

Incentive Guide: Indian film productions abroad

Edition 2



PRODUCER
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working world



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Foreword

We are glad to present to you the second edition of Incentive Guide - Indian Film Productions Abroad. After the success of the first edition released in 2015, the second edition aims to throw light on various monetary film production incentives offered in select countries to Indian film-makers.

In the present scenario, the film production incentives offered by a particular country or location play a pivotal role in determining the location for shooting as well as the budget of the film or television production. These incentives help to attract film producers for the purpose of shooting their film in that country or location. The money spent by film producers generally aids in fostering employment among the local crowd and accelerating infrastructure development for film production and related activities and leads to an increase in tax collection. However, at a broader level, it may also help in developing the tourism industry in that specific country or location. The ultimate goal of these incentives is to create a symbiotic financial relationship between the country or location and foreign film productions.

These incentives may be disbursed in the form of grants, subsidies, tax credits or reimbursement of production costs. Incentives may also include non-monetary support such as location scouting, single-window clearance, assistance in recruitment of local labor and other assistance related to film production. However, these incentives are available to film-makers only on the satisfaction of specific conditions, which may vary from location to location.

This Guide deals with these specific conditions that need to be satisfied to avail the said incentives. It also gives a picture of the ultimate economic benefit for film-makers shooting their films outside India, along with insights into key aspects relevant to film production incentives such as eligibility criterion and minimum spend requirements and other related information such as visa requirements and studios available. The Guide has been collated pursuant to interactions with various stakeholders from the Indian film industry, film commissions and consulate office of various countries and primary research on publicly available information.

We hope that this second edition will be useful to the Indian film industry in exploring the film production incentives available in select countries for shooting their films abroad.



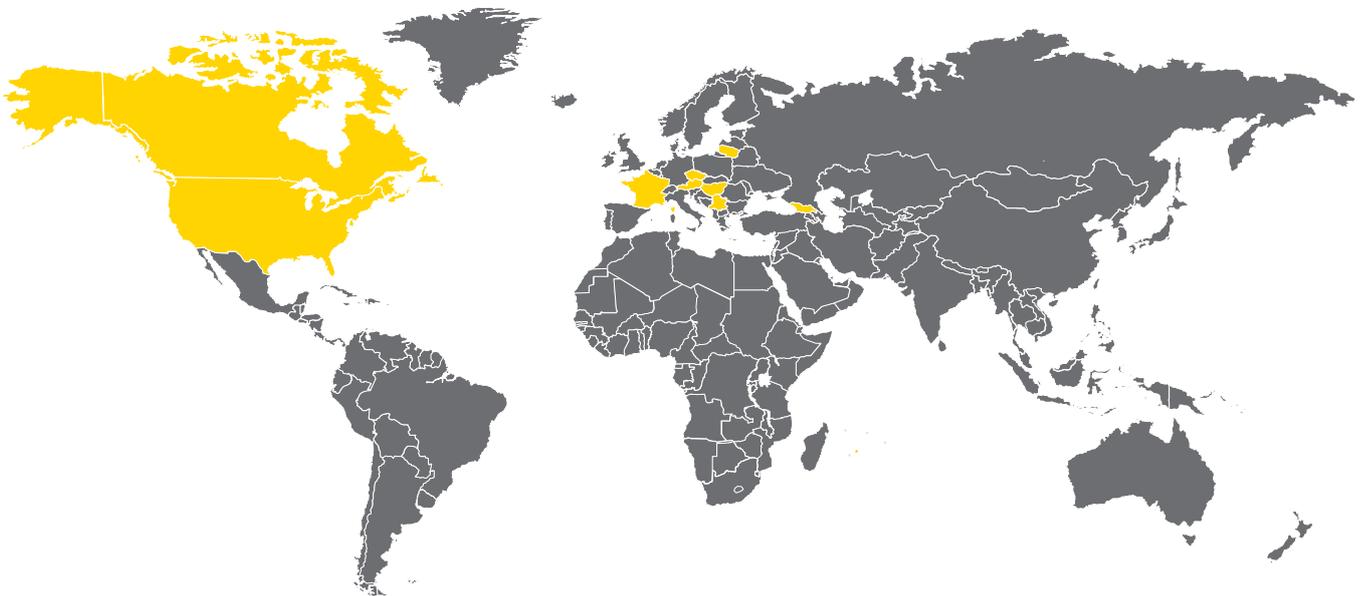
Kulmeet Makkar
CEO, The Producers Guild of India



Utkarsh Sanghvi
Partner - Indirect Taxes
Media & Entertainment Sector
Ernst & Young LLP

Methodology

In this Guide, we have analyzed film production incentive programs in 12 select countries across regions, including countries from North America, Oceania, Europe and Africa.



A standard questionnaire was circulated to the film commission/film office of the above countries to obtain information and understand the film production incentive scheme in place. Pursuant to the receipt of information from such film commissions/film offices and our independent research, a detailed summary of the scheme and estimate of economic benefit was sent to such film commissions/film offices for feedback. This summary was independently reviewed by the respective film commission/film office.

It should be noted that the incentive schemes covered in this Guide do not include value-added tax (VAT) refund on expenditures, generally offered in most of the European Union countries. This benefit could be available to filmmakers over and above the incentives mentioned in this Guide

Further, for the purpose of comparing the film production incentive programs of various countries, a sample production budget of various expenses incurred for shooting in those countries was prepared. Based on our understanding of the film incentive programs, a computation of incentives on qualifying expenditure was made. This computation was then shared with the respective film commissions/film offices for the purpose of confirmation and most of the countries replied with their changes or validations. For those cases where no replies were received, we assumed that our understanding of the film incentive program and the resulting computation made was correct.

The sample assumed production budget is as follows:

Expenditure	Estimated proportion of spending (%)	Assumptions
Above the line		
Cast (main leads and supporting)	30	It is assumed that the cast includes Indian nationals and they are engaged and paid by the FAE in the respective country outside India.
Director fee	3.3	It is assumed that the director is an Indian national and is engaged and paid by the FAE in the respective country outside India.
Story (development and acquisition)	1.2	It is assumed that the story development and acquisition costs have been incurred in India.
Main technician fee	2.5	It is assumed that the main technicians are Indian nationals and they are engaged and paid by the FAE in the respective country outside India.
Songs and background music	3	It is assumed that sound and background music costs are incurred in India.
Total above the line	40	
Below the line		
Production		
Production and direction team	2.7	It is assumed that the said expenses have been incurred by the FAE in the respective country outside India.
Setting and dressing - Art	7.7	
Costumes and styling	2	
Makeup and hair styling	1.3	
Locations/Studios and permission	7.2	
Equipment / Supplies	8.3	
Transportation	1.4	
Wages	1.9	
Food and beverage	2.8	
Junior artists/Models/Dancers	1.7	
Choreography	2.5	
Stunt	1.3	
Accommodation	1.7	
International travel	2	
Raw stock (film reel)	0.7	
Post production		
Lab and processing and visual and digital effects	11.7	It is assumed that 100% of the post-production activities are conducted in India.
Sound effects	2.3	
Editing	0.7	
Total below the line	60	
Total budget	100	
Total expenses incurred in India	18.93	
Total expenses incurred by the FAE	81.07	

In this Guide, for every country we have given a percentage of incentive as compared to the foreign production budget of the film.

General assumptions

Above the line

Generally, in case of a few countries, film production incentives can only be granted to resident entities in the respective country. Accordingly, in case of countries where such conditions exist, it is assumed that for the purpose of qualifying for the film production incentive scheme of the respective country, the FAE would engage and enter into an agreement with an Indian cast, director and main technicians for the provision of services.

Below the line

Some countries require goods and services to be procured from tax residents of such country. Accordingly, for the purpose of computing economic benefits, we have assumed that the said condition would be satisfied.

It is assumed that the production and direction staff are residents of the country in which the incentive is being sought and are engaged and paid by the FAE.

In case of international travel of cast and crew, some countries require the use of the domestic carrier of the respective country and/or airline booking through a domestic travel agent of the said country. Accordingly, we have assumed that such conditions would be satisfied.

Further, generally, only incoming travel to the respective country is eligible for film production incentive. Accordingly, we have considered only 50% of the total cost of international travel for the purpose of computing international travel.



Disclaimer

The information contained in this Guide is based on our understanding of the incentive program in the respective country and should not be deemed as an exercise of professional judgment.

The interpretations set forth in the Guide are based on the existing statutory laws and regulations prevailing in the respective country and the documents made available till 31 August 2017. If there is a change, including a change having a retrospective effect, in the statutory laws and regulations, the interpretation would necessarily have to be re-evaluated in light of the changes.

The information in relation to the economic benefit of film production incentive programs is based on our interpretation and hence is subjective. In case of any clarifications and comments, please feel free to contact us.

Further, information in relation to visa has been obtained from the websites of the film commissions, where available, and from the respective consulate office, where not available.

In case information contained in this Guide is to be relied upon by any individual, a detailed study of the film production incentive scheme and other facts, background, laws, regulations etc. in a particular country would have to be undertaken independently.

The exchange rate considered for the purpose of calculations was the prevailing exchange rate as on 1 October 2017.



Europe





France

France

Economic benefit:

A net savings of ~**16.74%** on the total estimated foreign production budget

France fact file

Seasons:

Spring:

April to June

Summer:

July to September

Autumn:

October to December

Winter:

January to March

Past Bollywood films shot:

Befikre, Tamasha, Queen, Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani, Ishkq in Paris, Jhoom Barabar Jhoom

"The experience of shooting Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani in France was good. We faced certain challenges with regards to the turnaround time for permissions. However, the beautiful locations and experienced crew members made up for it."

- Parth Arora,
Head of Production
Fox Star Studios

France enjoys a breathtaking range of locations, from mountains to surf spots, from deserted old volcano landscapes to idyllic coastal locations such as the Riviera, on mainland France as well as the overseas territories. An amazing number of historical monuments can satisfy the needs of any period film, thriller, future apocalyptic drama or romantic comedy.

As for affordability, there are no charges for shooting on the streets of Paris, as opposed to in some other capitals, so shooting at world-famous landmarks, such as near the Eiffel Tower in daylight or the Notre Dame Cathedral, is free.

Things to know

- ▶ The climate of France can be divided into three climatic zones: Oceanic, Continental and Mediterranean. Paris and Western France have an Oceanic climate with warm summers and chilly winters, central and eastern France have a temperate continental climate and southern France has a Mediterranean climate with hot dry summers and mild winters.
- ▶ France uses 12 different time zones, the most by any country in the world.
- ▶ The standard workweek in France is of 35 hours.
- ▶ Approximately 39% of the French population speaks English.

Infrastructure

France possesses state-of-art facilities for production as well as post-productions of films. They include top-level studios, digital labs and VFX houses. France also has a great domestic transportation network with motorways and high-speed trains and excellent international flight connections.

Production incentives

Tax Rebate for International Production (TRIP)¹

What is the scheme?	TRIP provides a 30% tax rebate to non-French projects that are wholly or partly made in France. The maximum rebate that can be granted to a single project has been capped at EUR30 million (~INR2,315 million).
Who is the administrating authority?	French National Centre for Cinema, TV and Moving Image (CNC)
What is the type of incentive?	Cash rebate

¹ The Tax Rebate for International Productions (TRIP): General description of the incentive brochure by Film France and CN



Who is eligible?	<p>Under the scheme, a qualifying company must be subject to French income tax laws and should act as a production services company for the portion of the project filmed in France.</p> <p>Further, a production services company has been defined under the scheme to mean a company that is responsible for the development and monitoring of projects in France and which has entered into a services contract with a non-French production company.</p>
What are the eligible film formats?	<p>Film and TV productions are considered as eligible formats for the purpose of claiming TRIP, subject to them being a work of live action or animation. Accordingly, documentaries and commercials are not eligible for TRIP. Further, the scheme specifically excludes productions that are pornographic in nature or promote violence.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?	<p>The minimum spend requirement as prescribed under the scheme will be the lower of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ EUR250,000 (~INR19.3 million) of qualifying French expenditure <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 50% of the total production budget <p>Qualifying French spend has been defined under the scheme to broadly include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Salaries or wages paid to writers and actors ▶ Salaries or wages paid to French or European direction and production staff ▶ Expenditures incurred on specialized companies for technical goods and services ▶ Transportation, travel and catering expenditures ▶ Accommodation expenses etc. <p>Additionally, for the purpose of calculation of TRIP, the total spend in France shall be capped at EUR100 million (~INR7,718 million) and the qualifying French spend shall be capped at 80% of the total production budget.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to content/culture?	<p>In order to be eligible for TRIP, the project must satisfy the cultural test as prescribed under the scheme. Live action projects must score a minimum of 18 points (including at least 7 points for dramatic content) on the live action cultural test. Further, animation projects must score a minimum of 36 points (including at least 9 points for dramatic content) on the animation cultural test. Live action projects will also be required to pass the animation cultural test if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ At least 15% of the shots are digitally processed <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ More than 50% of the French expenditure is related to the animation portion
Any other conditions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ In case of a live-action project, the project must be shot for at least 5 days in France. ▶ The project must not receive any French State traditional financial support. Accordingly, co-productions shall not be covered under the said scheme.



What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ The French production services company (applicant) must file a provisional application with CNC along with the necessary supporting documents including the production services agreement entered into by it. Only expenses incurred after the receipt of the provisional application by CNC shall be considered for calculating qualifying French spend.
- ▶ CNC then evaluates the provisional application basis the assessment made by Film France and grants a provisional qualification to the applicant.
- ▶ Thereafter, within a period of 2 years of the last qualifying French expenditure being incurred, the applicant is required to submit a final application to CNC, who, after evaluating it, will grant a final qualification to the applicant.
- ▶ TRIP may be physically paid before the submission of the final application but the applicant becomes eligible only after acceptance of the said application. If the final application is rejected, the applicant will be liable to reimburse the amount of rebate disbursed till date.
- ▶ At the end of each year, an audited statement of accounts along with the provisional qualification and income tax returns must be delivered by the applicant to the tax authorities.
- ▶ The tax authorities will then transfer the rebate to the applicant within a period of 6 to 9 months from the end of the fiscal year of the project's expenses.

Useful contacts

Film France, the French Film Commission

Mélanie Chebance / Ran Zhang
Phone: +33-153839890 or 91
E-mail ID: rebate@filmfrance.net

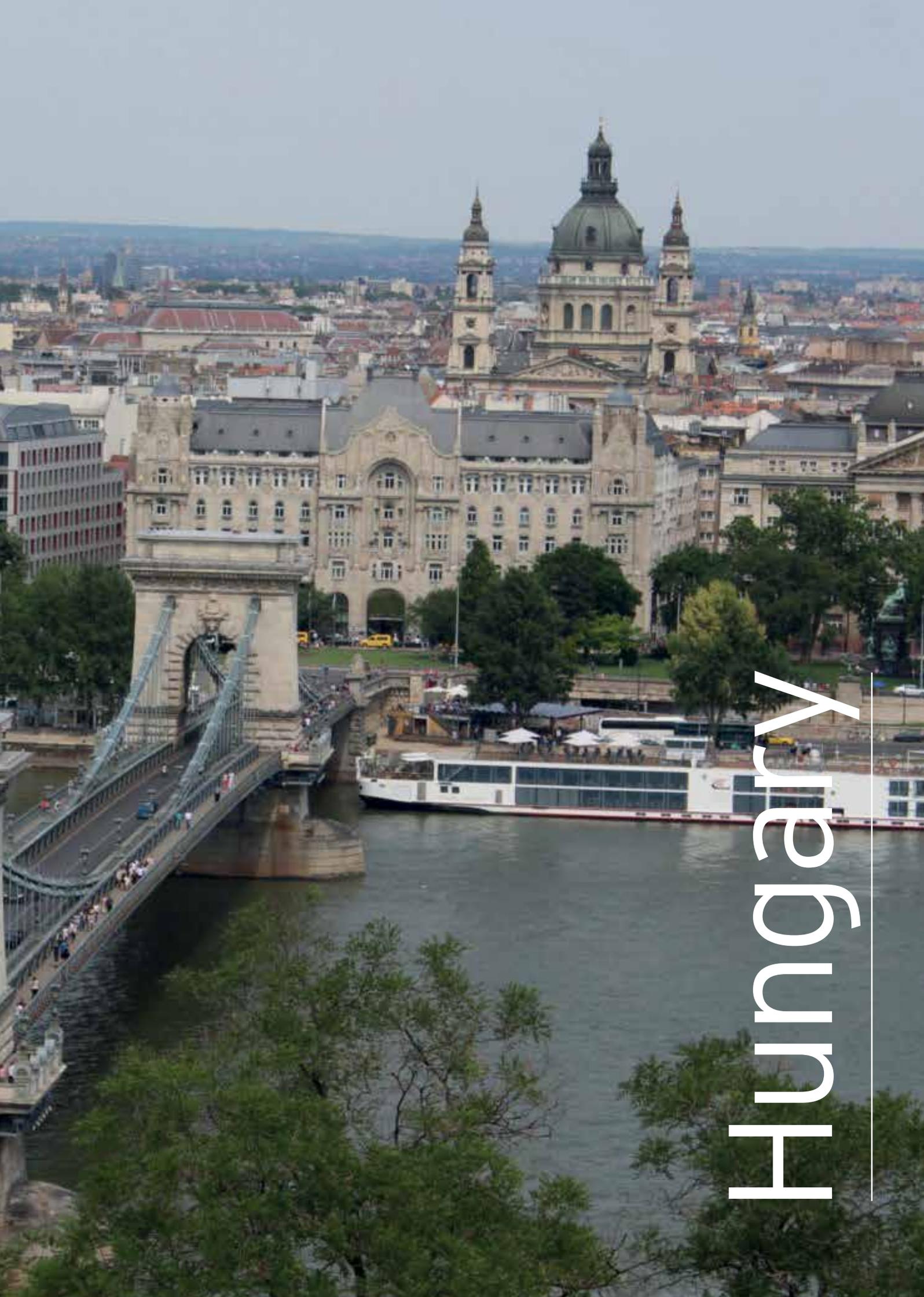
CNC

Baptiste Heynemann / Magali Jammet
Phone: +33-144343534 or 3617
E-mail ID: baptiste.heyнемann@cnc.fr / magali.jammet@cnc.fr

Visa requirements

For shooting a film in France, a Schengen temporary work permit must be applied for. Apart from the general documentation required for obtaining a visa, the following additional documents/information are required to be submitted while applying for the temporary work permit:

- ▶ Invitation letter containing details of the purpose of visit, expense coverage etc.
- ▶ Names of applicants/crew members
- ▶ Duration of stay
- ▶ Travel itinerary



Hungary

Hungary

Economic benefit:

A net savings of ~**25.31%** on the total estimated foreign production budget



Hungary fact file

Seasons:

Spring:
March to May

Summer:
June to August

Autumn:
September to October

Winter:
December to February

Past Bollywood films shot:

Raabta, Jab Harry Met Sejal, Sultan, Force 2

Hungary is an elegant country with a wealth of baroque, classical and art nouveau architecture. Budapest is a city of cobbled streets, busy cafes, castles, museums, parks, thermal spas and spectacular Danube River city vistas. Budapest is often used to double for other European cities, such as Vienna, Berlin, London, Paris, Rome, Moscow and Monte Carlo. Outside of Budapest, one can find bucolic rural landscapes, forests, rivers, mountains, vineyards, fields of wheat, corn, barley and sunflowers.²

Things to know

- ▶ Hungarians are one of the most heavily taxed people in the world, with the tax payments amounting to 38.3% of their annual income on average.
- ▶ The standard workweek in Hungary is of 40 hours.
- ▶ Approximately 20% of the Hungarian population speaks English.

