



IGNITING & HONOURING CINEMATIC EXCELLENCE

**2025 MPA APSA ACADEMY FILM FUND
RULES AND REGULATIONS**





PART A: INTRODUCTION

In 2025, ASIA PACIFIC SCREEN ACADEMY LIMITED (ACN 688 646 497) of 12 Santa Monica Road, Miami, Queensland, Australia (**APSA**), will deliver, in association with the Motion Picture Association (**MPA**), the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund. These rules and regulations set out the eligibility and submission criteria and other rules applicable to the 2025 MPA APSA Academy Film Fund (the **Rules and Regulations**).

1. APSA Aims and Endorsements

1.1. APSA aims:

- to acclaim filmmaking in the Asia Pacific region that best reflects its culture, origins and cinematic excellence;
- to award the people behind this excellence;
- to promote this outstanding work in film to a global audience in order to broaden the market appeal of such works;
- to encourage the collaboration of filmmakers in the region;
- to develop, through film, greater understanding of the region's various cultures; and
- to recognise the creativity of our neighbouring cultures in the vast Asia Pacific region and, in doing so, take it to the world.

1.2. The Asia Pacific Screen Academy (**Academy**) is an influential body of filmmakers comprised of past APSA nominees and winners, international juries, international nominations council, and selection panel members. Increasing by approximately 100 members each year, the Academy has grown to over 1,600 of the region's most influential names in film.

2. The MPA APSA Academy Film Fund

- 2.1. The MPA APSA Academy Film Fund is a US \$100,000 film fund exclusive to members of the Academy supported wholly by the MPA.
- 2.2. The fund is intended to stimulate production in the region, particularly at the development phase, among the 78 countries and areas embraced by APSA.
- 2.3. Funds will be granted to four (4) members of the Academy in accordance with these Rules and Regulations.
- 2.4. Four (4) grants, each of US \$25,000, will be allocated to the development of projects from treatment to script or in the case of documentaries, from project proposal to principal photography, of four (4) new film projects.
- 2.5. Projects will be judged on the same criteria that apply to films in the APSA competition: films that best reflect their cultural origin, demonstrate cinematic excellence and are deemed Asia Pacific.
- 2.6. The four (4) successful recipients of the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund will be announced at the APSA Awards Ceremony in November 2025.

3. Submission Categories

- 3.1. Applications can be submitted for the following categories:



1. Feature Film (over 60 minutes in duration);
2. Animated Feature Film (over 40 minutes in duration);
3. Documentary Feature Film (over 40 minutes in duration); and
4. Youth Feature Film (over 60 minutes in duration).

4. Entry into the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund

- 4.1. Entries for the 2025 MPA APSA Academy Film Fund open during the month of June 2025 and close at **5pm AEST on Friday 17 October, 2025**.
- 4.2. In order to make a valid entry into the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund, the member of the Academy submitting the project must comply with the eligibility criteria specified in Part B, and these Rules and Regulations, and submit all required materials before entries close as specified in item 4.1.
- 4.3. To submit an entry, the submitting Academy member must submit the online submission form, along with all requested documentation in the online submission form and as specified in items 13 and 14 in these Rules and Regulations. The online submission process can be found on the APSA website at:
<https://www.asiapacificscreenawards.com/about-academy/mpa-apsa-academy-film-fund/submission-process-mpa>
- 4.4. No entries will be accepted after the closing time and date specified in item 4.1 above.

PART B: ELIGIBILITY

5. Definition of the Asia Pacific Region

In these Rules and Regulations, the "**Asia Pacific Region**" is defined as those countries and areas of Asia and the Pacific that lie substantially between the longitudes of 30 degrees east and 170 degrees west, being the countries and areas listed in **Appendix I**. On a map, this region stretches from Egypt in the west, to the Cook Islands in the east, and from Russia in the north, to New Zealand in the south.

6. Definition of a Film from the Asia Pacific Region

- 6.1. The Academy and the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund considers films to be from the Asia Pacific Region if they have been predominantly created in the Asia Pacific Region, have been predominantly created by filmmakers from the Asia Pacific Region and reflect the cultural origins of a country of the Asia Pacific. Please refer to **Appendix II** for a detailed example of **The Test** which is applied to entries which determines if a film is Asia Pacific.
- 6.2. The Executive Director of APSA will, on behalf of APSA and the MPA, make the final decision on the qualifying submissions applying The Test in its absolute discretion.

