



THE MERCURY YOUTH PATHWAY PROGRAM 2025 GUIDELINES

Issued 7 November 2025

Applications open at 10.00am on Friday 7 November 2025 and will close on Friday 19 December 2025 at 5:00pm.

The Mercury Youth Pathway Program is an inclusive opportunity for young and aspiring South Australian screen industry practitioners, aged 16-25.

Supported by the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation, The Mercury Youth Pathway Program champions the aspirations and development of creative talent by providing a unique 12-month all-access membership to The Mercury screenings, industry events, and filmmaking programs.

The program includes Launch Lab professional development workshops, bespoke mentoring, professional script guidance, networking, special events, access to film production equipment and on-site post-production facilities, and tailored screen industry opportunities with strategic partners.

The program aims to bridge the gap between secondary and tertiary education, and the capacity to engage with the screen industry.

Responsive to the individual objectives and aspirations of each participant, The Mercury Youth Pathway Program will up-skill young practitioners with industry insights and practical knowledge and showcase career opportunities. Furthermore, our specialist curated screening programs build community, connection and knowledge of cinema.

INITIATIVE OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

- Builds professional skills, knowledge, and confidence for emerging filmmakers and screen practitioners.
- Provides mentoring and workshops to build toward project funding opportunities.
- Prepares participants to access SAFC (South Australian Film Corporation), Carclew, AFF Youth (Adelaide Film Festival), and screen industry opportunities.
- Connects emerging talent with industry professionals and career pathways.

WHAT IS OFFERED:

The Mercury will fund up to twenty (20) 12-month memberships to The Mercury for young and aspiring South Australian screen industry practitioners. The Mercury Youth Pathway Programs features:

- A Screen industry panel and networking event, with a focus on career planning and facilitated by industry professionals.
- Specially curated short film screenings and Q&A events, with access to successful filmmakers discussing craft, production experiences, film festival strategy, and career pathways.
- One-on-one industry mentoring sessions about craft, project development, finding your creative voice, and career planning.
- Access to *Behind the Screens* events with screen industry leaders, curated by the SAFC.
- Regular Launch Lab series of professional development workshops.
- One-on-one professional script consultations.
- Equipment hire and use of post-production facilities and offices.
- Tickets to 300+ films across 800+ screenings.
- Access to The Mercury's QuickFlicks venue hire, giving program participants exclusive use of the Main Mercury Cinema for a special rate – ideal for short film showcases.
- Discounted ticket and submission costs for the South Australian Screen Awards (SASAs) Red Carpet Gala.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

Applications will be assessed holistically on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to or enthusiasm for a career in the screen industry.

The Mercury strongly encourages applications from underrepresented groups, including First Nations, female-identifying practitioners, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, Deaf or Disabled practitioners, those from LGBTQIA+ communities, and practitioners from regional and remote areas of South Australia.

SUBMISSION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In line with prevailing screen industry standards, all applications must be completed in full and submitted by the deadline. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Stage 1. Written Online Application Forms submitted via The Mercury website [HERE](#) by 5.00pm on Friday 19 December 2025.

Stage 2. Successful applicants will be announced in early February 2026.

SUBMISSION MATERIALS

In the online application form you will need to provide the following information:

- Your contact details.
- A brief bio of yourself describing passion and interest in a career in the screen industry, including any relevant experience such as short film projects, courses, studies, or demonstrated enthusiasm for any particular area/s of the screen industry (max half a page).
- A brief written reference from a teacher, university lecturer or tutor, or mentor figure advocating for your passion for a career in the screen industry (max half a page).
- A declaration giving The Mercury permission to use your likeness and name in relation to this initiative should your application be successful.
- Additional information regarding any relevant underrepresented status.

The Mercury's Head of Industry Programs, Adam Bishop, welcomes enquiries from prospective applicants. Contact industry@themercury.org.au or phone (08) 8410 0979.