Infrastructure

Hungary has rental houses that stock both Arri and Panavision equipment and all of the standard cameras, lights and cranes are available locally. Hungary also has specialized film equipment including motion control, Giraffe and Pegasus cranes. For the purpose of importing specialized equipment from abroad, Hungary acts as an ATA Carnet country, which acts in favor of foreign film-makers. Hungary is also home to one of the best art departments in the world, which provides a leverage to the country as compared to other European destinations. It has several large modern studios equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and good post-production facilities.

Production incentives

Hungarian Tax Rebate Scheme (HTRS)³

What is the scheme?	HTRS is a part of the film support program approved by the European Union with a total budget of EUR402 million (~INR31,026 million). The scheme provides a rebate of 25% of the eligible expenses incurred on a film. Further, the scheme has a sunset date of 31 December 2019.
Who is the administrating authority?	National Film Office (NMHH Nemzeti Filmiroda)
What is the type of incentive?	Cash rebate

² <http://emergefilmsolutions.com/country/hungary/>

³ <http://filminginhungary.com/255-tax-rebate>



Who is eligible?	<p>Hungarian companies registered with the National Film Office are eligible to apply for HTRS. Accordingly, a foreign producer wishing to claim HTRS may adopt two alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Appoint a local production partner for filming in Hungary▶ Incorporate and register a legal entity under the laws of Hungary
What are the eligible film formats?	<p>The following formats are considered as eligible for HTRS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Feature films▶ TV series▶ Documentaries▶ Animated films▶ Experimental films▶ Short films <p>However, formats such as pornographic films, extremely violent films, commercials, reality shows and daily soap operas are ineligible for HTRS.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?	<p>All direct film production costs (i.e., pre-production, production as well as post-production) are eligible for HTRS. Expenses made to foreign taxpayers are also eligible, subject to a maximum of 20% of the total production budget.</p> <p>Further, the following expenses incurred in relation to the film are eligible up to such limits as have been specified in the Hungarian law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Copyright costs▶ Travel costs▶ P&A costs▶ Cost of services provided by non-Hungarian service providers▶ Producer's fees <p>Additionally, for the purpose of calculation of rebate, eligible non-Hungarian spend shall be restricted to 25% of eligible Hungarian spend.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to content/ culture?	<p>Films applying for HTRS must score a minimum of 16 points in the Cultural Test in order to be eligible to claim HTRS. The film must highlight European culture or content, and additional points will be granted if European nationals are involved in making or financing the film.</p>



Hungary

What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ First, the Hungarian entity (applicant) needs to register the film with the National Film Office.
- ▶ Thereafter, the film must go through the Cultural Test and score the minimum required points in order to be eligible for HTRS.
- ▶ The applicant is then required to submit an application for claiming the rebate at least 30 days prior to the commencement of principal photography in Austria. The application must be accompanied by the prescribed supporting documents.
- ▶ The applicant must communicate the commencement of principal photography in Hungary to the National Film Office.
- ▶ Pursuant to the completion of post-production activities pertaining to the film, the applicant is required to submit an audited statement of expenses incurred and a tax certificate from the National Film Office.
- ▶ After evaluation of the above documents, the rebate is disbursed to the applicant. The entire process generally takes a period of 40 days to complete.

Useful contacts

Hungarian National Film Fund Nonprofit Private Share Company

Phone: +36-14611320

Fax: +36-14611332

E-mail ID: filmalap@filmalap.hu / sajto@filmalap.hu

Visa requirements

For shooting a film in Hungary, a Schengen Short Stay Uniform C-type visa is required. The said visa is valid for a maximum of 90 days in any 180-day period. Apart from the general documentation required for obtaining a visa, the following additional information/documents are required to be submitted while applying for the Schengen C-type visa:

- ▶ Invitation letter containing details of the purpose of visit, expense coverage etc.
- ▶ Names of applicants/crew members
- ▶ Duration of stay
- ▶ Travel itinerary

Further, the normal time period involved in the granting of the Schengen C-type visa is 15 working days.



The Czech Republic

The Czech Republic

Economic benefit:

A net savings of
~15.54% on total
estimated foreign
production budget

Czech Republic fact file

Seasons:

Spring:

March to May

Summer:

June to August

Autumn:

September to November

Winter:

December to February

Past Bollywood films shot:

Raabta, Jab Harry
Met Sejal, Bang Bang,
Rockstar

*"Shooting in the country
of Czech Republic was a
very good experience. We
did not face any issues
while shooting Bang Bang.
Beautiful locations and
great crew to work on the
film."*

- Parth Arora,

Head of Production
Fox Star Studios

The Czech Republic's well-established film infrastructure and depth of locations have made it a favorite destination for many international productions. Locations of interest to film-makers and photographers include old-world architecture, castles and palaces, rustic countryside, winding roads ideal for car commercials, picturesque towns, beautiful landscapes such as lakes, deep forests, rolling hills and snow-capped mountains. Prague is a very popular film destination both for its state of the art studio infrastructure as well as its wealth of magnificent gothic, baroque, art nouveau, cubist and contemporary architecture.⁴

Things to know

- ▶ Approximately 27% of the Czech population speaks English.
- ▶ The average workweek in the Czech Republic is of 41.7 hours.
- ▶ The Czech Republic is the home to the largest number of castles, keeps and castle ruins in the world and is almost entirely surrounded by mountains.

Infrastructure

The Czech Republic has a deep range of standard and specialized camera, lighting and grip equipment with the presence of companies such as Arri, Vantage, Panther, Panavision and Panalux. Some specialized gyro heads and camera cars may be required to be imported. Further, one area where the Czech Republic differentiates itself from the rest of the world is its world-renowned art department and construction facilities.

The Czech Republic also has several large state-of-the-art studio facilities, including sound stages, water tanks, production offices, props and backlot of rolling green terrain. Additionally, the Czech Republic offers a variety of high standard post-production facilities, including VFX, animation, editing and film labs.

Production incentives

Czech Republic Cash Rebate⁵

What is the scheme?	Czech Republic Cash Rebate is a part of the Czech Incentives Scheme, which is administered by the State Cinematography Fund. It provides a 20% cash rebate on qualifying Czech spend and a rebate of 66% of withholding tax paid in the Czech Republic. Further, the cash rebate does not have any per-project cap.
Who is the administrating authority?	State Cinematography Fund
What is the type of incentive?	Cash rebate

⁴ <http://emergefilmsolutions.com/country/czech-republic/>

⁵ Czech Republic: Production Incentives 2017 Brochure



Who is eligible?	The scheme prescribes that only a registered VAT payer having a place of business in the Czech Republic shall be eligible to claim the cash rebate. Accordingly, local production services companies shall be eligible to claim the cash rebate. Further, a legal entity incorporated by a foreign producer in the Czech Republic shall also be eligible to claim the rebate.
What are the eligible film formats?	<p>Czech Republic Cash Rebate is applicable for a variety of formats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Feature films ▶ Animation films ▶ Documentary films ▶ Fictional TV content, including films and TV series ▶ Animated series <p>Accordingly, commercials and other advertising programs and films displaying violent and pornographic content will not be eligible for the cash rebate.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?	<p>The minimum qualifying Czech spend requirement as prescribed under the scheme is as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Feature, animated or TV films: CZK15 million (~ INR44.61 million) ▶ Documentary films: CZK2 million (~ INR5.95 million) ▶ TV series: CZK8 million per episode (~ INR23.79 million) ▶ Animated series: CZK1 million per episode (~INR2.97 million) <p>Further, the qualifying Czech spend as prescribed under the scheme includes the following expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Czech goods and services provided by local companies or individuals: Eligible for a 20% rebate ▶ International above-the-line costs paid to actors and crew which are liable to withholding tax in the Czech Republic: Eligible for a 66% rebate <p>Additionally, for the purpose of calculation of cash rebate, the qualifying Czech spend shall be limited to 80% of the total production budget.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to content/ culture?	<p>The project must meet the European Cultural and Production Criteria and score a minimum of 4 points in the cultural criteria and a minimum of 23 points overall out of the 46 points available. The European Cultural and Production Criteria focuses on different areas of the European heritage and employment of locals as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Significant events in the history of Europe ▶ Major personalities originating from Europe ▶ Focus on the European culture ▶ Focus on European values ▶ Emphasis on current events surrounding the European society ▶ Requirement of a film-maker being a Czech Republic resident or an EEA resident ▶ Requirement of utilization of Czech service providers ▶ Requirement of post-production activities being undertaken in the Czech Republic



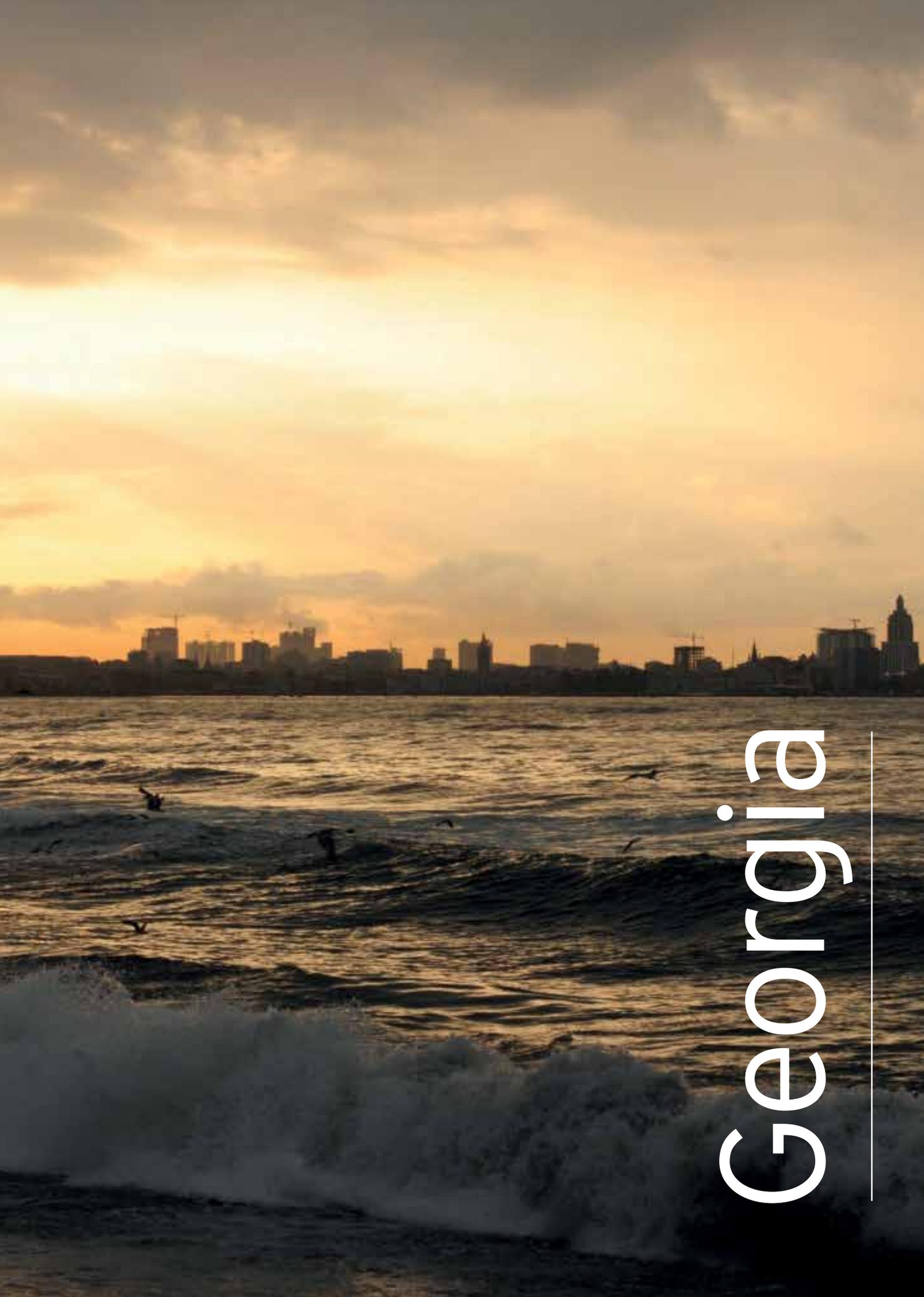
Any other conditions?	Eligible formats are required to have such a minimum run time as enumerated below: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Feature, animated, documentary or TV films: 70 minutes▶ TV series: 30 minutes per episode▶ Animated series: 5 minutes per episode
What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ The Czech entity (applicant) must make an application for registration of the project along with the relevant supporting documents, including an analysis of the cultural and production criteria, synopsis of the project and a Czech version of the script.▶ Thereafter, the State Cinematography Fund will evaluate whether the project meets the cultural and production criteria. If the criteria are achieved, the applicant will be issued a registration certificate. Only costs incurred pursuant to the grant of the registration certificate will be considered as eligible for the cash rebate.▶ Thereafter, the applicant is required to file an application for allocation of the rebate. Within 4 months of the filing of the application, the applicant must have shot at least 10 shooting days in the Czech Republic.▶ The applicant is then required to file an audited statement of the eligible costs incurred.▶ After submission of the aforesaid statement, the cash rebate shall be disbursed to the applicant in two phases:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ First, after completion of shooting in the Czech Republic, subject to the minimum qualifying Czech spend being expensed <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Second, after completion of production and post production in the Czech Republic
Useful contacts:	<p>State Cinematography Fund Czech Republic Magdalena Kralova - Head of Production Incentives Program Phone: +420-602177146 Email-ID: magdalena.kralova@fondkinematografie.cz</p> <p>Ludmila Claussova - Film Commissioner Phone: +420-728132026 Email-ID: ludmila@filmcommission.cz</p>

Visa requirements

For shooting a film in the Czech Republic, a Czech Schengen Film Crew Visa must be applied for. Apart from the general documentation required for obtaining a visa, the following additional information/documents are required to be submitted while applying for the Film Crew Visa:

- ▶ Invitation letter containing details of the purpose of visit, expense coverage etc.
- ▶ Names of applicants/crew members
- ▶ Duration of stay
- ▶ Travel itinerary

Further, the normal time period involved in the granting of the Film Crew Visa is 14 working days.

A scenic photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright horizon. In the foreground, the ocean has dark, choppy waves with white foam from a breaking wave in the lower left. Several birds are seen in flight over the water. The word "Georgia" is written vertically in white, sans-serif font on the right side of the image, with a thin white vertical line to its right.

Georgia

Georgia

Economic benefit:

A net savings of
~20% on the total
estimated foreign
production budget

Georgia fact file

Seasons:

Spring:

March to May

Summer:

June to August

Autumn:

September to November

Winter:

December to February

Past Bollywood films

shot:

Hindi Medium, Machine,
Mom, Wajah Tum Ho

The country of Georgia, located to the East of Turkey and South of Russia, is pushing itself forward as an attractive production location. With its combination of exquisite architecture, dramatic mountain scenery and Black Sea coastline, it undoubtedly offers a wide range of great backdrops - all within a relatively small distance of each other. The main hub for the Georgian media industry is capital Tbilisi, an attractive city with a population of just over 1 million.

Things to know

- ▶ The highest settlement in Europe is located in the Ushguli village of Georgia at a height of 2,100 meters above sea level.
- ▶ The main language spoken in Georgia is Georgian followed by Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian.
- ▶ The maximum legal workweek in Georgia is of 40 hours (48 hours in case of certain specific sectors).

Infrastructure

Georgia has all the standard camera, grip and lighting equipment. More specialized gear can be easily brought in from abroad. Bringing gear into Georgia is an easy process compared to bringing in gear to some of the countries neighboring Georgia. Further, Georgia has only basic art and construction facilities.⁶

Production incentives

Film in Georgia (FIG)⁷

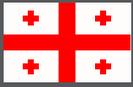
What is the scheme?	FIG is a newly launched film industry incentive program offering a 20% cash rebate on qualified expenses incurred in Georgia. An additional rebate of up to 5% is available if a production promotes Georgia as a destination by meeting the program's "Cultural Test." In case of a qualifying production, a rebate of up to GEL1 million (~ INR26.35 million) will be automatically approved by the administrating authority. For rebate beyond this amount, prior approval of the Government of Georgia is required
Who is the administrating authority?	The FIG incentive is jointly administered by LEPL Entrepreneurship Development Agency and Film Commission LEPL (Georgian National Film Center) under the supervision of the Government of Georgia.
What is the type of incentive?	Cash rebate

⁶ <http://emergefilmsolutions.com/country/georgia/>

⁷ Georgia Film Incentive Brochure - www.filminggeorgia.ge



Who is eligible?	<p>A legal entity registered in Georgia is eligible to claim the FIG incentive. Accordingly, a foreign producer wishing to claim the said incentive may adopt two alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Appoint a local production partner for filming in Georgia▶ Incorporate and register a legal entity under the laws of Georgia
What are the eligible film formats?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Feature films▶ Internet/TV film▶ TV series or mini series (including pilot episodes)▶ Documentary films▶ Animated films▶ Commercials▶ Reality shows▶ Music videos
What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?	<p>The following expenditure-related conditions are required to be fulfilled in order to be eligible to claim the FIG incentive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ At least 50% of the total production budget should be arranged for at the time of making the application for the incentive.▶ Expenses incurred must be directly related to the film-making process.▶ In case of feature films, Internet/TV films and TV series or mini series, the minimum local spend required is GEL0.5 million (~ INR12.68 million).▶ In case of all other eligible formats, the minimum local spend required is GEL0.3 million (~ INR7.91 million). <p>Further, the incentive shall be available at 20% of the qualified expenses incurred in Georgia. Accordingly, the incentive program provides a list of such qualified expenses along with the percentage of co-financing that is permissible in relation to the total qualified expenses budget.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to content/ culture?	<p>An additional rebate of up to 5% is available if the production meets the program's Cultural Test. The Cultural test consists of 5 sections, which are aimed at promoting Georgia as a film destination and include conditions pertaining to local employment, content, exhibition and distribution of the qualifying production. Upon fulfillment of each section, the film producer gets an additional rebate of 1%.</p>
Any other conditions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ In case of TV series or mini series, commercials and music videos, the audience coverage should extend to at least 3 countries outside Georgia.▶ In case of reality shows, the audience coverage should extend to at least 1 country outside Georgia.



