

Talent Accelerator Programme (TAP) – Feature Film Call-for-Proposals (CFP) Industry Enquiries

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GENERAL QUESTIONS (APPLICABLE TO ALL TIERS OF FUNDING)

Q1: Is Asia co-pro available for series projects?

A: This CFP is only for feature films.

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Q2: If the project has already undergone IMDA's preapproved development platforms, can it still be submitted for track A if there is no script yet.

A: Yes. A full script is not mandatory for Track A. Only a treatment is required, but we welcome a full script in addition to the treatment if you have one.

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Q3: Re the requirement where 6 talents (minimum 1 each) from Directing, Producing, Screenwriting departments is needed, how would the roles in these departments be defined?

A: Any roles within those 3 respective departments, can count towards the minimum requirement. For example, in the case of global co-pro:

- A minimum of 40 SG media talents is required.
- 12 of the 40 SG media talents must be in directing, producing and screenwriting roles.
- Each of the 3 departments, directing, producing and screenwriting, must have at least 1 SG talent in any role.

Scenario:

- 1 SG talent in Directing department in any role, 1 SG talent in Producing department in any role, 1 SG talent in Screenwriting department in any role = 3 talent.
- 9 SG talents can be in any of the 3 departments – Directing, Producing, Screenwriting in any role.
- 28 SG talents can be in any role within the production – not necessarily Directing, Producing, Screenwriting departments.

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Q4: QE is only for the expenses incurred by the SMEs correct?

A: Yes.

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Q5: If an SME engages and pays an overseas crew, can that be part of QE?

A: Yes.

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Q6: At which stage is proof of confirmed financing required - is it CFP Stage 1 or Formal Grant Application stage?

A: At the CFP stage, the panel will consider the feasibility and financing of the project. Hence, any proof of financing would aid in the panel review. However, if the project is selected for funding, proof of confirmed financing is required at formal application stage.

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Q7: Is a confirmed Director required at CFP Stage, or may this be fulfilled at the Formal Grant Application stage?

A: Yes, you will need to confirm the Director of the project when submitting your proposal at CFP stage.

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Q8: Errors in form, only YES option available without a NO option?

A: Please read the form carefully. A NO option is available.

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Q9: IP ownership: Does IMDA require the Singapore company to own or co-own the IP? Is there a minimum ownership percentage for the Singapore producer/company?

A: The Singapore company should own part of the IP. We do not impose a minimum ownership percentage, but this will be a point of consideration during panel assessment.

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Q10: What does “begun production” mean: Does principal photography, casting with signed contracts, or hiring a DP constitute “begun production”? What about locking the script or securing locations?

A: Begun production means start of principal photography.

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Q11: In Track A, is there a limit to the length of the treatment? (The guidelines indicate 1-2 pages)

A: 2 pages.

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Q12: Please clarify the definition of Non-SME with regards to the funding quantum.

A: Non-SMEs = MNCs.

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Q13: Are there additional submission guidelines to be noted?

A: The full list of submission documents is in Annex A of the published CFP Brief.

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Q14: Is there a limit to the number of key personnel allowed to attend the pitch session?

A: Yes, 3 pax.

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Q15: Once the grant is awarded, is there a stipulated timeline that the film must be completed within?

A: If selected for funding consideration, projects have 3 months to submit the formal application. Your assigned PM will discuss the project milestones with you.

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Q16: What is the policy for variance between submitted budget and actual budget?

A: At the CFP stage, please submit the budget on a best estimate basis. At the point of formal application, you will need a confirmed budget. Change requests will be entertained only on a case-by-case basis and is highly discouraged as we cannot guarantee it will be accepted.

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Q17: Will the full budget of the film need to be paid out by a Singapore Account, even though the majority of funding and expenditure will come from a foreign country?

A: No. Non-qualified expenses can be paid by any of the partners. However, all qualified expenses must be paid out through a separate “project” bank account.

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QUESTIONS REGARDING FIRST FEATURE GRANT

Q1: Will the First Feature Grant return for CFP 2?

A: Yes.

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Q2: Regarding the requirement where new Producer must be credited as a “Producer” in 3 publicly screened short films/episodes, what considers as acceptable “Producer” credits? For example, do Co-Producer, Associate Producer, or Line Producer credits on short films count? If not, is there any flexibility?

A: Only a Co-producer credit counts.

Scenario: If the proposed new Producer has previously worked as a Line Producer (not “Producer” or “Co-producer”) on a feature film, it does not disqualify the Producer from being the new Producer for First Features.

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Q3: Regarding the definition of “publicly screened”, do the graduation show screenings for the film industry at The Projector qualify?

A: No. Per the form, IMDA defines a public screening as “on platforms such as broadcast, film festivals, theatrical release, curated online platforms, etc”.

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Q4: What specific credit must the new Producer hold on the finished feature (e.g., “Producer” only, or is “Co-Producer” acceptable)?

A: Producer or Co-Producer only.

