



CREATIVE ANIMATION APPLICATION CALL

Northern Ireland Screen's Creative Animation Scheme is designed to develop Northern Ireland resident junior creators/animators through the production of animated short films. The scheme provides junior level creators/animators with the opportunity to develop their own ideas with support from established animation companies.

It is Northern Ireland Screen's ambition that completed short films would be submitted to accredited film festivals and could have a successful festival run after delivery of the film.

The scheme is supported via funding from the Screen Fund and BFI NETWORK. Northern Ireland Screen will support the production of up to two animated short films through funding awarded in the financial year 2025-26.

The scheme is currently open for applications with a deadline of **Friday 19th September 2025**.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The scheme is open to Northern Ireland based animation companies which have identified Northern Ireland resident emerging talent that could be supported through this funding to develop and create animated short films. The identified individual (creator/ animator) should not be a principal of the company and should not currently be working in IP generation.

The scheme is designed to ensure that the animation company can provide the support and guidance needed for the creator/animator to deliver a quality animated short film on schedule and budget. As such the applicant animation company must have a substantive base. This includes:

- Long term premises in Northern Ireland;
- At least 5 full time employees which can include people on short term contracts;
- The facilities to produce and deliver an animated short film.



KEY PARAMATERS OF THE SCHEME

Max Budget per film:	£40,000
Duration:	5 - 10 minutes
Delivery by:	27 November 2026

REQUIRED DELIVERABLES

- ProRes 4:2:2 HQ File on Hard drive;
- MEG4 HD h.264 viewing file created from the master file. The file should be set for streaming at 5Mb/s;
- An unencrypted DCP file on hard drive or pen drive
- 1 online viewing link (password protected)
- At least 5 colour print quality stills in jpeg format (minimum 300 dpi)
- A written publicity pack to include one synopsis of approximately 250 words and a 160-character logline, flyers and other publicity material, full credits list, biographies of individual producer(s), director(s), writer(s) and key crew, and production information
- A PDF copy of the final script
- Closing reports on templates provided by Northern Ireland Screen

KEY BUDGET NOTES

- Northern Ireland based production companies can make an application for the full budget of £40,000. The request on the application form should include a request for £20,000 from Northern Ireland Screen and £20,000 from BFI NETWORK.
- Above the line creatives team must be paid at least Real Living Wage (currently £12.60 per hour)
- Crew must be paid at least Real Living Wage (currently £12.60 per hour)
- Cast must be paid at least equity minimum rates.
- All completed films must be delivered with subtitles and Audio Description. You will need to include both:
 - hearing impaired captions in.stl format or timed text format
 - visually impaired narrative [VI-N] audio track



- The final Film must be cleared for festivals worldwide in perpetuity.

Rates of pay

Equity minimum	£109.89 (as of January 2025) excluding overtime and meal allowances – for guidance please go to Pay Guide Ratecard The Casting Collective
Real living wage	https://www.livingwage.org.uk/what-real-living-wage

Access Costs

If any members of your core team, cast and/or crew have access needs that will incur additional costs during the production of your project, you can include these costs in your application. We define such needs as specific support required by people who are disabled (a disability which is substantial and long term i.e., more than 12 months) which will result in a verifiable additional cash cost to your production budget. For example, this might include a BSL interpreter to work with members of cast or crew; additional transport or accommodation costs for disabled team members; or the personal assistant of a team member who requires assistance during the production.

If you are unable to cover support costs within the budget available, you can apply for these **in addition to** the maximum award amount.

CRITERIA FOR SUPPORT

- The applicant company should be a Northern Ireland based animation production company with a substantive base;
- The creator/ animator should be a Northern Ireland resident;
- The creator/ animator identified should not currently be working in IP generation and should not be a principal of the company;
- If an award is made the applicant company must engage in a formal option agreement with the creator/ animator regarding the project;
- If the project is based on existing work then the company needs to have the rights to develop it;
- The funding is to support the creator/ animator to produce an animated short film.



KEY ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- The quality of the proposed treatment and concept art for the Project;
- Viability of the project in terms of ambition against budget (please refer to the key budget notes on page 2).
- The extent to which the application meets the [BFI funding priorities | BFI](#):

1. Equity, diversity and inclusion

Addressing under-representation in perspective and representation, talent and recruitment, agency and opportunities, widening the range of voices and audiences served.

2. Impact and audience

Supporting projects with a strong cultural or progressive impact for audiences.

3. Talent development and progression

Supporting early career filmmakers (producers, writers and directors) and projects with a reasonable proportion of early career cast and crew.

4. Risk

Supporting projects that take creative risks.

