

NFDC SCREENWRITERS' LAB 2021

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Is there any special requirement in terms of the subject of the screenplay?

The chief criterion for selection in this Lab is that it should be an original story in any Indian language.

Is the lab open for web series?

The Screenwriters' Lab is currently open for the scripts of feature-length fiction films only.

What are the submission requirements for applying to the Screenwriters 'Lab?

To apply, you are required to submit the logline, the short story synopsis and a writer's statement. Additionally you have the choice to submit either a full script OR a long synopsis (6 - 10 pages) along with the 1st 20 pages of the script or above (both documents are mandatory). Please see the Definitions document for a complete overview of what you need to submit.

Regardless of the final language of the film, the logline, synopsis, and script (including dialogues) should be in English only. If your dialogues are in any language other than English, kindly translate them before submitting the screenplay.

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Eg: Roman Hindi - "Jaise ki yeh jo lika hai maine" - Not Accepted

English - "Like this, what I have written" - Accepted

While there are no strict limits to the number of pages of your script, a conventional script is between 90 - 120 pages.

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My long synopsis is less than 6 pages. Can I still apply?

Yes. However, do remember that we are looking for a complete story with a clear indication of the plot and the emotional journey of the protagonist. The strength of your application will be based on this document so make sure you give it your best. For more details see the Definitions document on the website.

Can I submit a short synopsis and the first 20 pages of the script?

No. There are only two submission options. You can either submit a full script OR a long story synopsis and minimum first 20 pages of the script or above (excluding the title page). There can be no mix and match.

If I am submitting the long synopsis and the 1st 20 pages of the script, when do I have to submit my complete script/screenplay?

Applicants do not need to submit anything else after submitting the application form. Only selected participants will have to submit their complete script within 10 days of the announcement of the results on the website. Please check all documents before submitting. For any clarification, please write to labs@nfdcindia.com.

How will I receive notifications regarding the application and selection process?

All communication regarding Screenwriters' Lab 2021 will be sent via email only to the applicant listed as 'Screenwriter' on the application form.

WHO CAN APPLY

Are Indians residing in any other parts of the world eligible for applying to the lab?

The Screenwriters' Lab shall accept applications only from either Indian passport holders residing in India or from valid Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders.

Can I still apply if there is more than one writer attached to my project?

Yes. However, as Screenwriters' Lab follows a one-on-one mentoring process, only one writer per project can attend the Lab. The person listed as 'Writer' in the Application Form will be considered for attending the Lab.

Can I apply with more than one project?

Yes, however each project must be applied with separate application forms and only one project per writer will be selected. Do bear in mind that you do not need to create new Film Bazaar accounts to submit more than one application. Simply add another submission.

I had applied to the lab before .Can I apply with a project that was previously rejected?

Yes you can. But do tell us in the Writer's Statement section of the application form what has changed in the project since your last application.

Can my director attend the lab at his/her own cost?

The Screenwriters' Lab is designed only for the screenwriters of the project and therefore no Director can attend the lab at his/her own cost. However, directors attached to the project can attend the Film Bazaar after due registration. Please check the website for further details.

Can I apply for the lab if my script is an adaptation of a book/remake of a film?

In case your script is an adaptation of a book or a re-make of a film, you will need to submit the consent letter of the writer/publisher (in case of a book adaptation) or producer/production house (in case of a film).

SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

When and how will I know if I am selected for the Lab? Will I be notified if I am not selected for the Lab?

You will be notified by email if you are selected/not selected for the lab by the end of June.

Will I be informed of the reasons if I am not selected?

Due to the large number of applications received, we cannot provide individual feedback or reasons to applicants whose projects do not get selected for the current edition of the lab.

AT THE LAB

What are the exact dates for the lab?

The dates of the lab will be notified to the selected participants.

What is the exact nature of the lab?

The idea behind the Screenwriters' Lab is to help screenwriters improve their drafts of the screenplay with inputs from mentors in one-on-one sessions. In addition, during the course of the lab master classes, lectures and short workshops will be conducted on structure and character development, dialogue and scene writing, along with visual codes, pitching and synopsis writing.

What penalty will I have to face if I don't attend any segment of the lab?

The penalty will be charged only if the participant does not deliver submission or abide by the rules of the lab. The amount is INR 2,00,000. In case of an unavoidable situation where the participant is indisposed then NFDC will not charge any penalty. However all the other rules regarding, credit, lien, confidentiality will still stay valid.

Will I be able to sell my screenplay to a producer during the duration of the Screenwriters' Lab?

Yes, the work on the project, including sale, finding producers, pre-production etc can continue as scheduled. In the case a participant defaults, he/she will have to free the lien after paying the penalty. In addition, in case of a successful completion, the lien will be terminated only after a payment of INR 2,00,000 to NFDC. This will be applicable to projects that are sold to a producer/studio/investor or is translated into a film by the producer/studio/investor.

If selected, what is the Travel Reimbursement Amount that I am eligible for?

The three tier AC travel reimbursement amount will be decided solely at the discretion of NFDC, based on Indian Railways estimates of train fare from the city of applicant's current residence to the city of the Lab venue. Selected participants are advised to check with the Screenwriters' Lab team regarding applicable amounts before finalizing their travel plans.

NFDC FILM BAZAAR

Why is attending NFDC Film Bazaar mandatory?

Film Bazaar organized by NFDC is a unique opportunity for Indian film professionals to meet international producers, filmmakers, distributors, funding agencies to look for possible partnerships. A special Screenwriters' Pitch is organized during Film Bazaar to present lab projects to industry professionals.

Will NFDC help in finding a producer?

NFDC only offers an opportunity to the selected participants to attend the Film Bazaar in Goa .It is the participant's responsibility to find funding for their project. However, NFDC does offer assistance in identifying potential partners to the project during Film Bazaar.

My query isn't listed. I wish to speak to a team member. Whom can I contact?

If you have any further questions, we encourage you to write to labs@nfdcindia.com. Please be rest assured that all emails written to us will get answered within 48 hours max. We request you not to call us on the office landline number for queries and communicate only via emails. Queries will not be answered on the phone.