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WEE WONDERS SCOTLAND GUIDELINES:

Wee Wonders Scotland is an early development animation talent development scheme which will support new and emerging filmmakers in writing and directing for animation by honing on story development and authentic voices to produce four bold, brave, daring, animation shorts between 1-3 minutes in length. We encourage creatives from traditionally excluded backgrounds to apply.

Talent aged 18 years old and above from across Scotland may apply either as an individual or as a small creative team and we encourage applications from creatives from traditionally excluded backgrounds.

This scheme has also been designed to be a call card for you and your team to upskill and although you will be able to receive a fee, this wouldn't be an employment opportunity for writer, writer/director, producer.

We are looking for original proposals of scripted outlines of the story for any animation style and techniques which is achievable within the budget and timescale, so think about the number of characters and set builds that you will have.

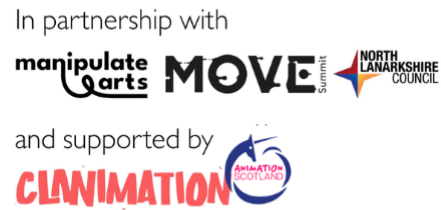
We are looking for a range of stories at outline stage only and open to any age range of audience from children, family through to adult animation.

Each successful commissioned project will receive up to 7K funding to write a final draft script and to produce the animated film. Talents will also receive regular one-to-one sessions, development workshops, editorial support and industry mentorship per specialised animation style of project.

Hybrid delivery of Development Workshop dates if selected are:

- Saturday 7th February 2026 (online)
- Saturday 14th February 2026 (in person)
- Sunday 15th February 2026 (in person)
- Saturday 28th February 2026 (in person)
- Saturday 14th March 2026 (in person)
- Sunday 15th March 2026 (in person)
- Saturday 28th March 2026 (online)

Commissioned short animations must be delivered by October 2026.



Eligibility Criteria:

All applicants either individuals or teams must meet the following eligibility:

Age: Must be 18 years old or over (no upper age limit).

Location: Must be based in Scotland.

Education: Not be in full time education.

Experience:

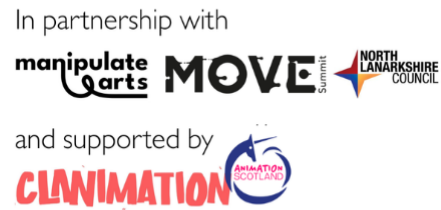
- You can apply if you are a new artist, established artist, or not a working artist, but this would be your first theatrical funded animation.
- Must not have been commissioned to make a film before by a TV broadcaster, film funding body, or another commissioning scheme.
- Writer(s) and writer/director(s) can come from other creative and artistic professions outside animation.
- You can apply if you have animation experience and have credits in other roles in an animation production apart from writer(s) and writer(s)/director(s).
- You can apply if you have made a student film/animation film or self-funded film.

Availability:

- Must be able to attend all online and in person development workshops.
- Attend regular weekly to fortnightly online one-to-one meetings with Programme Manager.
- Meet online with your assigned industry mentor.
- Deliver a final draft script by Monday 23rd March 2026.
- Deliver a completed animated film by October 30th 2026.

Application Criteria:

- Can apply as an individual or as a small team.
- Short animated films must be scripted stories and must be original stories.
- Films can be of any genre.
- Films can be of any animation style and including mixed techniques.
- Mixed media is acceptable but at least 80% of the completed film must be fully animated.
- We are looking to support up to four films that reflect a range of audience ages that cover U, 12, 15, 18 certifications.



- We are looking for story outlines that can be turned into scripts.
- We are unable to accept drafts of scripts.
- Films can be made in any language.
- You should be able to provide evidence of your passion for animation.

How to Apply:

ALL applications should be made via the online application form ([Jotform link here](#)).

