

Sundance Institute's Feature Film Program Labs FAQs:

1. How do I apply?

Once a year, Sundance Institute accepts open applications for the January Screenwriters Lab only. Applications are available online each year starting February 15th and are due May 1st, for the following January Screenwriters Lab.

2. Which Lab is right for me?

Sundance Institute only accepts open applications for the January Screenwriters Lab. If you are a director developing a script that you did not write, you may apply for the Screenwriters Lab with the screenwriter as a team.

3. How do I get into the Directors Lab?

Because the Directors Lab is usually populated by projects that have been through a previous Screenwriters Lab, there is no open application process for the Directors Lab. Application to the January Screenwriters Lab is the best way to put your project into the pipeline of eventual consideration for the Directors Lab. If you are a director developing a script that you did not write, you may apply for the Screenwriters Lab with the screenwriter as a team.

4. How many scripts can I apply with?

You may submit up to three projects, but we encourage you to choose one project that is your priority in terms of moving forward. Please note that for each script, you must complete a separate application, and submit a separate application fee.

5. I have a project I want to submit for the Screenwriters Lab, but it is still a treatment. If I don't think I will be able to have a draft in screenplay format in time to submit, can I submit my treatment for consideration?

No. We need to receive a completed draft of a screenplay in order to consider your project for the Screenwriters Lab. However, this does not mean that it must be the final draft, but we do ask that the script is in standard format.

6. Can I reapply with the same script next year?

Under certain circumstances, yes. We will consider re-applications with the same script only if you have completed significant revisions.

7. I am an American living abroad. Can I still apply?

For Americans living abroad, you may have problems with payment by credit card. If this is the case, please bypass the online application and email featurefilmprogram@sundance.org for further instruction.

8. I have written a script and want Sundance to produce it. Is that possible?

No. Sundance Institute is a non-profit organization. We do not produce or finance films. Our Screenwriters and Directors Labs provide filmmakers with opportunities to develop their material in a workshop environment.

9. Should I have my industry contacts call with references?

No. Our final decision is based on the material and talent alone. Take comfort in the fact that your work will literally speak for itself!

10. I'm a director but didn't write the script I'd like to direct. How can I apply?

If you are a director developing a script that you did not write, you may apply for the Screenwriters Lab with the screenwriter as a team.

11. When and where is the Directors Lab?

The Directors Lab is held each June, usually during the first three weeks of June. Like the Screenwriters Labs, the Directors Lab is held at the Sundance Resort in Sundance, Utah.

Don't see your question answered here? Email featurefilmprogram@sundance.org with further questions.