What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ The Georgian entity (applicant) must file an online application along with the relevant supporting documents on the registration portal.
- ▶ Within 30 days of the online application, the Government of Georgia will respond to the applicant either accepting or rejecting it.
- ▶ If the application is accepted, then a contract will be signed between the applicant and Enterprise Georgia.
- ▶ After the contract is signed, the applicant is given a timeline of 2 years for completing the production of the film in Georgia.
- ▶ The applicant is also required to submit audited financial statements within the aforesaid period of 2 years electronically on the registration portal.
- ▶ Within 90 days of submission of the audited financial statement, the Government of Georgia will disburse the rebate to the applicant.
- ▶ Moreover, the applicant may apply for the additional rebate within a further period of 2 years and it shall be disbursed within 90 days of receiving the application.

Useful contacts

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Visa requirements

For shooting a film in Georgia, a D2 immigration visa is required, which is issued with the right of multiple entries and for a 90-calendar-day validity period. The procedure for obtaining the D2 immigration visa is as enumerated below:

- ▶ An online application is required to be filed on the E-Application System along with the relevant supporting documents for booking time for submission of the visa application at the appropriate consular office. In case of India, the Embassy of Georgia in New Delhi will be the appropriate consular office.
- ▶ At the time booked through the E-Application System, the applicant is required submit hard copies of the signed visa application along with the necessary supporting documents required.
- ▶ Within 30 days of submission of the signed visa application, the consular office shall decide whether to issue a D2 immigration visa or not.
- ▶ The decision of the consular office to refuse to issue the immigration visa may be appealed against in accordance with the appeal procedure established under the Georgian laws.



Lithuania

Lithuania

Economic benefit:

A net savings of
~13.59% on
the total estimated
foreign production
budget

Lithuania fact file

Seasons:

Spring:

April to May

Summer:

June to August

Autumn:

September to November

Winter:

December to March

Past Bollywood films shot:

Irrfan Khan is currently shooting in Lithuania for a Japanese miniseries

With its windy roads, beaches, castles and palaces, Lithuania has a lot on offer for film-makers. The capital, Vilnius, is the main production hub, but the country has evolved over the years to become more film-friendly and has seen a lot of activity over recent years. Situated in northern Europe along the southeastern shore of the Baltic Sea, bordering with Latvia, Belarus, Poland and Russia, Lithuania has an estimated population of three million. The atmosphere of its cities, with its Baroque Roman Catholic churches, is similar to that of Italy, with more rural areas offering national parks with vast tracts of oak and pine forests. Transport links are easily available, with good rail links and motorways.⁸

Things to know

- ▶ Forest covers one-third of the country and includes many protected regions and national parks.
- ▶ Basketball is the most popular sport in Lithuania.
- ▶ Approximately 38% of the Lithuanian population speaks English.
- ▶ The maximum legal workweek in Lithuania is of 40 hours.

Infrastructure

Lithuania has standard lighting, grip and camera packages, including REDs and Alexas. However, more specialized equipment is usually required to be imported from Latvia, Finland and Germany via the ATA Carnet facility. Further, art department and set construction in Lithuania are of an international standard as the builds are very cost competitive. There are at least four very good art department teams in Lithuania. Out of all the Baltic states, Lithuania is traditionally the busiest with films, while Latvia services commercials and Estonia shoots the least of both.

Additionally, Lithuanian film studios offer good services including a sound stage, the best green screen in the Baltics, and specialist high-speed table-top shoot facilities. Moreover, post-production facilities in Lithuania are limited to basic facilities only.⁹

Production incentives

Lithuanian Tax Incentive (LTI)¹⁰

What is the scheme?	LTI offers up to 20% benefit on the eligible expenses incurred in Lithuania. The incentive involves three parties, namely, the foreign producer, the local production company and the local donor. The local donor will benefit from the incentive while the local production company and the foreign producer will benefit from the donation received by them from the local donor.
Who is the administrating authority?	Lithuanian Film Centre

⁸ <http://www.kftv.com/country//lithuania/guide/production-guide>

⁹ <http://emergefilmsolutions.com/country/lithuania/>

¹⁰ <http://www.lkc.lt/en/tax-incentives/>



What is the type of incentive?	Tax credit
Who is eligible?	<p>Only a Lithuanian producer company is eligible to apply for LTI. Accordingly, a foreign producer wishing to avail LTI has two alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Appoint a local production company in Lithuania ▶ Incorporate a company under Lithuanian laws <p>Further, the scheme also states that a local donor is mandatorily required in order to provide financial support to the film.</p>
What are the eligible film formats?	<p>The formats eligible for LTI are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Feature films ▶ TV films ▶ Documentaries ▶ Animated films <p>The scheme also lists down formats that are considered as ineligible for LTI.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The project must spend a minimum of EUR43,000 (~ INR3.3 million) as eligible Lithuanian expenses. The scheme also provides a list of expenses that are considered ineligible for LTI. ▶ At least 80% of the production budget must be spent in Lithuania. ▶ The local donor does not provide donations exceeding 20% of the production expenses incurred by the project.
What are the conditions in relation to content/ culture?	The film must conform to the cultural assessment criteria as laid down by the Lithuanian authorities. In order to be eligible, each film has to fulfill at least two criterion in the cultural criteria.
Any other conditions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The film must have a minimum of 3 shooting days in Lithuania (except for animation films). ▶ At least 10% of all or 20% of two of the elements as stated below must be done in Lithuania: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Shooting ▶ Development of visual and graphic design, set and props ▶ Storyboard ▶ Animation, visual and special effects ▶ At least 51% of the film crew must be citizens of Lithuania or other European Economic Area.



What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ The Lithuanian entity (applicant) needs to submit an application to the Lithuanian Film Centre along with the necessary supporting documents.
- ▶ The Lithuanian Film Centre will then evaluate the application along with supporting documents for its completeness and accuracy.
- ▶ After evaluation of the application, the Lithuanian Film Centre will examine the cultural content of the project for purpose of fulfillment of the cultural criteria. Thereafter, the format of the project and other conditions will be evaluated.
- ▶ The entire evaluation procedure is generally completed within a period of 30 days from the date of submission of the application.
- ▶ Upon completion of the evaluation, a film qualification certificate will be granted, which shall remain valid for a period of 6 months. During those 6 months, the applicant must commence principal photography.
- ▶ Thereafter, the local donor can avail the benefit of LTI on the basis of an investment note. The local donor will receive benefit in two ways:
 - ▶ 75% of the donation made shall be allowed as a deduction from taxable profits as eligible tax expenses incurred
 - ▶ The entire amount of donation shall be reduced from the corporate tax payable as a part of the incentive.
- ▶ Further, the deduction from corporate tax payable shall be capped at 75% of the tax payable for that tax period. In case the deduction exceeds 75%, the excess amount shall be deducted from the corporate tax payable for the next two tax periods.

Useful contacts

Lithuanian Film Centre

Milda Vakarinaite

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Visa requirements

For shooting a film in Lithuania, a Schengen Short Stay Uniform C-type visa is required. The said visa shall be valid for a maximum 90 days in any 180-day period. Apart from the general documentation required for obtaining a visa, the following additional documents/information are required to be submitted while applying for the Schengen C-type visa:

- ▶ Invitation letter containing details of the purpose of visit, expense coverage etc.
- ▶ Names of applicants/crew members
- ▶ Letter from a Lithuanian agency confirming the film permits and logistical support
- ▶ Certificate of registration with a recognized film body in India



Austria

Austria

Economic benefit:

A net savings of
~13.95% on
the total estimated
foreign production
budget

Austria fact file

Seasons:

Spring:

March to May

Summer:

June to August

Autumn:

September to November

Winter:

December to February

Past Bollywood films shot:

Ae Dil Hai Mushkil,
Action Jackson,
Yuvraaj, Ab Ke Baras

"The shooting was very smooth because the local crew is very experienced and they have handled big productions both from Hollywood as well as India. We shot in deep snow during the Austrian winter and it did involve a lot of logistical challenges but it was handled very well and we could finish our schedule on time. The local people and the authorities were extremely co-operative and we could close down one of the busiest squares in Innsbruck at a day's notice."

- Aashish Singh,
Vice President-
Production
Yash Raj Films Pvt. Ltd.

Austria is best known for its picturesque alpine scenery made famous in the iconic 1965 Disney film *The Sound of Music*. The Austrian Film Industry consists of three main production centers, namely, Vienna, Salzburg and Innsbruck.¹¹

Vienna is the capital of Austria and one of the main production centers. It is widely known for its grand castles and palaces, divine churches and ancient museums. Salzburg's Old Town is famous for its baroque splendor and alpine beauty. Innsbruck is the capital of the state of Tyrol and is best known for its idyllic mountain villages, mesmerizing valleys and countryside, lakes and rivers.¹²

Things to know

- ▶ The average workweek in Austria is of 45 hours.
- ▶ Approximately 73% of the Austrian population speaks English.
- ▶ The world's largest emerald (2,680 karats) is located in the city of Vienna in Austria.
- ▶ Austria has been constantly ranked as a country having one of highest standards of living in the world.

Infrastructure

Austria has excellent technical infrastructure and renting equipment and filming facilities for production as well as pre-/post-production requirements. There are also many well-trained and experienced professionals in all areas of expertise. The capital city of Vienna has a proliferation of film labs (such as Synchro Film and Listo Film), post-production houses as well as abundant resources for production design, costume and props needs. Finally, Austria boasts a successful international theater and film industry, which means that there are a large number of international, multi-lingual actors and extras from which film producers can draw.¹³

Production incentives

Film Industry Support Austria (FISA)¹⁴

What is the scheme?

FISA is a subsidy program governed by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy of Austria. It is designed to support national productions, Austrian co-productions as well as service productions (international productions) of cinema films with an annual budget of EUR7.5 million (~ INR578.84 million). It provides a non-repayable grant of up to 20% of eligible production costs in case of national and international co-productions. In case of service productions, the grant is provided at a rate of 25% of the eligible production costs. However, the total grant disbursed to a single applicant shall be restricted to 15% of the annual grant budget, i.e., EUR7.5 million (~ INR578.84 million). Further, maximum 20% of the annual grant budget shall be spent for funding service productions.

11 <http://www.kftv.com/country/austria/guide/production-guide>

12 <http://emergefilmsolutions.com/country/austria/>

13 <http://www.kftv.com/country/austria/guide/production-guide>

14 <http://www.locationaustria.at/en/funding/fisa.php> and FISA Guidelines 2016



Who is the administrating authority?	FISA is jointly administered by Location Austria (National Film Commission of Austria) and Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH (AWS)
What is the type of incentive?	Cash grant
Who is eligible?	<p>A qualifying corporation must be an independent film production company and should have a permanent establishment in Austria. Accordingly, a foreign producer wishing to avail FISA may adopt two alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Appoint a local production partner for filming in Austria ▶ Incorporate and register a legal entity under the laws of Austria <p>Further, the Austrian entity is required to actively contribute, in terms of content, in the film production process. It should also bear the organizational and business responsibility for the Austrian part of the shoot.</p>
What are the eligible film formats?	All feature films including fiction films and documentaries are eligible for FISA.
What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?	<p>For services production, the minimum required production budget is EUR8 million (~ INR617.43 million), but in case of documentary films, it is reduced to EUR1 million (~ INR77.18 million). Out of the above minimum required production budget, at least EUR1 million (~ INR77.18 million) should be spent in Austria toward eligible production costs.</p> <p>Further, eligible production costs have been defined in the scheme to include all expenses incurred in relation to the production of the film in Austria and which are subject to tax in Austria. Accordingly, eligible production costs may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Personal services such as wages, salaries, fees and honoraria <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Business services received from vendors located in Austria <p>Additionally, the scheme also provides a list of expenses that are ineligible for FISA.</p> <p>Moreover, for the purpose of calculation of grant, a maximum 80% of the total production budget shall be considered as eligible production costs.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to content/ culture?	<p>Service productions must fulfill at least two criterion in Part A of the Cultural Test and score a minimum of 33 points out of 66 points. Overall, the Cultural Test includes two parts as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Part A: Cultural content ▶ Part B: Film business criteria
Any other conditions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Feature films, excluding animated films, should have at least 5 shooting days in Austria. ▶ The film must have a minimum running time of 79 minutes in case of a feature film and 59 minutes in case of children films.



What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ The Austrian entity (applicant) needs to file an online application with AWS along with all the necessary supporting documents. The said application must be filed before the commencement of principal photography in Austria.
- ▶ Pursuant to the above, the applicant needs to provide evidence regarding assured funding of the film project.
- ▶ Once the above documents are submitted, the applicant must take the Cultural Test and achieve the minimum level required in order to qualify for FISA.
- ▶ Thereafter, based on the application submitted and Cultural Test scores, the Federal Ministry of Sciences, Research and Economy along with AWS shall decide on the admissibility of the film project in relation to FISA. Generally, the admissibility of the project is determined within a period of 7 weeks of availability of the assured funding.
- ▶ If the film project is admitted for FISA, AWS shall communicate a fixed term funding offer to the applicant, subject to the acceptance of which the grant will be disbursed in two phases as enumerated below:
 - ▶ 30%: Upon submission of the signed funding offer
 - ▶ 70%: Upon submission of the required documentation regarding spending of eligible production costs
- ▶ Further, if the applicant violates any of the offer or eligibility conditions as mentioned in the scheme, then the grant shall be liable to be repaid.

Useful contacts

Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH

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Location Austria

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Email ID: fisa@locationaustria.at

Visa requirements

For shooting a film in Austria, an Austrian Schengen Film Crew Visa must be applied for. Apart from the general documentation required for obtaining a visa, the following additional documents/information are required to be submitted while applying for the Film Crew Visa:

- ▶ Invitation letter containing details of the purpose of visit, expense coverage etc.
- ▶ Names of applicants/crew members
- ▶ Duration of stay
- ▶ Travel itinerary

Further, the normal time period involved in granting of Film Crew Visa is 14 working days.



Serbia

Serbia

Economic benefit:

A net savings of
~16.33% on
the total estimated
foreign production
budget

Serbia fact file

Seasons:

Spring:
March to May

Summer:
June to August

Autumn:
September to November

Winter:
December to February

With economic growth running at more than 4% over the last 10 years, Serbia is a country on the road to recovery, and a significant contributor to that growth is its audio-visual sector. Serbia has a long tradition of great TV and film work and was a popular filming location in the 1980s when part of Yugoslavia. The Balkans War interrupted that, but now Serbia is making the most of its many assets. With great locations, hard-working crews and talented craftspeople, it has again established itself as a real alternative to other Eastern European locations.¹⁵

Things to know

- ▶ Serbia has a literacy rate of 98.8%.
- ▶ The most widely spoken language in Serbia is Serbian followed by Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak, Rusyn and Croatian.
- ▶ The standard workweek in Serbia is of 40 hours

Infrastructure

All the camera, grip and lighting standard equipment is available locally in Serbia. Any additional and specialized gear can be easily brought in from nearby European countries as Serbia is an ATA Carnet country. In terms of the art department, Serbia lives up to the international standards. Further, Serbia has some very good studios ranging from small studios to a large, modern facility featuring 9 sound studios, fully serviced production offices and a 12-hectare backlot. Serbia also offers a wide range of post-production facilities, including VFX studios, sound design, animation and complete post-production solutions.¹⁶

Production incentives

Serbian Cash Rebate¹⁷

What is the scheme?	The Serbian Cash Rebate offers a benefit of up to 20% of the qualifying spend incurred in Serbia. For the year 2017, the total budget allocated for the rebate was EUR3.2 million (~ INR246.97 million) with no cap on per project grant.
Who is the administrating authority?	Film Centre Serbia
What is the type of incentive?	Cash rebate
Who is eligible?	As per the scheme, only those entities that are legally registered in Serbia and which are responsible for paying all Serbian taxes in relation to the production shall be eligible to claim the rebate. Accordingly, a foreign producer may either have to appoint a local production partner or incorporate and register a legal entity in Serbia.

15 <http://www.kftv.com/country//serbia/guide/production-guide>

16 <http://emergefilmsolutions.com/country/serbia/>

17 <http://www.filminserbia.com/filming-in-serbia/incentives/> and Rulebook on Serbian Cash Rebate



What are the eligible film formats? The following formats are considered as eligible for the rebate:

- ▶ Feature films
- ▶ TV film
- ▶ TV series
- ▶ Documentaries
- ▶ Animated films
- ▶ TV commercials
- ▶ Post-production activities for any of the above formats

Further, any content that is immoral, detrimental to public interest, detrimental to the image of Serbia or promotes violation of human rights shall not be considered as an eligible format.

What are the conditions in relation to expenditures? The minimum spend requirements for various formats as prescribed under the scheme are as follows;

- ▶ Feature films, TV films and TV series: EUR300,000 (~ INR23.15 million)
- ▶ Animated films or post-production activities: EUR150,000 (~ INR11.58 million)
- ▶ Special purpose films and TV commercials: EUR100,000 (~ INR7.72 million)
- ▶ Documentaries: EUR50,000 (~ INR3.86 million)

Further, “qualifying Serbian expenditure” has been defined under the scheme to include the following:

- ▶ Costs paid to citizens and residents of Serbia in relation to production of the film. It includes procurement of goods and services, salaries, wages, royalties etc.
- ▶ Costs incurred in relation to the use of goods for production. It includes equipment rentals, renting of studios etc.

