

EMERGING WRITERS FELLOWSHIP

FAQ

- 1. Are residents of foreign countries eligible for the program?** No, we are unable to accommodate residents of foreign countries at this time. Applicants and ultimately successful candidates will be required to establish that they are either permanent residents or citizens of the US and have permanent, unrestricted authorization to accept employment.
- 2. Regarding the requirement for two letters of recommendation from industry professionals, how is “industry professional” defined?** Industry professionals are persons who currently or previously worked in the film industry, for example agents, managers, studio executives, writers, directors, producers, directors of photography, cinematographers, editors, actors and film professors.
- 3. Can I apply for the program without two letters of recommendation from industry professionals?** No, two letters of recommendation from industry professionals are required for all applications. Applicants who fail to provide two letters of recommendation from industry professionals will not be considered.
- 4. How should applicants submit their recommendation letters? To whom should the letters be addressed?** All materials accompanying your application, including recommendation letters, must be submitted online only. Once the application form is posted online on September 3, 2013, you will be able to upload your recommendation letters via our website. There are no stipulations concerning to whom the letters should be addressed. “To Whom It May Concern” is acceptable.
- 5. I have a writing partner. Can we apply for the program together?** No, we are unable to accommodate writing teams at this time.
- 6. Can I apply for the program alone using a script I wrote with a writing partner?** No, you must be the sole author of any original material submitted with your application.

- 7. What genres of scripts can I submit with my application?** We will accept scripts which fall under the following genres only: Comedy/Romantic Comedy, Action, Adventure, Thriller and Sci-Fi. No other genres will be accepted.
- 8. Are TV Pilot scripts acceptable submissions for the program?** No, we will only accept original feature length screenplays. Applicants who submit TV Pilot scripts will not be considered.
- 9. Where will the program be located?** The program will operate on the Universal Studios Lot in Universal City, CA.
- 10. Can fellows participate in the program remotely from other locations?** No, fellows must be available to work on the Universal Studios Lot in Universal City, CA for the duration of the program.
- 11. When will the fellowship program begin and end?** The program is currently scheduled to run from April 14, 2014 to March 13, 2015.
- 12. When will the program application be made available?** The program application will be available beginning at 12:00 p.m. (PST) on Sept. 3, 2013. The submission window will be open for 30 days or until we receive 500 eligible applications (whichever comes first).
- 13. Will fellows receive a salary during the program?** Yes, fellows will be paid a salary of \$65,000 for the one-year program.
- 14. May I submit more than one script to apply for the program?** No, we will accept only ONE original screenplay per applicant. Applicants who submit more than one original screenplay will not be considered. A second script will be requested only if you are selected as a semi-finalist.
- 15. Where can I find the Legal Release Agreement form?** On the online submission form, under the Script Submission heading, there is a URL that you must copy and paste into your browser to download the Legal Release Agreement form. After you have read, filled out and signed the Legal Release Agreement, please upload a signed copy of the completed and signed Agreement onto the online application submission site.

Applicants who fail to upload a completed and signed Legal Release Agreement will not be considered.

- 16. Why I am having trouble submitting my Legal Release Agreement?** The file may be too big. If the file is over 2 MB, it may not upload properly. You should compress the PDF file so it's no larger than 2 MB.

- 17. Regarding the applicant's previous work, what constitutes a commercially released film?** A commercially released film is a feature length film that was exhibited in at least one movie theater to an audience that paid an admission fee for theater entry, that was offered for sale or rental on DVD, or was made available online (e.g., for download or streaming) for a fee or other consideration. For the purposes of this program, this rule does not apply to films that were screened solely at universities or film festivals.

- 18. Regarding the applicant's previous work, does work on a reality show make one ineligible for the program?** People who have worked on any television show that has aired within the U.S., whether scripted or unscripted, and received credit as Producer, Director, Assistant Director, Co-producer, Associate Producer, 2nd Unit Director, Director of Photography, Writer or Source Material, are ineligible and their applications will not be considered.

- 19. Does a signed option agreement for a script make one ineligible for the program?** Yes, applicants who have previously signed an option agreement for a script are ineligible for the program.

- 20. Will the program occur annually or is this a one-time opportunity?** At this time, we plan for the program to operate annually although we must reserve the right to modify this plan at any time.

- 21. What types of writing assignments will the fellows receive?** During the program, fellows will be given the opportunity to work on current Universal projects as well as to pitch original story ideas.

- 22. Is a Library of Congress Copyright registration acceptable (instead of a WGA registration)?** No, all submitted scripts must be registered with the WGA prior to submission (date to be determined upon opening of application cycle). The WGA provides a registration service to the public for a nominal fee.

23. Is a Writers Guild of Canada registration acceptable (instead of a WGA registration)?

No, it must be WGA registered.

24. In what format should the submitted materials be provided with the applications?

The resume, script, recommendation letters and signed Legal Release Agreement must be submitted in PDF format on the application website. The essay answers must be pasted or typed into a text field on the application website.

25. If I am selected as a semi-finalist, does my second script submission have to fall within the same genres as the first round stipulated?

Yes, for the semi-finalists we will only accept second script submissions that fall under the following genres: Comedy/Romantic Comedy, Action, Adventure, Thriller and Sci-Fi. No other genres will be accepted.

26. If I am selected as a semi-finalist, can my second script submission be a TV pilot or feature film treatment?

No, semi-finalists must submit feature length screenplays for their second script submission.

27. What is the deadline for turning in the second script? For semi-finalists, the second script must be turned in within 2 weeks of the admission committee's request in mid-November.

28. Do you have to be enrolled in school to participate in the program? No.

29. Are there age restrictions for participating in the program? All participants must be age 18 or older at the time of their application.

30. Do you accept email or mail submissions? No, we do not. Please apply using the online form only.

31. Do I need to have an agent or a manager to apply to the program? No, you do not.

32. How do I know my submission has been received? Once you submit your application you should see a message on your computer screen that reads: "Thank you for your application. We will only contact you if you are selected as a semi-finalist. Best of luck!"

33. Will you contact me to let me know the status of my application? Because of the large volume of anticipated applicants, we will contact you only if we decide to proceed with your application. If you make it to the second round, we will contact you in mid-November to schedule an interview and request your second script.