7. Eligibility

Only projects that meet the following conditions may be entered in to the 2025 MPA APSA Academy Film Fund:

- 7.1. Eligible projects may be original or adapted from existing literary works.
- 7.2. All projects based on adapted screenplays will need to disclose Chain of Title and Proof of Underlying Rights at time of submission as set out in the online submission form.



- 7.3. Projects in production at time of submission will be deemed ineligible.
- 7.4. If a project goes into production before the final fund recipients are determined, the Academy member must advise APSA via written notice immediately.
- 7.5. Projects must be creatively and culturally set within one (1) or more of the 78 countries and areas of the Asia Pacific Region.
- 7.6. Only a member of the Academy can submit an entry in to the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund. A full list of Academy members can be viewed on the APSA website at the following link: <https://www.asiapacificscreenawards.com/about-academy/apsa-academy-members>.
- 7.7. The submitting Academy member **MUST** be attached to the submitted project in one or more of the following roles:
- Director;
 - Producer;
 - Co-Producer;
 - Executive Producer;
 - Screenwriter;
 - Actor;
 - Actress;
 - Cinematographer;
 - Script Consultant; and
 - Cultural Advisor.
- 7.8. Whilst collaboration between Academy members is encouraged, only one (1) Academy member is required to be attached to the submission provided they hold one of the roles listed in 7.7.
- 7.9. In addition, **a Screenwriter must be attached to the project** at time of submission. It is not required that the Screenwriter be an Academy member.
- 7.10. In the instance an individual Academy member submits their own project as Screenwriter and holds one of the following additional roles: Director, Producer, Co-Producer, Executive Producer, Actor, Actress, Cinematographer, or Composer, they need not attach a further creative for the project to be eligible.
- 7.11. If the Screenwriter(s) listed in the submission form change:
- a) prior to the announcement of fund recipients at the awards ceremony; OR
 - b) in the case of winning projects, prior to the delivery of first draft script
- the applicant must inform APSA in writing of the change in Screenwriter(s) at their earliest convenience, providing a brief explanation for the change and a biography or Curriculum Vitae for the newly appointed Screenwriter(s).
- 7.12. Where the Academy member is NOT:
- the author of the project's synopsis, treatment or outline; OR
 - the Screenwriter; OR
 - the rights holder for the project (if applicable)
- then the signature of the application author, Screenwriter and rights holder (if applicable) must be provided in the Authority to Compete form which is available online with the online submission form.



- 7.13. Projects will be judged on the same criteria which applies to films in the APSA competition: films that best reflect their cultural origins, demonstrate cinematic excellence and are deemed Asia Pacific as defined in regulations 5 and 6 and also set out in The Test.
- 7.14. An Academy member may submit a maximum of two (2) projects for consideration but will only be eligible for one (1) film fund of US \$25,000.
- 7.15. An Academy member who has successfully received script funding in a previous round of the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund, and that funded project has not been fully acquitted, cannot receive additional funding in the 2025 MPA APSA Academy Film Fund or any subsequent rounds.
- 7.16. Once a project has been submitted it cannot be altered or withdrawn from the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund without prior written notice to APSA.
- 7.17. The decision of the Executive Director of APSA regarding eligibility of projects, on behalf of APSA and the MPA, is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

PART C: CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

8. Definition of Fiction Feature Film

- 8.1. An eligible fiction feature film is defined as a motion picture over 60 minutes in length.
- 8.2. All rules set out in Part B of these Rules and Regulations apply.

9. Definition of Animated Feature Film

- 9.1. An eligible animated feature film is defined as a motion picture over 40 minutes in length with a significant number of the major characters animated, and in which animation comprises no less than 70% of the film's running time.
- 9.2. All rules set out in Part B of these Rules and Regulations apply.

10. Definition of Documentary Feature Film

- 10.1. An eligible documentary feature film is defined as a non-fiction film over 40 minutes in length.
- 10.2. A documentary may be photographed in actual occurrence, or may utilise part re-enactment, stills, animation, stock/archival footage, stop-motion and other techniques, as long as the primary focus is fact rather than fiction.
- 10.3. A film that is primarily a promotional film, an industrial or instructional film, or essentially an unfiltered record of a performance is not eligible.
- 10.4. Only individual documentary films will be considered eligible. This excludes from consideration: episodes extracted from a larger theme series; segments taken from a single "composite" program, short subject documentaries created from materials substantially taken from, or cut down from publicly exhibited (in commercial theatres, festivals and/or television), completed feature length documentaries.
- 10.5. All rules set out in Part B of these Rules and Regulations apply.



