

WRITER PLACEMENTS – NEIGHBOURS

About the opportunity:

Film Victoria and Fremantle are offering three Writer Placement opportunities for early-mid career Victorian writers on the iconic Melbourne-based series, *Neighbours*.

The successful applicants will spend six weeks working in the script department gaining insight into the workings of the department, attending plotting meetings, contributing story ideas and will ultimately be given the opportunity to write a sample script.

Fremantle and Film Victoria strongly encourage writers from traditionally under-represented groups to apply for this opportunity.

Placement structure:

Dates and venues are subject to confirmation of the production schedule.

Each candidate will spend six weeks embedded in the script department:

Week 1: Introduction to the workings of the script department

Week 2: Attend plotting meetings, contribute ideas and take notes

Week 3: Continue to attend regular plotting and scene breakdown meetings and commence sample script based on Week 2 plotting meetings

Week 4 - 5: Continue to attend meetings and work on script, continuing to follow stories as they move towards production

Week 6: Continue to attend meetings and follow stories as they move towards production. Opportunity to receive feedback on sample script.

The successful applicants must be able to undertake the placement full-time for a six week block between June and November 2019.

Important dates:

- / Deadline for applications **4pm Wednesday 3 April 2019**
- / Shortlisted applicants interviewed by Fremantle during the week commencing **6 May 2019**
- / Successful applicants notified by **Wednesday 29 May 2019**
- / Commencement of placement in **June, August or October 2019**, subject to scheduling blocks.

Before applying:

- / Read this information sheet and the [Terms of Trade](#) which set out the core terms on which Film Victoria conducts its business. Terms [underlined in green](#) appear in the [website glossary](#)
- / Read Film Victoria's [Gender & Diversity Statement](#). Film Victoria is committed to promoting and supporting gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness in the Victorian Screen industry.
- / Check your eligibility and review the [online application form](#)
- / Contact the Program Manager with any questions.

Available funding:

- / The grant amount for this opportunity is not intended as a wage or salary replacement, but is intended to offset the cost of undertaking the placement
- / The grant amount for this opportunity is \$6,000
- / The applicant is responsible for meeting any additional costs they may incur.

Eligibility:

The applicant must be [Victorian](#) and a writer who is able to demonstrate **one** of the following within the last **five** years:

- / A writer [credit](#) on at least 30 cumulative minutes of [live action](#), [narrative](#) fiction that has:
 - Been [theatrically released](#), or screened at a major festival; or
 - Been commissioned or [acquired](#) by a [broadcaster](#) or [major online content provider](#); or
 - Received substantial views/following on an online platform
- / A writer [credit](#) on at least two [narrative](#), [live action short](#) films. At least one of these short films needs to have achieved one of the following:
 - Been part of the official selection at a major national or international film festival
 - Been nominated for an award or an award winner at a major national or international film festival
- / Formal engagement to write a [live action](#), [narrative](#) fiction project that has received funding from an Australian screen agency, [broadcaster](#) or production company
- / Selection for one of the following:
 - AWG Pathways Program
 - Writer programs supported under Screen Australia's Gender Matters Brilliant Careers, e.g. Smart for a Girl - ROAR
 - AFTRS Talent Camp
 - Plot Twist – TV/Online Lab
 - Cinespace – Story Lab
- / Shortlisting for a major national or international screenwriting competition including an AWG competition for unproduced screenplays

Applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria listed above, but can demonstrate a substantial body of work in related areas (e.g. playwriting) over the last three years and can demonstrate their writing skills via a writing sample should contact the Program Manager to discuss.

Applicants whose most recent [credit](#) is over five years old, but can provide an explanation for the gap, such as childcare responsibilities, are encouraged to apply.

Assessment process:

Funding is competitive. Applications will be assessed on the applicant's:

- / Level of experience
- / Commitment to pursuing a career in television
- / Objectives for undertaking the placement, including how it will assist their career development and what specific skills they expect to gain from the experience
- / Writing skills and ability as demonstrated by the provided writing sample
- / Film Victoria's overall objectives of diversity and inclusiveness

- / Previous funding to undertake a placement or equivalent program will also be taken into consideration.

Film Victoria will shortlist applications and supply the shortlist to Fremantle for their consideration. The production company may conduct interviews (via phone or video) with their preferred candidates from the shortlist, and will notify Film Victoria of their decision.

Film Victoria will then ratify the selection. Application outcomes will be advised by 29 May 2019.

Successful applicants:

- / Will receive an agreement specifying conditions, including how the grant will be cashflowed and what deliverables are required
- / Will be responsible for making all arrangements to undertake the placement
- / Will be required to enter into a written agreement with the host company.

Contacts:

Initial queries:

Program Services Officer, [Heather Scott](#) 03 9660 3254

Program Manager:

Industry Programs Officer, [Chris Barker](#) 03 9660 3258.