The scheme also lists down costs that are not be considered as qualifying Serbian expenditure. These costs include marketing costs, costs ancillary to real estate purchase, distribution costs, Serbian VAT etc.

Any other conditions? The minimum runtime for various formats as prescribed under the scheme is as follows:

- ▶ Feature films, TV films and animation films: 70 minutes
 - ▶ TV series: At least 3 episodes of 40 minutes
 - ▶ Documentaries: 40 minutes
-



Serbia

What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ The Serbian entity (applicant) needs to submit an application to the Commission for Allocating Incentives (Commission) along with the relevant supporting documents. The applicant also needs to prove that on the day of filing the application, at least 30% of the total film production budget for Serbia has been arranged for.
- ▶ The Commission will then evaluate the application received and make a decision whether to accept or reject the application. The process of evaluation by the Commission usually takes 7 days.
- ▶ If the application is accepted, then the Ministry of Economy of Serbia will be required to sign a contract with the applicant for grant of the rebate.
- ▶ Thereafter, the applicant can start shooting the film in Serbia. During the course of shooting, the applicant is required to provide weekly reports to the Commission regarding the status of production of the film.
- ▶ Further, within a period of 45 days from the completion of shooting in Serbia, the applicant will be required to file a request with the Commission for disbursement of the rebate. The request should be accompanied by all the necessary supporting documents.
- ▶ Once the request is accepted, the rebate is generally disbursed to the applicant within a period of 60 days.

Useful contacts

Film Centre Serbia

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E-mail: fcs.office@fcs.rs

Serbia Film Commission

Phone: +381-114059961

E-mail ID: info@filminserbia.com

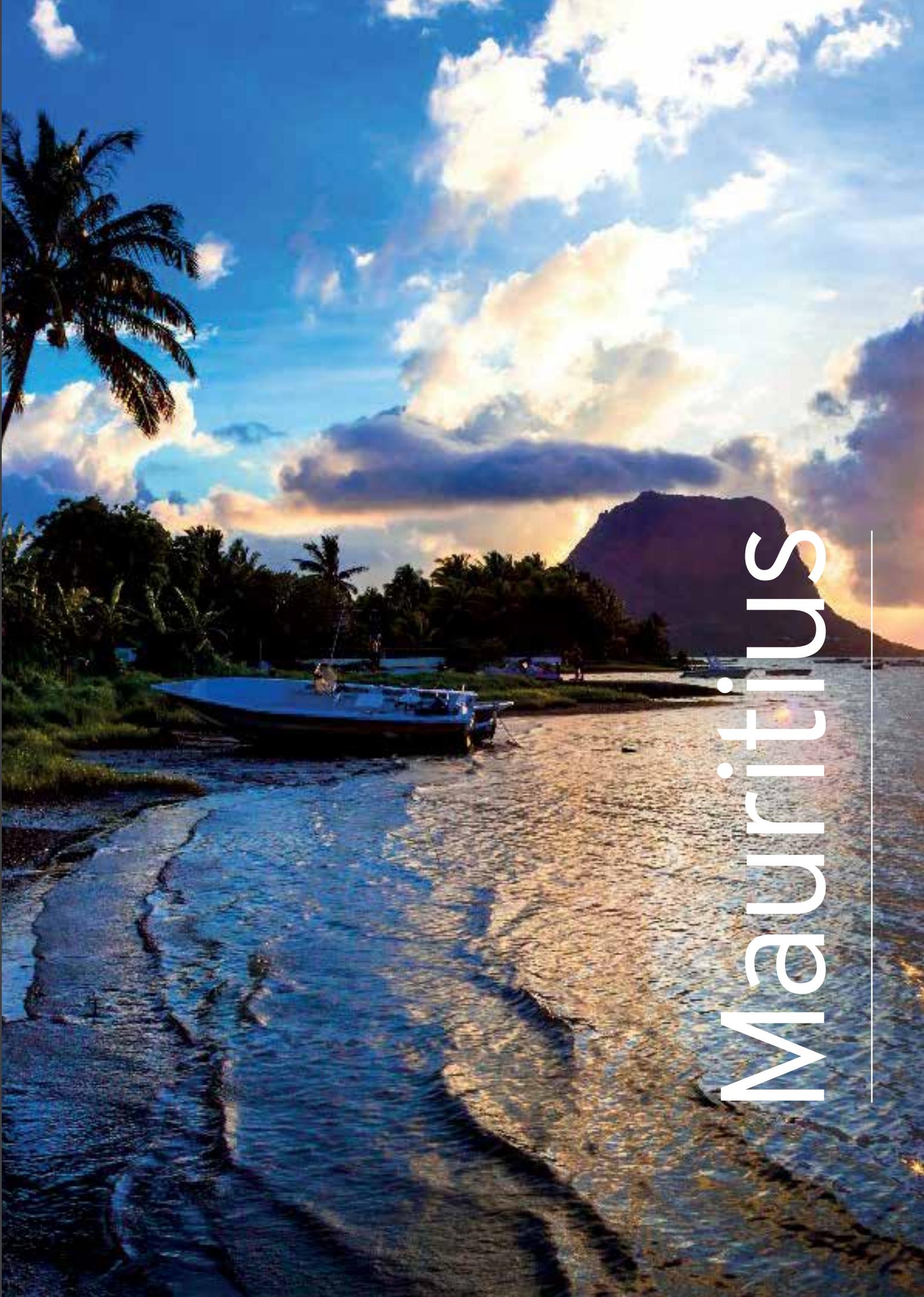
Visa requirements

For shooting a film in Serbia, a Serbian business visa is required to be applied for. For the purpose of obtaining a Serbian business visa, the following additional information/documents are required to be submitted apart from the general documentation:

- ▶ Invitation letter by a company in Serbia
- ▶ Travel itinerary
- ▶ Proof of sufficient funds for staying in Serbia

Africa





Mauritius

Mauritius

Economic benefit:

A savings of **~30%** on the total estimated foreign production budget

Mauritius fact file

Seasons:

Summer:

November to April

Winter:

May to October

Past Bollywood films shot:

Humshakals, Ek Villain, Break Ke Baad, Kidnap, Chashme Baddoor, F.A.L.T.U.

Mauritius is a volcanic island of palm-fringed beaches and lagoons with coral reefs surrounding much of the coast. Inland Mauritius has many beautiful forests, national parks, tree-lined avenues, mountains, waterfalls and rivers. The coast has some beautiful beaches although many of the better ones are part of established resorts or private islands such as Iles des Deux Cocos. Mauritius offers some great underwater photography options, particularly on the more protected west coast. Tamarin Bay has good surf breaks. The main towns and much of the French colonial architecture are run-down, making for interesting backdrops for film-makers and photographers.¹⁸

Things to know

- ▶ Approximately 15.97% of the Mauritian population speaks English.
- ▶ The standard workweek in Mauritius is of 40 hours.
- ▶ The island of Mauritius is home to a number of rare plants and animals not found in such a small geographical area anywhere else.

Infrastructure

Some basic grip, lighting and camera gear can be found locally in Mauritius; however, most of the specialized filming equipment is generally imported from Johannesburg, South Africa. Mauritius, being an ATA Carnet country, allows the import of filming equipment with minimal compliances. Further, Mauritius contains a basic art and construction department. Additionally, Mauritius does not boast of any production and post-production facilities and the nearest facility is located in South Africa.¹⁸

Production incentives

The Film Rebate Scheme (FRS)¹⁹

What is the scheme?	FRS of Mauritius offers a cash rebate of 30% on the qualifying production expenditure incurred in Mauritius. If the production contributes or will contribute to significant economic benefits for Mauritius, then the rebate shall be provided at a rate not exceeding 40% but which shall not be less than 30%. Such enhanced rate shall be decided by the Film Rebate Committee (FRC) and shall be subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions as listed in subsequent sections.
Who is the administrating authority?	Board of Investment, Mauritius
What is the type of incentive?	Cash rebate

¹⁸ <http://emergefilmsolutions.com/country/mauritius/>

¹⁹ Film in Mauritius Brochure and Investment Promotion (Film Rebate Scheme) Regulations 2013.



Who is eligible?	<p>Only film production companies registered in Mauritius are eligible to claim FRS. Accordingly, a foreign producer wishing to avail FRS may choose from two alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Appoint a local production partner for filming in Mauritius ▶ Incorporate and register a legal entity under the laws of Mauritius <p>Further, the FRC has intimated that it may largely accept applications from such production companies that have a successful track record in production for at least 5 years.</p>
What are the eligible film formats?	<p>FRS is applicable to a wide range of film and TV productions, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Feature films ▶ Documentaries ▶ Animation films ▶ Telemovie ▶ Single-episode drama TV programs, including animation programs ▶ Episodes of factual, natural history, lifestyle and magazine programs ▶ Commercial programs or advertising features <p>Further, the scheme also lists down formats which are considered as ineligible for FRS.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?	<p>The minimum spend requirement for various formats as prescribed under the scheme is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Feature films, documentaries and animation films: US\$100,000 (~ INR6.53 million) ▶ Telemovie or single-episode drama TV programs: US\$50,000 (~ INR3.27 million) ▶ Episodes of factual, natural history, lifestyle, magazine, commercial programs or advertising features: US\$30,000 (~ INR1.96 million) <p>Further, “qualifying production expenditure” has been defined under the scheme to mean such specified expenses that are incurred in relation to shooting, pre-production, production or post-production activities. Such expenses include accommodation, equipment rentals, catering, construction, labor, salaries, wages etc. Further, the scheme also lists down certain expenses that are not to be considered as “qualifying production expenditure.”</p> <p>Additionally, for the purpose of claiming enhanced rebate, the following conditions will be required to be satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The production company must spend a minimum of US\$1 million (~ INR6.53 million) in terms of qualifying production expenditure ▶ The production company must promote Mauritius at the time of promotion of the film



What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ First, the Mauritian entity (applicant) is required to obtain the consent of the Managing Director of FRC in the prescribed format at least 4 weeks before the start of shooting in Mauritius.
- ▶ The Managing Director will then grant all the necessary permissions and authorizations as the applicant may require.
- ▶ Thereafter, the applicant will be required to file an application for the rebate within 60 days of completion of operations in Mauritius. It should be accompanied by a certified report of an auditor stating the amount of qualifying production expenditure incurred and actually paid by the applicant.
- ▶ The Managing Director will then scrutinize the application and determine the amount of rebate to be disbursed. Within 30 days of this determination, the rebate will be disbursed to the applicant.

Useful contacts

Film in Mauritius

Jaya Doomun-Dookun/Dvyia Drepaul-Seemundun

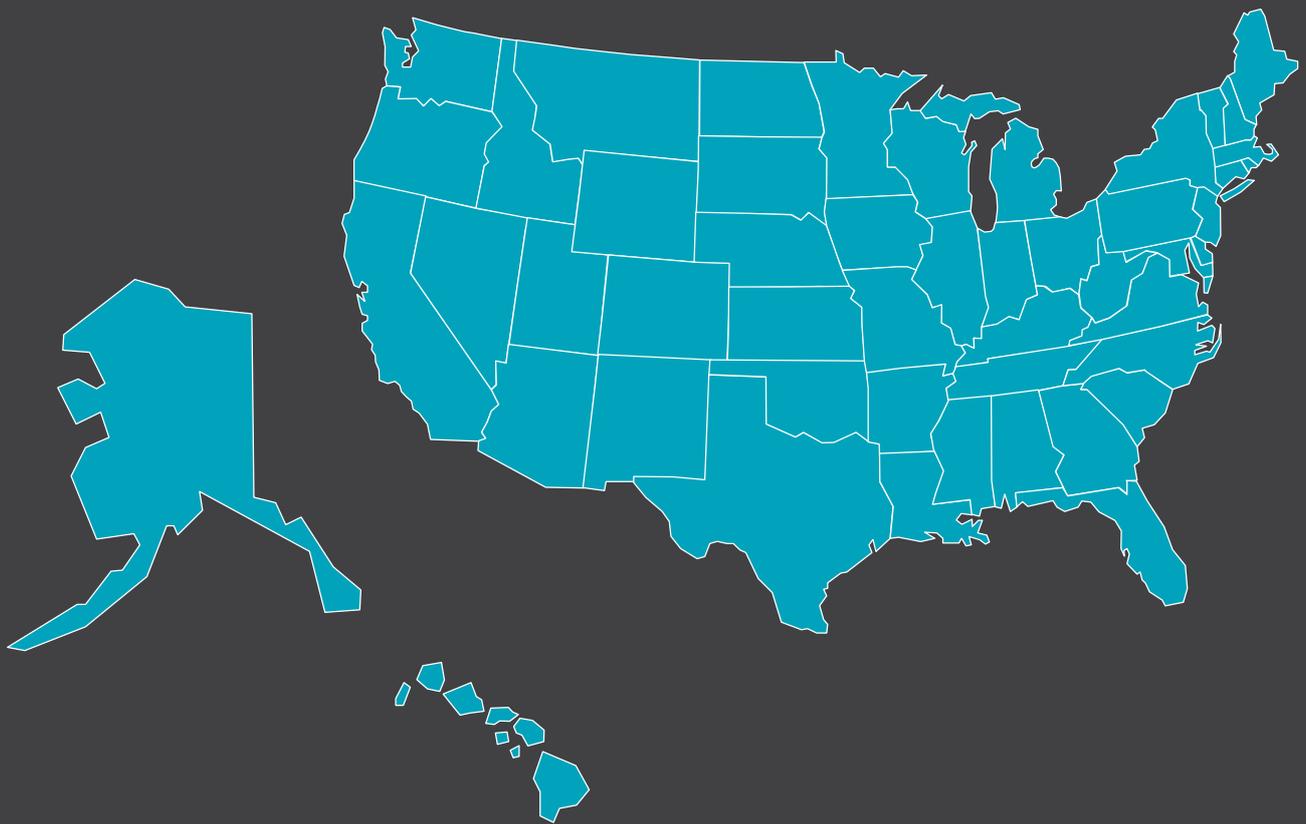
Phone: +230-2033800

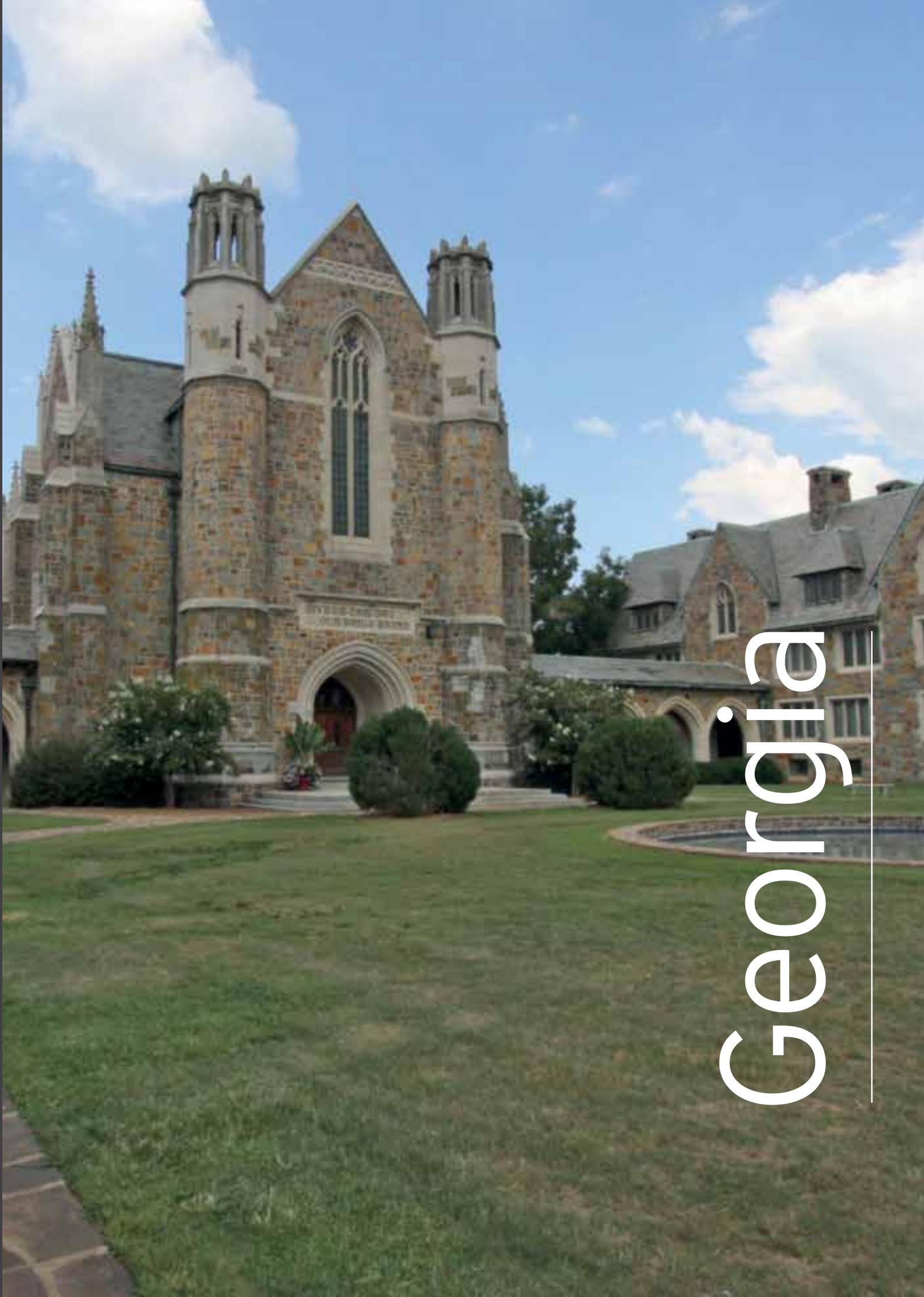
E-mail ID: filminmauritus@investmauritus.com

Visa requirements

For shooting a film in Mauritius, no visa is required if the film crew are citizens of India.

