



**SCOTTISH
FILM
TALENT
NETWORK**

Emerging Talent Shorts Application Guidelines

Introduction

Supported by National Lottery funding from Creative Scotland and BFI NETWORK, Scottish Film Talent Network connects with new and emerging Scottish talent – from new entrants through to first-time feature filmmakers by providing tailored support which best suits individual requirements alongside wider funding schemes and short film commissions.

Emerging Talent Shorts is a short film development and production programme, designed to run in conjunction with the **First Feature Development** programme. **Emerging Talent Shorts** supports Scottish based writers, directors and producers who would benefit from making another short before embarking on their first feature.

What is SFTN's definition of EMERGING TALENT?

EMERGING TALENT means writers, directors and producers who have made funded work that has had some positive attention from the industry and/or public, and who are looking for guidance and support towards making their first feature. Producers who have already made a feature film are eligible to apply if their other team members have yet to make a first feature. In some cases, we may also support writers and directors who have made a no/micro/very low budget, or previously unreleased feature film.

In the mix of eligible talent, SFTN may accept applications from independent filmmakers with drama experience, documentary or experimental filmmakers, theatre practitioners or literary writers with a significant track record, who wish to make the transition to fiction for the big screen.

We encourage you to get in touch with the SFTN team prior to submitting an application to ensure this opportunity is the right one for you.

Timeline

There is no application deadline for Emerging Talent Shorts and we will accept applications on a rolling basis.

Production

Each commissioned project will receive up to £25,000 support from SFTN. It's worth bearing this budget in mind when conceiving your projects.

We may consider applications for projects with a higher production budget if you are able to evidence how you will secure partnership funding. In some cases our decision to fund a project may be contingent on confirmation of partnership funding, in which case we may provide you with a time-limited Letter of Intent to assist your financing endeavours.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria before being considered:

- You are an individual aged 18 or over
- You are **not** in full time education at the time of submission or throughout the commissioning process
- You meet the requirements for director, writer or producer below
- The director or writer/director as the primary beneficiary of Emerging Talent Shorts support must be a permanent resident in Scotland.
- In exceptional circumstances we will consider submissions from teams in which the producer and/or writer are based in another part of the UK. This should be discussed with the Development Executive before applying, otherwise your application will be deemed ineligible.

If your team includes a writer, director or writer/director with a project in production with SFTN, or who has already made a short film with the support of the Emerging Talent Shorts fund, then we are unlikely to accept a further application for support from this fund.

Applicant Criteria

Writers:

Writers are eligible to apply if they have at least one writing credit on any of the following:

- A feature film script that has either been commissioned or optioned by a third party producer or production company
- An impressive screen-based work, including a drama broadcast on TV or online; or a funded short film that has been screened at a BAFTA recognised short film festival, has won an award, or has been picked up for theatrical distribution or broadcast television
- A professionally produced theatre or radio play/piece, which has received positive attention from industry and/or public
- A published novel or a collection of short stories or poems, which has received positive attention from industry and/or public.

In addition, writers must have a feature film idea developed to at least outline stage.

Directors:

Directors are eligible to apply if they have at least one directing credit on any of the following:

- An impressive screen-based work, including a drama broadcast on TV or online; or a funded short film that has been screened at a BAFTA recognised short film festival, has won an award, or has been picked up for theatrical distribution or broadcast television
- A no/micro/very low-budget feature film, which has been self-financed and has received positive attention from industry and/or public
- A professionally produced theatre or radio play/piece, which has received positive attention from industry and/or public.

Writer/Directors:

Individuals who intend to write and direct their project must fully satisfy the eligibility criteria for both director **and** writer.

Producers:

Producers are eligible to apply if they have at least one producing or production management, senior co-ordinating or development credit on any of the following:

- An impressive screen-based work, including a drama broadcast on TV or online
- A professionally produced radio play/piece, which has received positive attention from industry and/or public
- A funded short film that has been screened at a BAFTA recognised short film festival, has won an award, or has been picked up for theatrical distribution or broadcast television.

A list of BAFTA recognised short film festivals can be found here:

http://awards.bafta.org/sites/default/files/images/ee_british_academy_film_awards_1718-rules_and_guidelines_-_shorts_categories.pdf

We retain the right to vary the above requirements where a particular writer, director, writer/director or producer demonstrates exceptional ability. If you do not strictly meet the criteria but feel your body of work demonstrates exceptional ability or potential, please get in touch with SFTN before applying to discuss your eligibility. We expect applications and your body of work to demonstrate a high standard of ability, originality and potential in order to progress towards an award.

Applications will also be accepted from more established producers or production companies with prior experience of producing feature films, provided they are working with eligible talent.

Application Procedure

Complete teams comprising a producer, writer and director (or producer with a writer/director) can apply with a short film proposal including the following information:

- Completed Application & Equal Opportunities Form for All Team Members (writer, director, producer if attached)
- Full Short Film Script
- Feature Story Outline
This should outline the dramatic action of the film, as well as conveying a clear sense of theme, tone, genre and main characters
- Supporting Statement for each Team Member (1 page each max)
This should express why you as a writer/director/producer want to make the film and how it will support the development of your first feature
- CV/Filmography for All Team Members (writer, director, producer)
- Links to Online Examples of Individual Team Member's Complete Work
- Full Short Film Budget (optional)
- Details of any Cast/HOD Attachments (optional)
- Draft of Feature Screenplay (optional)

PLEASE NOTE: DVDs WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS PART OF AN APPLICATION TO EMERGING TALENT SHORTS.

In addition to original stories and screenplays, the **Emerging Talent Shorts** programme will accept proposals for short story adaptations from writers, directors and producers. To apply to the programme with an adaptation, you **must** have an option on the source material, cleared the existing work for use or be able to demonstrate that it's out of copyright.

Submitting Your Application

If you require more information or assistance with the application process please contact: info@scottishfilmtalent.com

Project Decision & Commissioning:

After submitting your application, you will receive confirmation of receipt via email. If you meet all of the eligibility criteria, we'll contact you within 6 weeks of submission with a decision or a request for a meeting to discuss your application further.

All applications will be considered according to the following criteria:

- The creative merits of the proposed project
- The abilities and track record of the filmmaking team
- The viability of the project in terms of budget, financing and potential market/audience

- The strategic benefit of the project to the filmmaking team’s career
- The range and number of projects already being supported by SFTN

We expect a high demand for our awards and are only able to make a limited number each year.

All decisions will be made by the SFTN Management Group and Creative Scotland.

Diversity and Accessibility

Scottish Film Talent Network is particularly keen to encourage applications from individuals and teams currently under-represented within the Scottish screen industries and we’d also like to encourage proposals for stories that represent Scotland’s diverse communities.

Resubmissions

We can only accept resubmissions for projects if there have been significant and substantial changes to the original submission or major new elements have been attached and/or secured since the last application. All resubmissions must be discussed with and agreed by us in advance.

Speculative Submissions

We regret that we are unable to read scripts or consider projects that have not been formally submitted through the application process.

Feedback, Appeals and Complaints

Due to the large number of applications received we are unable to provide detailed feedback to individual applicants. You may only appeal against a funding decision if you have good cause to believe that the correct procedures, as published in these guidelines, have not been adhered to or applied in such a way as to prejudice the outcome of an application. In this case please see the SFTN complaints procedure on our website: <https://goo.gl/EsQwXF>

Emerging Talent Shorts are supported by National Lottery funding from Creative Scotland and BFI NETWORK and delivered by SFTN.

SFTN is jointly managed by Centre for the Moving Image (CMI), DigiCult and Hopscotch Films.

