

## NFDC SCREENWRITERS' LAB: Web-Series 2024

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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### 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?**

Yes. This is the first time we are accepting applications for series/shows under SWL. Kindly check the Film Bazaar website for more details.

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

Submission Requirements.

Series Logline	30 or less words	Mandatory
Series Synopsis	150 words or less	Mandatory
Detailed Pilot Episode Synopsis	Pilot/First Episode Synopsis- 3 (min) to 5 (max) Pages	Optional
Episodic Synopsis	300 to 500 words (per episode for all episodes)	Mandatory
Series Description	6 pages min. 10 pages max	Mandatory
Pilot Episode Screenplay/Script	25 pages min. 60 Pages max	Optional (Preferred)

It is mandatory for the prospective participants to fulfill either one of these requirements:

Case I- If you decide to submit the complete Pilot/First Episode Screenplay then Episodic Synopsis for each episode becomes optional.

Case II- If you don't have a finished Pilot/First Episode Screenplay ready at the time of submission then it is mandatory that you submit the Detailed Pilot/First Episode Synopsis. However the selected participants will be required to submit a first draft of the pilot before the commencement of the 2nd session of the lab. Pilot/First Episode synopsis is usually longer and more detailed out for pitching and evaluation purposes when a pilot series/screenplay is missing. This detailed synopsis is ideally 3 (min) to 5(max) pages and gives a very detailed description of the pilot episode in an act wise structure and with a clear indication of the beginning, middle and end. It is also strongly recommended that participants who are not submitting a screenplay submit a previous screenplay that they have worked on and that is registered in their name at the time of application.

### **In which language should the synopsis and script be in?**

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.

Eg: Roman Hindi - "Jaise ki yeh jo likha hai maine" - Not Accepted  
English - "Like this, what I have written" - Accepted

### **How many pages does my full script need to be?**

As per existing conventions a pilot episode can be between 25 - 60 pages depending on the genre and format of the show.

### **My Series Description 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.

### **If I submit only the series description and the pilot episode screenplay, am I exempt from submitting the episodic synopsis for the remainder episodes ?**

Yes. In case an applicant is applying with a series/show all the requirements mentioned need to be fulfilled which includes- logline, series synopsis, series description and pilot episode screenplay/script. However you will be expected to submit the episodic synopsis for the remaining episodes and a revised pilot episode screenplay before the commencement of the 2nd stage of the lab.

### **If I don't submit the Pilot Episode Screenplay, is it mandatory that I submit the Detailed Pilot Synopsis and Episodic Synopsis for all the episodes?**

Yes, it is mandatory that you submit a Detailed Pilot Episode Synopsis (3 to 5 Pages) and Episodic Synopsis (300 to 500 words per episode) for all the episodes. Also the selected participants will be required to submit a first draft of the pilot before the commencement of the 2nd session of the lab. It is also mandatory that participants who are not submitting a screenplay submit a previous screenplay that they have worked on and that is registered in their name.

It's important to note that preference will be given to Pilot Episode Screenplays/Scripts over Pilot Episode Synopsis.

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

All communication regarding Screenwriters' Lab 2024 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 and 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.

**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 once results are out.

### **What materials will I have to submit if I get selected for the Lab and when?**

If you get selected for the Lab, you will be asked to upload the complete first draft of your pilot screenplay before the beginning of the first session of the Lab.

If a participant is selected and they have only submitted the pilot episode screenplay and Season Description then it is mandatory for them to submit the Episodic Synopsis for the remaining episodes in the season before the commencement of the 2nd stage of the lab.

### **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?**

The work on the project, including sale, finding producers, pre-production etc can continue as scheduled before and after the conclusion of the lab. 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 series/show by the producer/studio/ investor.

In the case a participant defaults, he/she will have to free the lien after paying the penalty. While the lab is in progress, if any of the parallel pitching on part of the participating screenwriter hinders them from attending the lab or encumbers them in a way that they are not able to submit the aforementioned deliverables they should be liable to be considered for elimination from the lab. This will also make the screenwriter liable to make a payment of INR 2,00,000 to NFDC for their incomplete participation in the lab.

**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 collaborations. 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](mailto:labs@nfdcindia.com). Please be rest assured that all emails written to us will get answered at the earliest. 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.