11. Definition of Youth Feature Film

- 11.1. An eligible youth feature film is defined as a motion picture over 60 minutes in length.
- 11.2. As a guide, using the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child is considered to be any human being below the age of 18. The definition therefore includes babies, small children, older children and young people.
- 11.3. Projects that will be considered suitable as a youth feature film include projects that are for and/or about young people, and/or told partly or entirely from a child's point of view and/or a film that at its heart is made for children.
- 11.4. All rules set out in Part B of these Rules and Regulations apply.

PART D: SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS

12. Submission Materials – All Projects

- 12.1. All submission materials must be in the English language.
- 12.2. The same project cannot be submitted by multiple attached Academy members.
- 12.3. Once submitted a submission cannot be altered and resubmitted without prior written approval from the APSA Secretariat.

13. Submission Materials – Fiction Feature, Animated Feature and Youth Feature Films

- 13.1. The following material must be received by the APSA Secretariat by the date entries close specified in regulation 4.1:
 - a) double line spaced, 12-point font, 1-page synopsis;
 - b) double line spaced, 12-point font, maximum 8-page treatment; and
 - c) filmography and biography of attached key creatives and cast members, maximum 1-page per person. Please attach each person's biography on separate pages.

14. Submission Materials – Documentary Feature Films

- 14.1. The following materials must be received by the APSA Secretariat by the date entries close specified in regulation 4.1:
 - a) double line spaced, 12-point font, 1-page synopsis;
 - b) double line spaced, 12-point font, maximum 8-page proposal/statement addressing the following points and questions:
 - a. **What:** The film's agenda
 - b. **How:** How the idea will be translated to screen
 - c. **Who:** Background summary of the film's key Subjects
 - d. **Access:** Applicant's accessibility to the Subjects; and
 - c) filmography and biography of attached key creatives and Subjects, maximum 1-page per person. Please attach each person's biography on separate pages.

PART E: SELECTION OF FUND RECIPIENTS

15. Fund Recipients



2025 MPA APSA Academy Film Fund Rules and Regulations

- 15.1. Successful applicants for the 2025 MPA APSA Academy Film Fund will be selected by an independent panel of film professionals comprised of at least three (3) film industry experts. The assessment panel will be selected by APSA and the MPA in its absolute discretion (the **Assessment Panel**).
- 15.2. Any person on the Assessment Panel determined by APSA or the MPA to have taken part in, or to have or perceived to have an interest in relation to, a submitted project will declare that interest.
- 15.3. The Assessment Panel will assess the submitted projects and deliberate to determine successful applicants during the month of November 2025.
- 15.4. The final results will be known only by the Assessment Panel, APSA and the MPA until they are announced in accordance with regulation 2.6.
- 15.5. The results detailing the four (4) successful fund recipients will be published on the APSA website after they have been announced.
- 15.6. APSA will attend meetings of the Assessment Panel when required but will take no part in the assessment and final decisions.
- 15.7. All decisions made by the Assessment Panel are final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 15.8. APSA, the MPA and the Assessment Panel shall provide, for the project deliberation meetings, a full and fair consideration of the merits of all submitted projects.

PART F: MPA APSA ACADEMY FILM FUND

16. Transfer of Funds

- 16.1. The MPA APSA Academy Film Fund monies will go to the Academy member who has submitted each winning project for disbursement to the Screenwriter attached to that project.
- 16.2. Successful fund recipients will receive a contract detailing the disbursement of funds and the script acquittal process by the 29th January 2025.
- 16.3. Fund recipients will receive an electronic bank transfer to the value of US\$12,500 as the first stage payment and will need to reapply with first draft full-length script or, in the case of documentary, examples of footage shot and advanced project outline/treatment, to APSA for second stage funding.
- 16.4. Second stage funding will be allocated once the Assessment Panel Chair has reviewed the development of the script and/or viewed the documentary footage and developed project outline.
- 16.5. If a draft script or in the case of documentary, examples of footage shot and advanced project outline/treatment, has not been received by APSA two (2) years from the signed date of the winner's contract, APSA has the right to suspend the second stage funding unless the Academy member has negotiated an extension providing in writing reasons for the delay.

