



Film Otago Southland – Writers in Residence and Creative Development Support

Last update: April 2024

The purpose of Film Otago Southland's Writers in Residence and Creative Development Grants is to offer support for Otago and Southland-based screen projects in their early creative development phase. For a project to be eligible, the majority of the story and/or locations must be set in Otago and/or Southland.

Film Otago Southland can receive applications for Writers In Residence or Creative Development Support at any time and applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

We welcome a brief synopsis of the project in development which could include:

- A summary of the project – project type, synopsis
- Who is attached to the project and their experience/credits
- Where the project is at in the development process
- Where/when it's set (the regional connection)
- A description of what kind of support is being requested – if it's a Bespoke Creative Development request, an explanation of what the grant would go towards and how much is being requested is required
- Details of any other investment and support secured or being investigated

A Writer in Residence programme normally takes the form of a writer visiting a district/s to write and research a regional project. Costs covered can include: domestic flights, accommodation, and car hire up to a total cost of approximately \$2000. The film offices can help to facilitate introductions to local contacts to help with the project.

If a Writer in Residence isn't suitable for this project, FOS can consider other modes of Creative Development support, such as: research trips, script consultancy services, travel grants to attend pitching workshops or events, or some other kind of ring-fenced cost that would help support a project in its development phase. These grants are also \$2000 max.

Where the application is for professional fee, such as a script consultant, the applicant will need to provide evidence that a consultant has been engaged.

What we don't fund:

- General expenses or professional fees for writers who have their permanent residence in Otago or Southland.
- Legal costs
- Option payments
- Short film development
- Project-related overheads
- Costs already incurred (retrospective)

- Capital works or acquisitions or equipment purchases
- Projects that are part of formal academic assessment
- Advertising programmes, commercials, news or current affairs programmes
- Productions of a public event or live event, including sports events, stage plays, music concerts, dance performances or comedy shows

Is it at the discretion of the Chair and/or Board to accept grant applications that are outside of the criteria set out in this document if they are of significant benefit to the Otago and Southland screen industry.