

UK regional funding

Sources of funding from the UK screen agencies

Screen West Midlands

1. Do you have any production funds available to US feature films shooting or posting in the UK?

Screen WM's **Media Production Fund** invests in large-scale projects, including feature films.

Screen WM's **Advantage Development Fund** is aimed at project 'innovation' and towards the development of ideas and projects across all genres and formats.

2. What is the total regional funding available?

Approximately £4m.

3. What is the maximum award to a single production?

As a guideline, the **Media Production Fund** can invest up to £500,000 or 30% of a project's budget (whichever is the lesser) on an equity basis.

The **Advantage Development Fund** can offer up to £50,000 as a repayable loan (once a project goes into production) towards the development of ideas and projects across all genres and formats.

4. What work has to be done in the region for the production to qualify?

For the **Media Production Fund**, applicants can be based outside the UK, but will be expected to demonstrate that a substantial part of the production will take place within the region, and that there is a clear audience and market for the project. Recipients have to fund three trainees from the budget.

The **Advantage Development Fund** can include slate deals with production companies located in the West Midlands. Applications can be made from companies based outside the West Midlands.

5. What are the financial conditions attached to receiving the funding? Is it repayable? If yes, what are the conditions of recoupment?

It's equity, repayable *pro rata pari passu* with other equity.

6. How do filmmakers apply for the fund?

Please check www.screenwm.co.uk for full details. Potential applicants are asked to contact production@screenwm.co.uk in the first instance to outline the broad elements of the project, before a formal application is made.

7. Where do filmmakers find information?

Lee Thomas, Executive Producer, production@screenwm.co.uk or tel: +44 (0)121 265 7120 or Stephen Badham, Production Liaison Manager, stephen.badham@screenwm.co.uk or tel: +44 (0)121 265 7120. Visit the Screen West Midlands website at www.screenwm.co.uk

8. Does the fund have a deadline? Is it valid for only a certain period? Will it be replaced if it does?

There is no deadline to the fund. It is a rolling fund.

9. Can you provide details of US feature films that have received your funding?

None to date.

Wales Screen Commission

1. Do you have any production funds available to US feature films shooting or posting in the UK?

Production and Development lottery funds are available from the Film Agency for Wales wherever they are originated, subject to the project being capable of qualifying as British *and* provided that they are of benefit to key Welsh talent (the involvement of a Welsh born or resident writer, director, producer or co-producer for example).

The **Wales Creative IP Fund** is a gap financier which can accept applications from both inside and outside of the UK for commercial projects which also demonstrate a 'Welsh spend' within the region.

2. What is the total regional funding available?

Production and Development funds: This is subject to annual variation.

The Wales Creative IP Fund: The fund does not invest directly into companies, but is a specific project investment into intellectual property.

3. What is the maximum award to a single production?

Production and Development funds: £200,000.

The Wales Creative IP Fund: The fund has a £12m budget to invest in film, TV, music & new media projects.

4. What work has to be done in the region for the production to qualify?

Production and Development funds: There are no minimum spend requirements. Film Agency for Wales simply looks for British qualification plus Welsh benefit, as indicated above. The project can prep, shoot and post anywhere.

The Wales Creative IP Fund: The fund can invest up to £700,000 in any one production however, the typical investment range would be between £200,000 – £350,000.

5. What are the financial conditions attached to receiving the funding? Is it repayable? If yes, what are the conditions of recoupment?

Production and Development funds: The funding takes the form of an equity investment. Recoupment is negotiated on a project-by-project basis. The Agency takes a practical approach to the needs of commercial financiers, but expects no less favourable position than similar public funding (e.g. as from the UK Film Council's production funds or other UK screen agencies where their funding is from lottery or ERDF [European Regional Development Fund] sources).

The Wales Creative IP Fund: In order to apply to the fund a project must demonstrate:

- 1) that it has secured at least 60% of the total funding for the project;
- 2) that it is a commercial project capable of delivering a financial return to the fund in addition to the original investment amount;
- 3) That the project delivers an economic benefit to Wales through direct industrial spend within the region – the ‘Welsh spend’. As a minimum this must be equal to the amount invested by the fund.

Welsh spend may include the following: payments to all production staff whose primary residence is in Wales; location fees and studio hire; construction & transport costs; all expenditure made to companies in Wales providing production and post-production services, including the hire of personnel, the hire of camera and lighting equipment and provision of production services.

The Wales Creative IP Fund invests on a commercial basis and as such, seeks to recoup its investment together with sharing in any net profits from the production. Applications are analysed both in terms of the creative merits of the production, but primarily in terms of the risk and potential returns. Applicants must also be able to show that their project has a route-to-market, preferably with a distributor or sales agent in place. There are no fixed recoupment conditions other than that the Fund must invest in line with other comparable commercial investors within the project.

6. How do filmmakers apply for the fund?

Production and Development funds: There is a brief application form (seeking information on the team, budget, financing and sales/distribution arrangements) and guidelines available on the Film Agency Wales website www.filmagencywales.com.

The Wales Creative IP Fund: A two-page application form must be completed and returned along with any supporting materials such as script, budget, sales estimates and finance plan.

7. Where do filmmakers find information?

Production and Development funds: www.filmagencywales.com. Film Agency Wales welcomes informal approaches to discuss projects prior to applications.

Enquiries should be directed to their Talent Development Executive, Adam Partridge, adam@filmagencywales.com or tel +44 (0)29 2046 7480.

