

AUSFILM

Connecting film & TV makers
worldwide to Australia

Location Offset

TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

Factsheet





AUSFILM



TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING QUICK FACTS

Ausfilm - connecting film and TV makers worldwide to Australia

Ausfilm promotes Australia's screen incentive production program, locations and capabilities worldwide to assist international screen producers to make their productions in Australia.

Ausfilm is an Australian industry-government partnership. It comprises Australia's federal, state and territory governments, major studios, leading post and VFX facilities and production service providers.

Introduction

The Location Offset provides a rebate worth 30% of qualifying spend. To be eligible for the Location Offset, productions must meet certain requirements including a requirement to contribute to training opportunities or the broader production and infrastructure capacity of the Australian screen sector.

To meet this requirement, projects must meet or exceed a minimum expenditure requirement on eligible training activities.

Projects can qualify for an exemption from the minimum expenditure requirement if they establish either:

- a long-term structured training program; or
- permanent film and television infrastructure in Australia.

This requirement makes sure that projects that receive support under the Location Offset contribute to the skills and capability of the Australian industry.

Many Australian state and territory government funding programs also require projects to contribute to training or capacity building. These requirements work together: spend to acquit the Location Offset obligation may also be used to acquit a state or territory obligation.

DISCLAIMER

This factsheet provides a brief overview of the training and capacity building requirements for the Location Offset. You can access [more information about the Location Offset here](#).

Please contact Ausfilm for an introduction to the Location Offset and filming in Australia:

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Sydney

+61 2 9383 4192 | info@ausfilm.com.au

The Location Offset, including the training requirement, is administered by the Australian Government's Office for the Arts (OFTA).

For more detailed information contact:

+61 2 6136 8012 | filmenquiries@arts.gov.au

www.arts.gov.au

MINIMUM TRAINING EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENT

Every production accessing the Location Offset must meet or exceed the minimum expenditure requirement, by spending a minimum amount of qualifying spend on eligible training activities, unless they are eligible for an exemption.

How much must be spent?

The minimum spend depends on when production commences:

PRODUCTION START DATE	MINIMUM TRAINING EXPENDITURE AMOUNT	MAXIMUM REQUIRED AMOUNT
Between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025	0.5% of the project's total QAPE*, capped at A\$250,000	A\$250,000
On or after 1 July 2025	1% of the project's total QAPE*, capped at A\$500,000	A\$500,000

*QAPE = Qualifying Australian Production Expenditure. It is the production (and post-production) spend that qualifies for the Location Offset rebate

Which spend is qualifying spend?

The expenditure must be:

1. Incurred by the applicant company;
2. Qualifying Australian Production Expenditure (QAPE) for the purpose of the Location Offset: in other words, spend that qualifies for the rebate; and
3. Spent on eligible training of one or more people who have worked on the project. Eligible training is 'training or education provided in Australia that contributes to the knowledge, skills or experience of an individual in relation to the making of the film' (or series).

Training can take place across production and post-production activity in Australia.

What if my QAPE increases unexpectedly?

The Government recognises that if a project's QAPE increases late in production, there may also be an unexpected increase in the minimum training

expenditure requirement amount. To make sure they meet their minimum spend amount, projects can make a 'top up' payment to an eligible training provider. 'Top up' payments are not considered QAPE.

These payments must be made to eligible providers. An eligible provider is an entity that offers accredited tertiary courses in screen production (i.e. universities) or a training organisation that is registered by the National VET Regulator that offers vocational education and training accredited courses in screen production (such as TAFEs). 'Top up' payments cannot be made to an associate of the production company.

'Top up' payments cannot be greater than 50% of the total minimum training expenditure amount. The payment must be paid after production commences, and before the end of production in Australia or the final spend on QAPE (whichever is earlier).

How do I find people and organisations to train and work with?

See pages 5-6 below.

EXEMPTION 1:

INVEST IN LONG-TERM STRUCTURED TRAINING PROGRAM

Projects can be exempted from the minimum training expenditure requirement by establishing an eligible long-term training program.

What does a long-term training program look like?

Long-term training programs must be established by organisations that have control over or can maintain oversight of productions that the training program is to be delivered through.

Training programs must provide training to and materially contribute to the making of at least two productions in Australia. One of these projects must be a production that intends to apply for the Location Offset.

At least one individual working on the project applying for the Location Offset must undertake the training program.

What training would be provided?

Programs can include different elements and training methods, but the Government expects that most training will be delivered 'on the job.' Participants could be entry, or mid or senior-level practitioners working above or below the line. The program could involve mentoring, placements and attachments, intensive skills development and/or partnerships.

What must the training programs achieve?

The Government will assess if training programs materially contribute to alleviating capacity constraints in the Australian screen industry.

The following factors will be considered:

- mentoring, industry partnerships, and work experience placements facilitated by the training program

- skills shortages in the Australian screen industry that are addressed by the training program
- how activities connected to the training program contribute to improvements in health and safety, diversity and inclusion in the Australian screen industry
- other relevant matters.

There is no minimum spend required by the project on the training program, however it is expected that projects of greater scale and expenditure will provide a greater amount of training.