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Q5: New/Veteran Producer's role & responsibilities: We understand that both the veteran Producer and the new Producer can be credited as "Producer." Are there specific duties IMDA expects the new Producer to perform (e.g., on-set presence, budget oversight, sales)? In an international co-production, we need to specify the lead or delegate producer. Can the veteran Producer be the lead / delegate producer?

A: Yes, the veteran can qualify as the lead producer, but please be reminded the new producer/co-producer must also be Singaporean.

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Q6: Under First Feature company's track record: The company must have produced 3 short films or 3 episodes. If a company has focused primarily on feature films so far, should we list our recent feature film projects instead?

A: The eligibility criteria is a minimum. Anything more is alright.

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Q7: Is it possible to submit a First Feature for Track B if we already have a full script, and have participated in the labs and markets listed in the pre-approved Project Labs/Development Platforms for CFP Track B?

A: Yes.

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Q8: The CFP requires "one Singaporean Producer" to attend the training. Must the new Producer attend, or can anyone on the producing team attend if the new Producer is on a shoot during this period?

A: No, the New Producer must attend.

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Q9: For the \$300,000 grant for First Features, does IMDA require the company to show matching funds or a minimum qualifying expense? How is the grant disbursed (tranches, milestones)? What are typical milestones?

A: For First Features, we will not require you to meet a minimum qualifying expense beyond the grant amount, but you will need to show proof of financing. If your project is selected, we will discuss milestones with you with you.

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QUESTIONS REGARDING ASIA CO-PRODUCTION GRANT

Q1: Is Asia Co-production available for series projects?

A: This CFP is only for feature films.

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Q2: Is having a co-director allowed for an Asia Co-production project?

A: There is no limit on how many directors you can have on a project, but you need to clearly differentiate their respective scope of work, and identify a lead director, who must fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria published for this tier of funding.

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QUESTIONS REGARDING GLOBAL CO-PRODUCTION GRANT

Q1: Is Global Co-production available for series projects?

A: This CFP is only for feature films.

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Q2: We have multiple non-Asian (i.e. global) producers attached to the project. Does the requirement for 4 long-form Producer/Co-producer credits apply to each individual, or may the 4 credits be met collectively across the team?

A: A lead producer must be identified. Only the lead producer must fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria of 4 long-form Producer/Co-producer credits.

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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Q1: Director Eligibility: The current criteria for Asia Co-production seems to essentially rule out directors with only one feature film under their belt, regardless of that first feature film's success. Second feature filmmakers seem to be left out completely. Even if a debut feature film has toured major festivals, won awards, or achieved wide distribution, the new rules don't seem to account for that significant momentum.

A:

- a. The intent of the Asia Co-Production grant is designed to support projects and filmmakers who have garnered a minimum amount of experience through their first features.
- b. With this intent, we have raised the quantum of our support to be up to \$600,000 (from \$300,000 previously).
- c. Hence, we deem the minimum eligibility for this higher tier of funding to be at least two long-form content projects (feature films/series).
- d. We encourage such filmmakers to actively and independently embark on a second long-form project in their preferred roles.
- e. In addition, we have loosened the eligibility criteria for first features to include first-time producers, as such, it is possible for members of the industry to apply as first-time producers/work with first-time SG producers as well.

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Q2: Director Eligibility: The new rules for Asia Co-production seem to leave out first-time Asian directors who are not Singaporean or Singapore PR. Some of the top success stories of the past 5 years have come from South-East Asian first features.

A:

- a. The focus of TAP's support remains that of Singaporean/Singapore PR talent first.
- b. We acknowledge the successes of these SEA talents mentioned, and welcome their participation in co-production projects/CFP in other roles, should they have partners who meet the criteria.

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Q3: Mandatory Development Platforms (Track A or B - Global Co-Productions) Most experienced/veteran filmmakers have projects with high-quality scripts and secured financing – Being forced into Track A simply because the project hasn't participated in a specific development platform (project markets and labs) feels counter-productive. Filmmakers with a proven track record are often capable of bringing a project to a "ready-to-shoot" stage independently, making these platforms a prerequisite adds unnecessary issues to an efficient process.

A:

- a. The independent assessment panel will assess which projects will require Story Development, in addition to mandatory Pitch Development. We defer to their decision.
- b. Furthermore, as shared at the in-person TAP briefing and published in our CFP Brief, Asia/Global Co-Production projects that can demonstrate at least 80% secured financing, will be exempted from any mandated development,

including Pitch Development. The financing must be demonstrated through executed agreements with investment/financing/co-production partners (no Letter of Intent).

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Q4: Does requiring companies to disclose the financial performance of past projects mean that new creative projects will be judged primarily on the commercial metrics of previous work?

A:

- a. IMDA reserves the right to ask for documentation we deem necessary for the CFP/application process of our grant.
- b. This been put into practice since the last CFP.
- c. Each proposal is assessed by the panel holistically across artistic, cultural and commercial value.
- d. The disclosure of financial performance of past projects is for IMDA. Before sending the proposals to the evaluation panel, IMDA asks the companies to sanitise any sensitive commercial information.