



Fís Éireann
Screen Ireland

Production Funding GUIDELINES

Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland (Screen Ireland) provides production loans to assist with the production of projects through the following schemes. Please refer to the Screen Ireland website for particular information on each scheme:

SCHEME	LEVEL OF FUNDING AVAILABLE	WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY	ELIGIBLE PROJECTS
Fiction: Irish Production * <i>*Eligible for enhanced production funding for female talent</i>	Screen Ireland can provide up to 65% of the Budget in line with the Irish Creative Expenditure Guidelines with the following conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. For projects with budgets of not more than €1.5 million, Screen Ireland can provide up to 65% of the budget with a maximum of €650,0002. For projects with budgets of more than €1.5 million and not more than €2 million, Screen Ireland can provide up to 65% of the budget, with a maximum of €700,0003. For projects with budgets of more than €2 million and not more than €3 million, Screen Ireland can provide up to 65% of the budget, with a maximum of €750,0004. For projects with budgets of more than €3 million and not more than €5 million, Screen Ireland can provide up to 65% of the budget, with a maximum of €800,0005. For projects with budgets of more than €5 million, Screen Ireland can provide a maximum of €900,000	Teams of Irish Producer(s), Writer(s) and Director(s)	Live Action or Animated Feature Films

	LEVEL OF FUNDING AVAILABLE	WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY	ELIGIBLE PROJECTS
Fiction: Creative Co-Production	1.5:1 spend ratio in line with Admissible Irish Expenditure. Screen Ireland can provide a maximum of €350,000 per project	Teams of Producer(s), Writer(s) and Director(s) (where the Irish producer is the minority co-producer)	Live Action or Animated Feature Films
TV Drama Production	Up to €600,000	Teams of Irish Producer(s), Director(s), and Writer(s)	Live Action TV Drama Series
Animation TV Production	Up to €350,000	Teams of Irish Producer(s), Writer(s) and Director(s)	Animated TV series
Documentary Production * <i>*Eligible for enhanced production funding for female talent</i>	Up to 65% of the budget with Screen Ireland investment unlikely to exceed €150,000 per project	Teams of Irish Producer(s), Directors(s) and Writer(s)	Cinematic Feature Length Documentaries
Completion	Up to €50,000 for a live action or animated feature length film Up to €15,000 for a feature length documentary film	Teams of Irish Producer(s), Director(s) and Writer(s)	Live Action, Animated or Documentary Feature Films

For projects with budgets of up to €100,000, Screen Ireland can fully finance the production subject to any crew being paid the minimum wage and the repayment of any Screen Ireland development funding. Applications for these projects may be submitted under the Irish Production and Documentary Production schemes if they meet all criteria outlined in the guidelines.

*For detailed information on the enhanced production funding available for **Female Talent** within both the Fiction: Irish Production and the Documentary Production schemes, applicants should consult the [Screen Ireland Guidance Note](#).

Applicants should be thoroughly aware of the regulations and limits that govern the amount of funding Screen Ireland can provide to a project. These can be found on the [Regulations & Limits](#) section of the website. Applicants should note that in light of the pressure on Screen Ireland resources, awards considerably less than the maximum amounts available are more likely to be offered. Applicants should also note, for Irish Production applications where the writer(s) or director(s) are not Irish, any funding awarded will be significantly less than the numbers for Irish Production listed above.

Production 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.

If the project is already in development with Screen Ireland, please contact the relevant Project Manager to discuss making an application. For new projects, prior consultation with a member of the Production & Development team is NOT required in order to make an application for production funding. Screen Ireland Distribution Manager, Emma Scott, must be consulted prior to making an application for Distribution Support or Direct Distribution funding.

The following are deadlines for receipt of production and distribution funding applications in 2021.
All applications must be submitted before 1pm on the day of the deadline.

- **Friday 12th February**
- **Friday 16th April**
- **Friday 11th June**
- **Friday 13th August**
- **Friday 15th October**
- **Friday 10th December**

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. Decisions will generally be reached within 8-10 weeks of the submission deadline. The relevant personnel are:

Fiction: Irish Production	Celine Haddad, Dearbhla Regan, Lesley McKimm
Fiction: Creative Co-Production	Celine Haddad, Dearbhla Regan, Lesley McKimm
Documentary Production	Celine Haddad, Dearbhla Regan, Lesley McKimm
Completion	Celine Haddad, Dearbhla Regan, Lesley McKimm
TV Drama Production	Andrew Byrne
Animation TV Production	Andrew Byrne
Distribution	Emma Scott

Production Funding Assessment Process

A project will be considered for production funding by Screen Ireland only if:

- The application is made by a bona fide Irish tax compliant producer with a production company established in the Republic of Ireland
- The production company can show that it makes an ongoing significant contribution to the culture and development of the Film and TV industry in the Republic of Ireland
- There is a Director committed to making the film.