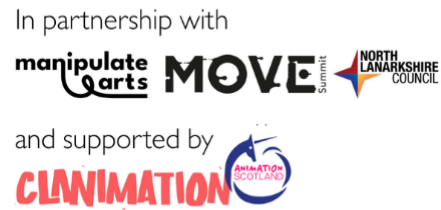
Applications can also be accepted in other formats including:

- Video or audio recording.
- Written or recorded in other languages beside English, i.e. Gaelic, Scots or BSL.
- Hard copy by post.

For audio/video submissions we ask for you to upload your file as an unlisted youtube link which you can copy the URL and paste into the section on the jotform application form.

On the written application form we will ask:

- For your name, email address, applicant's role.
- If there already is a team in place and if so, names and roles.
- Short biography and for you to tell us your background (Max 300 words or 90 seconds for audio/video submissions).
- Optional to include a CV/Filmography as an attachment.
- Project Title.
- Style of animation.
- Logline (Max. 100 words or 30 seconds for audio/video submissions)
- Outline - tell us everything from beginning to the end about your story idea (Max. 500 words or 3 minutes for audio/video submissions).
- Personal statement (or statements if applying as a team) of why you want to make this film and why you would benefit from being part of the Wee Wonders Scotland scheme (Max. 300 words or 90 seconds for audio/video submissions).
- Optional to include video links (and related passwords) or other visual materials of previous made work.



Please contact via email: wilma@visiblefictions.co.uk if you require any assistance with applying or if you require the guidelines or application form in a different format.

Equality Diversity and Inclusion Monitoring Form

Individuals or teams who apply will be contacted via email to fill out an equal opportunity monitoring form. The data gathered is anonymous and helps to foster a more positive, innovative, and productive work environment by ensuring fair treatment and equal opportunities for all participants.

Timeline and Assessment Process

Deadline for application is 12 noon on Monday 15th December 2026. Applications after this time will not be accepted.

Once we have received your application you will receive a confirmation email.

All applications will go through a formalised assessment process.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview where questions will be given in advance. Interviews will take place of 28th and 29th January 2026 via zoom.

We aim to provide and achieve a relaxed conversational style interview with you and 2 members of the selection panel, and we will request if we can record the zoom session for the remaining selection panel members to watch back. The zoom recordings will be deleted by 3rd February 2026.

All applicants will be notified of the decision via email no later than 8 weeks after the deadline date.

We will be unable to give feedback on individual applications.



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Access Support:

If any members of your team have personal access needs that will incur a cost during the development or production of your short animation, you can apply for additional funding support.

This can include but not limited to:

- Transport
- Accommodation
- Communication assistance such as BSL interpreter, note taker, speech to text reporter, lip speaker, translation of documents either in English or if English is not your first language into other formats/language, including Easy Read, large print or audio
- Personal Support Assistance
- Childcare

Please email wilma@visiblefictions.co.uk if you would like to discuss access requirements.

Complaints Procedures

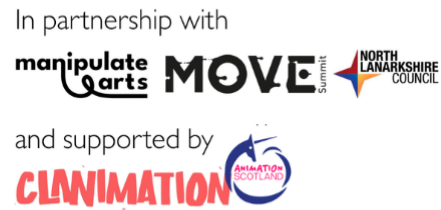
If you wish to make a complaint against the application outcome, please email: laura@visiblefictions.co.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can I apply as an individual?

A. Yes. To apply as an individual, you must have the skillset to deliver all aspects of the animation. Otherwise, we can support you to put a team together. If you are working as an individual, we recommend that you do team up with a producer to help you focus on your role as director/ animator.

Q. I'm a writer but not an animator / I'm an animator but not a writer / director – is that a problem?



A. If you don't have access to a creative team, then let us know and we can support you by matching you up with other writers / directors / animators / producer as needed. If you have a good idea, we will help you find someone.

Q. How will I be matched with a creative team?

A. The Wee Wonders Programme Manager, Wilma Smith will be leading and supporting you throughout the process and will suggest names of collaborators for you to meet and discuss the project with, giving both parties space and time to think before making formal decisions in teaming up.

