

Originate Factual Guidelines

About this program

Originate Factual is a skills and project development initiative. Designed to elevate mid-career Victorian factual producers, writers and directors - the multi-staged program will focus on supporting the development of high-end non-fiction series for global audiences.

Up to twelve non-fiction producers, writers and directors will be selected to take part in a series of masterclasses, an eight-week (part-time) hothouse workshop, as well as project development and key talent placements. The program aims to enhance the series development skills of mid-career nonfiction practitioners and grow Victoria's pool of world-class talent.

Phase 1: Masterclasses

- Up to twelve participants will take part in four masterclass sessions delivered by experts in their field. Participants will improve their knowledge of how to find and cultivate a great long-form story (beyond the passion project), develop a successful global format, excel as a creative leader across the editorial process and gain a better understanding of the current appetite of series commissioners.
- Delivered in person and/or online over one week (8 hours total)
- *Approximate Dates: early October 2023.*

Phase 2: Hothouse Workshop

- On completion of the masterclasses, participants will attend a 'hot house' workshop series facilitated by an international series producer.
- The workshop series is an eight-week (part-time) facilitator-led cycle of story ideation, pitching and feed-back.
- The eight-week cycle is broken into four, two-week blocks with each having a particular focus and will include an extension of the masterclasses and a set creative task, which is presented at the end of each two-week block.
- Workshops will be delivered in person, in Melbourne, over eight-weeks and require a part time commitment (approx. 16 hours per week, including one full day in person, followed by offsite independent creative tasks).
- On completion of the eight-week cycle, under the mentorship of the facilitator, participants will have the opportunity to pitch their best idea from the program to a room of production companies and commissioners.
- All participants will receive a \$5,000 stipend, with an additional allowance available for participants who live outside the Melbourne metropolitan area.

– *Approximate Dates: mid-October 2023 to mid-December 2023*

- ***Phase 3: Development and Placement***

- Up to four projects from the final pitch session of Phase 2 will receive up to \$15,000 in development support to produce a sizzle and pitch package.
- Up to four participants will be offered a 6-12-month Key Talent Company placement at an established non-fiction series production company following the program.
- The placements will be designed around the needs of the individual and production company, with the expectation that they will begin in late 2023/early 2024.

What are we looking for?

- Mid-career practitioners with a track record in non-fiction storytelling who are poised to take the next step into series production.
- Applications that clearly address all the Assessment Criteria.

Who is eligible?

- Applicants must be a Victorian individual. View our [Terms of Trade](#) for eligibility requirements.
- Applicants must have:
 - at least one credit as a non-fiction producer, writer or director of a web series, feature documentary or television one-off or series that has been screened publicly and has a minimum cumulative total of at least 30 minutes; or

In lieu of credits, a substantial body of work in a related field (i.e., journalism or podcasts.) or equivalent credits on fiction projects and a clear intention to develop a career in non-fiction storytelling.
- For each phase, individuals must have participated in the previous phase in order to be eligible for further phases in the program.

Who is not eligible?

- Producers, writers and directors who have a substantial track record in non-fiction series production.
- Non-Victorian residents (applicants must have been living in Victoria for the previous six months prior to applying)

Who can you talk to about this program?

- Grants Officer, [Jessica O'Brien](#) 03 9660 3220
- Production Executive, Factual Lead, [Samantha Dinning](#), 03 9660 3281

What documents do you need to apply?

You must submit:

- A resume including relevant credits.
- A Participant Statement which outlines the applicant's commitment to pursuing a career as a producer, writer or director of non-fiction series content and articulates what the participant wishes to gain from the program and how this will deliver on the stated career objectives

What happens after you apply?

- Participation is competitive. Decisions will be made based on the applicant's ability to meet the requirements of the assessment criteria (see below)
- The program will be open to all mid-career Victorian non-fiction producers, writers and directors, however, the preference will be on prioritising under-represented mid-career producers, writers or directors, with the aim of creating a diverse and inclusive cohort of participants with differing lived experiences.

Assessment Criteria

Applications for the masterclass (Phase 1) and hothouse component (Phase 2) of the program will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Level of Experience
 - The quality and relevance of the applicant's experience
- Career Commitment
 - Degree to which the applicant demonstrates a commitment to pursuing a career as a producer, writer or director of non-fiction series content
- Career objectives
 - Articulation of what the applicant wishes to gain from participating and how this will deliver on the stated career objectives.

Applications will be assessed by a panel consisting of VicScreen staff and industry practitioner(s) with relevant experience.

Upon completion of the program, participants will be invited to apply for the development funding and/or one of four Key Talent Placements.

How long until a decision is made?

- Applicants can expect notification of who has been accepted into phase one by mid-July 2023

What happens if you don't get selected?

- We will contact you to let you know if you have been unsuccessful.

What will help your application?

- Read these guidelines and the [Terms of Trade](#) which set out the core terms on which VicScreen conducts its business. Terms underlined in black appear in the website glossary.
- Review the online application form – make sure you have all required documents ready to be submitted with the application.
- Make sure your application speaks to the Assessment Criteria.
- VicScreen 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](#).

Ready to start your application?

Applications will be open from 17 April 2023

[Start your application](#)