PART G: GENERAL

17. Authority/Dispute



17.1. APSA and the MPA reserves the right in its sole and absolute discretion:

- a) to determine whether an entry is validly made in accordance with these Rules and Regulations;
- b) to reject any entry that is not validly made in accordance with these Rules and Regulations;
- c) to determine what process, if any, it may adopt to resolve the validity of any entry;
- d) to determine the composition of the Assessment Panel;
- e) to settle all disputes in relation to these Rules and Regulations and the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund;
- f) to settle all cases in relation to the MPA APSA Academy Film Fund that are not covered by these Rules and Regulations;
- g) to delegate any power, right or discretion under these Rules and Regulations conferred on it to the APSA Secretariat.

17.2. The decision of APSA will be final and binding.

17.3. Should any dispute arise regarding the interpretation of a point in these conditions, the original English version is binding.

17.4. In the event of any dispute concerning credits APSA reserves the right to declare any project ineligible or, alternatively, to reject all claims to credit, list credits as being in controversy and withhold any project until the dispute is resolved.

18. General

18.1. APSA and the MPA reserve the right in their sole discretion to amend the date of the 18th Asia Pacific Screen Awards, and any other dates which may affect the 2025 MPA APSA Academy Film Fund. Should a date noted within these Rules and Regulations be amended, APSA will inform all entrants of that change through email and post the amended dates on the APSA website.

18.2. These Rules and Regulations are governed by and must be construed according to the law applying in Queensland, Australia and each entrant irrevocably submits to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Queensland, Australia, and the courts competent to determine appeals from those courts, with respect to any proceedings that may be brought at any time in relation to these Rules and Regulations and the Online Submissions Form.

18.3. These Rules and Regulations may be varied by APSA in its absolute discretion and any variations will be binding on each entrant once such variations have been published on the APSA website.

18.4. Each entrant must promptly do all further acts and execute and deliver all further documents (in form and content reasonably satisfactory to APSA) required by law or reasonably requested by APSA to give effect to this document and the agreement between APSA and the entrant constituted by the Submissions Form.

18.5. APSA may assign, novate or otherwise transfer any of its rights or obligations under this document without the prior consent of any person. Each entrant cannot assign, novate or otherwise transfer any of its rights or obligations under this document without the prior written consent of APSA.

19. Force Majeure

19.1. A **Force Majeure Event** means any event that is outside the control of the parties, and could not have been prevented or avoided, including inclement weather, lighting strikes,



fire, flood, inundation, earthquakes, smoke, explosions, bomb threats, epidemics, pandemics, strikes or other industrial disturbances, inevitable accidents, war (declared or undeclared) embargoes, blockades, legal restrictions and riots, which prevent a party from complying with its obligations under these Rules and Regulations.

- 19.2. The affected party must:
- a) use its best endeavours to work around or overcome the effect of the Force Majeure Event;
 - b) keep the other party informed of the continuation and expected duration of the Force Majeure Event; and
 - c) recommence performance of its obligations as soon as possible after the Force Majeure Event has ceased to exist.

20. Interpretation

In this document:

- 20.1. headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation; and
- 20.2. unless the context indicates a contrary intention;
- a) an obligation or liability assumed by, or a right conferred on, two or more parties binds or benefits all of them jointly and each of them severally;
 - b) "person" includes an individual, the estate of an individual, a corporation, an authority, an association or a joint venture (whether incorporated or unincorporated), a partnership and a trust;
 - c) a reference to a party includes that party's executors, administrators, successors and permitted assigns, including persons taking by way of novation;
 - d) a reference to a document (including this document) is to that document as varied, novated, ratified or replaced from time to time;
 - e) a word importing the singular includes the plural (and vice versa), and a word indicating a gender includes every other gender; if a word or phrase is given a defined meaning, any other part of speech or grammatical form of that word or phrase has a corresponding meaning; and
 - f) "includes" in any form is not a word of limitation.