Q. Is this a paid opportunity?

A. This is a talent development programme for training and learning rather than an employment opportunity. Each successful applicant can receive a stipend one off fee which will be allocated from their films budget. The budget allocated to each successful film will be used to make your film (materials / cameras / venue hire / additional expertise). We will work with you to help you articulate and manage your budget. The budget can be utilised to pay stipends for other crew who are looking to step up in their skillset.

Q. Do you cover access costs?

A. Yes – please just talk to us about your needs. Please email: wilma@visiblefiction.co.uk

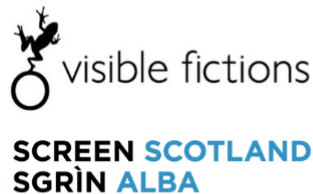
Q. Do I have to attend all development workshops in person?

A. Ideally yes, you will be expected to attend sessions in person. For online sessions, these will be recorded so that you can watch back on but again we expect you to attend. We also request that you have regularly online meetings with the Programme Manager so that we can support you. You must also keep in contact with your assigned industry mentor so they can also support you throughout your duration of the scheme.

Q. I've already written a script – can I submit it?

A. No – this is a development opportunity. We are looking for ideas first and outlines of the story from start to finish which would then be developed into a script.

Q. I would like to submit an adaptation of a piece of work – can I submit it?



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A. We are looking for original ideas but will consider adaptations if you have made and own the rights to a piece of work e.g. a book, a poem, a play etc. that can be adapted into a short animation. If you don't own the rights, we would be unable to consider.

Q. I have an idea for a documentary – can I submit it?

A. No – we are only looking for fictional scripted ideas. We can accept experimental conceptual animation ideas, but the aim would be to develop these ideas into a structured format and would explore themes and stories.

Q. I'd like to apply but I don't have any animation equipment – is this a problem?

A. No – we are here to support and can help you get access to the equipment that you need to make your animation.

Q. Do I need to live in the central belt?

A. No – we encourage animation talent from across Scotland to apply.

Q. I live on an island / in a rural community – will my expenses be covered for attending the workshops?

A. Yes – through access costs we can provide travel and accommodation for anyone who is attending.

Q. What happens to my film once I've made it?

A. Creating artists will retain all IP. Visible Fictions and Screen Scotland will have rights to use the film for a period of 24 months (non-commercial). Additional budget is available to submit your work to film festivals, and we will help you with your film festival strategy.

Q. What happens after the programme ends?

A. You will be supported through the whole process by mentorship and regular check-ins, guidance and workshops. We will continue to support you as you transition out of the programme. We will work with you to sign post you to onward opportunities, and we would like to keep in touch to see how you progress.

Q. What level of experience should I have to be able to apply?

A. You can be new or emerging talent. This will be your first time as a writer / director for an animation. You can't have been commissioned as a writer / director credit to make a film before by a TV broadcaster, film funding body,



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or another commissioning scheme, for example, Little Pictures. You can have been involved in another role as crew in a film or TV broadcast or commercial production. You can already have studied animation at college or university. You can also come from the various other creative arts backgrounds, and this would be your first time in animation, for example directing for theatre or writing novels, or illustrating books. The key thing is that you have a passion for animation and can show this to us.

Q. Will I receive feedback about my application?

A. No – unfortunately we cannot guarantee feedback.

Q. How long will it take for my application to be assessed?

A. The deadline for applications is 15th December 2025. We will be carrying out interviews on 28th and 29th January 2026. Successful applicants will be informed on 3rd February 2026.

Q. How will I be informed of the decision?

A. By email (unless other communication requested due to access needs).

Q. Is there an opportunity to chat about my application before I submit it?

A. Yes – we will be hosting an in-person event on Wednesday 26th November at 6.30pm at 18-20 Cowgate, Edinburgh through Clanimation and you can speak to us then. We will also be hosting online zoom webinars through November and December and you can sign up through Eventbrite and we will be providing information as well as the opportunity for you to ask questions via the chatbox. Please also follow us on social media (@VisibleFictions) for up-to-date information.

You can also email the Wee Wonders Programme Manager at:

wilma@visiblefictions.co.uk if you have any questions that you would like to ask or if you have any access requirements to that we can help support you with.