



New Shorts Focus 2024-25 GUIDELINES

In partnership with



Awarding funds from
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®

New Shorts Focus 2024-25

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THE SCHEME

NEW SHORTS FOCUS is a **fiction** development scheme specifically for under-represented new and emerging Northern Ireland resident writer and writer/director talent. Eligible applicants must have *at least* one previous independently made **or** funded writer or writer/director credit at short film level.

The development process is a writer-led initiative. It will be facilitated by a development producer over a six-month period from October 2024 to March 2025.

New Shorts Focus will be delivered online with monthly development meetings. The participants will be asked to deliver projects drafts monthly, normally a week prior to each monthly meeting. Participants are supplied with script coverage to assist in the re-drafting process each month.

The Scheme is **not** open to animation or factual creative talent.

Participants from previous years **cannot** re-apply to the Scheme.

New Shorts Focus is the only short film fiction development scheme which Northern Ireland Screen currently operates.

Applicants are asked to submit up to a maximum of two one-page outlines for initial consideration. Completed scripts are not accepted at the application stage. The submitted idea (s) must be able to stand alone as a short. It must not be an extended trailer for a potential feature project.

The scheme will be facilitated online. Participants must be available to attend each online monthly development session.

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DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Northern Ireland Screen and the BFI are committed to ensuring that we consult with active practitioners within the disabled* filmmaking community about current and future projects where there is a portrayal of disability and in respect of industry access. We want to see films that are authentically and mindfully cast with d/Deaf and disabled actors and see more non-specific casting, creating roles and visibility for d/Deaf and disabled actors which do not reference disability as part of the theme or narrative.

In support of this and to avoid reinforcing negative stereotypes, we will no longer support work featuring villains with visible differences. Supporting equal pay for d/Deaf and disabled actors and filmmakers means that Northern Ireland Screen will now consider applications that include project costs related to access requirements for d/Deaf and disabled practitioners and will have the ability to provide funding for such elements in addition to a scheme's normal funding cap.

Northern Ireland Screen supports authentic writing. If you intend to write about issues that you have not directly experienced (e.g., disability, neurodiversity, racism, poverty etc) we would urge you to consult an organisation or group that helps people who have experienced these issues to ensure that you accurately represent the issue. 'Nothing about us without us' is a key element of the Press Reset campaign [Press Reset](#).

*Northern Ireland Screen and the BFI uses identity-based language when referring to disabled people and we are inclusive of the d/Deaf community, neuro-diverse people, and people with mental health conditions when we are using the term disability.

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Applicants to development stage

Scheme is open to entry level writers and writer/director applicants' resident in Northern Ireland, particularly those from groups that are underrepresented within the film and television industry. There is the possibility of transport bursaries for participation on the development scheme if required.

Number of projects

6 projects will be chosen to go through a development process starting in October 2024 and finishing in March 2025.

Development process

Six-month development process with up to 3 projects selected to move into production after the initial development period.

Production Budget

The final films should be deliverable on a budget of £11,500 including in-kind contribution of £1,500. The in-kind contribution is supplied by the attached production company.

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Funding application process

A Production company will be attached to each of the selected projects. That company will make the funding application. A production company is attached once the final projects are selected. Northern Ireland Screen can assist with the attachment of a production company if required.

Application criteria

Applicants must apply with a one-page outline for their project and include their cv. A maximum of two outlines per applicant can be submitted. Applicants must have **at least** one independent or funded writing or writing/directing credit on previous shorts in the past three years.

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Who can apply?

Under-represented new and emerging Northern Ireland resident writer and writer/director talent with *at least* one previous independently made **or** funded writer or writer/director credit at short film level.

Submission materials

Please attach CVs for the creative team and an online link to view a previous short film if you are applying as a writer/director.

How to apply

Please apply via the Northern Ireland Screen online portal:

<https://northernirelandscreen.flexigrant.com/>

Any scheme queries can be directed to:

christine@northernirelandscreen.co.uk

Deadline for receipt of applications:

Friday 30th August 2024 @ 12:00 NOON