

These guidelines are intended to assist filmmakers in making a submission to Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland's Production's (FÉ/SI) Low Budget Training & Production Scheme for female talent entitled POV.

WHAT IS POV?

In response to the FÉ/SI's commitment to empowering and supporting female creative talent, the POV Low Budget Training & Production Scheme is a filmmaking initiative aimed at female writers and directors. The aim of this training scheme is to support the development and production of low budget feature films, and to enable distinct Irish female voices with a passion to tell stories on the big screen.

In addition to supporting female filmmaking talent, the POV scheme is about creating opportunities for cast and crew. All crew should be given the opportunity to upgrade with the final composition of the crew reflecting a balance between experience and opportunity. A strong gender balance will also be expected across all crew with training and mentorship opportunities also afforded to all involved in the making of the three projects.

POV offers a unique opportunity to help turn your ideas into feature films. In addition to funding the development of up to six projects, each selected team will be offered support by the FÉ/SI appointed POV Executive Producer, access to networking events, as well as mentoring and high-level training with established industry professionals. After an intensive six months development process, up to three projects will be selected for production, with budgets of up to €400,000 per film. The selected films should be ready for production in 2019.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

POV is open to live action fiction feature films that can be produced at the required budget level of €400,000. There is no limitation on the genre, narrative style, content or other elements of the screenplay/story. We are looking for distinctive creative voices and exciting, bold visions, regardless of the type of film. We are interested in stories that will give us a real sense of place; stories that will transcend low production budgets, and engage audiences in Ireland and world-wide.

Stories that move, entertain and challenge.....

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications are invited from Irish (each member must be born or resident in Ireland) producer/director/writer teams (where the producer and director is not the same person) subject to eligibility guidelines as follows:

- **Directors or Writer/Directors (female only)** - must have previously directed at least one live action short film and/or television drama and/or commercials and/or viral-online series. Note that applications from more experienced Directors who are looking to build on their body of work or move into a different space within their filmmaking are very welcome.
- **Writers (female only)** - must have previous writing experience eg. screen, stage, published or online work.
- **Producers (male or female)** - must have previously produced at least one live action short film and/or television drama and/or commercials and/or viral-online series.
- POV is an open scheme in terms of the talent it aims to attract: it is designed to enable the making of films by producers, writers and directors with strong creative voices and an agreed

level of professional experience. Accordingly a short film made as part of college work *will not be considered eligible* in this context, though a graduation film that has achieved significant festival exposure might be. For the avoidance of doubt, a **COMPREHENSIVE CV** should be submitted for each individual attached. Please note biogs will not suffice.

- Projects in receipt FÉ/SI development funding or any other third party development support are not eligible.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years old. Students in full education may not apply.
- An individual can be attached to a maximum of 2 submissions, either with the same or with a different team.
- FÉ/SI can only enter into contract negotiations with an established and tax compliant ROI Company. While this company does not need to be in place at the time of application, it will be a formal requirement for the six projects selected for the initial development phase (Detailed below).
- All pre-production, production and post-production on the three selected films must be carried out in the Republic of Ireland.

HOW TO APPLY?

- The deadline for receipt of application is **1pm on Friday 20th April 2018**.
- Applications should be made through the FÉ/SI online application system only at <http://applications.screenireland.ie/>. **(please note that the system will open for applications in late March)**
- Incomplete (which includes incomplete teams) or late applications will not be accepted.

Your application will need to include:

- Logline (25 words)
- Short synopsis (up to 100 words)
- A treatment/outline of no more than 5000 words (or max 10 A4 pages) which clearly outlines the complete film narrative **and** 25 sample pages of the screenplay for the project or for an existing project that is tonally relevant.
- A writer's statement on the further development of the project (up to 500 words max)
- A director's statement on the development and execution of the project (up to 500 words max)
- A producer's statement on the development, execution of the film outlining in particular the viability of the project at a low budget level and exploitation of the project (up to 1000 words max)
- Link to a relevant examples of work by the director
- CV's for writer (s), director(s) and producer(s)

HOW DO WE SELECT PROJECTS?