Applications will be assessed by members of the Project Group utilising Screen Ireland Principles & Criteria at a funding meeting comprising of all members of the Screen Ireland Production, Development & Distribution team, members of the Legal & Business Affairs team and, on an ad hoc basis, consultants drawn from a small pool of non-Screen Ireland professionals retained for their specific skills. The decisions taken by the Project Group will be expressed as recommendations to the Board of Screen Ireland and will then require endorsement by the Board of Screen Ireland to give effect and thereafter be communicated to Applicants.

Following a negative decision by the Board, a project may be re-submitted to Screen Ireland only if significant, material changes have been made to the package (i.e. to the screenplay, to key creative elements such as casting, or to the production cost). Screen Ireland will only consider a project submitted to a funding programme twice – if an application is unsuccessful following a second submission, it is no longer eligible within that funding programme.

Production Funding Options

If an application is awarded funding by Screen Ireland, applicants may receive one of two offers as follows:

1. A **Provisional Offer of Commitment** (with no amount dictated) of production funding available for a six-month period only with no extensions.
2. A **Quantified** award of production funding available for six-month period only. A **single** extension of three months may be available only if strong material evidence of the advancement towards contracting is presented. Applicants must contact their Project Manager at least two weeks before the project expiry date to request an extension. If a Project Manager is not consulted before the expiry date the offer will automatically lapse and the applicant will be expected to re-apply via the online application system.

All offers are subject to the availability of Screen Ireland funding. Due to the pressure on Screen Ireland funding, the duration and terms of offers are non-negotiable.

Production Funding Conditions

- A. Funding is provided in the form of limited-recourse loans recoverable from a share of revenues from the exploitation of the project and also entitling Screen Ireland to a share of net profits.
- B. In making funding available, Screen Ireland pays close attention to the previous work of all individuals involved (including producers, co-financiers, sales agents and distributors) taking into account their creative abilities in audio-visual media as well as their professional

competence and reliability. Screen Ireland production funding is generally provided during production in accordance with an agreed cashflow. Before starting to fund, Screen Ireland will need to be satisfied that all other providers of finance to the production are contracted and securely committed, and that the amount of finance available is sufficient to cover the entire budget.

- C. On all productions with a global production budget in excess of three (3) million euro it is a strict requirement of Screen Ireland that an approved completion guarantor has been engaged in relation to the production where Screen Ireland's funding is to be made available during production.
- D. The appointment of an approved collection agent is a normal requirement of Screen Ireland.
- E. Screen Ireland funding may only be incurred on Irish costs (see guidelines on Admissible Irish Creative Expenditure below).
- F. Screen Ireland contractually requires that all rights relating to a project (especially a documentary) be cleared worldwide and in perpetuity across all media. This includes rights in all underlying materials, performers, music, archive footage etc.
- G. All projects in receipt of funding must be eligible for Errors & Omissions insurance and have an allowance for this within the submitted production budget.
- H. All projects in receipt of Screen Ireland funding must provide and allow for a **contingency of 10%** of the submitted production budget. Exceptions may be made in relation to documentaries on a case-by-case basis.
- I. Screen Ireland will require viable theatrical windows for all projects especially those involving Broadcaster support. In the case of documentaries, Screen Ireland requires a minimum **twelve-month** theatrical window from the date of first festival screening. In the case of feature films, Screen Ireland requires a **twenty-four-month** theatrical window from the date of the first theatrical screening.
- J. Projects supported by Screen Ireland Creative Co-production funding must be approved as official co-productions under a bilateral treaty or the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production. Where in exceptional cases Screen Ireland agrees to waive this requirement, the project must still be structured as a bona fide co-production in which ownership, rights and revenues are shared among the co-producers. Screen Ireland will not waive the requirement for official status in respect of co-productions with the UK and as a result Screen Ireland cannot become involved in projects which have EIS or SEIS funding as part of their financing.
- K. In relation to Animation TV Production, the maximum amount available is predicated upon the production of the maximum number of standard episodes in a series (e.g. 52 x 11'). Where a fewer number of episodes are proposed, Screen Ireland investment is likely to reflect this.
- L. Each company will have to provide to Screen Ireland as part of their conditions precedent a corporate (i) health and safety policy, (ii) COVID-19 Response Protocols, (iii) Screen Ireland Risk Assessment Form, (iv) dignity in the workplace policy, (v) grievance procedures, (vi) child protection policy, (vii) diversity and inclusion policy.

