



## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **Who will be eligible to apply for the scheme?**

Applications are welcomed from any professional pairing of a playwright and a producer, venue or theatre company in England.

### **What are the eligibility requirements for the scheme?**

To be eligible for the NPCS the writer must meet the following criteria:

- You must be at least 18 years of age at the date of your submission
- You must be resident in, but do not need to have been born in, England
- You must not be employed by the Writers' Guild of Great Britain or be a member of the NPCS steering group, selection panel, or a person otherwise connected to this scheme

To be eligible for the NPCS the producer must meet the following criteria:

- Be registered/located in England
- Have a demonstrable track record in producing new theatrical works
- Have sufficient financial reserves to guarantee the appropriate writer delivery fee

### **Do I need a full script to apply?**

No, applications will require a proposal and a sample(s) of previous work.

### **What will the scheme provide?**

The scheme will fund the first phase of the commissioning fee as set out in the appropriate WGGB agreement for 15 writers, expecting co-applicant venues/producers to meet subsequent payments.

### **Do I have to be a member of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain (WGGB) to make an application?**

No, applicants **do not** have to be members of the WGGB to apply and membership status **will not** be divulged to the selection panel. We would of course recommend that any professional or emerging playwright join the WGGB. Full details of the benefits of membership and how to apply can be found here: <https://writersguild.org.uk/join-renew/>

### **I am a writer, but I do not have a producing partner. Can I still apply?**

No, to be considered for the scheme applications must include submissions from both a writer and the producing partner.

### **Why can't playwrights apply alone?**

Unlike writing development schemes, a specific aim of NPCCS is to ensure that new writing is being brought to the stage. The assessment of applications will be made on **both** the creative idea **and** the likely pathway to production.

### **Doesn't this just favour existing partnerships?**

The scheme specifies that 75% of awards will go to applications where the writer or writers have not been commissioned and/or given been given full productions by their co-applicant producer(s) before.

**If I do not have a producing partner, how can I find one?**

To ensure full transparency and independent oversight, NPCS cannot introduce playwrights to producing partners. However, we have produced a brief fact sheet for those writers without existing relationships with producers which you can access here: <https://writersguild.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Fact-sheet-finding-a-producer.pdf>

**I work with a writing partner – will an application with more than one writer be eligible?**

Yes. NPCS is open to proposals of plays written by more than one writer (under the terms of the relevant WGGB agreements); in this document the word “writer” can include a co-writer.

**We are a producing consortium – will an application with more than one producing partner be eligible?**

Yes. NPCS also welcomes proposals for co-productions between more than one theatre, producing company or independent producer.

**The producing partner is based in England, but the writer is not. Can we still apply?**

To honour the terms of the scheme’s funding from Arts Council England, both writer and producing partner must be based in England. During the application process you will be asked to provide the full address of the producing partner,

and the postcode of the writer, in order to establish eligibility.

**My script writing process includes community co-creation – would my work be eligible?**

Yes, but the resultant script must be written by and credited to you (though co-creation partners may be acknowledged).

**Is verbatim theatre eligible?**

Yes, although the final script must be written by and credited to you (though writing partners may be acknowledged).

**Our production is partly improvised – is it eligible?**

If the writing process includes improvisation by the writer or others from which material is drawn for the creation of a written script, then yes. The final script must be written by and credited to you (though partners may be acknowledged). There are provisions in the WGGB Agreements for co-writing agreements to be made at the outset.

**Is musical theatre eligible?**

New musical theatre writing is eligible for the NPCCS, but the scheme will only support the commissioning of the written word (librettist, lyricist or book writer). The additional costs of commissioning the musical composer will have to be borne fully by the producer, and the application should clearly show how this additional funding will be raised, as part of the pathway to production. Additionally, if a musical theatre commission is successfully supported by NPCCS, subsequent conversations will be required to establish the appropriate WGGB collective agreement against which funding will be awarded.

### **Are adaptations and translations eligible?**

As NPCCS was designed to stimulate new pieces of original work, translations and adaptations of existing work will not be eligible. That is not to understate their value or importance in the literary landscape but to reflect the fact that our research suggested that they were increasing in commission numbers while new works were decreasing.

### **Are plays for children eligible?**

Yes.

### **As a writer, can I apply to self-produce my own work?**

No. Applications must be submitted by a producing partner on behalf of a playwright/producer partnership. However, you can apply if you are part of a pre-existing producing company, of which you are not the only member, which produces new work.

### **Who is eligible for the Faber New Play Award?**

The Faber New Play Award of £5,000 will be given to the best play written under the WGGB New Play Commission Scheme by an unpublished playwright, judged by a panel of theatre practitioners. To be eligible for the award, the script must be submitted to Faber by 3 May 2023. As part of the award, the play will be published by Faber to coincide with its premiere. Full terms and conditions to be confirmed.