The United States of America





Georgia

Georgia

Economic benefit:

A savings of **~20%** on the total estimated foreign production budget

Georgia fact file

Seasons:

Spring

March to May

Summer:

June to August

Autumn:

September to November

Winter:

December to February

Past Bollywood films shot:

Simran

Georgia, also known as the “Peach State,” has progressed rapidly over the last six years, aggressively seeking productions and offering financial incentives. Atlanta is the capital and the heart of Georgia and offers a diverse range of looks including the Atlanta city skyline, Piedmont Park, Eastside Trail, diverse neighborhoods, Atlanta Centennial Olympic Park, historic Civil War and Civil Rights sites, and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Outside of Atlanta, Georgia offers a variety of natural looks and beauty such as the Appalachian Mountains, lakes, rivers, Tallulah Falls and Gorge, Providence Canyon, islands, beaches and swamplands.

Things to know

- ▶ The standard workweek in Georgia is of 40 hours.
- ▶ Approximately 87.35% of the population of Georgia speaks English.
- ▶ Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Georgia is the world’s busiest passenger airport.

Infrastructure

Georgia has highly professional and talented crews, supported by experienced art departments and set construction teams, excellent labs, equipment houses and post-production companies. Most equipment, grip, lighting and camera gear are available locally. Anything else can be flown in from Los Angeles.²⁰

Production incentives

Film, Television and Digital Entertainment Tax Credit (FTDETC)²¹

What is the scheme?	FTDETC of Georgia provides a benefit of up to 20% of qualifying spend incurred on production and post-production activities in Georgia. Additionally, a Georgian Entertainment Promotion (GEP) uplift of 10% will also be available if the film includes a promotion logo provided by the State of Georgia. Further, in case of little or no tax liability, the tax credit can either be sold by the eligible entity or carried forward for a period of 5 years.
Who is the administrating authority?	Georgian Department of Economic Development (GDED)
What is the type of incentive?	Tax credit

20 <http://www.kftv.com/country//usa/guide/production-guide/georgia>

21 Tax Brochure on Film, Television and Digital Entertainment Tax Credit



Who is eligible?

Eligible production companies are not required to be registered or headquartered in Georgia in order to claim FTDETC. Even companies or corporations formed for special projects shall be eligible to claim FTDETC. However, eligible production companies must satisfy the following conditions:

- ▶ It should not have defaulted on any tax obligation to the State of Georgia.
- ▶ It should not have defaulted on any loan guaranteed by the State of Georgia.

Accordingly, a foreign producer who wishes to claim FTDETC may adopt any of the following alternatives:

- ▶ Appoint a local production partner for filming in Georgia
- ▶ Incorporate and register a legal entity under the laws of Georgia

Moreover, service companies such as post-production houses, catering houses and rental houses shall not be eligible to claim FTDETC.

What are the eligible film formats?

FTDETC covers a large range of formats and media including the following:

- ▶ Feature films
- ▶ TV movies
- ▶ Pilots
- ▶ TV series
- ▶ Music videos
- ▶ Animation films
- ▶ Interactive entertainment projects such as development of video games
- ▶ Commercials

Further, only feature films, TV series, pilots, TV movies, music videos and video games are eligible formats for the purpose of the GEP uplift.

The scheme also lists down various formats that are considered as ineligible for FTDETC.

What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?

In order to become eligible for FTDETC, the minimum amount of qualifying spend to be incurred in Georgia must be US\$500,000 (~ INR32.66 million). The said requirement may be fulfilled by a single project or multiple projects in a single tax year. Further, as per the scheme, qualifying spend includes the following expenditures:

- ▶ Production expenditure incurred in relation to production of the film
- ▶ Salaries and wages paid to paid to Georgian as well as non-Georgian nationals (maximum allowed up to US\$500,000 per person per production if paid through Form W2)
- ▶ Travel and insurance
- ▶ Post-production expenditure incurred in relation to the film etc

Additionally, expenditures such as development costs, marketing costs, promotion costs, license fees and story right fees are not considered as qualifying spend.



Georgia

What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ The Georgian entity (applicant) needs to file an application for certification of the project to the GDED within a period of 90 days of commencement of principal photography in Georgia.
- ▶ The applications submitted are generally reviewed and certified by GDED within a period of three days.
- ▶ The applicant will also be required to file a separate application to GDED for the purpose of claiming the GEP uplift of 10%.
- ▶ GDED will evaluate the applications and notify the applicant of its decision. If accepted, the applicant will be provided with all the necessary copies of the conformed logo for inclusion in his project.
- ▶ Once the project is certified, the applicant will receive a certification letter from GDED and that letter is required to be attached to the applicant income tax return. The certification letter will also mention the rate at which credit shall be available to the applicant.
- ▶ For claiming the tax credit, the applicant will be required to file his or her income tax return along with the certification letter, completed copy of Form IT-FC and other supporting documents as required.
- ▶ Further, the applicant will also be required to submit a copy of the project containing the conformed logo to GDED for the purpose of claiming the GEP uplift of 10%.
- ▶ In case the project is not completed within the single tax year for which certification has been obtained, the applicant will be required to apply for a new certification for the next tax year by following the above-mentioned process.

Useful contacts

Georgia Department of Economic Development

1. Lee Thomas - Deputy Commissioner
Phone: +404-9624048
E-mail ID: lthomas@georgia.org
 2. Alison Fibben - Tax Incentive and Budget Program Manager
Phone: +404-9624050
E-mail ID: afibben@georgia.org
 3. Lita Battle - Film Administrative Coordinator
Phone: +404-9624832
E-mail ID: lbattle@georgia.org
-

Visa requirements

For shooting a film in Georgia, an O-type temporary worker visa must be applied for. Such visa is generally given to those film-makers who have extraordinary recognized achievements in the fields of motion picture and television, demonstrated by sustained national and international acclaim. Before applying for the visa, the prospective employer (i.e., the Georgian entity) in the United States needs to file a petition with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Department.



New York

New York

Economic benefit:

A net savings of
~16.06% on
the total estimated
foreign production
budget

New York fact file

Seasons:

Spring

March to May

Summer:

June to August

Autumn:

September to November

Winter:

December to February

Past Bollywood films shot:

Half Girlfriend, My Name is Khan, London-Paris-New York, Ta Ra Rum Pum, Anjaana Anjaani, English Vinglish, Kal Ho Naa Ho, Kurbaan

"USA is a film-makers dream country to shoot in as you get experienced crew, varied locations, latest equipment, and one window clearance for most of the locations with ample support from the local authorities. The cooperation at the government level was phenomenal, we got full support right from the issue of the visas to the permissions to shoot elaborate action sequences on the locations we wanted to shoot in."

- **Aashish Singh**,
Vice President-
Production
Yash Raj Films Pvt. Ltd.

New York has a long and illustrious history of film and TV, with many of the nation's major news outlets based there. It is difficult to overstate how iconic the city of New York is to both the big and small screen, with buildings such as the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building having been the center of countless feature films and TV dramas. The city of New York proves itself as an unforgettable co-star – many people who visit the city exclaim, "It's just like it is in the movies." It is truly multicultural, with Spanish, Italian, Russian, Polish and Bengali among the many commonly spoken languages across the city's five boroughs. The state of New York offers a wide range of varied scenery and filming backdrops, from beaches and forests to lakes, rivers and mountains.²²

Things to know

- ▶ The standard workweek in New York is of 40 hours.
- ▶ Approximately half of the New York population speaks English.
- ▶ In 2014, the median age of the population in New York was 35.8 years, 2 years less than the national median age of 37.7 years.
- ▶ New York City has the highest population density in the country.

Infrastructure

New York is home to many of the world's top professional creative and technical film crews. There is a great depth of standard and specialized crew and equipment. Further, New York also offers state-of-the-art studios and post-production facilities to choose from.

Production incentives

New York State Film Tax Credit Program (NYSFTCP)²³

What is the scheme?

NYSFTCP is a program initiated by the Empire State Development Authority of New York. It consists of two different credit programs, namely, Film Production Credit and Post-Production Credit. Film Production Credit provides a fully refundable credit of 30% to a qualified film production company on all qualifying production, pre-production and post-production costs incurred in New York. Further, projects with a budget of more than US\$0.5 million (~ INR32.66 million) will receive an additional credit of 10% for incurring qualified labor expenses in specified counties of New York.

Post-Production Credit provides a fully refundable credit of 5% for project engaged in only post-production activities in specified counties of New York. Such post-production credit cannot be claimed simultaneously along with the film production credit of 30%. The program has a total budget of US\$420 million (~ INR26,257.51 million) per year out of which US\$25 million (~ INR1,632.93 million) has been allocated for Post-Production Credit.

²² <http://www.kftv.com/country//usa/guide/production-guide/new-york>

²³ <https://esd.ny.gov/new-york-state-film-tax-credit-program-production> and New York State Film Tax Credit Program Guidelines



Who is the administrating authority?	Empire State Development, New York State
What is the type of incentive?	Tax credit
Who is eligible?	“Qualified film production company” has been defined to mean any entity that is principally engaged in the production of a qualified film and which controls the film during its production. Therefore, even foreign film producers are covered under the said scheme.
What are the eligible film formats?	<p>The following formats are considered as eligible for NYSFCTP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Feature films ▶ Television series ▶ Relocated television series ▶ Television pilots ▶ Films intended for television <p>Further, the scheme also mentions a list of formats that are considered to be ineligible for NYSFCTP.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?	<p>Film Production Credit</p> <p>In case the film is using the services of non-qualified production facilities, whether in New York or elsewhere, then at least 75% of the total production costs must be incurred in relation to services availed at a qualified production facility. Further, if the film satisfies the 75% criteria, then the qualifying expenses incurred in relation to non-qualified production facility shall also be eligible for the credit subject to the following additional conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ If the production costs incurred at such facilities are less than US\$3 million (~ INR195.95 million): Minimum 75% of the principal location days must have been shot in New York ▶ If the production costs incurred at such facilities are US\$3 million (~ INR195.95 million) or more: No minimum requirement on principal location days in New York <p>Under the program, “qualifying production costs” have been defined to include all expenses incurred on tangible property or services used or performed within New York and which are predominantly used for the purpose of the production of the film.</p> <p>Post-production credit</p> <p>Films must meet at least one of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The qualifying VFX/animation costs incurred at a qualified post-production must be more than or equal to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 20% of the VFX/animation costs incurred at post-production facilities elsewhere Or ▶ US\$3 million (~ INR195.95 million) ▶ The qualifying post-production costs incurred at any qualified post-production facility in New York must be 75% or more of the total qualified post-production costs incurred on the film.



Any other conditions?

Film Production Credit

- ▶ Qualified companies are required to shoot a substantial portion of their project in New York.
- ▶ The scheme also prescribes minimum required number of shooting days in a qualified production facility in New York as follows:
 - ▶ If the film has a budget of over US\$15 million (~ INR979.76 million) or more than 5% of the beneficial ownership of qualified company is owned by a listed company: Minimum 10% of total principal photography days
 - ▶ If the film has a budget of US\$15 million (~ INR979.76 million) or less and no more than 5% of beneficial ownership of qualified company is owned by a listed company: Minimum 1 day of principal photography
 - ▶ Television pilots: Minimum 1 day of principal photography

What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ The film-maker needs to submit an online project summary form along with the necessary supporting documents. The form should be ideally submitted at least 10 days prior to the commencement of principal photography in case of Film Production Credit. In case of post-production credit, the form should be filed not later than the last day of principal photography.
- ▶ The program office will then evaluate the initial project summary form filed and if it is complete in all respects, then the applicant will be notified of their eligibility to fill the final application form.
- ▶ On completion of post-production activities, the applicant needs to file the final application form along with actual project information.
- ▶ If the program office concludes that the final application form is deemed complete in all respects, an audit of the project will be conducted.
- ▶ Upon completion of the audit, a certificate of tax credit shall be issued to the applicant.
- ▶ Further, an option is also provided to the applicant to get their final application reviewed by a pre-qualified CPA firm so as to expedite the process of granting of the tax credit.

Useful contacts

Empire State Development

Film Tax Credit Program

Phone: +212-8032328

E-mail ID: filmcredits@esd.ny.gov / Jon.Diaz@esd.ny.gov

Visa requirements

For shooting a film in New York, an O-type temporary worker visa must be applied for. Such visa is generally given to those film-makers who have extraordinary recognized achievements in the fields of motion picture and television, demonstrated by sustained national and international acclaim. Before applying for the visa, the prospective employer in the United States needs to file a petition with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Department.

Oceania





Fiji

Fiji

Economic benefit:

A net savings of
~41.20% on
the total estimated
foreign production
budget

Fiji fact file

Seasons:

Dry:

May to October

Wet:

November to April

Autumn:

September to November

Winter:

December to February

Past Bollywood films shot:

Table No. 21, 3G-A Killer Connection, Kya Dilli Kya Lahore

Fiji, the “Jewel in the crown” of the South Pacific, is an island nation about halfway between Hawaii and Australia. It consists of over 333 picturesque volcanic islands and islets. Fiji's islands vary dramatically in size, with the largest of these islands Viti Levu about the size of the “Big Island” of Hawaii. The capital and about 70% of the population are located on that island. Just over 110 of the smaller islands are inhabited. The larger islands contain mountains as high as 1,200 meters (4,000 ft.) rising abruptly from the shore. Fiji offers some of the best filming locations in the world from wild rivers and mega-dense jungles of Deuba to the picturesque town of Levuka on Ovalau to the world-class beaches and coastal scenery of the Mamanucas and Yasawas.

Things to know

- ▶ Fiji is a collection of approximately 333 islands, out of which only one-third are inhabited.
- ▶ Indians and Indo-Fijians constitute about 40% of the total population of Fiji.
- ▶ Fiji has approximately 28 airports; however, only 4 of them have paved runways.
- ▶ The maximum workweek in Fiji is of 48 hours and not more than 6 days.
- ▶ Approximately 20.62% of the Fiji population speaks English.

Infrastructure

Fiji has some standard grip, lighting and camera equipment available locally including RED cameras, jibs and larger lights. Further, Fiji does not charge any duty on productions bringing in their own equipment; however, Fiji is not an ATA Carnet country. Additionally, Fiji consists of a good art and construction department, which is mainly handled by local production designers and construction crews. Fiji does not have any production and post-production facilities and the nearest facilities are located in Australia and New Zealand.²⁴

Production incentives

The Film Tax Rebate (FTR)²⁵

What is the scheme?	The FTR scheme of Fiji provides a rebate of up to 47% of the qualifying Fiji production expenditure (QFPE) incurred by an eligible entity. The maximum rebate that can be provided to a single project has been capped at FJ\$28.2 million (~ INR899.44 million). Alternatively, F1 and F2 incentives are also available to Fiji residents who provide finance to the eligible entity for the purpose of production of a film.
Who is the administrating authority?	Film Fiji
What is the type of incentive?	Cash rebate

²⁴ <http://emergefilmsolutions.com/country/fiji/>

²⁵ <http://film-fiji.com/film-tax-rebate/>



Who is eligible?	Production companies that are legally registered in Fiji are eligible to claim FTR. Accordingly, service production companies registered in Fiji shall be considered as eligible entities if they hold a license as an audio-visual agent under the laws of Fiji. Further, legal entities incorporated by a foreign producer in Fiji will also be eligible.
What are the eligible film formats?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Large format films ▶ Feature films including animation films ▶ Short films ▶ TV shows ▶ TV commercials
What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?	<p>The scheme prescribes the following minimum QFPE spend requirement for various eligible formats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Large format films, feature films, short films and TV shows: FJ\$250,000 (~ INR7.97 million) ▶ TV commercials: FJ\$50,000 (~ INR1.59 million) <p>Further, the following types of expenditure shall be considered as QFPE for the purpose of FTR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Airfare for travel from and to Fiji ▶ Insurance premium ▶ Costumes, set up and design costs ▶ Producer's fees up to 10% of total Fiji production budget ▶ Writer's fees ▶ Equipment rental costs ▶ Salaries and wages of foreign cast up to 20% of total QFPE ▶ Post-production costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ If total production budget is up to FJ\$3 million (~ INR95.69 million): FJ\$75,000 (~ INR2.39 million) ▶ If total production budget is up to FJ\$5 million (~ INR159.48 million): FJ\$100,000 (~ INR3.18 million) ▶ If total production budget is up to FJ\$7 million (~ INR223.27 million): FJ\$150,000 (~ INR4.78 million) ▶ If total production budget is up to FJ\$10 million (~ INR318.95 million): FJ\$200,000 (~ INR6.38 million) ▶ If total production budget is more than FJ\$10 million (~ INR318.95 million): FJ\$250,000 (~ INR7.97 million) ▶ Any other expenditure incurred in relation to the pre-production and production of the film in Fiji <p>The scheme also provides a list of expenses that will not be considered as QFPE for the purpose of FTR. These expenses include financing costs, development expenses, copyright purchase costs and general business overheads subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions. Additionally, all QFPE incurred by the eligible entity must be paid through a Fiji bank account.</p>

Any other conditions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The eligible entity must prove that it is able to release and distribute the film in at least one significant international market. ▶ The eligible entity must have a workmen's compensation cover for locals working on the film. ▶ The eligible entity must have an insurance cover and public liability cover for all locations used in the film. ▶ The eligible entity must satisfy Film Fiji that it will engage the services of Fiji citizens for the film and will utilize the services of specified local institutions. ▶ The eligible entity will be required to provide credits to the Government of Fiji and Film Fiji in the film.
What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ First, the foreign producer will be required to transfer all production funds to the Fiji entity before the commencement of principal photography in Fiji. ▶ Thereafter, the Fiji entity (applicant) is required to apply to Film Fiji for obtaining a provisional approval to shoot the film under FTR. The application should be accompanied by a detailed budget, script and other necessary supporting documents. ▶ Once the provisional approval is granted, the applicant must submit a production schedule before the commencement of production of the film. ▶ During the course of production of the film, the applicant will be required to submit cost reports and production reports to Film Fiji on a fortnightly basis. ▶ After the production of the film is completed, the applicant will be required to submit the audited statement of the production expenditure incurred. ▶ Thereafter, the applicant must file an application with Film Fiji for the issue of the final certificate in relation to the film. The said application must be accompanied by the relevant supporting documents. ▶ The application received will then be evaluated by Film Fiji. If it is accepted, then the certificate will be issued to the applicant in writing with a notice to Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority. If rejected, then Film Fiji will inform the applicant of its decision and the reasons for it. ▶ Once the final certificate is received, FTR can be claimed by the applicant in their income tax return for that year.
General timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The Credit Allocation Letter is generally issued within 20 business days from the receipt of the complete application. ▶ Principal photography must commence no later than 180 days after the Credit Allocation Letter is issued. If the production does not begin filming prior to the 180-day deadline, the tax credit allocation will be revoked.
Useful contacts	<p>Film Fiji Phone: +679-3306662 Fax: +679-3314662 E-mail ID: info@film-fiji.com.fj</p>

Visa requirements

Upon landing in Fiji, Indian nationals are granted visa on arrival as well as a visitor's permit, which are valid for a stay of four months or less. Further, if the shooting schedule in Fiji is for 14 days or less, a tourist visa would be required. However, if the shooting schedule exceeds 14 days, a temporary work visa will have to be applied for at the Department of Immigration of Fiji.



