

FAQs

1. Who is eligible for the subsidy?

Eligible media companies are companies that are registered in Singapore and have at least one Media Singapore Standard Industrial Classification (SSIC) code. You can check if your company is registered with at least one media SSIC code using the link: [<https://www.imda.gov.sg/industry-development/programmes-and-grants/marketing-assistance>].

Eligible media freelancers are Singapore citizens/PRs who provide services that develop/produce/distribute/sell/market media content. They are not employees of any company, nor do they employ any worker. They negotiate their own terms and benefits with their clients. They can either operate on their own or have an ACRA-registered entity.

2. Does the applicant have to fulfil all the criteria to be considered eligible for the subsidy?

Yes, the applicant(s) will have to fulfil all the criteria. The checklist can be found in the Application Form. Click here [Link to <http://www.mediation.com.sg/business-services/industry-schemes/>].

3. What kind of disputes will the subsidy apply to?

Disputes of any civil nature or of any quantum are eligible for the subsidy. The disputes will have to involve at least one media freelancer. Hence, the subsidy will apply for disputes between (i) two or more eligible media freelancers or (ii) eligible media freelancer(s) and media company(s). However, the subsidy will not apply for disputes between two or more media companies.

4. Why are disputes between media companies not subsidised?

The IMDA Subsidised Mediation Service is intended to support media freelancers who are not covered under the Employment Act and have limited options to seek redress for disputes.

5. Will the information shared under the IMDA Subsidised Mediation Service be kept confidential?

The mediation will be conducted in confidence and all communication relating to the mediation will be kept confidential by SMC. SMC will only release statistical data to IMDA.

6. How can you apply for the subsidy?

Step 1: Please check if you are eligible for the IMDA Subsidised Mediation Service. For information on the eligibility criteria, please click here <http://www.mediation.com.sg/business-services/industry-schemes/>.

Step 2: Please determine the quantum of dispute and download the relevant Application Form. Where the quantum of dispute is up to \$60,000, you should apply for mediation under the Small Case Commercial Mediation Scheme. Where the quantum of dispute is above \$60,000, you should apply for mediation under the Commercial Mediation Scheme.

Step 3: Please indicate in the Application Form whether both parties have agreed to mediate their dispute.

- (a) If both parties have agreed to mediate their dispute, please ensure that both parties have fulfilled **all** of their respective eligibility criteria and have signed the Application Form.
- (b) If the consent of the other party has not been obtained, the applying party must ensure that they have fulfilled **all** of their own eligibility criteria. Upon receipt of the Application Form, SMC will contact the other party to obtain their consent to mediation and will also assist to confirm that the other party has fulfilled **all** of their eligibility criteria.

Step 4: Thereafter, SMC will proceed to arrange for the mediation. You will be advised by SMC on the mediation fees payable (after the IMDA subsidy).

7. What is the typical amount that the media freelancer has to pay out-of-pocket? Will IMDA's subsidy be adequate?

Please note that the costs of the mediation would depend on the quantum of dispute.

For instance, where the claim falls under the Small Case Commercial Mediation Scheme and the quantum of dispute is approximately \$60,000, the mediation fees per party after applying the IMDA subsidy would be approximately \$150. Ordinarily, the mediation fees for a similar claim without any subsidy would be approximately \$350.

Where the claim falls under the Commercial Mediation Scheme and the quantum of dispute is above \$5 million, the mediation fees per party after applying the IMDA subsidy would be approximately \$2,370. Ordinarily, the mediation fees for a similar claim without any subsidy would be approximately \$4,900.