



ULSTER-SCOTS BROADCAST FUND DRAMA DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION CALL

The Ulster-Scots Broadcast Fund (USBF) wishes to support the production of Ulster-Scots drama projects in the near future. To do this, we must first develop Ulster-Scots drama projects. This USBF call is to support the development, as opposed to the production, of Ulster-Scots drama projects.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- Ideally applications will be from production companies in conjunction with the writer, but we will consider applications directly from writers in which case we will partner the writer with an appropriate production company in due course.
- Early USBF drama projects will almost certainly be very low budget. Therefore, we are only interested in the development of projects achievable on a modest budget. For guidance, we envisage the drama production budget will be in the region of £200k-£500k per hour.
- Drama projects that are exclusively in Ulster-Scots or have at least 50% of the script in Ulster-Scots.
- Docudrama projects that use dramatisation to bring new perspectives to Ulster-Scots culture/heritage.
- Compelling stories with a unique or fresh perspective.
- Stories with strong character journeys.
- Feature film, long-form, or short form TV drama projects.
- All genres will be considered.
- A Director does not need to be attached at this stage.

WHAT SHOULD BE DELIVERED AT THE END OF THE DEVELOPMENT PERIOD

Production companies will be expected to deliver:

- For a single drama, delivery of a draft script. For a series, delivery of a series bible and a draft script for 1 episode; and
- Indicative production budget.

Writers will be expected to deliver:

- For a single drama, delivery of a draft script. For a series, delivery of a series bible and a draft script for 1 episode.

LEVEL OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

Applications from production companies

The USBF envisage that these development awards will not exceed £15,000 based on an overall development budget of £20,000. Match funding for the balance of up to £5,000 can be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions and can include company contributions.

Applications from writers

The USBF envisage that these development awards will not exceed £2,250 based on an overall development budget of £2,500. Match funding for the balance of up to £250 can be in the form of cash or in-kind contribution(s). Further stages of development might be available to projects that both require and warrant it.

DECISION MAKING CRITERIA

The focus of the decision making will be:

1. the primacy and richness of the Ulster-Scots language within the project;
2. the viability of the project; and
3. the quality and practicality of the idea and script.

TIME FRAME

All applications must be received by **5pm on Friday 3rd December 2021**. All applications will be assessed with decisions intended to be made by the **end of January 2022**.

APPLICATION

Please contact Suzanne Harrison, Funding Manager (suzanne@northernirelandscreen.co.uk), to discuss a potential application before applying. After this discussion the application form will be sent out. Please ensure that all supporting documentation is submitted with your application or via email to the USBF (usbf@northernirelandscreen.co.uk).

In addition to the standard required supporting documentation, the following must also be included with the application:

- Outline treatment and/or draft script. A sample of Ulster-Scots dialogue must be included.
- Project development schedule.
- A bio and details of any recent credits for the writer(s).