Canada



Canada fact file

Seasons:

Spring:

March to May

Summer:

June to August

Autumn:

September to November

Winter:

December to February

Past Bollywood films shot:

Sanam Re, Koi Mil Gaya, Kismat Konnection, Run

Canada offers a great depth of unique and international location looks. Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal and Calgary are the main production centers. Toronto is the gateway to Eastern Canada and offers a variety of rural areas, hundreds of national and provincial parks, and frozen landscapes. Vancouver is the gateway to Western Canada and offers looks including otherworldly landscapes, old growth forests, magnificent car commercial roads, snowy mountains, islands and beaches and modern cities. Montreal is the gateway to Quebec and is best known for its French culture and architecture, vibrant cities, fall colors, pastoral settings, beautiful car commercial roads and extensive coastline.

Further to the above, Canada also boasts of the maritime provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, which are known for their rugged coastlines, picturesque coastal towns, fall colors, and provincial and national parks. It also consists of Calgary, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, which offer access to the mesmerizing mountains and vast spans of wilderness and lakes. The Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut offer frozen Arctic landscapes, forested wilderness with pristine rivers and lakes, striking car commercial roads and unique aboriginal communities.²⁶

Things to know

- ▶ Approximately 85.63% of the Canadian population speaks English.
- ▶ The standard workweek in Canada consists of 8 hours a day for 5 days a week.
- ▶ Canada is the most educated country in the world with a literacy rate of 99% and more than half the population having college degrees²⁷.
- ▶ Canada has more lakes than any other country in the world

Infrastructure

Canada offers both Panavision and Arri equipment as well as many boutique equipment companies. Most specialized equipment is available in Canada including Russian Arms, camera cars, cranes and helicopter mounts so there is generally no need to bring gear in from the United States. For traveling productions that intend to bring in film equipment, Canada is an ATA Carnet country. Further, has a very experienced art and construction department located in Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal and Calgary. It also consists of state of the art studios and extensive production facilities²⁸

Production incentives

Film or Video Production Services Tax Credit (PSTC)²⁹

What is the scheme?

The Film or Video Production Services Tax Credit program is a federal tax incentive program initiated by the Canadian Government that provides a benefit of 16% of the qualifying Canadian labor expenditures incurred, net of any assistance. The PSTC is in addition to other production services incentives that may be offered by individual provinces in Canada. Further, PSTC cannot be claimed simultaneously along with Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit. Additionally, there is no cap on the maximum amount of PSTC that may be awarded to a single project.

²⁶ <http://emergefilmsolutions.com/country/canada/>

²⁷ <http://newsfeed.time.com/2012/09/27/and-the-worlds-most-educated-country-is/>

²⁸ <http://emergefilmsolutions.com/country/canada/>

²⁹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/international-non-residents/film-media-tax-credits/film-video-production-services-tax-credit-program.html>



Who is the administrating authority?	It is jointly administered by the Canadian Audio-Visual Certification Office (CAVCO) and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).
What is the type of incentive?	Tax credit
Who is eligible?	A qualifying corporation must have a permanent establishment in Canada and must be engaged primarily in the film or video production services business. Further, the qualifying corporation must either be the copyright owner in the film or be providing production services to the copyright owner. Accordingly, service production companies situated in Canada and Canadian entities incorporated by the foreign producer shall be eligible to claim PSTC.
What are the eligible film formats?	<p>PSTC is applicable to a wide variety of audio-visual formats including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Feature films ▶ Documentaries ▶ Animation films ▶ TV series or miniseries <p>Further, formats such as news, talk shows, game shows, sports events and reality shows and those which include pornographic content are not considered as eligible for claiming PSTC.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?	<p>The minimum qualifying Canadian labor expenditure as required under the scheme for various formats is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ In case of a series of two or more episodes or pilot for such series: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ If an episode has a running time of less than 30 minutes: CAD100,000 (~ INR5.24 million) ▶ If an episode has a running time of 30 minutes or more: CAD200,000 (~ INR10.48 million) ▶ In all other cases: CAD 1,000,000 (~ INR52.39 million) <p>The above requirement has been prescribed under the scheme for a 24-month period after the commencement of principal photography.</p> <p>Further, “qualifying Canadian labor expenditure” has been defined under the scheme to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Salaries and wages paid to Canadian residents ▶ Remuneration paid to a Canadian partnership or person who has provided services to a qualifying corporation ▶ Reimbursements paid to the Canadian parent company for expenditures incurred by such company in relation to the film <p>Post-production labor expenses incurred in Canada are also considered as qualifying production expenses.</p> <p>Additionally, for an expense to be considered as a qualifying production expense, it must be incurred and paid in the same taxation year or paid within 60 days from the end of the taxation year for which application is filed. Further, it should be paid to Canadian individuals who are residents at the time of provision of their services.</p>



What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ The copyright owner will be required to submit an application to CAVCO for the purpose of obtaining an Accredited Film or Video Production Certificate. The application must be supported by all the necessary documents, including chain-of-title documentation for proving the copyright in the film. Further, the copyright owner may appoint an official designee, i.e., a Canadian service provider or law firm, to submit the above application.
- ▶ Once the Accredited Film or Video Production Certificate is received, the copyright owner must provide a copy of the certificate to the Canadian entity (applicant) for the purpose of claiming PSTC.
- ▶ Thereafter, the applicant will be required to file its T2 Corporate Income Tax Return along with the claim application for PSTC and a copy of the Accredited Film or Video Production Certificate.
- ▶ CRA will then review the T2 return filed by the applicant and, if it is in order, provide the tax credit to the applicant within the following timelines:
 - ▶ If no audit is done: Generally 60 days from receipt of the complete application
 - ▶ If audit is done: Generally 120 days from receipt of complete application

Useful contacts**Canadian Audio-Visual Certification Office**

Phone: 1-8199349830 / 1-8884332200

Fax: 1-8199349828

E-mail ID: PCH.bcpac-cavco.PCH@canada.ca

In addition to the above, Canada also offers a refundable tax credit of 25% of the qualifying labor expenses incurred under the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit Program (CPTC). The said program is also administered by CAVCO and CRA. CPTC is available to qualified corporations having a permanent establishment in Canada and primarily engaged in the business of producing Canadian film or video productions. Thus, the primary objective of the CPTC program is to stimulate the development of the domestic film production sector. Further, CPTC and PSTC are mutually exclusive and cannot be claimed in conjunction with each other.

Visa requirements

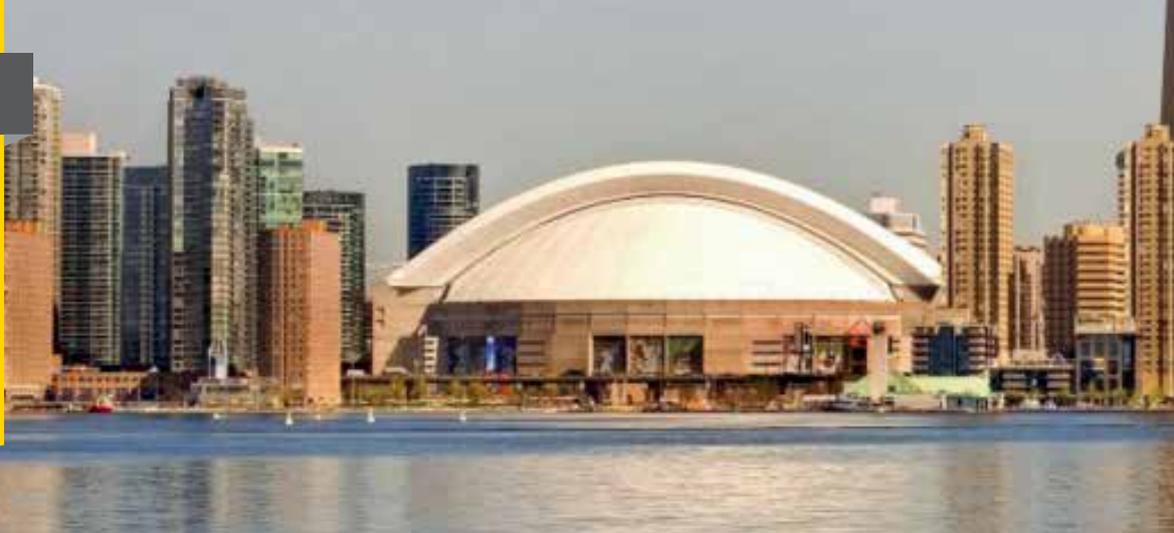
For shooting a film in Canada, Indian nationals are required to obtain a Temporary Visitor Visa for the purpose of entering Canada. The visa is generally issued for a period of six months. Further, crew members may require a work permit in relation to the production activities to be undertaken in Canada.



Ontario

Economic benefit:

A net savings of **~13.73%** on the total estimated foreign production budget (including federal incentive)



Production incentives

Ontario Production Services Tax Credit (OPSTC)³⁰

What is the scheme?	OPSTC is a fully refundable tax credit that provides a benefit of 21.5% of all qualifying production expenditures incurred in the province of Ontario. Further, there is no cap on the maximum OPSTC that can be provided to a single project.
Who is the administering authority?	It is jointly administered by Ontario Media Development Corporation (OMDC) and Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).
What is the type of incentive?	Tax credit
Who is eligible?	<p>Entities must fulfill the following conditions in order to become eligible to claim OPSTC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ It must be engaged in the business of film/video production or in providing production services. ▶ It must have a permanent establishment in the province of Ontario. ▶ It must file an Ontario corporate tax return. ▶ It must own the copyright in the project or must provide production services to the copyright owner. <p>Accordingly, a production services company situated in Ontario or a legal entity incorporated in Ontario by the foreign producer would be eligible to claim OPSTC.</p>
What are the eligible film formats?	<p>OPSTC is applicable to a wide variety of audio-visual formats including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Feature films ▶ Documentaries ▶ Animation films ▶ TV series or miniseries <p>Further, formats such as news, talk shows, game shows, sports event and reality shows and those which include pornographic content are not considered as eligible for claiming OPSTC.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?	<p>The minimum qualifying production spend as required under the scheme for various formats is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ In case of a series of two or more episodes or pilot for such series: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ If an episode has a running time of less than 30 minutes: CAD100,000 (~ INR5.24 million) ▶ If an episode has a running time of 30 minutes or more: CAD 200,000 (~ INR10.48 million) ▶ In all other cases: CAD1,000,000 (~ INR52.39 million) <p>Further, “qualifying production expenses” have been defined under the scheme to include eligible wages, eligible service contracts expenses and eligible tangible property expenses. Post-production expenses incurred in Ontario are also considered as qualifying production expenses.</p> <p>Additionally, for an expense to be considered as a qualifying production expense, it must be incurred and paid in the same taxation year or paid within 60 days from the end of taxation year for which the application is filed.</p>

³⁰ http://www.omdc.on.ca/film_and_tv/tax_credits/OPSTC.htm and OPSTC Guidelines



What are the conditions in relation to expenditures? (contd.)

Further, it should be paid to Ontario-based individuals and the eligible wages paid to such individuals must account for at least 25% of the total qualifying production expenditure.

“Ontario-based individuals” have been defined under the scheme to mean such individuals who were resident in Ontario at the end of the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the principal photography for the film commences and were subject to Ontario personal income tax in the preceding year.

What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ The Ontario entity (applicant) must submit an application to OMDC for the purpose of obtaining an Eligibility Certificate at any time before the completion of production activities in Ontario. The application must be supported by all the necessary documents.
- ▶ Once the Eligibility Certificate is awarded, the applicant will be required to file its T2 Corporate Income Tax Return along with the claim application for OPSTC and a copy of the Eligibility Certificate. If the production in Ontario continues for more than one taxation year, then the applicant may claim OPSTC annually or at the end of the final taxation year in which production is completed.
- ▶ CRA will then review the T2 return filed by the applicant and, if a refund is due to the applicant, process it.

Useful contacts

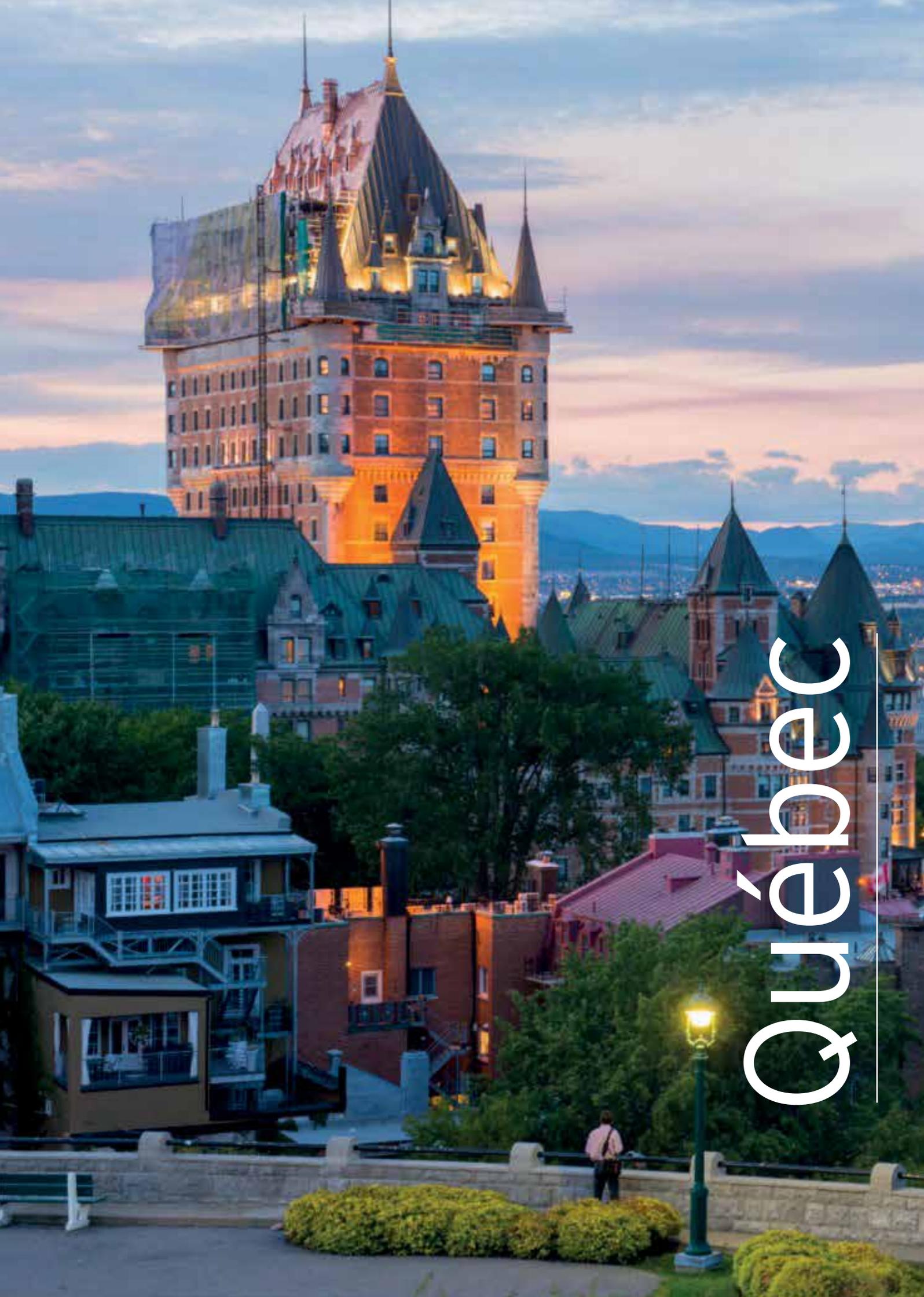
Ontario Media Development Corporation

Phone: +1-4166426659
 Fax: +1-5144997018
 E-mail ID: taxcredits@omdc.on.ca

1. Jennifer Blitz - Director
 Phone: +1-4166426694
 E-mail ID: JBlitz@omdc.on.ca
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 Phone: +1-4166426692
 E-mail ID: mszenteszky@omdc.on.ca
3. Manya Rouben - Team Leader
 Phone: +1-4166426643
 E-mail ID: mrouben@omdc.on.ca

In addition to the above, Ontario also offers the Ontario Film and Television Tax Credit (OFTTC) and the Ontario Computer Animation & Special Effects Tax Credit (OCASE). OFTTC is a refundable tax of 35% on the eligible Ontario labor expenditures incurred by a qualifying production company with respect to an eligible Ontario production. OFTTC is generally harmonized with the CPTC offered by the Federal Government.

OCASE is a refundable tax credit of 18% of the eligible Ontario labor expenditures incurred by a qualifying corporation in respect of eligible computer animation and special effect activities.



