

FAQS: *INCUBATOR* FEATURE SCRIPT INTENSIVE

Who is this program for?

Incubator is intended to provide additional or alternate support and resources to teams as they undertake a new draft of their feature script, with the hope of helping teams advance their projects further, faster. So when assessing projects shortlisted for Feature Film Development, the panel will consider projects and teams which would most benefit from participating in this type of development intensive.

If I am shortlisted for Feature Film Development am I automatically invited to participate in the Incubator? How many projects are chosen to participate?

No, not all shortlisted projects will be invited to the *Incubator*. Again, the panel will consider where each script/team is at in the development process and who would most benefit from this experience. Places for each *Incubator* program will be limited. However, exceptional projects may be considered for future rounds of the *Incubator* if the current program is full.

Do I have to participate in the Incubator in order to receive funding through Feature Film Development?

No. The *Incubator* program is entirely voluntary and receiving funding is not contingent on participating in the program. It is an add-on for certain projects coming through Feature Film Development that teams will be encouraged to participate in, but will not be compulsory.

Can I be invited to Incubator even if I am not successful in receiving Feature Film Development draft to draft funding?

Yes. Given that funding is extremely limited and very competitive, there may be times where a project/team is offered support in the form of the *Incubator* program but is not offered draft-to-draft funding.

If I can't participate in Incubator, or am not eligible to apply for this program, what other fiction development programs do you offer?

Currently we offer funding through our *Development On Demand* (Television and Feature) programs. Full guidelines for these programs can be found on our website. Other opportunities may be available later in 2017/18. Stay up to date by checking our website film.vic.gov.au for announcements. We also encourage you to seek opportunities organised provided local organisations and support networks for independent filmmakers.

What happens during the Incubator Feature Script Intensive?

Each *Incubator* program will be tailored to the needs and concerns of the selected teams/projects.

The program will run for approximately six months, beginning with a short workshop during which teams and program consultants will explore both general development questions and issues relating specifically to each project. Each team will be matched with a suitable consultant who can support them throughout the process.

At the end of the workshop phase, teams will have created a multi-step plan that will be implemented as part of the next stage of development of the project. This might include the generation of short form documents, further outlining, structure mapping or other work that occurs prior to writing the new draft. Upon executing each step, teams will meet again with their *Incubator* consultant to discuss the

progress of the project and implementation of the agreed development plan.

The development plan will be a living document that can be adjusted as the process unfolds but it will offer teams and their consultant a roadmap against which to measure progress and continue to refine the project as it develops. The final phase of the *Incubator* program will be the writing of a new draft of the script.

Who will be involved as consultants for the Incubator?

Consultants will be chosen from external practitioners from who are experienced script developers, as well as Film Victoria staff as appropriate, including the Manager, Fiction Development.

ASSESSMENT

What will the assessment panel be looking for? How can I be competitive?

Assessors will consider all the criteria outlined in the *Feature Film Development* guidelines, such as the quality of the writing, potential of the project to find an audience and its potential in the marketplace. In particular, the panel will be looking for ideas that are distinctive and bold – something that is likely to stand out in the market as being fresh, innovative or simply compelling. Whether it's for a niche or mainstream audience, your feature script will need to offer something special in order to be competitive.

Who is on your assessment panels for Feature Film Development?

Information about our assessment panels and committees will be available on our website.

If I am unsuccessful, can I come in and talk to the panel and appeal?

The panel's decisions are final. Unfortunately due to the volume of applications we are unable to enter into discussions with individuals

Do you provide written feedback on applications?

Due to the high volume of applications we are not able to provide written feedback on projects.

TIMINGS

When is the deadline for the Incubator?

There is no deadline for *Incubator* itself. Projects will be selected through the *Feature Film Development* program, and those deadlines will be published in eNews and on our website.

When does the Incubator take place?

The dates for each instalment of *Incubator Feature Script Intensive* will be set once the participants have been selected and will take into consideration availability of the teams as well as the program's consultants.

How often will the Incubator program run?

At this stage we anticipate running the program 1-2 times per year.

MORE INFORMATION

Where can I find guidelines for this program?

Projects are selected for *Incubator* via our *Feature Film Development* program, the guidelines for which can be found on our website. Your project needs to be shortlisted for *Feature Film Development* in order to be considered for the *Incubator* program.

Who can I speak to in more detail about this program?

For general enquiries about these programs, contact Operations and Programs Officer Sarah Pratt on 9660 3234 or sarah.pratt@film.vic.gov.au