

NERVE 2019 DOCS GUIDELINES

NERVE 2019 DOCS... for your first shot at production.

Have you got a killer idea for a short documentary that you know audiences will love? Need some funds to make it? In 2019 one documentary will be produced through Nerve 2019 – and this is your chance to be selected.

NERVE 2019 DOCS is delivered by Wide Angle Tasmania for Tasmanian filmmakers. If selected, you'll have an experienced documentary maker mentor you throughout - from honing your story through to distribution. You'll receive \$3,000 cash to fund the production of a short documentary (3 – 7 minutes) that will play well to festival audiences. You'll also receive access to equipment, facilities, insurances and a professional colour grade and sound mix... and we'll launch your film at a gala industry event.

What's the timeline?

If you're selected for NERVE 2019 DOCS it'll consume most of your thoughts and time from September to November. If you have a great team around you, you'll be able to share the load, but make sure you can balance the demands of the programme with your other obligations – the timeline below isn't flexible. **We've highlighted the dates that you MUST attend/submit if you want to apply.** Read below for more info about each requirement.

Date	What's happening?	Info
June 1	EOI opens	Read the guidelines and mark some dates in your diary
6.30pm – 8.30pm Fri July 5	Launch, info session & film screening	Join us to find out more about NERVE 2019 DOCS. Is it for you? How do you register? Watch some inspiring short documentaries and learn about the TasDOCS workshop series.
July 17	EOI close	Let us know you're interested and book in your story feedback session & pitch session
Sat July 20 (9am – 12noon) OR Sat July 20 (1pm – 4pm)	Story Feedback session	Share your documentary idea and get feedback to strengthen your pitch!
6.30 – 8.30pm Friday July 26	Speed networking	A chance to meet filmmakers and expand your team
4pm Monday August 5	Applications due	Email (info@wideangle.org.au) or phone WAT (6223 8344) to confirm your pitch session. Email your application form AND documentary proposal to info@wideangle.org.au
Monday August 12 (times to be scheduled)	Pitch session	You'll pitch your project and team to the selection panel... make sure you have an online link or USB ready to screen your visual material
August 13 - 31	Assessment process/contracting	We'll let you know if you're successful and step-you through the contracting process
Sept - October	Pre/production/post	Work with your team to create an incredible short doco!
Early November	Mix and Grade	Head to the studio (allow two days)
November 11	Delivery	Deliver your project (and all the paperwork☺) to Wide Angle
Nov 2019 – January 2020 TBC	Industry screening	A gala event with your film screening alongside other films supported by Wide Angle in 2019

We are grateful for the support of State Growth – their support provides funds for the attachment of mentors to the team and project.

Am I eligible for NERVE 2019 DOCS?

This initiative is designed to support early career Tasmanian filmmakers who are seeking a mentored approach to developing and producing their short documentary. Read below to make sure that you and your team meet all of the following eligibility criteria. If you have any questions about whether or not you are eligible, get in touch.

- You and your key team members must be permanent residents of Tasmania who are financial WAT members.
- You must hold the rights to make the film and/or be able to demonstrate access.
- The team must include an early career documentary director. We define this as a director who has never had any documentary work commissioned for television, nor received screen project funding from any state or federal agency. Teams may include experienced producers/editors/cinematographers. We strongly encourage teams with a track record of collaboration to apply.
- You and your core team have a history of engaging with WAT and the Tasmanian screen community.
- The project must be an independent production - projects cannot be produced as part of any coursework.

How do I apply to NERVE 2019 DOCS?

Applying for NERVE 2019 DOCS is a **four step process!**

1. EOI (Expression of Interest) by July 17

Before you actually apply you'll need to let us know that you are interested. This is a simple process, but it lets us know that:

- You'll be joining us to talk about your project at the **Story Feedback Session**
- You're planning on applying and want to book a session to pitch to the assessment panel

Who can register an EOI?

We reckon you'll be more successful as part of a team, but at this stage it might just be you. That's OK – you might connect with others before you pitch, or after you've been selected. To register an EOI, choose one or two team members who will attend the story feedback session and the pitch session. Read the section above to make sure that you are eligible. Every member that registers for your team must be a current WAT member who currently lives in Tassie. You can sign up for WAT membership at the office or online here <https://www.wideangle.org.au/membership>.

2. Story Feedback Session on Sat July 20

You have a good idea for a documentary short and we want to help you turn that into a GREAT story idea. This session will help you to get your idea out of your head and onto paper. You'll join a small group to discuss your idea and receive feedback to help you strengthen your story idea and think about other ways that you could shape or present the story to make it bolder and more compelling. You might also find some others who are keen to work on your project – or you might be inspired to support someone else's story. This is an essential workshop – let us know which session you can attend on the EOI form.

3. Application Form and Documentary Proposal due 4pm August 5

To apply for NERVE 2019 DOCS you'll need to email your application form AND 2 page documentary proposal to us by 4pm on August 5. Once we've received your application we will confirm your pitch session time. All the details about the application materials, eligibility criteria and selection criteria is listed below.