Québec

Economic benefit:

A net savings of **~14.24%** on the total estimated foreign production budget (including federal incentive)

Production incentives

Québec Production Services Tax Credit (QPSTC)³¹

What is the scheme?	QPSTC is a fully refundable tax credit program which provides a benefit of 20% on the qualifying expenses incurred in the province of Québec. An additional credit of 16% on qualifying labor costs is also provided to the project if the same is shot using computer-aided special effects including shooting in front of a chroma-key screen.
Who is the administrating authority?	It is jointly administered by Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC) and the Ministère du Revenu du Québec (Revenu Québec)
What is the type of incentive?	Tax credit
Who is eligible?	<p>Only corporations established in Québec shall be considered as eligible for claiming QPSTC. Accordingly, service production companies in Québec as well as legal entities incorporated in Québec by foreign producers shall be considered as eligible entities.</p> <p>However, if the eligible entity holds a broadcasting license or is a related party of any other entity that holds such a license, then the entity shall be disqualified from claiming QPSTC.</p>
What are the eligible film formats?	<p>QPSTC is applicable to a wide variety of audio-visual formats including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Feature films ▶ Documentaries ▶ Animation films ▶ TV series or miniseries ▶ Virtual reality or augmented reality versions of the above <p>Further, the scheme also lists down various formats that are considered as ineligible for claiming QPSTC.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?	<p>The minimum qualifying expenses required to be incurred as per the scheme is CAD250,000 (~ INR13.10 million). Further, “qualifying expenses” have been defined under the scheme to mean all costs spent in relation to the production of the film including qualifying labor costs, qualifying properties and services received and post-production expenses incurred in Québec.</p> <p>Additionally, qualifying labor costs do not include wages and salaries paid to the producer, author, scriptwriter, director, production designer, director of photography, music director, composer, conductor, editor, VFX supervisor, actor or an interpreter who are not Québec residents at the time of provision of their services.</p> <p>Moreover, expenses such as entertainment expenses, copyright acquisition costs and financial expenses shall not be considered as qualifying expenses for the purpose of claiming QPSTC.</p>

31 <http://www.qftc.ca/tax-incentives/service-production/> and Refundable Tax Credit for Film or Television Production Services Guidelines: March 2017



What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ The copyright owner of the film must make an application to SODEC for obtaining the Approval Certificate in relation to the film. The application must be accompanied by the relevant supporting documentation including complete chain-of-title documentation for proving the copyright ownership of the film. The copyright owner may also appoint an official designee, i.e., Québec service provider or law firm, for the purpose of the making the above application to SODEC.
- ▶ After the Approval certificate is received, the Québec entity (applicant) will have to apply to SODEC for obtaining an Advance Ruling. The Advance Ruling establishes that the applicant is an eligible entity for the purpose of claiming QPSTC.
- ▶ After the receipt of a favorable Advance Ruling, the applicant can start the production of the film in Québec.
- ▶ At the end of the financial year in which the Advance Ruling application was filed with SODEC, the applicant must file its income tax return along with the claim application for QPSTC, a copy of Approval Certificate and a copy of favorable Advance Ruling. These must be filed on or before the later of the following dates:
 - ▶ 12 months after the expiry of the due date for filing income tax return for that year
 - ▶ 3 months after the date of issue of Approval Certificate or the date of passing of favorable Advance Ruling, whichever is later
- ▶ Revenue Québec will then evaluate the income tax return filed by the applicant along with all the supporting documents. If these are found in order, Revenue Québec will process the QPSTC claim and issue a refund check to the applicant

Useful contacts

Québec Television and Film Council

Phone: +1-8663203456 / 5144997070

Fax: +1-514-499-7018

E-mail ID: info@qftc.ca

Pierre Moreau: CEO (Ext: 222)

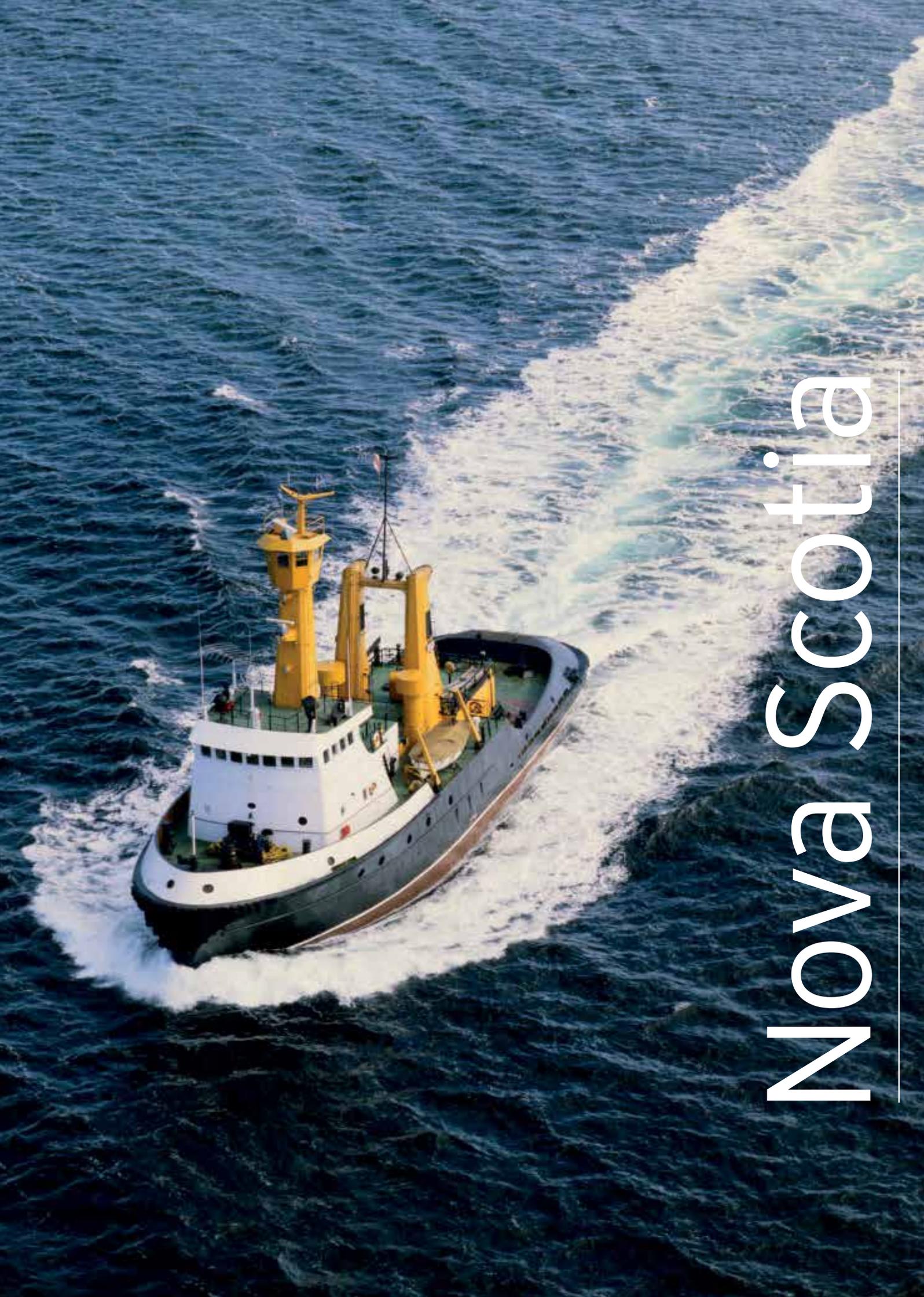
Robert Plante: Financial Controller (Ext: 227)

Anne Fossier: Executive Assitant (Ext; 221)

Chanelle Routhier: National Commissioner (Ext: 231)

Pierre-Olivier Fortin: Project Manager (Ext: 224)

In addition to the above, Quebec also offers a refundable tax credit of 32% of the eligible labor costs incurred in relation to a co-production undertaken in Quebec.



Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia

Economic benefit:

A net savings of
~16.41% on
the total estimated
foreign production
budget (including
federal incentive)



Production incentives

Nova Scotia Film & Television Production Incentive Fund (NSFTPIF)³²

What is the scheme?	<p>NSFTPIF provides funding to eligible entities and to eligible productions shot in Nova Scotia with the objective of supporting and expanding the film industry in Nova Scotia. It is calculated based on qualifying Nova Scotia spend incurred in the province of Nova Scotia. The grant consists of two streams based on the percentage of ownership in the project:</p> <p>Stream I: Indigenous/Co-production</p> <p>If the percentage of Nova Scotian ownership in the project is between 50% and 100%. A minimum of eight Nova Scotians must be employed in HOD positions. Further, two trainee positions in eligible departments may be substituted for one HOD position, subject to a maximum of four trainees. The grant will be provided at the rate of 26% of qualifying Nova Scotia spend.</p> <p>Stream II: Foreign/Service</p> <p>If the percentage of Nova Scotian ownership in the project is less than 50%. A minimum of four Nova Scotians must be employed in HOD positions. Further, two trainee positions in eligible departments may be substituted for one HOD position, subject to a maximum of four trainees. The grant will be provided at the rate of 25% of qualifying Nova Scotia spend.</p> <p>An additional grant of 2% shall be added to the above rates if more than 51% of the shoot is undertaken in a rural/non-metropolitan area. A further grant of 1% shall be added if the shoot continues for more than 30 days in Nova Scotia. The above rates shall be reduced by 0.5% for each HOD position below the minimum requirement as prescribed above. Further, the maximum grant that can be granted to a single project has been capped at CAD 4 million (~ INR209.58 million)</p>
Who is the administrating authority?	Nova Scotia Business Incorporated (NSBI)
What is the type of incentive?	Cash grant
Who is eligible?	<p>As per the scheme, an enterprise must fulfill all the below-mentioned conditions in order to be eligible to claim NSFTPIF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ The enterprise must be engaged in the creation of film/video production for public viewing.▶ The enterprise must be incorporated in Nova Scotia under the Companies Act or be continued as a Nova Scotia company through a Certificate of Continuance.▶ The enterprise must be in good standing with the Registry of Joint Stock Companies.▶ The enterprise must be in good standing with the NSBI. <p>Accordingly, a foreign producer wishing to claim NSFTPIF may adopt a local production partner in the province of Nova Scotia.</p>

³² <https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/do-business/film-television-production/nova-scotia-film-production-incentive-fund> and NSFTPIF Guidelines



What are the eligible film formats?	<p>NSFTPIF is applicable to a wide variety of audio-visual formats including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Feature films▶ Documentaries▶ Animation films▶ Webisodes▶ TV productions▶ Digital media productions <p>However, formats such as talk shows, news, live sports events, game shows and advertisements and those which include pornographic content are considered as ineligible for claiming NSFTPIF.</p>
What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?	<p>The minimum qualifying Nova Scotia spend required as per the scheme is CAD25,000 (before HST) (~ INR1.31 million). Further, "qualifying Nova Scotia spend" has been defined under the scheme to include all expenditures in relation to goods and services purchased and consumed in Nova Scotia. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Air travel to and from Nova Scotia▶ Insurance costs▶ Story acquisition costs▶ Salaries and wages paid to Nova Scotians▶ Transportation costs▶ Office and studio rental costs▶ Post-production costs etc. <p>Additionally, in-kind contributions and capital expenses are considered as ineligible for qualifying Nova Scotia spend.</p>
Any other conditions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ An additional grant of 1.5% of qualifying Nova Scotia costs shall be provided if the not less than 60% of all principal performers, actors, stunt performers and stunt actors excluding background performers are Nova Scotia residents.▶ A further grant of 1.5% of qualifying Nova Scotia costs shall be provided if at least 3 out of 7 content requirements, as specified in the scheme, are fulfilled by the eligible entity.

What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

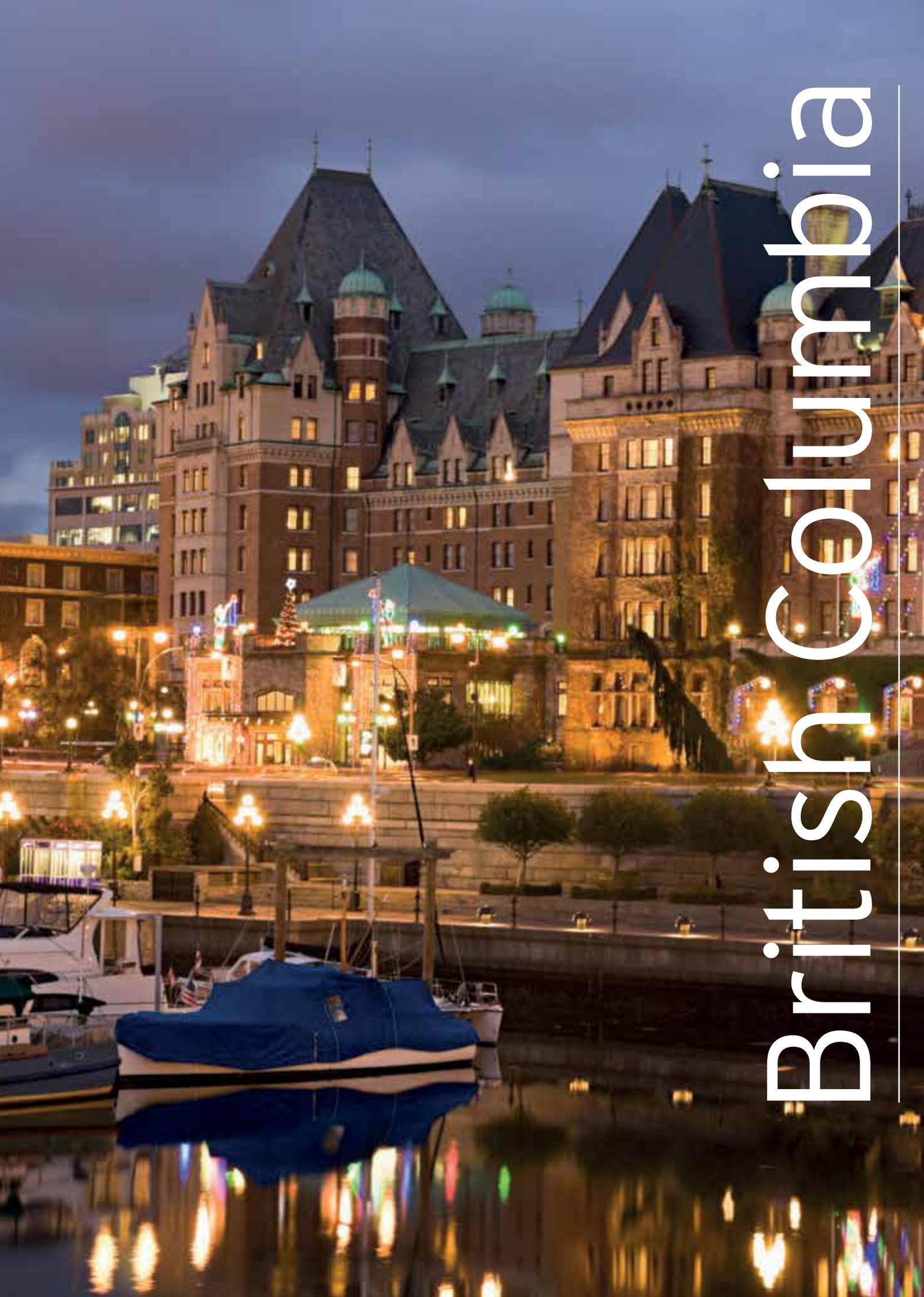
- ▶ The Nova Scotian entity (applicant) needs to file an application with NSBI before the start of principal photography in Nova Scotia. The application must be accompanied by the following documents:
 - ▶ Commercial license agreement
 - ▶ Proof of confirmed financing of 75% for films having budget of CAD1 million (~ INR52.40 million) or more
 - ▶ Proof of confirmed financing of 50% for films having budget of less than CAD1 million (~ INR52.40 million)
 - ▶ Other relevant supporting documents
- ▶ Upon receipt of the completed application, NSBI will conduct an eligibility assessment and the results of the assessment will be reviewed and approved by the Minister of NSBI. The final decision will then be intimated to the applicant along with a Letter of Intent by NSBI.
- ▶ Thereafter, NSBI will be required to execute the incentive agreement with the applicant. The agreement will include the applicant's obligations, deliverables to be submitted by the applicant and reporting requirements.
- ▶ Once the production of the film is completed, the applicant will be required to submit deliverables to NSBI as agreed in the grant agreement. The deliverables generally include:
 - ▶ DVD of the completed film
 - ▶ Electronic promotion material in relation to the film
 - ▶ Completed copy of the production statistics form
 - ▶ Audited product cost statement prepared by a certified accountant if the final cost of the film exceeds CAD500,000
 - ▶ Product cost statement along with a review engagement report if the final cost of the film is between CAD200,000 (~ INR10.48 million) and CAD500,000 (~ INR26.20 million)
 - ▶ Uncertified final cost report along with a statutory declaration if the final cost of the film is up to CAD200,000 (~ INR10.48 million)
- ▶ Upon receipt of all the prescribed deliverables, NSBI will disburse NSFTPIF to the applicant within such time period as mentioned in the incentive agreement.

Useful contacts

Nova Scotia Business Incorporated

Phone: +1-9024246650 / 8002606682

E-mail ID: info@nsbi.ca



British Columbia

Economic benefit:

A net savings of ~**8.47%** on the total estimated foreign production budget (including federal incentive)

Production incentives

Production Services Tax Credit (PSTC)³²

What is the scheme?	<p>PSTC is a labor-based refundable tax credit that is available on eligible British Columbia labor costs incurred in the province of British Columbia. PSTC consists of 4 different types of tax credits, namely, Basic, Regional, Distant Location Regional and Digital Animation, Visual Effects and Post Production credit (DAVE), which provide a benefit of 28%, 6%, 6% and 16% respectively on the qualifying British Columbia labor costs incurred.</p> <p>Further, the qualifying British Columbia labor costs for different types of credits shall be calculated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Basic: Calculated based on accredited labor costs incurred by the eligible entity▶ Regional: Pro-rated based on the number of principal photography days spent in the designated Vancouver area as compared with the number of principal photography days spent in British Columbia. It can be claimed along with basic tax credit.▶ Distant Local Regional: Similar to the above but number of principal photography days spent in the prescribed area will be considered. It can be claimed along with basic tax credit.▶ DAVE: Calculated on the expenditure incurred on animation, visual effects and post-production activities. It can be claimed along with basic tax credit. <p>Additionally, no limit has been prescribed on the maximum PSTC that may be claimed by a particular project or a production corporation.</p>
Who is the administrating authority?	The scheme is jointly administered by Creative BC and Canada Revenue Agency under the supervision of Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training.
What is the type of incentive?	Tax credit
Who is eligible?	Qualifying corporations include film, television and animation production corporations that have incurred qualifying British Columbia labor costs and which have a permanent establishment in British Columbia. Accordingly, service production companies having an office in British Columbia shall be eligible to claim PSTC. Further, a legal entity incorporated by the foreign producer under the laws of British Columbia and Canada shall also be considered as an eligible entity.

32 <https://www.creativebc.com/programs/tax-credits/film-incentive-bc/index#fIBC-details/overview>



What are the eligible film formats?

