

WALT DISNEY
DISCOVERY **Access** × **HBO**
max

SCRIPT ENGINE

Writers' Programme

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IN COLLABORATION WITH



SCRIPT ENGINE

Writers' Programme

ABOUT WBD ACCESS

At Warner Bros. Discovery, we believe in authentic, meaningful connection – to each other, to culture, and to our consumer. That's why we empower fearless storytellers who bring our world into focus – and create cultural touchstones with the power to draw us together. Through best-in-class talent development programs, mentorship, placement opportunities and industry exposure, WBD Access serves as a powerful conduit connecting talent and bringing different perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences to our content and brands.

WANT TO CONNECT WITH US?

Email us at access.international@wbd.com

MEET THE WBD ACCESS INTERNATIONAL TEAM



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SCRIPT ENGINE

Writers' Programme

ABOUT SCRIPT ENGINE

Designed for mid-level television writers, Script Engine offers a dedicated development pathway to support original, inclusive and locally rooted storytelling.

Following the success of its first iteration, the programme returns with a renewed focus on writers connected to France, Spain, Italy and Germany, offering a structured opportunity to develop original series concepts aligned with HBO Max's vision for distinctive European storytelling.

This bespoke development opportunity will be delivered in partnership with HBO Max and in collaboration with Series Mania Institute.

FORMAT OF SCRIPT ENGINE

SCRIPT ENGINE

Writers' Programme

STAGE

1

RECRUITMENT

STAGE

2

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT WEEK**

STAGE

3

**VIRTUAL MENTORING
& TRAINING**

STAGE

4

**PROJECT
PRESENTATION**

STAGE 1

RECRUITMENT

- ⚙️ Not have previously written for an HBO Original Series (HBO movies accepted)
- ⚙️ Be legally entitled to work in the country to which they are applying (France, Spain, Italy or Germany) for the duration of the programme
- ⚙️ Have demonstrable experience writing for commissioned television projects, including a minimum of 3 original episodes, concepts, or writers' room credits on projects that have been commissioned, optioned, or formally developed by a broadcaster or streamer. Please note, at least one of these must have taken place within the last three years
- ⚙️ Be available to participate fully in the programme schedule, including attendance to virtual and in-person sessions between June-November 2026
- ⚙️ Hold a valid passport and be eligible to travel to the UK in June 2026 and the country you are applying to (i.e.; France, Spain, Germany or Italy) in November 2026, if you are not already based there
- ⚙️ Must be aged 18 or over at the point of application (no upper age limit)

STAGE 1

RECRUITMENT

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**SCRIPT
ENGINE**
Writers' Programme

ROUND 1

Application portal opens: 5pm UTC+2 | Thursday 2 April.

Application portal closes: 11:59pm UTC+2 | Sunday 26 April.

ROUND 2

Longlist Briefing Session (Optional): 3pm UTC+2 | Tuesday 5 May

One-to-two Page Concept Deadline: 3pm UTC+2 | Tuesday 12 May 2026

LOGLIST BRIEFING SESSION

All longlisted applicants will be notified on 30 Apr and invited to attend an optional virtual briefing session.

During the session, WBD Access will walk through the next stage of the application process. This will include breakout sessions with each HBO Max market team, where applicants will join the session relevant to the market they have applied to.

In these sessions, the HBO Max teams will introduce their briefs and provide an opportunity for applicants to ask questions.

Following the briefing session, longlisted applicants will be sent the content brief.

STAGE 2

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK

Selected writers will begin the programme with an in-person professional development week in London during w/c 29th June 2026.

During the week, writers will take part in a series of sessions exploring HBO Max' brand and creative priorities, alongside learning and development workshops focused on leadership, collaboration and inclusive storytelling.

Participants will also have the opportunity to meet the wider programme community, including fellow writers, HBO Max, mentors and industry guests, through a series of networking sessions.

STAGE 3

VIRTUAL TRAINING & MENTORING

TRAINING

Following the London professional development week, the cohort will proceed to attend a series of virtual sessions alongside their smaller country cohort led by local industry professionals and HBO Max teams.

There will be 10 sessions, each taking place every other week for 2.5hrs from 5:00-7:30pm UTC+2:

- **5 sessions** – delivered within smaller market-based cohorts. These sessions will provide insight into the commissioning landscape and creative priorities of the relevant HBO Max market.
- **5 sessions** – delivered as a full cohort, offering guidance on writing for European writers' rooms and writing with a producer mindset. One of these sessions will be facilitated by Series Mania Institute.

MENTORING & BESPOKE SUPPORT

Each participant will be paired with both a writer and a producer advisor. Mentors will be selected by the respective HBO Max market to ensure that mentorship is not only tailored to each writer's project but grounded in real-world experience of developing and delivering high-end television within that market.

WRITER MENTOR

Each writer will have 6 x1hr sessions of support from a writer mentor.

PRODUCER MENTOR

Each writer will receive 2 x1hr sessions of support from a producer advisor.

STAGE 4

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Writers' Programme

PROJECT PRESENTATION

By the end of the four months, participants will have developed a 10–20-page series document (or “series bible”) proposing a new original series concept to be presented to HBO Max.

The programme will culminate in participants presenting their projects to the HBO Max executives from the country they have been selected for.

Project Presentations will take place in person in November 2026. Participants will join the HBO Max teams in their respective cities:

France - Paris

Italy - Milan

Spain - Madrid

Germany - Berlin

Participants will have an opportunity to present their 10-20-page series document, receive feedback, and further develop direct relationships with regional HBO Max teams.

POST- PROGRAMME SUPPORT

ACCESS EXTENDED

The WBD Access Extended programme continues to engage Access talent, provide valuable learning and networking opportunities, build community amongst participants after their respective programmes have come to an end and track their career progress.

Access Extended is a global network of over 700 alumni from across the US to Canada to Latin America, the UK, Asia Pacific and Europe.

APPLICATION TIPS

SCRIPT ENGINE

Writers' Programme

Ensure that you read each question and requirement thoroughly.

Seems self-explanatory, but there are always submissions that don't answer the questions/meet the eligibility correctly.

Make sure you have a quiet place to record your answers (if you choose to submit video answers).

You don't have to apply your cinematic skills to record your answers, just so long as the audio is clear and the content is clear.

Please ensure you have included the password to any private links submitted in your application.

For any samples you submit via a link, please ensure you include the correct password so we can access your content.

Review your application

Give yourself peace of mind by proofreading and rewatching all your answers and samples so you can confidently press submit knowing you've provided the most relevant, up to date and best quality materials that reflect you accurately.

Don't be shy

If you love HBO Max, let it show! This programme is tailored to the brand, so show us your enthusiasm for it.

Emphasise Professional Growth

When discussing your development goals, don't only focus on your craft as example, also consider how you want to grow as a professional in the industry; your leadership skills, communication and collaboration skills, approach to equity and inclusion, and how you build your professional network. This programme is designed to develop writers who are not only creatively excellent but also capable in fostering inclusive narratives.

Manage your time

Don't rush your application, but equally, avoid leaving it to the last minute. Our inbox gets busy during recruitment windows, so factor in response times in case you need support from the team.

Be Authentic

Be you - it's the only thing that separates you from everyone else. We want to get to know you, your personality and how you communicate. Don't dim your light!