



**Fís Éireann
Screen Ireland**

Development Funding GUIDELINES

Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland (Screen Ireland) provides the development loans to assist with the development of projects through the following schemes:

LOAN	LEVEL OF FUNDING AVAILABLE	WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY	ELIGIBLE PROJECTS
Feature Film Development	Up to a maximum of €50,000 Up to a maximum of €100,000 where matching development funding is in place	Teams of Irish Producer(s), Writer(s) and Director(s) (if applicable)	Live Action or Animated Feature Films
Additional Feature Film Development	Up to a maximum of €50,000 Up to a maximum of €100,000 where matching development funding is in place	Teams of Irish Producer(s), Writer(s) and Director(s) (if applicable)	Live Action or Animated Feature Films
Animation Development	Up to €20,000 only for animated TV Series or animated single	Teams of Irish Producer(s), Writer(s) and Director(s) (if applicable)	Animated TV series or single
Documentary Development	Up to a maximum of €15,000	Teams of Irish Producer(s), Director(s) and Writer(s) (if applicable)	Cinematic Feature Length Documentaries
TV Drama Development	Up to a maximum of €50,000 Up to a maximum of €100,000 where matching development funding is in place	Teams Irish Producer(s), Writer(s), and Director(s) (if applicable)	TV Drama Series
Screenplay Development	Up to €12,000 for an individual Up to €16,000 for two or more individuals	Individual Writers, Writer/Directors, Teams of Writers, Team of Writer(s) and Director(s) with a produced feature film or TV Drama writing credit No production companies and/or producers may apply	Live Action or Animated Feature Films

2021 Application Deadlines

The following are the deadlines for receipt of development funding applications in 2021.

- **Friday 26th February** (includes TV Drama Development)
- **Friday 30th April** (excludes TV Drama Development)
- **Wednesday 30th June** (includes TV Drama Development)
- **Tuesday 31st August** (excludes TV Drama Development)
- **Friday 29th October** (includes TV Drama Development)
- **Friday 10th December** (excludes TV Drama Development)

Prior consultation with a member of the Production & Development team is NOT required in order to make an application for development funding.

The application portal will close at 1pm on the day of the deadline. No incomplete or late applications will be accepted. Decisions will generally be reached within 12 weeks of the submission deadline.

Development Funding Application Process

Prior to making an application, it is critical that applicants familiarise themselves with the following sections of the website:

1. [Principles & Criteria](#)
2. [Regulations & Limits](#)
3. [Frequently Asked Questions Section](#)

Please follow the link to the [Online Application System](#) from the Screen Ireland website and follow the instructions. Should you encounter any issues, please consult the [Technical FAQ Section](#). If you wish to make an application for funding by post, please contact 091 561 398 for the relevant application form (please note that Screen Ireland is not in a position to return hard copies of applications submitted).

Any submissions deemed to be incomplete, ill prepared, late or poorly executed will not be accepted. Additional material received after the application deadline will not be accepted and will not be taken into account in considering the application, unless such additional material has been specifically requested by a Project Manager.

Screen Ireland will only consider a project submitted to each funding programme twice. If an application is unsuccessful following a second submission, it is no longer eligible for that funding programme. If you are planning to make a re-application on behalf of a project that has previously been refused development funding by Screen Ireland, you must contact the Production & Development Coordinator to secure an agreement for the re-application. Agreement is likely to be forthcoming only if the project has materially changed since the last submission.

Development Funding Application Guide

Each Development funding scheme has specific requirements that must be referred to throughout all stages of the application process. Please see the criteria for each Development scheme here:

- [Feature Film Development](#)
- [Additional Feature Film Development](#)
- [Animation Development](#)
- [Documentary Development](#)
- [TV Drama Development](#)
- [Screenplay Development \(Established Talent\)](#)

