

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

New Voices Fellowship for Screenwriters



NVFS has been made possible by a grant from Time Warner Foundation.

1. How can I apply?

Asia Society will accept applications until **31 July, 2015**. NOTE: The deadline has been extended, and we will be accepting application until **10th August, 2015**.

Download the application form [HERE](#):

Complete the application form and email it along with all the required material to newvoicesfellowship@asiasociety.org. There is no application fee. Please ensure that the story and the first three pages of the proposed script are properly formatted with no grammatical errors. We will not be able to return the submitted material so please make sure you retain the original documents. We do not require a previously written full feature film script as a writing sample.

Please Note: Before submitting to NVFS, applicants must register both the story and the first three pages of the proposed script of the story with either the Film Writers Association (FWA) Mumbai, Indian Copyright Office, Writers Guild of America or any association for film writers in India. (The FWA website www.fwa.co.in will give you all the details of their membership procedures, fees, etc. If you aren't already a member of FWA, you will have to become one, if you want your work to be registered there. If you apply for FWA membership, do write 'Asia Society's New Voices Fellowship for Screenwriters, 2015-2016 on top of the form.)

2. Who can apply?

The Fellowship is open to Indian citizens residing in India, above 18 years of age. The goal of the Fellowship is to encourage and support new talent that is passionate about screenwriting.

3. Do you accept writing in regional Indian languages other than English?

You may write in any language. However, all your submissions with the application, including the story and the first three pages of the proposed script (as well as the script itself as it progresses, if you are chosen as a Fellow) has to be in English or Hindi.

4. What do you look for in the selection process?

Essentially, we are looking for interesting stories told engagingly in your own way, with multi-dimensional characters, which have the potential to be crafted into a gripping script. The mentors will then try to help the writer take the story to the script stage.

5. Can I mail my application?

Yes. We would encourage you to email all the documents to newvoicesfellowship@asiasociety.org. However, we will also accept applications by post. Do mention NVFS 2015-2016 on the envelope. To help us screen the material with absolute objectivity, please ensure that the applicant's name, address, phone number or any other identifying information does not appear on the title page or any other page of the story and the previously written script.

6. Is this a full-time Fellowship?

No. The Fellowship has been designed bearing in mind that the selected candidates may be working professionals. The timeline of the fellowship will be given to the selected Fellows well in advance so they can plan accordingly. We hope to find applicants who will pursue the Fellowship programme with absolute dedication and seriousness.

7. Is there any kind of financial assistance for the Fellowship?

The seven Fellows selected to participate in the programme will receive a stipend of Rs. 2, 00, 000. The travel and accommodation costs for Fellows coming from out of Mumbai for the second workshop will be borne by Asia Society. We will ensure that we put up the dates and details of the workshops well in advance so that the Fellows can plan accordingly.

8. Do you accept collaborative work?

Yes. Collaborative stories with up to two writers can be submitted. However, only one Fellowship will be awarded per application.

9. What will the workshops cover?

Both the workshops will be 5-day residential workshops, based in Khandala, Maharashtra. The first workshop will be like an advanced primer on screenwriting, to bring everyone up to speed. It will be interactive in nature with a lot of discussion with the participants. While it will be conducted by Anjum Rajabali, it will have the active participation of other mentors and advisors, as per their availability. The second workshop will be to offer feedback on the step-outline to all Fellows from the Mentors, some Advisors and their peers. A detailed schedule of both the workshops will be available on the website closer to the respective dates.

10. Who owns the copyright of the story/screenplay?

The copyright of the story and consequent screenplay developed during the Fellowship will be held by the writer/writers. In case of copyright infringement, neither Asia Society nor any grantor/sponsor will be liable at any given time before, during or after the Fellowship programme.

11. Do I need to sign a contract with Asia Society?

Yes. A legal contract will be signed by the seven Fellows to ensure that the deliverables are met. If a Fellow does not fulfill his or her responsibilities, then he/she must return the entire stipend money to Asia Society.

12. I don't have any background in cinema. Can I apply?

Yes. As long as you have an original story to tell and are serious about screenwriting, you can apply.

13. I have sent in my application but have not received an acknowledgement.

We will send acknowledgements to all applications we receive. In case you don't hear from us, email us at newvoicesfellowship@asiasociety.org and we will look into it. Please ensure that you provide the correct contact information in the application form.

14. I have written a script. Can Asia Society produce it?

No, Asia Society is not a production house. It is a not-for-profit organisation that is providing a platform to screenwriters to develop their scripts with the help of workshops and guidance from mentors. While Asia Society may consider holding interfaces with production houses after the scripts are ready, it doesn't promise to do so and nor does it undertake any guarantee that the scripts will get produced.

15. Why is there a theme for NVFS 2015-2016?

Asia Society believes that the time has come to change the lens on gender in cinema. Working in line with the broader educational goals of Asia Society, NVFS takes on the theme '**Making Heroine the New Hero**' in order to expose new writers to the experience of writing from a female character's point of view and increase the number of women-oriented scripts in the film industry. We seek stories that are gender sensitive, women centric AND driven by well-defined women characters.

Thank you for your interest in the New Voices Fellowship for Screenwriters. Good luck!