Participants in a training program are expected to receive a credit.

What else is required?

All participants must be paid recognised industry rates and entitlements.

The costs for the training provided must have been incurred by the applicant company to be considered QAPE. Costs for the training provided may also be incurred by an associate of the applicant company, but these costs may not be considered QAPE.

Projects must report on the training program and outcomes, as part of final certification.

How do I get started?

Projects that intend to establish a training program are recommended to apply for provisional certification with the Government, which will consider and assess how the program meets the requirements. Guidelines and application forms are [available here](#).

State and territory government screen agencies can describe local needs and opportunities. See pages 5-6 below.

EXEMPTION 2:

ESTABLISH OR UPGRADE FILM INFRASTRUCTURE

Projects can satisfy the training and capacity building requirement if the production company makes a material contribution to the establishment or upgrading of a piece of permanent film infrastructure in Australia.

What is 'film infrastructure'?

Under the requirement, 'film infrastructure' refers to buildings or other physical structures that can be used to make films and TV content.

Infrastructure must be permanent, and be reasonably situated in a location appropriate to the needs of Australia's screen industry.

Examples of what may be considered acceptable investment in new or upgraded infrastructure include building a new studio facility, building a water tank, improving sound-proofing at an existing studio facility or building new permanent administration offices at an existing studio facility.

How much must be contributed?

The infrastructure projects must be reasonable in scale and cost, determined by reference to the scale and cost of the project.

What else is required?

The infrastructure must materially contribute to alleviating capacity constraints in the Australian screen industry.

At least some of the infrastructure establishment or upgrades must have commenced after the commencement of principal photography for the project (i.e. they cannot already be completed when principal photography begins). They must be completed within a reasonable period after the end of production.

The company that applies for the Location Offset must be responsible for the establishment or upgrading of the infrastructure.

Spend related to the infrastructure may or may not be QAPE.

The applicant company must provide a report on the infrastructure, as part of final certification.

How do I get started?

Projects that intend to invest in infrastructure are recommended to apply for provisional certification with the Government, which will consider and assess how the infrastructure meets the requirements.

Guidelines and application forms [are available here](#).

Projects can also work with state and territory government screen agencies to understand local needs: see page 5 for more.



AUSTRALIAN TRAINING ORGANISATIONS

STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Australia's states and territories each have a government screen agency that offers funding and administrative support to productions.

Many state and territory funding programs also require projects to contribute to training or capacity building in that state or territory. Spend by a project to acquit a Location Offset obligation may also be used to acquit a state or territory obligation.

State and territory agencies understand local needs and opportunities across training and infrastructure. Ausfilm can connect you with these agencies, and further information [is available here](#).

TRAINING ORGANISATIONS

The following organisations and educational institutions offer training for Australia's film and TV industry. They may be able to support providing training on your production and/or connect you with trainees and attachments. Please note this list is not exhaustive and will be updated over time. Contact Ausfilm or the relevant state or territory screen agency to discuss your options. Please also note that the Australian Government does not endorse any of the following organisations and educational institutions.

AUSTRALIAN TRAINING ORGANISATIONS

National

[Academy of Interactive Entertainment \(AIE\)](#)
[Australian Film, Television & Radio School \(AFTRS\)](#)
[Bus Stop Films](#)
[The National Institute of Dramatic Art \(NIDA\)](#)
[Screen Careers](#)
[Screen Well](#)
[Screenworks](#)

Australian Capital Territory

[AIE Film School](#)
[Australian National University \(ANU\)](#)
[Canberra Institute of Technology](#)
[Compton School](#)
[Perform Australia](#)
[University of Canberra](#)

New South Wales

[Accessible Arts](#)
[Arts and Cultural Exchange \(ACE\)](#)
[Creative Plus Business](#)
[Screen Illawarra](#)
[Screen Warriors](#)
[TAFE NSW](#)

Northern Territory

[Charles Darwin University](#)

Several other organisations, including industry [guilds and associations](#), operate programs and initiatives that are related to training and attachments.

Queensland

[Bond University](#)
[Central Queensland University \(CQU\)](#)
[Essential Screen Skills](#)
[Griffith University](#)
[JMC Academy](#)
[Kolperi Filmmaking](#)
[SAE University](#)
[TAFE Queensland](#)

South Australia

[Flinders University](#)
[TAFESA](#)
[University of Adelaide](#)
[University of South Australia](#)

Tasmania

[Apple Box Studio](#)
[TasTAFE](#)
[University of Tasmania](#)

Victoria

[Deakin University](#)
[RMIT University](#)
[Swinburne University](#)
[Victorian College of the Arts \(VCA\)](#)
[University of Melbourne](#)

Western Australia

[Curtin University](#)
[Goolarri Media](#)
[Murdoch University](#)
[Professional Film Crew WA](#)
[TAFE WA](#)
[Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts \(WAAPA\)](#), [Edith Cowan University](#)
[Western Australian Screen Academy](#), [Edith Cowan University](#)

Platinum Members

				
				
				

Contact Ausfilm to learn more about filming in Australia and the training and capacity-building organisations you can work with:

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