Any individual found in breach of their contractual obligations to Screen Ireland is not in a position to sign the Declaration of Compliance requirement when submitting an application. Screen Ireland will impose strict sanctions on any individual found in default of a contract which may involve precluding them from making any further funding applications to Screen Ireland for a designated period of time and reducing or cancelling any outstanding payments owing on a project.

Production Funding Admissible Irish Creative Expenditure Guidelines

A fundamental principle of Screen Ireland funding for production is that the entire amount invested by Screen Ireland in a project must be spent on Irish personnel, goods and services. Where only part of the production of a project will take place in the Republic of Ireland, producers should be aware that the amount of funding requested from Screen Ireland may be limited by the amount of such Irish creative expenditure to be incurred.

In relation to the amount of investment to be sought from Screen Ireland for a project and the amount of admissible Irish creative expenditure to be incurred, **Screen Ireland requires a 1.5:1 spend ratio on its investment.**

The definition of admissible Irish creative expenditure governing the level of Screen Ireland funding in a project is different from the definition of eligible Irish expenditure under the Section 481 tax incentive provisions. Screen Ireland currently regards the following as "Admissible Irish Creative Expenditure" for the purposes of its own investment:

- Fees and salaries paid to Irish persons working in the Republic of Ireland or abroad
- Per diems paid to any persons while working in the Republic of Ireland
- Expenditure on goods and services purchased in the Republic of Ireland

Please note that the following costs are *not eligible* as Admissible Irish Creative Expenditure:

- Travel costs of non-Irish persons unless travelling to/from Ireland in order to carry out work in Ireland
- Payments for insurances, including completion bond
- Payments for rights clearances in respect of music, literary work, archive material, etc.
- Financing costs

In the case of Ireland/UK Co-Productions where the production is taking place in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, as part of its considerations in relation to Screen Ireland funding, Screen Ireland may take into account the ratio of Section 481 and UK tax credit expenditure in relation to the project.

With regard to development costs, these will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Payments to Irish persons (e.g. screenwriters) will clearly be admissible; other costs will be assessed taking account of the nationality of the producer primarily responsible for development and, in some cases, the provenance of development finance.

The above conditions on Admissible Irish Creative Expenditure are applicable to Fiction: Irish Production, Fiction: Creative Co-Production and Animation TV Production. It is likely to apply particularly to projects structured as minority Irish co-productions and eligible for Fiction: Creative Co-production funding. They may also be relevant to animation feature films (typically made as multi-country co-productions) and to Fiction: Irish Production projects where little or no shooting takes place in Ireland.



Please note that Screen Ireland Guidelines on Admissible Irish Creative Expenditure are subject to a periodic review.

Production Funding Policy on Marketing Materials

Production budgets for projects submitted for funding must contain line items adequate to cover the production of good quality marketing materials for your film. Micro budget films with production budgets of €100,000 or less are exempt from this.

Marketing materials to be produced for delivery to sales agents and distributors must include:

- A wide range of approved cast stills, cleared for use in key art (posters, etc) and for other promotional purposes,
- A wide range of production stills,
- Professionally prepared production notes, to include detailed interviews with director, screenwriter, producer, topline cast and key crew,
- An EPK (Electronic Press Kit), to include scenes from the film cleared for promotional use, interviews with topline cast, and behind-the-scenes footage showing production of the film.
- A publicist should be appointed to oversee the production of these items and assure their delivery. The budget allowances for marketing materials and personnel will be subject to Screen Ireland approval, and Screen Ireland will have the right to approve the appointed publicist, stills photographer and EPK team.
- Screen Ireland should be appropriately credited in any press coverage and on advertising/marketing materials including online databases such as IMDB etc.

Production, Development & Distribution Team Contacts

Desiree Finnegan	Chief Executive	desiree.finnegan@screenireland.ie
Celine Haddad	Project Manager	celine.haddad@screenireland.ie
Lesley McKimm	Project Manager	lesley.mckimm@screenireland.ie
Dearbhla Regan	Project Manager	dearbhla.regan@screenireland.ie
Andrew Byrne	Television Project Manager	andrew.byrne@screenireland.ie
Emma Scott	Production & Distribution Manager	emma.scott@screenireland.ie
Eimear Markey	Development Executive	eimear.markey@screenireland.ie
Declan Dunne	Production & Development Coordinator	Declan.Dunne@screenireland.ie

Please refer to the [Producers Resource Section](#) of the Screen Ireland website for other useful documents and information.

If you require further information that you cannot find on the website, or if anything in these Guidelines is not clear, please contact the Production & Development Coordinator at **Declan.Dunne@screenireland.ie**.