The Wales Creative IP Fund: www.financewales.co.uk

(Information for Businesses/Wales Creative IP Fund). Filmmakers can contact Rachel Beardsley rachel.beardsley@financewales.co.uk or tel: +44 (0)2920 33 8131.

8. Does the fund have a deadline? Is it valid for only a certain period? Will it be replaced if it does?

Production and Development funds: It is a rolling fund – replenished annually – that can be applied to at any time. Applications for funding in excess of £50,000 are considered by the Board, who meet quarterly. However, where time is of the essence, additional meetings can be called to consider applications.

The Wales Creative IP Fund: There is no deadline to apply to the fund. Applications can be submitted throughout the year.

9. Can you provide details of US feature films that have received your funding?

None to date – the Film Agency for Wales having only recently been established. However, we have a number of projects in development that are considering partnering with US producers.

Northern Ireland Screen

1. Do you have any production funds available to US feature films shooting or posting in the UK?

The **Northern Ireland Screen Fund** is open to production companies based anywhere in the world.

2. What is the total regional funding available?

The fund has an annual budget of £2.2m for feature films and television drama.

3. What is the maximum award to a single production?

£800,000 or 25% of the production budget, whichever is the lower.

4. What work has to be done in the region for the production to qualify?

Northern Ireland Screen looks for at least half of the principal photography to take place in Northern Ireland.

5. What are the financial conditions attached to receiving the funding? Is it repayable? If yes, what are the conditions of recoupment?

The **Northern Ireland Screen Fund** is normally treated as equity however each deal is negotiated on a film by film basis.

6. How do filmmakers apply for the fund?

The application process is normally an initial discussion with Andrew Reid, Head of Production, and if appropriate this is followed by an escorted recce. If these progress well the project is then invited to apply.

7. Where do filmmakers find information?

Information is available from

www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk/page.asp?id=210#production or
Susie Wright susie@northernirelandscreen.co.uk or tel: +44 (28) 9023 2444.

8. Does the fund have a deadline? Is it valid for only a certain period? Will it be replaced if it does?

The fund has no deadlines and will be open until March 2010. Northern Ireland Screen intends to launch its next fund to start in April 2010.

9. Can you provide details of US feature films that have received your funding?

Walden Media/Playtone Productions epic sci-fi adventure *City of Ember* www.cityofember.com (released 10.10.08) was shot in the Belfast's Paint Hall (www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk/page.asp?id=211) in 2007.

Scottish Screen

1. Do you have any production funds available to US feature films shooting or posting in the UK?

Scottish Screen's **Content Production Fund** is available for US feature films planning to shoot in Scotland. The criteria for funding are based on a project's cultural, creative and economic impact, and on its feasibility and market interest. International co-productions are encouraged on the basis that the co-venture is of equal benefit to all parties.

There are other funding strands available for **project development**, an **Express film fund** for innovative projects to raise the profile of individual talent, and a **Pilot fund** for feature pilots.

2. What is the total regional funding available?

Scottish Screen distributes £2.7m of Lottery funding each year.

3. What is the maximum award to a single production?

Up to a value of £500,000.

4. What work has to be done in the region for the production to qualify?

Scottish Screen's investment aims to provide support to projects that are distinctive, high quality and commercially viable. Projects should provide opportunities for Scotland's talent to demonstrate their ability in an international arena.

There will be an agreed amount of work done to benefit Scotland, however this is calculated on a case-by-case basis, and no standard formulas are applied. There are a number of different costs that can be related to the definition of Scottish spend, and these can include Scottish cast, Scottish crew, materials, equipment hire, post-production costs, per diems, legal fees and music composition. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that Scottish Screen's investment will significantly enhance the quality of their project, as well as increase profile and profit from the exploitation of the project.

5. What are the financial conditions attached to receiving the funding? Is it repayable? If yes, what are the conditions of recoupment?

There is a minimum partnership requirement of 75%. Applications should be at an advanced stage of creative and finance packaging but should not have commenced official budgeted prep in the UK. Films with a budget of £1m or above must have an independent guarantee of completion and delivery. Scottish Screen's investment is recouped *pro rata pari passu* with all other investors. Scottish Screen will also share in the financiers' net profit *pro rata pari passu* to the level of their investment.

6. How do filmmakers apply for the fund?

Full details and application forms are available for downloading as a pdf at www.scottishscreen.com/funding Applications can be made at any time.

Applicants should also download and read Scottish Screen's Investment Guidelines as this lists the specific documentation required for each application. For funding applications of less than £50,000 a decision can be made within a four week period. Decisions for amounts over £50,000 will be made within six weeks. Filmmakers should also allow a minimum of six weeks after a successful application for **Content Production funding** for legal and financial closing.

7. Where do filmmakers find information?

All funding information is available on the Scottish Screen website: www.scottishscreen.com/funding If (after reading the guidelines) applicants have any specific questions, they should contact Judy Anderson, Investment Manager on judy.anderson@scottishscreen.com or tel: +44 (0)141 302 1752.

8. Does the fund have a deadline? Is it valid for only a certain period? Will it be replaced if it does?

The **Content Production Fund** is a rolling fund, and applications can be made at any time.

9. Can you provide details of US feature films that have received your funding?

Doomsday (2008) Rogue Pictures/Intrepid Pictures/Crystal Sky.

The Jacket (2005) Mandalay Pictures/Warner Independent Pictures.