4. Pitch to the panel on August 12

The panel wants to meet you to assess the strength of your story and your team. The panel will have read your application and documentary proposal before you meet them. You'll have 15 minutes with the panel to share some footage, discuss your project and discuss your written proposal. The panel is looking for stories that are compelling, bold and feasible with a micro-budget. They are interested in knowing that you have a clear idea about the tone and structure of your film and that the team has the capacity to translate the idea into reality.

How will my application be assessed?

Once you've completed each of the steps, the industry panel you met during the pitch on Aug 12 will decide which team will be selected to make their film through NERVE 2019 DOCS. After one team is selected Wide Angle will provide you with a summary of the panel's feedback about the strong points and the weaknesses across all the applications that were received. We can't provide feedback on individual applications, and the panel's decision is final.

The panel assesses each application against these criteria:

- 1. The strength of the story** (eg. *Is it actually a story or just an issue/character sketch? Does the story excite or inspire the panel? Is it likely to resonate with an audience? Is it best told as a short film?*)
- 2. The strength of the documentary style/structure** (eg. *Is the proposal bold/innovative/compelling? Does the team have good access? Have they got a handle on tone? Is it achievable on a micro-budget?*)
- 3. The strength of the team** (eg. *is this the right team to tell this story? Does the team have the skills to manage, shoot, edit and distribute the film? Does the team understand what they need to be stronger? Have they integrated ideas from the story feedback session? Have they collaborated previously? With the support provided by the initiative, will the team be able to manage the production effectively? Is this team contributing to a vibrant, diverse and renewable Tasmanian screen culture?*)
- 4. The benefit to the team** (eg. *will this project help the team achieve their screen aspirations? Will this project help build collaborative partnerships?*)
- 5. The level of engagement the team has had with WAT and the Tasmanian screen community**
- 6. The value of allocating resources to THIS project and team** (eg. *Is the project and team a good fit for the initiative? Are all elements of the initiative likely to be valued by the team? Is it likely to be realised effectively through the initiative? How does this project/team align with Wide Angle's strategic objectives? How does this project and team rate against other applications? Can the project be funded elsewhere?*)

What do I need to include in my application?

When you are preparing your application materials be sure to read the selection criteria (above) that is used by the assessment panel and use this to shape how you prepare each part of the application.

1. Completed Application form

Included in this package. This form tells us who your team is and assesses your eligibility. It's where you demonstrate your engagement with the screen community.
(criteria 5)

One Line Synopsis

This one sentence should give the most concentrated version possible of the story.

Outline your engagement with WAT and the Tasmanian screen industry

NERVE is designed for WAT members who are actively involved in the Tasmanian screen community. You can demonstrate this by describing films you have volunteered or worked on, WAT training courses that you've attended, involvement in WAT SHARES, years of WAT membership etc.
(criteria 5)

2. Documentary Proposal

This document can be NO MORE than 2 x A4 pages. It's hard to write briefly – you need to have a really clear idea to be able to write simply. If it's longer than 2 pages it probably shows you haven't spent enough time refining the proposal... and you run the risk that only the first 2 pages will be read by the panel.

The Documentary Proposal should include the following sections:

Half page story outline

Imagine that you have already completed your documentary and are now looking back at the film and describing what happened on screen to the panel. Consider describing the characters, locations and details of your film using an active, present voice. What/who is the story about – and why? Is there something at stake? This brief outline cuts to the guts of the story you are telling and provides an outline of the roadmap you will use when you start producing your film. Yes it will change, but this is the section where you commit to the story you want to make.

(criteria 1 & 2)

Half page style guide

This initiative is looking for filmmakers with a distinct voice to create a visually compelling short film. What is the tone of the film you are aiming for? What techniques will you use to create this tone? Referring to other works or genres can help the panel understand what you are trying to do. What is the point of view? Is there a particular narrative structure being used?

(criteria 1 & 2)

Half page background notes

If there's a history to this project it would be great to know it. Is there a reason why you (and only you) can tell this story? This is the place to demonstrate that you have secured access to any main characters or significant locations. If you are a team let us know about what you have done before. How would creating this film help to advance your screen aspirations?

(criteria 3 & 4)

Half page – your choice

Is there anything else you would like the panel know? Look at the selection criteria – this is another chance to make sure the panel has enough info to assess your application against these selection criteria.

(to provide further support for any of the criteria)

3. Pitch to the panel

The creative team has 5 mins to pitch their project and team to an industry panel. This pitch can include up to 3mins of audio visual material that helps demonstrate the tone of your project or the quality of the talent. It might be an interview, images, music, other film references etc. Select footage that supports your written documentary proposal. You are strongly encouraged to have something to show.

nb. Playout of visual material will be via the WAT laptop ONLY. Your best bet is to access your work via an online link. The other option is to bring a MAC formatted USB. The 15 min pitch will not be extended if there are technical problems. You can book a time to check your technical playout on Friday Aug 9 with WAT staff if you like.