- A treatment or series bible should reflect the full narrative/dramatic action of the proposed film or series from beginning to end. This should clearly convey theme, tone, genre and a sense of character and plot development. This also applies to the treatment or series bible submitted for Documentary Development, Animation Development, and TV Drama Development.
- Proposals based on existing source material, such as plays or novels, are required to go beyond plot summaries and will need to provide a clear indication of the strategy for adaptation. Where this essential element of an application is scant or lacking in the required detail, applications are unlikely to be successful.
- The Writers and Directors Notes on further development are an opportunity to pitch the project and explain the creative vision while identifying key areas requiring further interrogation during the next stage of development.
- The Producers Notes on development should outline the planned approach for developing the project both editorially and practically, identifying key areas requiring attention during the next stage of development, the proposed scale, audience and potential market for the project.
- Please ensure that the revised [Development Budget template](#) is used with all applications. The stage of funding that is being applied for must be clearly marked on the budget. It is essential to clearly indicate what Screen Ireland funding will be used for during the Development process. Screen Ireland will only cover the cost of the Irish creative elements. No retrospective costs will be covered.
- Production companies are required to show that they have acquired or can acquire the necessary rights in the project. An option agreement, writer's agreement or screenplay agreement or signed deal memo which clearly outline the terms (including agreed fees) are acceptable for the purposes of a submission. If funding is awarded, executed long form agreements will be required.

Development Funding Assessment Process

Projects submitted to all development schemes will be assessed by members of the Production, Development & Distribution Team made up of the Project Managers along with the Distribution Manager, Development Executive, Production & Development Coordinator, Business Affairs Manager, Business Affairs Development Coordinator and chaired by the Chief Executive and/or Deputy Chief Executive.

Up to two reports from external readers will be obtained during the assessment process (this does not include applications for documentary development). This report(s) will be available to applicants after the decision making process is completed. Screen Ireland is not in a position to provide individual feedback on unsuccessful projects beyond this report(s).

If a project receives a deferred decision letter, it is the applicant's responsibility to follow up within three months to discuss the project further with the relevant Project Managers. If an applicant does not follow up the project will be expired, and a re-application will be required.

Funding decisions for development funding of up to €50,000 are made at a Project Group meeting and are ratified by the Screen Ireland Board at the following board meeting. Funding decisions for development funding of over €50,000 will be made by the Screen Ireland Board at the following board meeting, on foot of recommendations from the Production, Development & Distribution Team.

Development Funding Conditions

- ❑ Development funding is provided in the form of loans which are repayable on the first day of principal photography of the developed project. Screen Ireland development awards do not carry interest, no premium is charged at the time of repayment, and Screen Ireland does not receive a profit share in return for its development funding.
- ❑ Screen Ireland will not fund retrospective development costs.
- ❑ Unless otherwise agreed, copyright in the funded screenplay remains with the writer(s) or producer. Screen Ireland may require a share of copyright in the project.
- ❑ **Chain of Title:** It is the responsibility of the Producer to ensure that clear chain of title documentation (option agreement, writer's agreement, directors agreement and a co-development agreement (if applicable) is in place and meets Screen Ireland's minimum contractual requirements. Screen Ireland cannot and will not provide funding to projects without this essential paperwork.
- ❑ **Co-Development:** In cases where production companies wish to seek support for projects that fall within co-development agreements with international producers, funding can only be requested to cover the cost of the Irish creative elements. The priority of Screen Ireland is to support the development of Irish creative talent and stories and this will be reflected in decisions taken. Within a co-development arrangement, there must be a clear share of copyright between the parties (including the applicant) and Screen Ireland will usually require match funding from a co-producer or third party.
- ❑ Screen Ireland development funding can only ever be a contribution towards the development costs of a project and generally Screen Ireland is not in a position to cover all development costs. It is the responsibility of the Producer to negotiate professional rates with talent reflecting the industry experience and produced credits of the talent they wish to engage. The approved [development budget template](#) should be utilised with all submissions.

Development Funding Contracting Process

Following an award of funding to a project by Screen Ireland, development will proceed in agreed stages, with the Business Affairs Manager and Business Affairs Coordinator empowered to authorise cash tranche funding as required, or to cut off funding if they (after consultation with Screen Ireland colleagues) concludes that the project have ceased to make useful progress.

