



New writer Focus 2025-2026

Guidance Notes

Who can apply?

Only Northern Ireland resident writers new to feature film, are eligible to apply. For the avoidance of doubt "writers new to feature film" in this context means a writer without a writing credit on a produced feature film.

This is a script development call; a Producer and Director are not essential at this stage.

What are we looking for?

1. Compelling stories with a unique or fresh perspective
2. Ambitious authored voices
3. Stories with strong character journeys
4. A range of art-house and commercial stories
5. Feature film, long-form drama projects or sit-coms
6. Projects need not be limited by budget or genre
7. Feature film scripts should be approx. 90 pages.

What will the scheme involve?

New Writer Focus will have 3 major components to the development scheme:

- Writers Room, with monthly meetings.
- Individual project and writer development.
- Development seminars and networking opportunities.

How many projects will be selected?

Up to 4 scripts will be chosen for development between September 2025 and April 2026. The selected writers will be eligible to apply for an individual writer award of £2500.

Will the scheme involve production?

No. However, Northern Ireland Screen intends to fund one first feature each year. Projects from the New Writer Focus Scheme will be eligible for this production funding. Accordingly, if

you wish for your project to be considered for this production it must be achievable within the constraints of a budget of circa £350,000.

How to apply:

You can apply with a first draft of the script you wish to develop under the Scheme. *Only one application per applicant*

The script needs to be industry standard Format.

How to apply

Your application must include: 2 document attachments

1. The first draft of the script you wish to develop (screenplays must be in a standard industry script format, Courier 12pt. font).
2. A single document containing:
 - A logline
 - 1 paragraph synopsis of the story
 - A 1-page story outline in Courier 12pt. font

In all applications, the script title page must have the project title, the writer's full name, address and contact details to include an email address and contact telephone number.

***Please save and attach all relevant application files with 1. the project name and 2. your full name.**

Applicants can submit only **one project** for consideration. Only one project per applicant can be developed under the scheme.

Deadline for Applications

All Applications must be submitted by midnight on **30th June 2025**

Applicants will be notified by end of August 2025 if their application was successful.

*We usually receive between 100-140 applications for the scheme. We will not be able to give any feedback on projects not selected for the scheme. *