

Originate Guidelines

About this Program

ORIGINATE is a dynamic development and production program designed to support and amplify feature film Writers and Writer/Directors from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds, from start to finish.

Devised in conjunction with internationally acclaimed story developer and facilitator Angeli Macfarlane, the three-stage development program will elevate projects from early-stage concept to low budget production-ready screenplays. After this intensive development period, one project will have the opportunity to have their film financed in conjunction with Film Victoria, SBS, Arenamedia and other partners.

This program is open to people who come from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, are First Peoples of Australia, are living with disability, LGBTQIA+ or are trans and/or gender diverse.

/ **Stage One: Development – Writers Seminar**

- Writers and Writer/Directors will be selected to take part in an online seminar, focusing on the craft of screenwriting for the low budget sector, operating online over three weeks (12 hours total)

/ **Stage Two: Development – Writers Lab**

- Up to six teams will be selected to take part in a *Writers Lab*, which will be comprised of peer to peer sessions, group sessions and one on one development sessions, operating online over one week (5 days, 8 hours per day)

/ **Stage Three: Development – Writers Intensive**

- Up to three teams will be selected to undertake a bespoke program, designed around the individual needs of the project and it will operate online for approximately three months. The *Writers Intensive* will focus on the project's readiness for market, while developing the creative team's skills via mentors / specialist sessions

All three development stages will be run by Angeli Macfarlane, and feature guest speakers.

/ **Final Stage: Production**

- One project from the *Writers Intensive* will be offered the opportunity to produce their screenplay with finance from Film Victoria, SBS and Arenamedia (sales and distribution)

What are we looking for?

- / We are looking for bold and distinct [fiction feature](#) film projects
- / Applications that clearly address the [Assessment Criteria](#)

Who is eligible?

- / Applicants must be an Australian individual or company. View our [Terms of Trade](#) for eligibility requirements

/ **Stage One: Development – Writers Seminar**

- [Victorian](#) Writers and Writer/Directors who identify as one or more of the five following groups:
 - CALD, LGBTQIA+, Gender (female/gender diverse), Living with a Disability or First Peoples of Australia
- Writers and Writer/Directors (each) with no more than one produced fiction feature film credit
- Previous screen credits are not essential

/ **Stage Two: Development – Writers Lab**

- Individuals and teams that have participated in the *Writers Seminar*
- Projects can have a Producer attached provided:
 - Producers have no more than two produced fiction feature film credits
 - Non-Victorian Producers must engage a [Victorian](#) based Producer as part of their above-the-line team
- Projects do not need to have a Producer attached or prior credits to be eligible, however Film Victoria reserves the right to team less experienced practitioners with more experienced personnel
- Projects are expected to be low budget (approximately AUD \$1.5 million)

/ **Stage Three: Development – Writers Intensive**

- Individuals and teams that have participated in the *Writers Seminar* and the *Writers Intensive*

Who is not eligible?

- / Projects with Writers or Writer/Directors (each) who have had more than one fiction feature produced
- / Projects with a Producer who has had more than two fiction features produced

What projects are eligible?

- / [Fiction feature](#) films

What projects are not eligible for this program?

- / [Documentary](#) projects
- / [Series](#), [telemovies](#), [short films](#), short form series, [online](#), [VR](#)

What are the details?

/ **Stage One: Development – Writers Seminar**

- Applications for *Stage One* open on 9 March 2021 and close on **15 April 2021**
- The seminar will operate online, with two, two-hour sessions per week

/ **Stage Two: Development – Writers Lab**

- All participants from the *Writers Seminar* will be invited to apply for the *Writers Lab*
- Applications for *Stage Two* will open on 11 June 2021
- Up to six projects will be selected for the week-long *Writers Lab*
- Lab dates:
 - Daily sessions from 8 November – 12 November 2021
- Successful applicants will deliver final draft screenplays in mid January 2022

/ **Stage Three: Development – Writers Intensive**

- All participants from the *Writers Lab* will be invited to apply for the *Writers Intensive*
- Applicants will be notified about their inclusion in *Stage Three* in early March 2022
- Up to three projects will be selected for participation in a bespoke *Writers Intensive*
- This intensive will be designed around the individual needs of the project and run for approximately three months.
- Participants will be paid a writer's fee.