21. Contact Details

The APSA Executive Director and APSA Secretariat can be contacted via:

Courier / Postal Address

Attn: MPA APSA Academy Film Fund,
Asia Pacific Screen Academy Limited
12 Santa Monica Road, Miami Queensland, 4220, Australia

P: +61 (0) 448 827 546

E: info@asiapacificscreenacademy.com
www.asiapacificscreenawards.com



APPENDIX I

Asia Pacific Screen Awards definition of the Asia Pacific Region.

In these Rules and Regulations, the "**Asia Pacific Region**" is defined as those countries and areas of Asia and the Pacific that lie substantially between the longitudes of 30 degrees east and 170 degrees west, being the countries and areas listed in **Appendix I**. The Asia Pacific Screen Awards definition of the Asia Pacific Region has been based on culture and heritage rather than politics, borders or boundaries.

Eligible countries and areas:

ASIA

South Central Asia

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Bhutan
4. India
5. Islamic Republic of Iran
6. Kazakhstan
7. Kyrgyzstan
8. Maldives
9. Nepal
10. Pakistan
11. Sri Lanka
12. Tajikistan
13. Turkmenistan
14. Uzbekistan

South Eastern Asia

15. Brunei Darussalam
16. Cambodia
17. Indonesia
18. Lao People's Democratic Republic
19. Malaysia
20. Myanmar
21. Philippines
22. Singapore
23. Thailand
24. Timor-Leste
25. Vietnam

Eastern Asia

26. People's Republic of China including:
27. Hong Kong (PRC)
28. Macau (PRC)
29. Taiwan
30. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
31. Japan
32. Mongolia
33. Republic of Korea
34. Russian Federation

Western Asia

35. Armenia
36. Azerbaijan
37. Bahrain
38. Egypt
39. Georgia

40. Iraq
41. Israel
42. Jordan
43. Kuwait
44. Lebanon
45. Oman
46. Qatar
47. Saudi Arabia
48. Syrian Arab Republic
49. Turkey
50. United Arab Emirates
51. Yemen
52. Palestine

PACIFIC

53. Australia
54. New Zealand

Micronesia

55. Federated States of Micronesia
56. Guam
57. Kiribati
58. Marshall Islands
59. Nauru
60. Northern Mariana Islands
61. Palau

Melanesia

62. Fiji
63. New Caledonia
64. Papua New Guinea
65. Solomon Islands
66. Vanuatu

Polynesia

67. American Samoa
68. Cook Islands
69. French Polynesia
70. Hawai'i (USA)
71. Niue
72. Pitcairn Islands
73. Rapa Nui (Chile)
74. Samoa
75. Tokelau
76. Tonga
77. Tuvalu
78. Wallis and Futuna



APPENDIX II

THE TEST

The Test of the Asia Pacific Screen Awards

A film will qualify as a film from the Asia Pacific Region if it satisfies the criteria set out below. A film will be eligible if it achieves at least nine (9) out of a possible twelve (12) maximum points in Item 1 and at least ten (10) out of a maximum nineteen (19) in Item 2 of the criteria set out in The Test below.

| 1. Content | Weighting |
|--|-----------------------------|
| A. Film is based on subject matter or underlying material from or about the Asia Pacific Region; | Maximum of 3 points |
| B. Film is predominantly (over 50%) set in the Asia Pacific Region; (Films set outside the Asia Pacific Region, that deal with Asia Pacific diaspora may be awarded a maximum of 2 points) | Maximum of 3 points |
| C. Lead Characters are from the Asia Pacific Region; | Maximum of 3 points |
| D. Original dialogue recorded in a language from the Asia Pacific Region. Silent Films will receive the maximum of 3 points. | Maximum of 3 points |
| Total | Maximum of 12 points |

2. Creative

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| E. The majority of creative talent must be predominantly from the Asia Pacific Region, meaning they must: | |
| a) be born in; OR | |
| b) hold a current passport from a country in; OR | |
| c) normally reside in, | |
| the Asia Pacific Region. | |
| i. Director | 3 |
| ii. Script writer | 3 |
| iii. Producer/Co-Producer | 3 |
| iv. Cinematographer | 2 |
| v. Editor | 1 |
| vi. Composer | 1 |
| vii. Lead Actors: | |
| Lead (1) (Male or Female) | 2 |
| Lead (2) (Male or Female) | 2 |
| viii. Additional points for Academy member involvement in any of the above key roles | 2 |
| Total | Maximum of 19 points |