

Originate Slate Guidelines

About this program

Originate Slate aims to enhance the development of original IP for the global marketplace by supporting Victorian production companies that have an established track record in creating and financing quality TV drama or narrative live-action comedy.

By providing supplementary funding to support the critical early stages of development, *Originate Slate* will allow companies to be more ambitious in the selection and development of a slate of projects, increase their international competitiveness, and provide them with the flexibility to respond quickly to changing market demands.

Who is eligible?

You must be an Australian company with:

- a pre-existing and ongoing operational presence in Victoria for at least six months prior to the funding application - demonstrated by Victorian offices and a track record in producing content in Victoria;
- a track record in producing premium drama and/or live-action narrative comedy;
- dedicated in-house development staff.

What projects are eligible?

Projects developed with *Originate Slate* funding must be:

- premium drama and/or live-action narrative comedy series projects for the global marketplace
- at concept or early stage of development
- be shot and post-produced in Victoria, except where co-production arrangements and story content may require otherwise.

What can the funds be used for?

- *Originate Slate* support is intended to supplement the funds companies already devote to early development of concepts and projects.
- Funded activities are expected to add value and elevate the quality and international competitiveness of the concepts or projects being developed. This may include activities such as extending the length of development 'writer rooms' and allowing for additional drafts of bibles, pitch materials, and/or pilot scripts.
- Funding is expected to enable a recipient to support a slate of up to five projects in early development and cover 12-24 months of activity.

- A portion of the funds may be used to support the meaningful participation of emerging key creatives from diverse backgrounds.

How much can you apply for?

- Funding requests are not capped, however the total funds available for all applications this round is \$1.5M. Final funding amounts for successful applicants will be determined by the assessors based on the value and impact of the applicant's proposal.
- Applicants are required to match *Originate Slate* funding with funds from their own or other resources.
- Applicants should discuss their funding requests with VicScreen prior to submitting an application.

Who can you talk to about this program?

- Applicants should contact VicScreen before applying
 - Mackenzie Lush, Manager, Development – 03 9660 3232
 - Ross Hutchens, Director, Content & Talent – 03 9660 3271

The Details

What documents do you need to apply?

- You will need to submit all the required documents in the [Application Materials Checklist](#).

What happens after you apply?

- Assessment of eligible applications will be undertaken by VicScreen assessment panels consisting of qualified staff and external industry specialists.
- Funding is competitive and assessors take into account the Assessment Criteria (see below) and VicScreen's availability of funds, as well as the demonstrated need for VicScreen funds by the applicant.
- Funding recommendations are presented to the VicScreen CEO or Board for approval.

Assessment Criteria

- The track record of the production company in developing, financing and producing premium drama and/or live-action narrative comedy content.
- The applicant's experience in pre-selling or financing projects in the international marketplace.
- The level of operational and creative control held by Victorians (e.g. preference will be given to Victorian owned and operated companies).
- The current commitment of the company to developing premium drama and/or live-action narrative comedy content, in terms of:

- dedicated development expertise/ resources within the company;
- allocated budget for development from company or other sources* (excluding proposed VicScreen funding).

*Note: Applicants that have significant access to ongoing development funds from pre-existing relationships (for example, through an international parent company) would need to demonstrate how *Originate–Slate* support was value adding and not replacing existing support.

- The proposed development slate in terms of:
 - The quality and feasibility of the projects
 - The proposed level of involvement of Victorian key creatives in the projects
 - The scale of the projects either in terms of international competitiveness or growth for the production company.
- The company's overall commitment to diversity and inclusion, and its plans for participation of key creatives or emerging practitioners from diverse backgrounds in developing the proposed slate.

How long until a decision is made?

- Applications open on 1 December 2022 and close on 24 February 2023
- Applicants can expect an outcome by mid-April 2023

What happens if you get funding?

- The support will be provided by way of a development grant. VicScreen does not expect to recoup *Originate Slate* funds.
- Companies receiving *Originate Slate* support will be excluded from accessing VicScreen's *Development on Demand* support for the early development of projects targeted under this initiative. They will still be able to apply for script development (beyond pilot stage) for projects, particularly where the development is co-funded by a commissioning platform. This includes projects developed with *Originate Slate* support.

What will help your application?

- Read these guidelines and VicScreen's Terms of Trade. Terms underlined in black appear in the website glossary.
- Review the online application form – make sure you have all the required documents ready to submit with your application.
- Make sure your application speaks to the Assessment Criteria (see above).
- VicScreen is committed to promoting and supporting gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness in the Victorian screen industry and expects applicants to demonstrate diversity

and inclusion in their application. Applicants are encouraged to refer to VicScreen's Gender & Diversity Statement.

Ready to start your application?

Originate Slate Application Form

Application Materials Checklist

- One page outline of each project on the proposed slate
Note: Projects may be replaced with comparable projects during the period of the grant agreement, subject to VicScreen approval.
- Company profile – including ownership structure, company principles, and description of historical and current operations in Victoria
- Development team – including names, experience level/credits, and roles of key development team
- Past project list – titles, format, and budget of drama and live-action narrative comedies produced over the last 5 years
- Annual expenditure on development over last three years identifying contributions from within company resources and those from other contributors.
- Proposed Originate Slate budget per project indicating contributions from within company resources and those from other contributors.