

Key Talent Placements – On a Production Guidelines

About this program

- The Key Talent Placements – On a Production program supports skills development for writers and directors through offering paid placements to practitioners.
- Successful applicants to this program are placed on VicScreen’s Key Talent Placements Register which provides them with the opportunity to be put forward for placements.
- Funding is available to undertake paid placements on productions for 6 to 12 weeks, providing the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience.
- Director Placements can provide experience in one or more of the following:
 - Observing the director’s process
 - Directing 2nd unit
 - Shadow directing main unit scenes.
- Writer Placements can provide experience in one or more of the following:
 - Note taking
 - Shadow writing one or more episodes
 - Speculative writing of an episode.
- VicScreen’s primary focus for this program is generally on early to mid-career writers or directors.
- VicScreen is committed to promoting and supporting gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness in the Victorian screen industry. We therefore, prioritise support for applicants from diverse backgrounds and requires applicants to demonstrate diversity and inclusion in their application. All applicants should read VicScreen’s Gender and Diversity Statement prior to applying.

What are we looking for?

Writers and directors who:

- are committed to a career in the screen industry
- seek an opportunity to build on their existing credits, skills and knowledge
- wish to be included on VicScreen’s Key Talent Placement Register.

Who is eligible?

- Applications to this program are for inclusion on the Key Talent Placements Register.
- Applicants must be:
 - An Australian individual (view our Terms of Trade for eligibility requirements)
 - Victorian
 - Applicants must be an early to mid-career director or writer who can demonstrate at least one of the following within the last five years:
 - A director or writer credit on 30 cumulative minutes of live action, narrative fiction or documentary content that has
 - » been theatrically released, or screened at a major film festival, or
 - » been commissioned or acquired by a broadcaster or major online content provider, or
 - » received substantial views/following on an online platform.
 - A director or writer credit on at least two narrative fiction or documentary, live action short films. At least one of these short films needs to have achieved one of the following:
 - » Funded by an Australian screen agency
 - » Part of the official selection at a major film festival
 - » Nominated for an award or an award winner at a major film festival.
 - Formal engagement to direct or write a narrative or documentary, live action project that is currently in development with support from a commissioning platform or screen agency.
 - Participated, as a writer or director, in a scheme run by a major screen agency, organisation and/or broadcaster in Australia, such as:
 - » UNTAPPEDFinalist
 - » AWG Pathways (writer applicants only)
 - » AFTRS Talent Camp
 - » Cinespace Programs
 - » Impact Australia.
 - Been shortlisted for a major national or international screenwriting competition including an AWG competition for unproduced screenplays (writer applicants only).
 - A substantial body of work in related areas (e.g. director of live action narrative TVCs or playwright).
 - Credits must be in the same role you are applying for a placement in.
 - Applicants with credits/experience more than five years old are encouraged to apply if there is a reasonable explanation for the gap (e.g. childcare responsibilities).

- Please contact the Program Manager to discuss your eligibility before submitting an application.

Who is not eligible?

You are not eligible to apply if:

- Your credits are over five years old, unless you can provide an explanation for the gap (e.g. childcare responsibilities).
- Your only relevant credits are as co-writer or co-director, unless there are exceptional circumstances in which case an exemption may be provided.
- You have previously applied for this program but been unsuccessful unless there are significant changes to your credits.
- You are already included on VicScreen's Professional Attachments Register.
- You are enrolled full-time in a film, television or interactive digital media course at a film school or other tertiary educational institution. Applications from part-time students will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

VicScreen reserves the right to waive any eligibility criteria in exceptional circumstances where the applicant meets the intent of the program and would otherwise be eligible.

What can you receive funding for?

A grant to offset the cost of undertaking the placement. The grant is not a wage or salary replacement.

Who can you talk to about this program?

If you have general queries or queries about submitting your application, please contact [Susannah Britt](#) Grants Officer, 03 9660 3206.

The Details

When can I apply?

Applications are open four times across the year. Keep an eye on our website to be informed of opening and closing dates.

What happens after you apply?

- Your application for the Key Talent Placements Register will be assessed by the Program Manager/s.
- Selection for the register is competitive. Applications are assessed taking into account Assessment Criteria including:
 - Level of experience
 - Commitment to pursuing a career in the screen industry with a particular focus on television.
 - Articulation of the skills you wish to gain from undertaking a placement and how they will deliver on your career objectives.
 - Directing showreel (directors) or writing sample (writers).
 - If your application is successful, you will be included in the Key Talent Placement Register. This will enable you to be considered for placement opportunities.
 - Being placed on the Register does not guarantee selection for a production placement.

How long until a decision is made?

You can expect a decision about your application for inclusion on the Key Talent Placements Register within six to eight weeks of the application closing date.

What happens if your application is not successful?

- We will contact you to let you know.
- If your application is not successful, you will not be included on the Key Talent Placements Register.
- You can get in touch with the Program Manager for feedback on your application.

What happens once you are on the Register?

Once on the Register, you may be considered for placement opportunities arranged by VicScreen with production companies.

Assessment for a Key Talent Placement

- For each production placement, VicScreen will provide the production company or broadcaster with a shortlist of suitable practitioners from the Register and VicScreen's skills databases, based on:
 - The skills required by the production and how these match the practitioner's experience and skills
 - How the skills expected to be gained from the placement align with the practitioner's career objectives
 - VicScreen's overall objectives of diversity and inclusiveness
 - Whether the practitioner has received prior support from VicScreen to undertake a similar placement
 - Availability of funds, diversity of the applicant and perceived need for a funded placement
 - The practitioner's credits – practitioners require:
 - » narrative fiction credits for a placement on a narrative fiction project
 - » documentary credits for a placement on a documentary project.
- Before you are included on a shortlist, VicScreen will contact you to confirm your availability for the production placement opportunity.
- Production companies may wish to interview shortlisted practitioners prior to selecting a practitioner and offering a placement.

What happens if you are selected for a Placement?

- Placements generally run for 6–12 weeks. Duration will depend on the requirements of the production and the structure of the placement.
- During a placement, you will have the opportunity to observe and participate in the writing or directing process across pre-production, production and post-production.
- Flexible working arrangements can be negotiated on a case-by-case basis depending on the production's requirements.
- If a practitioner is selected for a placement, VicScreen and the host company will enter into a standard, non-negotiable agreement, setting out the terms and conditions of the approved funding, including deliverables, credit requirements and any repayment obligation.

What will help your application?

- Read these guidelines and the Terms of Trade thoroughly and check eligibility. 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 addresses the Assessment Criteria.

Ready to start your application?

[Start your application](#)