

BBC Writers Pilot Applications 2026



What is Pilot?

An opportunity which partners up to eight promising screenwriters with eight independent production companies.

The writers will be paid to write the script of the first episode of a potential original series for the BBC.

Run by BBC Writers.



When is the application window?

Submissions open: Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 12 noon.

Deadline: 12 noon on Tuesday 4th August 2026.

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Who can apply?

You must identify as deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent.

You must be at least 18 years of age or over at the date of your submission.

You must be a permanent/full time resident of the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man or Republic of Ireland. You do not need to have been born here, but you do need to have an existing right to work in the UK.

You must **not** be employed as part of BBC Writers or as BBC staff in a Scripted team in BBC Public Service (including Drama and Comedy Commissioning and BBC Film) or a person connected to this scheme.

You must have a literary agent **AND/OR** a drama or comedy/drama writing credit.

Or you have completed one of the three iterations of the **BBC Writers Access Group** for deaf, disabled, and/or neurodivergent writers.



What qualifies as a
credit?

You must have one of the following:

- A television credit for a 30-minute broadcast slot.
- At least 3 short films amounting to a combined total duration of 30 minutes or more. Each short film must have received a TV/Streamer broadcast or have been played at a BAFTA qualifying festival.
- A feature film produced and distributed within the UK.
- A commissioned audio drama of 30 minutes or longer.
- A professional theatre production of 30 minutes or longer with a cast consisting of two actors or more. The production must have been for a commercial theatre and/or company; or a company or venue funded or part-funded by a government or local government body or arts council.

Your writing credit and/or your representation **MUST** be evidenced by a link to at least one of the following:

- IMDb page
- Agent's website
- Theatre website



How do I prove my eligibility?

If you cannot supply any of the required evidence of your writing credit, a pdf document showing confirmation from your venue or production company should be obtained and included as part of your submission via the E-Submissions system.

The onus is on the writer to provide clear evidence to support their eligibility.

Proof of age, identity, residency and eligibility may be requested at a later date. The BBC's decision as to the eligibility of individual applicants will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.



What do I need to submit?

Applicants must submit:

- a) Evidence detailing your writing experience to date which includes contact details of your literary agent AND/OR your produced credit(s) for your own original writing in either Theatre, Radio, Film or Television.
- b) An original Drama or Comedy/Drama spec' script written for television at a minimum of 50 full pages of script (excluding title pages or supporting material).
- c) A paragraph on why you think taking part in the Pilot Programme 2027/28 would be beneficial for you at this stage of your writing career (500 words maximum).
- d) A paragraph about your writing history (maximum 500 words). We just want to understand your passion for writing and your professional development to date.



What do I need to know about
the script I should submit?

You must submit a complete script, not an extract of a longer project. Scripts will be read anonymously so please remove any personal details (name, address, contacts etc) from the front page of the script or within the document itself.

If the submitted script has been through a development process with a production company, agent, training scheme etc. then this must be declared on the submission.

Your spec script must be submitted as a PDF file with a maximum file size of 10MB via the E-Submissions System only.

Your application must be legibly typed and formatted. Submissions must be written in English. If you submit any part of a script in another language you must also include your own translation of this into English. For examples of scripts formatted for television visit the BBC Writers **website**.



What do we NOT accept?

Submissions from people who have already had their own original drama series or serial greenlit with the BBC or any other broadcaster or streaming service.

Sample scripts written for Theatre, Radio or Film.

Multiple submissions.

Extracts. Each script submitted must be a complete episode.

Scripts written for existing shows and/or characters.

Prose or poetry.

Comedy (sitcoms, series or sketch shows)



Where and how do I apply?

[You can apply through our Esubmissions system here.](#)

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Any additional guidance

If you have specific access requirements then please [Contact BBC Writers](#) at least 48 hours ahead of the deadline to discuss your application.

[Read the full Terms and Conditions here](#)

[Want more guidance on Esubs? Click here for guidance and walkthrough video guides.](#)