

NFDC SCREENWRITERS' LAB 2026

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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?

The Screenwriters' Lab is currently open for the scripts of feature-length fiction films only.

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

To apply for the lab, ensure that your application includes the following documents:

- Updated Professional CV
- One-line Logline
- Short Synopsis (within 100 – 150 words)
- 5-Page Story Treatment
- First 5 pages of the screenplay
- Link to samples of previous work
- A comprehensive Writer's Statement addressing:
 - Motivation for telling this specific story
 - Anticipated outcomes from the mentoring process at the Lab
 - Expectations from participation in Film Bazaar
 - Definition of the target audience for the project

In addition to the aforementioned requirements, you are also required to submit the complete draft of your screenplay.

Please see the definitions document for a complete overview of what you need to submit.

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?

While there are no strict limits to the number of pages of your script, a conventional script is between 90 - 120 pages.

My long synopsis 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.

Can I submit a short synopsis and the first 60 pages of the script?

No, Applicants must submit a complete screenplay draft. Incomplete or partial scripts will not be considered. Please check all documents before submitting. For any clarification, please write to labs@nfdcindia.com.

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

All communication regarding Screenwriters' Lab 2026 will be sent via email only to the applicant listed as 'Screenwriter' on the application form. For any clarification, please write to labs@nfdcindia.com.

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 or 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.

I had applied to the lab before. Can I apply with a project that was previously rejected?

Yes, you can. But do tell us in the Writer's Statement section of the application form what has changed in the project since your last application.

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.

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 share the updated draft of your screenplay before the beginning of the first session 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 film 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.

Is a single occupancy room available for participants during the lab?

Accommodation for participants of the Screenwriters' Lab follows a specific structure. To facilitate collaborative interaction and community building amongst participants, each individual will be provided with double occupancy accommodation. This shared accommodation arrangement will be in place for the entire duration of the Screenwriters' Lab program. It is important to note that single occupancy rooms are not an available option as part of the standard Lab provision.

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. 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.