The pitch will be followed by up to 10 minutes in which the panel can question the applicants about their project and the team – and the panel can answer any questions you have.

(all criteria)

Sounds great, but can I get more help?

We know that you have a stack of knowledge already – so we're offering support that you can take or leave as you need.

- Come along to the launch and info session on July 5. We'll be screening a hand-picked selection of short documentaries that we think are compelling, bold or noteworthy – aimed to challenge and inspire you about the story you could make. We'll run through the guidelines and answer any questions as well.
- If you're completely new to documentary filmmaking check out the TasDOCs programme which is designed to support you to make a short documentary over two months. You can have a go at applying to Nerve as part of this programme. Applications for full scholarship places for those aged 25 and under close June 24.
- On July 13 & 14 Wide Angle is providing workshops that focus on the story craft of documentary – expand your understanding of shooting, interviewing, audio recording and workflow to tell more compelling stories. If you think that a documentary is just interview and overlay, these workshops are essential.
- Reach out to others in the community to test your ideas and expand your skills. Wide Angle is hosting a Speed Networking event on July 26 to help you meet potential collaborators. WAT SHARES has a register of experienced and generous filmmakers offering their support... check it out.
- We have an excellent library that has information about documentary, story, tone etc. The DVD library has copies of documentaries previously produced through Wide Angle Tas initiatives.

What's the fine print if I am selected for NERVE 2019 DOCS?

- You must be able to fully commit to the initiative, including the mentoring process and the production/delivery timeline
- You will be required to submit a full budget for the production (including in-kind) and agreements with heads of departments before receiving the production budget.
- Successful applicants will be required to sign a letter of offer. This outlines the obligations of the applicant, the assignment of copyright and license arrangements that will be made with Wide Angle Tasmania. Wide Angle Tasmania will retain 50% copyright in NERVE films.
- The intention of the NERVE initiative is to provide support for early career filmmakers. Wide Angle Tasmania takes a very active role in assisting the filmmaker and team with producing & marketing their project – applicants should expect and appreciate this level of involvement and mentoring.
- You will need to provide WAT with an ABN or Statement by Supplier form to release the production budget.

I have more questions!

Excellent – here's how you get some answers:

1. Read on for more information
2. Come to the Launch and info session
3. Post a question in the facebook event
4. Call us on 6223 8344



NERVE 2019 DOCS EOI

Please complete and return this form by 4pm July 17 to info@wideangle.org.au

If you are interested in applying for NERVE 2019 you need to:

1. Schedule your attendance at one of the story feedback sessions below
2. Book a session to pitch to the assessment panel

Tell us about you/the team

It's OK if it's just you at this stage!

Name:	Email:	Current WAT member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Phone:
Name:	Email:	Current WAT member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Phone:
Name:	Email:	Current WAT member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Phone:

When are you/the team available?

1. Story Feedback Session	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat July 20 (9am – 12noon) <input type="checkbox"/> Sat July 20 (1pm – 4pm) <input type="checkbox"/> I can attend either session If you would like to attend both sessions please indicate below <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to attend BOTH sessions
2. Pitch session please indicate which block of time you are available to attend. We will negotiate a 15 minute session based on your availability.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday August 12 (9am – 11am) <input type="checkbox"/> Monday August 12 (11am – 1pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Monday August 12 (1pm – 3pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Monday August 12 (3pm – 5pm) <input type="checkbox"/> Monday August 12 (5pm – 7pm) <input type="checkbox"/> I am available at any time on Monday August 12



NERVE 2019 DOCS APPLICATION

Please complete and return this form by 4pm Mon Aug 5 to info@wideangle.org.au

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

Project title			
Logline/Short synopsis (Max 50 words)			
Target audience			
Team contact	Name:	Mobile:	email:
Pitch session (what time have you been scheduled to attend?)			

ABOUT THE TEAM:

Name:	Role/s:	Current WAT member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Link to previous work URL: Password:
Any barriers to participating in NERVE?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please specify	Full-time student? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Early career filmmaker? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
How have you engaged with WAT and/or the Tasmanian screen community?			
Name:	Role/s:	Current WAT member? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Link to previous work URL: Password:
Any barriers to participating in NERVE?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please specify	Full-time student? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Early career filmmaker? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
How have you engaged with WAT and/or the Tasmanian screen community?			
Any other team members?			

ATTACHMENTS:

<p>Please indicate that you have attached the following documents/completed bookings</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 page documentary proposal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> booked a time to pitch to the panel on August 12</p>
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By signing this application you agree to the NERVE 2019 DOCS guidelines. If you are successful you will enter into an agreement with Wide Angle Tasmania to produce the work. You declare that the information in the application and the supporting documentation is correct.

(Electronic submission will be accepted as signature).

Signed:

Date:

Applications to be submitted by email to info@wideangle.org.au by 4pm Monday August 5, 2019