



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 NPCS, 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 bourn 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 NPCS, 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.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Where can I find information about the application process?

All the required information can be found on this website – please refer to the How To Apply page, read all the FAQs and look at the application form. The process has been designed to be light-touch and not over-burdened with administration. If you have any questions not answered in any of the supporting documents, please e-mail using the Contact Us form on the website.

What supporting information will the application require?

In addition to completing a simple application form, requiring information from both writer and producer about the proposed commission, applicants will be required to send examples of the writer's work (not to exceed 10 pages), the producer's most recent financial statements (annual audited accounts) and a completed Equal Opportunities form.

Who should complete the application?

The application should be submitted by the producing partner, but information will also be required from the writer, so the process of completing the application should be done collaboratively to ensure all relevant information is included.

What support is there for writers from under-represented groups?

As part of NPC's commitment to Equality, Equity and Diversity, a key number of awards have been reserved for writers currently under-represented in the theatre writing community. If you would like your application to be considered for one of those places, there is an opportunity to state this within the application form.

In which formats will you accept samples of previous work?

Documents can be submitted as Microsoft Word or PDF files, or as a JPG or PNG image files. Each document should not be larger than 4MB. If you wish to submit video or sound files, these should be provided as links to host sites such as YouTube, Vimeo, Soundcloud or Band Camp.

I'm having IT problems with the website/form – how can I get help?

We will do our best to help - please e-mail us via the Contact Us form and we will endeavour to respond within 48 hours.

ACCESSIBILITY

Can I receive the application pack in other formats?

Yes. Please visit the Accessibility page on the website for full information about alternative formats. If your question is not answered there, please e-mail us via the Contact Us form and we will endeavour to respond within 48 hours.

Can I submit my application in another format?

Yes. You may provide your application as video / voice files or filmed BSL, if preferable. Please refer to the Accessibility page on the website for more information. If your question is not answered there, please e-mail us via the Contact Us form and we will endeavour to respond within 48 hours

I am an independent producer/writer with access requirements. Is there further support to assist me in making my application?

Yes. NPCCS is committed to making the scheme as accessible as possible and will make specific funds available to independent producers or writers to pay for a support worker(s) for the application process, if required. Please e-mail us via the Contact Us form and we will endeavour to respond within 48 hours.

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ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will first be assessed for eligibility and checked to ensure that all documents provided can be opened by the NPSC administrator. All eligible applications will then be sent to the Selection Panel, who will make their assessment on **both** the creative idea **and** the likely pathway to production. The Selection Panel will meet to agree a shortlist -

shortlisted applicants will subsequently be invited to an online meeting (via Zoom) with members of the Selection Panel. Following these meetings, the panel will reconvene and make their final decision on the 15 awards to be made under the NPCCS.

Who is on the Selection Panel? Playwrights April de Angelis, Tom Wentworth and Roy Williams, director and playwright Aisha Khan, producer Kate Pakenham and producer and director James Dacre. You can read their biographies on the website.

Are commissions made under the scheme guaranteed to be staged? No. The NPCCS has been created to support the commissioning of new playwriting but does not have the resources to finance full productions. However, since applications will be assessed on the likely pathway to production, we hope that commissions will make it to the stage.

How will the Faber New Play Award be judged? 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.

Will unsuccessful applicants be notified? Yes, all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

Will applicants receive feedback on their submissions?

No, as you will be submitting a proposal, not a script.