

THE FILM FUND

General information

The Film Fund is the production and development heart of the UK Film Council. We support filmmakers in the UK who are emerging or world class and capable of creating distinctive and entertaining work. We have £15 million a year to invest across the development, production and completion of feature films. Being supported by the UK Film Council means more than just being given funding. It means that your project can be assisted at every step of the journey by our team, who can offer advice and practical help with many aspects of developing and producing your film.

We encourage all filmmakers to apply to us, regardless of previous experience. However, we are only able to make a limited number of investments each year, so competition for funding is extremely high. Approximately 90% of applications will be rejected.

By far the most important factor in selection is the potential creative success of the film.

To this end we welcome applications for all kinds of film – from commercial mainstream to experimental, from genre movies to personal stories, from documentaries to animation to live-action fiction. By creative success we mean: the quality of the idea and filmmaking talent involved with the project; the inventiveness and freshness of the vision; the potential to attract creative talent in front of and behind the camera; its potential appeal to an audience; how it contributes to a dynamic, national cinema; and if the film is going to capture the spirit of the time.

Making an application for feature film funding

To make an application for funding you need to submit two written proposals – one **creative**, one **strategic** - that make the case for your film being selected above the majority of others. Your proposals need to outline **briefly and concisely** your initial ideas for the film. **All applicants must include proof that they can secure or have secured the underlying rights in the idea proposed.** While we don't ask to see a script or samples of previous work at this stage, you should have them ready to send immediately if requested.

Remember that the selectors will be reading and viewing a considerable number of applications. You need to make yours stand out. It needs to be exciting, original and feasible to be worth choosing. Why is your idea more exciting than those of other filmmakers? Why should you be selected above others? Will you be able to deliver on your promises? Does your budget make sense when compared to the likely box office?

Below are some specific areas you could discuss in your **creative** proposal:

- What is the film about (synopsis, story, themes)? The clarity of your story and ideas are key.
- What stage is it at?
- What direction will your film take?
- What is the track record and previous work of the writer/director?
- Why do you want to make (write/direct) this film? These comments should ideally be written by the screenwriter or director.
- What audience are you aiming to appeal to?
- How would you go about achieving your ideas and interpretation on film?
- Have you any casting ideas at this stage and how are you planning to approach that cast?
- Where and when are you hoping to shoot the film?

The **strategic** proposal is your chance to strengthen your application by demonstrating an ability to pull the project together. It can describe your initial practical, financial, and publicity ideas.

Below are some specific questions you could address:

- What budget do you anticipate needing to develop the film and then get it made?
- At this stage can you foresee any unusual or challenging technical or budgetary requirements?
- What is the finance plan for the film and how do you envisage raising that investment?
- How will you go about managing production resources and the budget?
- How will you ensure the film finds its audience and gets distributed?
- Do you see it as a festival driven film or a film driven by its opening weekend? We welcome both, but we need you to be clear about what you are trying to achieve and that you can deliver accordingly.
- What might you say in an advertising blurb to sell the film?

Feel free to include a weblink to any visual materials, eg artwork, images, shorts, etc.

NB Please note that our current funding programme is dedicated to single project funding and that we are not accepting applications for slate funding or schemes.

Who can apply?

All applications must be made by a registered EU company with a screenwriter already attached. We only fund development applications with a screenwriter attached because we need to know if the screenwriter is capable of executing the idea as a screenplay. **Production investments must have a director and producer attached to the project.**

We strongly encourage applications from producer, writer, director teams and usually an active producer will lead the application. If the project is at an early stage, we are happy to consider applications for development funding from producer-writer teams without a director attached. We are also happy to receive development applications from writer, writer-director teams without a producer, if the director or writer knows how to drive a project forward, but they need to demonstrate their producerial ability in the strategic film proposal.

In exceptional circumstances we may fund applications we have solicited directly from writer/directors without producers or production companies at the development seed stage.

Please note this is by solicitation only.

What happens next?

1. You will need to submit the **creative and strategic film proposals** online via our website at <http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk/filmfundinformation>;
2. You will receive confirmation that we have received your application;
3. Within 6-8 weeks you will receive an email to tell you either ;

(i) that we are not considering your application further and your application is now closed;

or

(ii) that we would like to see further information for consideration (e.g. script, showreel, detailed budget, finance plan, casting lists, sales estimates, previous work) or we would like you to meet with us to discuss the project further. If you are invited for a meeting, all members of the team making the application should attend.

That meeting is an opportunity for us to discuss your application and for you to ask any questions you may have. You will have the opportunity to explain in person why you want to make the film and to outline your ideas in more detail. We will have questions about the application and may ask you to develop some of your ideas further or address aspects of the production. It is important to understand that having a meeting **does not** mean there is a commitment to funding your project at that point.

Further internal discussion with our Business Affairs and Production Finance department and other advisors may take place before we are able to commit to the project. **This group meets on average once a month to discuss projects under consideration.** Successful and unsuccessful applications will be informed of our decisions as soon as possible. All successful awards are listed on our website.

Feedback

We aim to make the application process as transparent as possible.

If we do not request further material or a meeting about your project, we will send you a standard rejection email. On these projects, we cannot give any feedback about our decisions. Documentation held on file for the assessment of these projects will simply state “pass”.

On projects that have received further consideration or that we have met to talk about, we may provide feedback, if we have some constructive advice to offer beyond the meeting.

Similarly, we welcome constructive feedback from you on our application process, so we can continue to improve.

Please note that we do not allow unsolicited resubmissions.

Please read the terms and conditions and access our online application form.

If this doesn't provide the information you need, please contact the Film Fund Co-ordinator at filmfundqueries@ukfilmcouncil.org.uk.

We look forward to receiving your application.