Each submission will be assessed based on the:

- quality of the project
- achievability within the restriction of the budget level
- ability and potential of the filmmaking team
- audience and market potential of the project
- potential for training, mentoring and upskilling for all personnel involved (filmmakers, cast and crew)

Independent reader reports will be commissioned from a panel of industry experts to assist with the assessment process. Up to 10 applications will be shortlisted and teams will be invited to interview with the selection panel in **August 2018**.

Up to 6 projects will then be chosen to participate in POV Low Budget Production Scheme. We hope to notify all filmmakers in writing as to the selection panel's decision no later than early September 2018. The selection panel will consist of members of the FÉ/SI's Production,

Development & Distribution team and an independent assessor/POV Executive Producer.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL?

Up to 6 selected teams will be invited to take part in the **Initial Development Programme** and will be awarded development funding of €10,000 per team.

With the main focus on story development, the **Initial Development Programme** will last up to six months, and it will see projects develop from the submitted treatments to first script drafts, including first draft revisions. Each team will agree a bespoke development plan with the POV team to complement the ongoing development work.

At the end of this stage, the scripts delivered by the 6 selected teams will be reviewed, and teams may be invited to pitch their project to the POV panel and to discuss progress made to date.

Following this review, up to 3 teams will be selected to produce their project and invited to enter into further intensive development and pre-production. In addition this phase will offer the filmmakers practical assistance and guidance to ensure their films find audiences and get distributed. This will include building relationships with potential sales agents and distributors, one-to-one mentoring and shadowing opportunities, and high-level workshops and masterclasses. All activities will be tailored to complement the advanced stage of the selected projects, but also to enhance each filmmaker's professional development.

Once cast and crew are confirmed for each of the 3 selected projects, a bespoke training/mentorship plan shall be devised based on the needs of the individuals involved. Crew advancing to HODs positions will be supported through individual mentorship and access to experienced industry professionals. In addition, all cast and crew will have free access to appropriate Screen Training Ireland courses over the following twelve months.

POV Low Budget Production Scheme is a big commitment. We want to work with passionate, ambitious and committed filmmakers who will seize the opportunity provided by the initiative. However, we also realise that people have jobs and families and will do our best to make it work for everyone, no matter what their personal circumstances.

CONDITIONS OF THE PRODUCTION BUDGET

The maximum total above and below the line figure for the budgets of the completed films must be €400,000, including contingency, insurance and all marketing materials and delivery costs. The budget of €400,000 is being underwritten by FÉ/SI but will include the maximum benefit available from Section 481.

- Selected projects will be required to deliver on DCP (2) and DVD as part of their deliverables.
- Outside of Section 481, further/additional finance **may not** be sought for selected projects.
- The cast and crew will work at the agreed rates below and will be provided with training and/or mentorship if necessary.
 - o All cast, including day players, to be offered €150 per day of shooting
 - o All HODs to be offered €150 per day of working on the film, including allowable prep.
 - o All other crew to be offered €120 per day of working on the film, including allowable prep.
 - o Key creative team to be budgeted at a fixed fee €15,000 for each role of writer, director and producer. Where the team is made of two individuals Writer/director and Producer, the individual may mutually agree how to divide the €45,000 available.
 - o As the POV low budget training production scheme is about creating opportunities, all crew should be given the opportunity to upgrade and the final composition of the crew should have a balance between experience and opportunity. A strong gender balance will also be expected across all crew.

- Recoupment pools to be 20% for cast, 20% for crew, 20% filmmakers to be allocated as they decide, 40% to financiers (FÉ/SI proceeds to be ring-fenced for future training initiatives).
- The following fixed line items should be included in the production budget:
 - Contingency 5%
 - Overhead 5%
 - Legal Fees €10,000
 - Finance & Audit Fees €10,000

FEEDBACK

Due to the high volume of submissions that we expect to receive, we regret that we are unable to give individual feedback on submissions outside of the independent readers report commissioned for each project. Places will be strictly limited and the decision of FÉ/SI is final.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- For any further information, please contact Jennifer Smyth at jennifer.smyth@screenireland.ie.