PSTC is applicable for various formats of audio-visual work including the following:

- ▶ Films including feature films and TV films
- ▶ TV productions
- ▶ Digital animation productions
- ▶ Visual effects production

However, formats such as talk shows, news, live sports events, game shows, reality television shows and advertisements and those which include pornographic content are considered as ineligible for claiming PSTC.

What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?

The scheme prescribes the following minimum production budget levels for various formats:

- ▶ TV episodes with runtime of less than 30 minutes: CAD100,000 (~ INR5.24 million)
- ▶ TV episodes with runtime of 30 minutes or more: CAD200,000 (~ INR10.48 million)
- ▶ TV episodes that are all or substantially all digitally animated: Nil
- ▶ For all other cases: CAD1,000,000 (~ INR52.39 million)

It may be relevant to note that the scheme does not prescribe any condition on the minimum British Columbia labor costs required to be spent.

Further, qualifying "British Columbia labor" has been defined under the scheme to include individuals who are residents in British Columbia and ordinarily resident in Canada as of 31 December of the financial year preceding the end of financial year for which PSTC is being claimed.

Additionally, expenses such as production costs, advertising costs, marketing and promotion costs or market research costs have been specifically excluded from being considered as qualifying British Columbia labor costs.

Any other conditions?

The eligible entity must own all the copyright in the film or must be engaged in a service production assignment with the copyright owner.

What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ First, the Canadian entity (applicant) will be required to make an application to Creative BC for the purpose of obtaining an accreditation certificate. The application must be accompanied by the relevant supporting documents.
- ▶ Creative BC, after reviewing the application, will make a recommendation to the certifying authority, who will then take a decision whether to provide the accreditation certificate or not. Generally, the accreditation certificate is issued to the applicant within a period of 25 business days.
- ▶ If the application is rejected by the certifying authority, then the applicant will be intimated of the reasons for it.
- ▶ Once the certificate is issued, the applicant can claim PSTC in their income tax return. The claim of PSTC in the income tax return must be accompanied by the accreditation certificate and other relevant supporting documents.
- ▶ Thereafter, the claim form for PSTC, income tax return and other supporting documents must be filed with the Canada Revenue Agency within a period of 36 months from the end of the year for which PSTC is claimed.
- ▶ The Canada Revenue Agency generally refunds the credit within a period of 60 days if the project is not subject to audit. However, if the project is subject to audit, then the refund may be paid within a period of 120 days.

Useful contacts

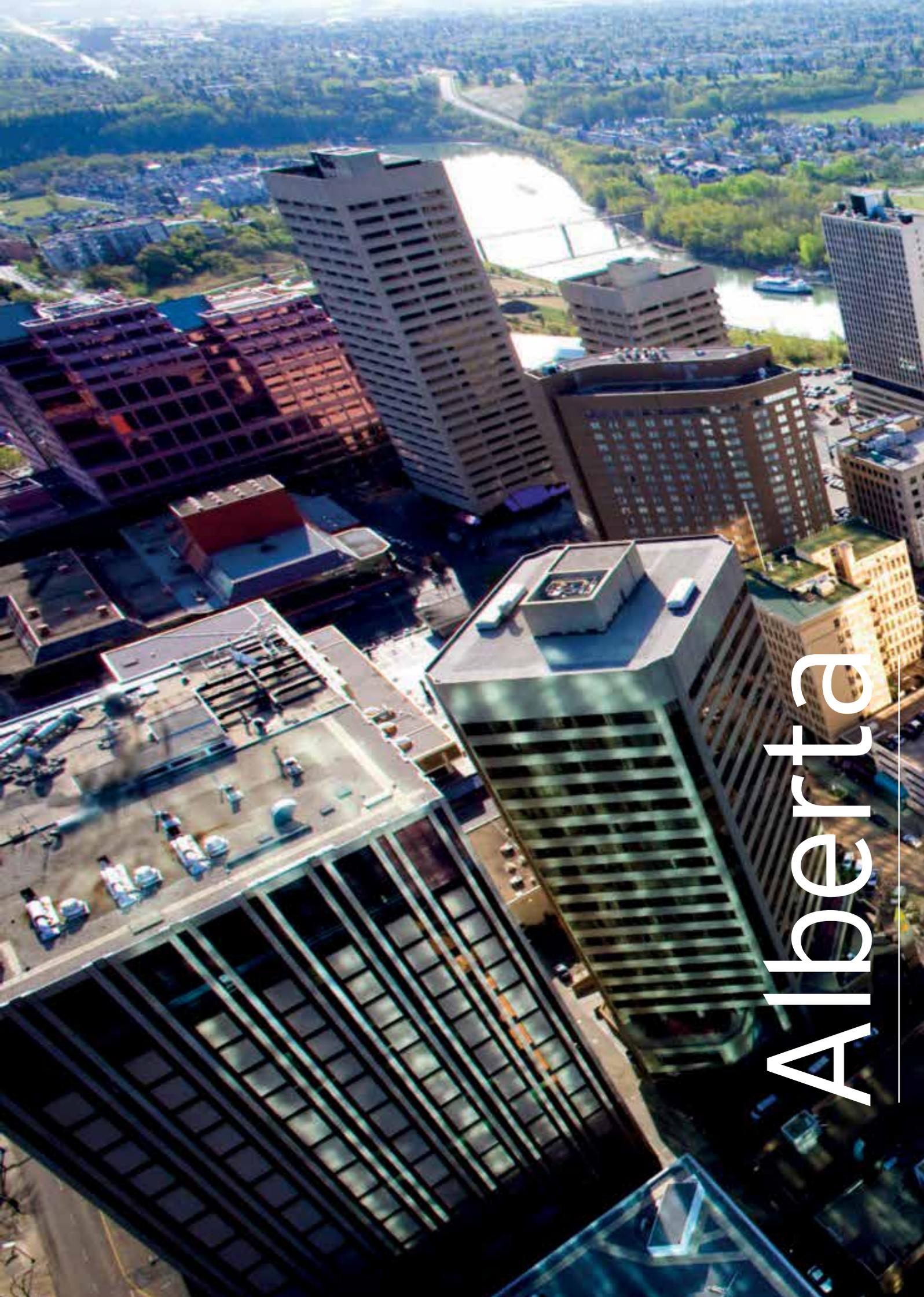
Creative BC

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Phone: +1-6047302237
E-mail: jreilly@creativebc.com

Tim Mudd - Business Analyst

Phone: +1-6047302231
E-mail ID: tmudd@creativebc.com

In addition to the above, British Columbia also offers a labor-based tax credit, namely, Film Incentive BC Tax Credit (FIBC), to Canadian owned and controlled production corporations having a permanent establishment in British Columbia. FIBC consists of 5 types of tax credits, namely, Basic, Regional, Distant Regional, Training and DAVE, which provide a benefit of 35%, 12.5%, 6%, 30% and 16% respectively on the qualifying British Columbia labor costs incurred.



Alberta

Economic benefit:

A net savings of **~16.41%** on the total estimated foreign production budget (including federal incentive)

Production incentives

Alberta Production Grant (APG)³⁴

What is the scheme?	<p>Alberta Production Grant represents key funding provided for the purpose of creation of screen-based narrative content and it is calculated based on qualifying Alberta spend incurred in the province of Alberta. The grant consists of two streams based on the percentage of ownership in the project:</p> <p>Stream I: Indigenous/Co-production</p> <p>If the percentage of Albertan ownership in the project is between 50% and 100%. A minimum of eight Albertans must be employed in HOD positions. Further, two trainee positions in eligible departments may be substituted for one HOD position, subject to a maximum of four trainees. The grant will be provided at the rate of 29% of qualifying Alberta spend.</p> <p>Stream II: Foreign/Service</p> <p>If the percentage of Albertan ownership in the project is less than 50%. A minimum of four Albertans must be employed in HoD positions. Further, two trainee positions in eligible departments may be substituted for one HoD position, subject to a maximum of four trainees. The grant will be provided at the rate of 25% of qualifying Alberta spend.</p> <p>An additional grant of 1% shall be added to the above rates if the shoot continues for more than 30 days or 300 person hours in case of animation/digital projects. The above rates shall be reduced by 0.5% for each HoD position below the minimum requirement as prescribed above.</p> <p>Further, the maximum grant that can be granted to a single project has been capped at CAD5 million (~ INR261.98 million)</p>
Who is the administrating authority?	Alberta Media Fund (AMF)
What is the type of incentive?	Grant
Who is eligible?	<p>As per the scheme, an enterprise must fulfill all the below mentioned conditions in order to be eligible to claim APG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The enterprise must be engaged in the business of film, television and digital media production. ▶ The enterprise must be incorporated in Alberta under the Business Corporations Act. ▶ The enterprise must be registered as an extra-provincial company in Alberta or be continued as an Albertan company through a Certificate of Continuance. ▶ The enterprise must be in good standing with the Corporate Registry. ▶ The enterprise must be in good standing with the AMF. <p>Accordingly, a foreign producer wishing to claim APG may adopt a local production partner in the province of Alberta.</p>



What are the eligible film formats?

APG is applicable to a wide variety of audio-visual formats including the following:

- ▶ Feature films
- ▶ Documentaries
- ▶ Animation films
- ▶ Webisodes
- ▶ TV productions
- ▶ Digital media productions

However, formats such as talk shows, news, live sports events, game shows and advertisements and those that include pornographic content are considered as ineligible for claiming APG.

What are the conditions in relation to expenditures?

The minimum qualifying Alberta spend required as per the scheme is CAD50,000 (before GST) (~ INR2.62 million). Further, "qualifying Alberta spend" has been defined under the scheme to include all expenditures in relation to goods and services purchased and consumed in Alberta. It includes:

- ▶ Air travel to and from Alberta
- ▶ Insurance costs
- ▶ Story acquisition costs
- ▶ Salaries and wages paid to Albertans
- ▶ Transportation costs
- ▶ Office and studio rental costs
- ▶ Post-production costs etc.

Additionally, in-kind contributions and capital expenses are considered as ineligible for qualifying Alberta spend.

What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved?

- ▶ The Albertan entity (applicant) needs to file an application to AMF before the start of principal photography in Alberta. The application must be accompanied by the following documents:
 - ▶ Commercial license agreement
 - ▶ Proof of confirmed financing of 75% for films having budget of CAD1 million (~ INR52.40 million) or more
 - ▶ Proof of confirmed financing of 50% for films having budget of less than CAD1 million (~ INR52.40 million)
 - ▶ Other relevant supporting documents
- ▶ Upon receipt of completed application, the AMF will conduct an eligibility assessment and the results of the assessment will be reviewed and approved by the Minister of AMF. The final decision will then be intimated to the applicant along with a Letter of Intent by AMF.

What is the procedure to apply for the scheme and the general timelines involved? (cont'd.)

- ▶ Thereafter, AMF will be required to execute the grant agreement with the applicant. The agreement will include the applicant's obligations, deliverables to be submitted by the applicant and reporting requirements.
- ▶ Once the production of the film is completed, the applicant will be required to submit deliverables to AMF as agreed in the grant agreement. The deliverables generally include:
 - ▶ DVD of the completed film
 - ▶ Electronic promotion material in relation to the film
 - ▶ Completed copy of the production statistics form
 - ▶ Audited product cost statement prepared by a certified accountant if the final cost of the film exceeds CAD200,000 (~ INR10.48 million)
 - ▶ Uncertified final cost report if the final cost of the film is up to CAD200,000 (~ INR10.48 million)
- ▶ Upon receipt of all the prescribed deliverables, AMF will disburse APG to the applicant within such time period as mentioned in the grant agreement.

Useful contacts

Alberta Media Fund

Phone: +1-8888131738

E-mail ID: info@albertafilm.ca

We have published the above section based on the last confirmation received from Alberta on 12 October 2017. We have not received any update from Alberta on any change in the incentive scheme (the last request for an update was sent on 2 November 2017).

Summary

Particulars	France	Hungary	The Czech Republic	Georgia	Lithuania	Austria	Serbia	Mauritius
Above the line								
Cast (main leads and supporting)		Y	Y	Y	Y			Y
Director fee		Y	Y	Y	Y			Y
Story (development and acquisition)								
Main technician fee		Y	Y	Y	Y			Y
Songs and background music								
Below the line								
Production								
Production and direction team	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Setting and dressing - Art	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Costumes and styling	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Makeup and hair styling	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Locations / Studios and permission	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Equipment / Supplies	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Transportation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wages	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Food and beverage	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Junior Artists / Models / Dancers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Choreography	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stunt	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Accommodation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
International travel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Raw stock (film reel)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Post production								
Lab and processing, visual and digital effects								
Sound effect								
Editing								

Georgia, USA	New York	Fiji	Canada Federal Incentive	Ontario	Québec	Nova Scotia	British Columbia	Alberta
Y		Y						
Y		Y						
Y	Y	Y						
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
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Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
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Y		Y			Y			
Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y

Key considerations

The process of film-making involves a number of inter-connected processes right from script development to final screening before the audience. In the said process, various aspects and factors need careful consideration. It would be relevant to note that this Guide delves only into particular aspects of film-making outside India (i.e., financial incentives for film-making) and hence a film-maker should take into account other key considerations in order to make a conclusive decision for selection of a location for film-making. The following are some of these key considerations that the Guide does not address but which need careful evaluation:

- ▶ **Requirement of the script:** Generally, the script for a film is a driving factor for major decisions related to the film. It is well known that a script may demand a particular location. Accordingly, based on the demand, locations in different countries may be shortlisted. The Guide seeks to provide the film-maker means to select a particular location among the shortlisted locations based on the financial incentives on offer.
- ▶ **Cost of shooting in a particular country outside India:** One of the important aspects of film-making is the cost of shooting in a particular country. Generally, the intention of the production incentives offered by other countries is to reduce the cost of production so that the gap between the production costs incurred in the producer's home country and overseas country is reduced. It is possible that a country may not offer any incentives but the cost of shooting in the said country may be considerably low vis-à-vis the producer's home country. Thus, some of the important factors that should be considered before making

a choice from the cost of production point of view include:

- ▶ Cost of hiring and minimum wages for labor and talent
 - ▶ Equipment hiring charges
 - ▶ Charges for hiring film studio premises
 - ▶ Lodging and boarding (i.e., accommodation and travel)
 - ▶ Insurance and legal expenses
 - ▶ Strength of the currency and exchange rate fluctuations
- ▶ **Ease of film shooting:** Typically, film-makers are assisted by the film commission/film office existing in a particular country. This involves assistance in obtaining film shooting permits under a single-roof, provision of safety and undertaking security measures etc. Accordingly, a film-maker must understand how established a film commission/film office is and the nature of support extended by such film commission/film office in a particular country.
- Further, where a film commission/film office is not in place, a film-maker must evaluate whether there exists a single-window clearance system for obtaining film shooting permits. Additionally, safety and security concerns must also be evaluated.
- ▶ **Ease of import and export of equipment:** Film shooting in a country outside India may involve the export of camera and other equipment from India. In this regard, a film-maker must take into account the ease of import procedures in a particular country. Further, consideration may also be made to the provisions of ATA Carnet. ATA Carnet is an international uniform customs document issued in 71 countries including India. ATA Carnet

permits duty-free temporary admission of goods into a member country without the need to raise customs bond, payment of duty and fulfillment of other customs formalities in one or a number of foreign countries.

- ▶ **Availability and experience of line producer:** Engaging the right line production company is crucial to the film-making process. Accordingly, factors such as the experience of a particular line producer and whether the line producer is recommended by the film commission/film office should also be taken into consideration by a film-maker.
- ▶ **Taxation laws:** It would be relevant to analyze the tax laws before selecting a particular country for film-making. This includes consideration of the prevalent value added tax/goods and services tax rate in the country. Further, regard should also be given to the withholding tax provisions applicable as per the domestic law in the country as well as tax treaties while making payments to line producers, professional talent etc.
- ▶ **Other laws:** Other important laws prevalent in a particular country such as labor laws and intellectual property laws must be understood.
- ▶ **Co-production treaties:** Various countries have inked co-production treaties with India to promote film-making in the respective countries. Benefits are available to the participating entities under such co-production treaties. Accordingly, the benefits of co-production should also be analyzed by a film-maker.

About FICCI

Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India. Its history is closely interwoven with India's struggle for independence, its industrialization, and its emergence as one of the most rapidly growing global economies.

A non-government, not-for-profit organisation, FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry. From influencing policy to encouraging debate, engaging with policy makers and civil society, FICCI articulates the views and concerns of industry. It serves its members from the Indian private and public corporate sectors and multinational companies, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry across states, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies.

FICCI provides a platform for networking and consensus building within and across sectors and is the first port of call for Indian industry, policy makers and the international business community.

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The Producers Guild of India

GUILD - Enhancing the value of Cinematic Arts- The Producers Guild of India Limited is an autonomous non-profit premier film trade body comprising of industry stakeholders, is to be a principal negotiator with the Government on various critical issues, plays a leading role in promoting film tourism through alliances with the global locations, resolving intra and external trade disputes of the industry, liaising with foreign delegations to provide international exposure for its members, arranging conclaves for the benefit of members.

Established in 1954 by the stalwarts of the Indian film industry including B.N. Sircar, S. Mukherjee, The Producers Guild is today the most progressive body in show business. From renowned film makers/production houses like Yashraj films, Ramesh Sippy, Mukesh Bhatt, Subhash Ghai, Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Rakesh Roshan, AB Corp, Prakash Jha, Eros entertainment, Excel Entertainment ; to the young brigade of Aditya Chopra, Karan Johar, Ashutosh Gowariker, Farhan Akhtar, Raj Kumar Hirani, Kunal Kohli, Rohan Sippy, Ritesh Batra, Guneet Monga etc. to stars turned producers like Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Anil Kapoor, Anupam Kher, Anushka Sharma; to new diversified media companies like Disney -UTV, Reliance Entertainment, Balaji telefilms, PVR, Viacom 18, Fox Star Studios; to the film makers of international stature from the East and South such as Mrinal Sen, Goutam Ghose, D. Suresh Babu, etc., to leading TV production houses like Star TV, Colors, Sony TV - all are symbols of the Indian filmed content.

Over the years, The Producers Guild has also been instrumental in organizing fund raisers such as 'Saath Hain Hum - Uttarakhand' and ' Hum Hain... Ummeed-E-Kashmir' in aid of victims and seminars & conventions with influential trade bodies like FICCI and CII. Also, The Producers Guild has instituted STAR Guild Awards for excellence in film and television - an award by the industry, for the industry and of the industry.

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