Who can you talk to about this program?

- / Program Services Officer – [Denise Bohan](#), 03 9660 3261
- / Development Coordinator – [Sarah Pratt](#), 03 9660 3229
- / Manager – Production Investment – [Alicia Brown](#), 03 9660 3223

Application materials:

/ **Stage One: Development – Writers Seminar**

- A completed application form
- A one-page synopsis for the project

/ **Stage Two: Development – Writers Lab**

[Treatment](#) OR draft [screenplay](#)

- A completed application form, including:
 - Next stage development notes:
 - The development notes identify challenges within the current project materials and articulate strategies to address these issues in the next stage/s of development
 - Project notes detailing:
 - The project's development history
 - Key personnel
 - Development steps to be undertaken
 - Market overview

/ **Stage Three: Development – Writers Intensive**

- A completed application form
- Final draft [screenplay](#)

What happens after you apply?

Assessment

- / Your application will be assessed by our Development team for Stage One against the **Assessment Criteria** below
- / Preference is given to all [Victorian](#) teams.

Assessment Criteria for Stage One

/ Story

- The strength and distinctiveness of the narrative, with an emphasis on bold, innovative and fresh storytelling concepts.
- The execution and quality of the submitted materials.

- / Diversity, refer to Film Victoria's [Gender & Diversity Statement](#)

- How robustly the application advances diversity across one or more core areas:
 - CALD, LGBTQIA+, Gender, Living with a Disability or First Peoples of Australia
 - Project leadership and [Key Creatives](#)
- Film Victoria does not currently support projects with significant First Peoples' content without a member of the key creative team coming from an appropriate background.

Assessment Criteria for Stage Two and Stage Three

/ Applications for the *Writers Lab* and the *Writers Intensive* will be assessed by the Development Assessment Panel against the following **Assessment Criteria**:

- Story
 - The strength and distinctiveness of the narrative, with an emphasis on bold storytelling.
 - The execution and quality of the submitted materials.
- Development Plan
 - The degree to which the development plan diagnoses the story challenges in the current material, while also offering strategies to address them in the next phase of development.
- Audience and Budget
 - The applicant's demonstration of a clear pathway to audience appropriate to the project's budget size and financing strategy
- Talent
 - The ability of the individual or team to develop the project.
- Diversity
 - How robustly the application advances diversity across one or more core areas:
 - Meaningful on screen representation of diversity in main protagonists, themes and narratives.
 - Project leadership and [Key Creatives](#)
 - Industry access and opportunities for training/career progression/mentoring.
 - We require applications to deliver on one or more of the core areas listed above and your project will be uncompetitive if it fails to do so.
 - Film Victoria does not currently support projects with significant First Peoples' content without a member of the key creative team coming from an appropriate background.

How long until a decision is made?

/ **Stage One: Development – Writers Seminar**

- Applicants can expect an outcome by 29 April 2021

/ **Stage Two: Development – Writers Lab**

- Applicants can expect an outcome by mid October 2021

/ **Stage Three: Development – Writers Intensive**

- Applicants can expect an outcome by early March 2022

What happens if you are not successful?

/ We will contact you via email to let you know if your application has been unsuccessful

What will help your application?

/ Read these guidelines 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

- / Review the [online application form](#) – make sure you have all required document ready to be submitted with the application
- / Make sure your application speaks to the [Assessment Criteria](#) (set out above)
- / Film Victoria is committed to promoting and supporting gender equality, diversity and accessibility in the Victorian Screen Industry and requires applicants to demonstrate diversity and inclusion in their application. Applicants are encouraged to refer to our [Gender & Diversity Statement](#).
- / Applications are due by 11pm AEDT on the deadline date unless otherwise stated on the program page on Film Victoria’s website. Applications not received by the deadline date will not be accepted, as per our [Terms of Trade](#).

Ready to start your application?

Contact [Sarah Pratt](#), Development Coordinator or [Denise Bohan](#), Program Services Officer to request access to the online application form.