The following paperwork will be required for all projects in receipt of a **Screenplay Development** or **Spotlight Development Loan**:

- ❑ Up to date Tax Clearance details for the applicant(s)
- ❑ Agreement(s) in relation to underlying rights (as applicable)
- ❑ Invoice: the applicant(s) must invoice Screen Ireland for each stage of funding drawn down

The following paperwork will be required for all projects in receipt of **Project Development, Animation Development, TV Drama Development** and **Documentary Development Loans**:

- Company constitutional documentation of the production company.
- Up to date Tax Clearance details for the production company.
- Agreements in relation to underlying rights (as applicable) such as an option agreement, screenwriter agreement and/or director development agreements (see Screen Ireland minimum contractual requirements downloadable from this page).
- Bank No Set-off Letter: a project-specific bank account must be opened by the producer and evidence of the account supplied to Screen Ireland in a letter, the form of which can be obtained by emailing the Business Affairs Coordinator.
- Producer Inducement Letter: the producer must assure Screen Ireland that s/he will develop the project in question, in a letter the form of which can be supplied by the Business Affairs Coordinator.
- Development Budget with any revisions made as agreed in discussion with the development team of Screen Ireland.
- Invoice: the producer must invoice Screen Ireland for each stage of funding drawn down.

Additional Notes:

- Where a production company takes over the development of a project that has previously been the subject of an award of Screen Ireland development funding with another company, the new owner of the rights must enter into a written agreement with Screen Ireland assuming liability for repayment of Screen Ireland's earlier loan(s).
- All producers in receipt of development funding from Screen Ireland in excess of €15,000 will be obliged to provide an audit cert for projects as per the ICAI's M45 technical statement. Funding to cover the cost of this will be provided in the development allocation awarded by Screen Ireland. Further details about this can be obtained from the Business Affairs Coordinator or by consulting the website [here](#).
- All payments made in the development of the project must be made in accordance with the agreed development budget and paid directly from the project specific bank account. Failure to comply will result in a material default of the Screen Ireland contract.
- Please see the section below for Screen Ireland's minimum contractual requirements for all rights agreements.

Screen Ireland Minimum Contract Requirements

Underlying Rights Agreements

- The Producer must be able to demonstrate a clear chain of title including, if required, evidence of receipt of payments for options and option renewals.
- The grant of rights should include a grant of all rental and lending rights and provision for equitable remuneration.
- There must be an irrevocable and unconditional waiver of all moral rights.
- The grant of rights should be exclusive for the full period of copyright. Any reduction in exclusivity must first be approved by the Screen Ireland.
- All documents must be properly executed and in the case of published works must be accompanied by appropriate publishers' releases and authors' certificates in the English and French languages.
- The agreements must be freely assignable to the Screen Ireland.
- There must be a warranty that the contribution is original to them and does not infringe the rights of any third party.

- If any rights are withheld they must be subject to holdbacks approved by the Screen Ireland.
- The grant of rights must include a waiver of injunctive relief for breach by the Producer (or successors in title).
- No agreement can contain any provision which provides for a reversion on breach, bankruptcy or insolvency.
- If the work is a stage play, then Screen Ireland will require a signed deed of quitclaim from the producers of the original stage play.

Writer's Agreement

- The grant of rights should include a grant of all rental and lending rights and provision for equitable remuneration.
- There must be an irrevocable and unconditional waiver of moral rights.
- The agreements must contain a full assignment of copyright throughout the world for the full period of copyright and thereafter in perpetuity.
- All documents must be properly executed and accompanied by authors' certificates in the English and French languages.
- The agreements must be freely assignable to Screen Ireland.
- There must be a warranty that the contribution is original to them and does not infringe the rights of any third party.
- If any rights are withheld they must be subject to holdbacks approved by Screen Ireland.
- The grant of rights must include a waiver of injunctive relief for breach by the Producer (or successors in title).
- No agreement can contain any provision which provides for a reversion on breach, bankruptcy or insolvency.
- The writers must grant all rights to use their names, likenesses and biographies in the advertising, promotion, publicity and exploitation of the Film.

The foregoing list of minimum contractual requirements is not an exhaustive list and Screen Ireland reserves the right to require such additional terms as may be considered necessary.

Production, Development & Distribution Team Contacts

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Declan Dunne	Production & Development Coordinator	Declan.Dunne@screenireland.ie

For further information and any updates on the above, please see **www.screenireland.ie/funding** or contact the Production & Development Coordinator at **Declan.Dunne@screenireland.ie**.