



Yorkshire Content Fund FAQs

1. What is the Yorkshire Content Fund?

It is a fund managed by Screen Yorkshire to invest in the development and production of content within the film, TV, video games and interactive media sectors within the Yorkshire and Humber region. The European Regional Development Fund for Yorkshire and Humber has contributed £7.5m to invest and this sum will need to be matched with private finance on a project-by-project basis resulting in £15m investment into content in Yorkshire and Humber.

2. What is the fund's purpose?

The fund exists to address the issue of a lack of access to capital for media and digital companies that need to carry out development work or part-finance the production of projects. It aims to finance such projects and make a return to create a legacy fund for these industries within the region. It also aims to create jobs and increase the GVA (gross value-added) of the successful applicant companies. Targets for job creation and regional spend will be set for each investment and monitored throughout the project.

3. How much can the fund invest in a project?

The fund can invest no more than €1,500,000 in any single project under EU rules; however it will not commonly invest more than £500,000 and only in exceptional circumstances will it invest more than £1,000,000. There is no minimum investment, but the fund will not normally consider investments of less than £5,000. The fund is flexible and can be used for project equity and gap finance; mezzanine finance; or cash-flowing against the UK tax break, broadcaster or distributor contracts. The key criteria is that the investment must be matched on identical terms with private finance. Investment recoupment and the level of contribution towards fund targets are also key investment criteria.

4. What can the fund invest in?

It can invest in projects within the film, TV and video games sectors within the Yorkshire and Humber region. Due to European state aid rules the fund cannot invest in ways that could distort the market. All investments must be matched against at least an equivalent sum of private finance on identical terms. The fund can invest in both the development and production of content, but cannot invest directly in companies. We will not invest in short films.

5. What type of finance can be used to match against the fund?

Any type of private finance from banks to personal funds, including EIS investment, as well as specialist industry financiers. However, other public finance does not count as match funding so investment from public film financiers such as the BFI, Film4 or BBC Films cannot be counted as match funding. Equally, any portion of an investment that is not on identical terms



(such as that by an end user for UK distribution or broadcast licence) does not count as match.

6. Do I need to have the private match finance in place before I apply to the fund?

Preferably, yes. However, Screen Yorkshire has relationships with a number of private financiers who are interested in matching investment by the fund into projects so we may be able to facilitate such finance.

7. Can a company's own finance for a project count as match funding?

Yes but a company's finance must still be matched against private finance. So a company could contribute 25% against 25% from a private finance source, which could then attract the other 50% from the Yorkshire Content Fund. This is in order to meet state aid rules around ensuring investment is made on market terms and there is no market distortion.

8. Do I need to be based in Yorkshire and Humber?

The project must take place in the region, employ people within the region and be managed by a registered company located in Yorkshire and Humber. The fund is open to companies already based in the region or companies looking to establishing a new entity in Yorkshire and Humber. Investments will be made only once a new entity has been established. Only SMEs (<250 employees; and < 50m euros turnover or <43m euros balance sheet) can apply for finance from the fund. The project should also plan to spend significantly more than the requested investment within the Yorkshire and Humber region.

9. What are the terms of the finance?

The fund will charge an arrangement fee along with a backend premium and/or a share of profits. Any investment must be matched with equal private investment and on identical recoupment terms to that private investment. The fund aims to recoup so there will a legacy fund for future investments. No public monies are being used to fund the overheads of operating the fund. It would normally be a condition of an investment in a feature film that there is a completion bond in place. For all projects we would also expect the budget to include all costs to satisfy sales agent and international distributor requirements.

10. Who will decide which projects receive investment from the fund?

Screen Yorkshire's Head of Investments will manage the fund and make recommendations to the Investment Committee that will have ultimate responsibility for funding decisions. An Audit Committee will ensure that all decisions are taken independently, conform to the Operating Guidelines, and the Investment Policy. The investment performance and processes of the Yorkshire Content Fund will also be monitored by an Independent Advisory Panel.



Project Part-Financed
by the European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



11.If I decide to base my project in Yorkshire and Humber in order to access the fund what other support will I receive?

Screen Yorkshire has managed investment funds and supported the creative industries within the region for nearly ten years so we can offer other support or put you in touch with other organisations. If you need studios; locations; crew; facilities; office space; or other suppliers we can help you source these or point you in the direction of someone that can. We can also put you in touch with companies you may want to partner with on your project.

12.How does the Yorkshire Content Fund fit with other regional funds?

A strategic alliance has been formed with Finance Yorkshire that will ensure access to finance provision in Yorkshire and Humber is comprehensive, joined-up and efficient. Each organisation will signpost relevant projects and/or companies to the other that do not meet its own investment criteria.