5. UK-wide

Increasing the number of projects and filmmakers outside London and the South East, looking at location and representation. Northern Ireland Screen will also consider the geographical location of the applicant within Northern Ireland.

6. Environmental sustainability

Addressing sustainability both creatively and practically.



Please note:

- Northern Ireland Screen will also review the application to confirm that it would qualify for certification as a British film. Read more information on [British certification](#).
- Applicants must have secured, or have a contractual right to secure, the rights (including any underlying rights) in the idea they are proposing.

TIME FRAME

All applications including supporting documentation must be received by **Friday 19th September 2025**. All applications will be assessed with decisions intended to be made by the end of October 2025.



APPLICATION

Please contact Christine Morrow, Talent Executive, (christine@northernirelandscreen.co.uk) to discuss a potential application before applying. After this discussion a link to the online application form will be sent out. Alongside the general supporting documentation, the following items are also required:

- A CV for the creator/animator;
- Story outline, treatment including concept art and a script for the project;
- A provisional schedule for the project.

All applicants must complete an online application form. Please ensure that all supporting documentation is submitted either online with your application or via email to Tory Killen, Funding Executive (tory@northernirelandscreen.co.uk).

Failure to provide the requested supporting documentation will result in your application being eliminated from the Creative Animation call.

COMMITMENT TO GOOD PRACTICE

- 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 also in respect of industry access. We want to see films that are authentically and mindfully cast with disabled actors and also see more non-specific casting, creating roles and visibility for 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 gratuitously featuring facially scarred villains. Supporting equal pay for disabled actors and filmmakers means that Northern Ireland Screen will now consider applications that include project costs related to access requirements for disabled practitioners and will have the ability to provide funding for such elements in addition to a scheme's normal funding cap.



- All productions supported by Northern Ireland Screen must commit to, and adhere to, **The Code of Practice for the Screen Industry in Northern Ireland** published by Northern Ireland Screen. A copy of this code is available on the application website.
- Northern Ireland Screen is committed to sustainable filming practices and all filmmakers have a responsibility to promote environmental sustainability and need to plan their project, from development stage onwards, with the environment and the climate crisis in mind. Filmmakers must complete Albert Sustainable Production training <https://wearealbert.org/online-training/> in advance of filming and complete carbon footprinting via BAFTA albert, submitting pre and post-production carbon footprint calculations. Filmmakers will be required to discuss their sustainability plans with Northern Ireland Screen's Facilities and Sustainability Manager, Gavin Kelly (gavin@northernirelandscreen.co.uk) as well as generate a '**Green Memo**' to be issued to the crew at the start of production.
- All productions are required to adhere to and promote the set of principles aimed at tackling and preventing bullying, harassment and racism in the screen industries (the "Principles") and related guidance (the "Guidance") commissioned by the BFI in partnership with BAFTA, with the input of leading screen sector industry organisations, Challenge Consultants (specialists in equality, diversity and inclusion training and policy development) and in line with advice from workplace experts Acas. The Principles and Guidance are available on the BFI website and will be regularly reviewed and updated. <https://www.bfi.org.uk/inclusion-film-industry/bullying-harassment-racism-prevention-screen-industries/set-principles>.



- Producers are expected to create an IMDB page for the production, listing all cast and crew, and crediting BFI NETWORK [gb] and Northern Ireland Screen as Production Companies.
- Producers must credit Northern Ireland Screen and the BFI NETWORK on all copies of any work based upon the Project.
- The funding contract will include a clause confirming that a permanent, non-exclusive license is granted to Northern Ireland Screen and the BFI to copy, reproduce and / or exhibit the project: (a) non-theatrically including, without limitation, in educational establishments (including the BFI Mediatheque) or online on the BFI websites (including BFI Player) throughout the world; and (b) the right to use clips from the project for promotional purposes in relation to the project or in relation to promoting BFI National Lottery funding. Northern Ireland Screen and the BFI will own the delivery materials provided to us and may choose to deposit, preserve and permit access to such materials through standard terms applied by the BFI National Archive and Northern Ireland Screen's Digital Film Archive.

MONITORING

Please note that once the call has closed, all applicants will be sent an email from Northern Ireland Screen's Monitoring department with a link to complete an equality monitoring form. The data that you submit on this form will be confidential and anonymous and will not be seen by the staff assessing your application. This collects data to help measure how effective Northern Ireland Screen is in attracting a diverse range of applicants for funding. It enables us to ensure that we are meeting the BFI Core priorities, in particular addressing under-representation in perspective and representation, talent and recruitment, agency and opportunities, widening the range of voices and audiences served.