

PLAYDAWN

CANDIDATE CHECKLIST | NOVEMBER 2026

A games portfolio that gets shortlisted

For artists, animators, designers, technical artists and motion designers

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Before you share the link

- [ ] It opens on a phone without logging in
- [ ] Your name, role and email are on the first screen
- [ ] Only your best 8 to 12 pieces. Remove weak or very old work
- [ ] Newest and most relevant work comes first
- [ ] Each piece says: project, your exact part, tools, time taken

Match the role

- [ ] Art style matches the studio (stylised, realistic, isometric, casual)
- [ ] Right subject mix. Applying for environments? Show environments
- [ ] Mobile roles: show optimised work (poly count, texture size, draw calls)
- [ ] Moving from 2D to 3D or the other way: at least 2 finished pieces in the new skill
- [ ] Design roles: one short design doc or level breakdown, with the problem you solved

Be honest about AI

- [ ] Label any AI-assisted piece and say which step used AI
- [ ] Keep final paint-overs and source files ready in case someone asks
- [ ] Check the studio's rules. Some platforms do not allow AI in final assets

If your best work is under NDA

- [ ] Tell the recruiter early
- [ ] Offer to take a short test instead
- [ ] Write a short text breakdown of your role, without screenshots
- [ ] Never share NDA work, even privately

Motion and video designers

- [ ] Showreel under 90 seconds, with your best work in the first 15
- [ ] 2 or 3 ad creatives with results, if you are allowed to share them (CTR, install rate)

Final check

- [ ] Ask someone outside your team to open it on their phone and tell you what you do within 10 seconds

Why this matters: in 2026 we saw strong candidates turned down because the portfolio did not match the role's focus, such as character work for an environment role.

About Playdawn

Playdawn hires for games, interactive tech and robotics, and has done so since 2016. We help candidates find their next role at studios in India and abroad, and candidates never pay us.

playdawn.com