revolving Loan Facility Guidelines](#).

Further Requirements

Professional Crew Attachments

Projects seeking SAFC Production Funding must engage South Australian Professional Crew Attachments. The number of attachments required relates to the level of SAFC production grant funding the project receives:

- Over \$150,000 productions must budget for one paid attachment;
- Over \$300,000 productions must budget for two paid attachments;

Applicants must budget for any attachments at the time of application. The cost for attachments must be detailed as a separate line in the budget against the proposed role. Funds for attachments are to be drawn from the SAFC production grant.

Applicants must consult with the SAFC to ensure the attachment addresses industry needs.

The SAFC will advertise attachment opportunities through a public callout process before pre-production. Callouts require a three-week turnaround time.

Professional Crew Attachments **cannot substitute a paid crew role** on any production.

For more information, please see the [Professional Crew Attachment Guidelines](#)

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Targeted Diversity Attachments

The SAFC commits to the increased participation of diverse film makers in the South Australian screen industry. These include female and female-identifying, First Nations, Deaf and disabled practitioners, practitioners from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, practitioners from LGBTQIA+ communities and practitioners from regional and remote areas.

The Targeted Diversity Attachment scheme facilitates paid on-set experience for diverse crew.

SAFC will fund up to three Targeted Diversity Attachments per financial year. These attachments are for emerging crew to gain general experience and cannot substitute a paid crew role.

Production companies that would like to take on a Targeted Diversity Attachment should speak with the SAFC before applying for Production Funding.

For more information, please see the [Targeted Diversity Attachment Guidelines](#).

How do I apply?

Before applying, all applicants must read the SAFC's Terms of Trade and speak to the SAFC Production Executive.

Applications for the Screen Production Fund are open all year round. Applications are approved by the SAFC Board. The SAFC must receive applications no later than six weeks before a Board Meeting. Late applications will not be accepted.

Please note that SAFC Board dates may be subject to change at the SAFC's discretion. Applicants should check the [SAFC website for latest Board dates and deadlines](#).

Submit your application online at <https://safilm.smartygrants.com.au/>

Application Materials

- ASIC Current Company Extract for the Production Company applying
- ASIC Current Company Extract for the SPV if formed
- Chain of Title Documents
- Finance Plan (Screen Australia template)
- Offset Cashflow Offer
- Provisional Certificate or intended date of application

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- Evidence of market attachment that specifies the commercial terms and level of financial commitment (dated no earlier than six months from application)
 - Evidence of all funding as per the finance plan
 - Distribution Agreements in place
 - Completion Bond Offer
 - Production Budget (Including separate column breakdown of Qualifying South Australian Expenditure)
 - If applying for SA PDV Rebate, separate breakdown of Qualifying South Australian Expenditure for post-production
 - Production Schedule
 - Sales Estimates and a narrative statement demonstrating the potential returns
 - Proposed Crew and Cast List indicating South Australian residents
 - COVID Risk Mitigation Plan
 - Relevant Creative Materials- Script/Series Bible/Treatment
 - Filmography for All Key Creatives
 - Relevant supporting materials for consideration of Diversity and Inclusion

Working with First Nations content and communities

The [SAFC Cultural Protocols document](#) provides a foundation for ethical conduct towards First Nations people on a screen project.

Applications involving First Nations material should include appropriate permission from the relevant community. For projects with significant First Nations content, SAFC will require the attachment of a First Nations key creative on the team.

The SAFC recommends that applicants refer to the guidelines developed by Screen Australia entitled "[A Guide to Protocols for Screen based Practitioners working with Indigenous Content and Indigenous Communities](#)".

This guide intends to provide practical advice about the ethical and legal issues involved with the transfer of First Nations cultural material to the screen.

Where can I find out more?

Read the:

- [SAFC Terms of Trade](#)
- [Qualifying South Australian Expenditure](#) – no more than 50% of contingency can be apportioned to South Australian spend when calculating the production spend

For further details of how to calculate QAPE see:

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

All applicants must contact the Production and Development team prior to application at

programs@safilm.com.au

Access and Inclusion

The SAFC recognises that barriers may prevent diverse film makers from accessing our programs.

For a confidential discussion about your individual circumstances and/or access needs, please contact the Production and Development Team at programs@safilm.com.au or 08 8394 2029 or via the National Relay Service.