

NZFC FILM FESTIVAL FUND

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

as at August 2025

If you have any accessibility requirements or require this information in a different format, please contact: development@nzfilm.co.nz

Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga The New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) supports established New Zealand-based film festivals through the Film Festival Fund (Fund/Funding).

Film festivals are integral to New Zealand's cultural landscape, not just because they offer New Zealand filmmakers a platform on which to showcase their films to local audiences in a communal setting, but also to provide opportunities for New Zealanders to see high calibre international films that may not otherwise be released in New Zealand cinemas.

International films screened in New Zealand film festivals offer insight into different cultures and ideas. These films promote discussion as they broaden and inform our perspective on the world and its people.

New Zealand film festivals invite international filmmakers to introduce and discuss their films, providing valuable opportunities for New Zealand's filmmaking talent to learn and network and to establish connections with the worldwide filmmaking community.

The Fund supports film festivals throughout New Zealand annually.

Applications cover a one-year funding period, and Funding is discretionary – that is, NZFC chooses where best to allocate the available funds. All Funding is dependent on the availability of funds in the given financial year, the extent to which your application meets our assessment criteria, and any other criteria we consider to be relevant (in our sole discretion).

Decisions are final. The assessment criteria we apply to your application may change from time to time in NZFC's sole discretion, but all decisions will be consistent with the New Zealand Film Commission Act 1978.

By submitting an application for Production Investment, you agree to these Production Investment Guidelines and our [Terms of Trade](#) (except to the extent varied or waived by us), and our [Code of Conduct](#).

Here to help

These Guidelines are intended to help you deliver the strongest application possible. The Marketing team is available to discuss your festival's eligibility before making an application.

To contact us, please email marketing@nzfilm.co.nz.

Who can apply

To be eligible to apply for the Fund you must be a New Zealand incorporated entity programming a New Zealand-based film festival, and;

- Programme both New Zealand and international films
- Show films across a range of genres and styles
- Have a programme of around ten films screening during the festival's duration
- Screen in at least three major centres in New Zealand, including at least one in the South Island
- Show growth over the last three years e.g. through box office reports, audience reach, programme or location expansion.
- Encourage diverse theatrical audiences of all ages and ethnicities
- Demonstrate reasonable evidence that the festival could continue after the Funding period ends

How to apply

Apply through the online application portal at <https://funding.nzfilm.co.nz/>

You can submit an application for Funding at any time throughout the year. Allow sufficient time to complete your application ahead of when you will require Funding.

It's important you provide as much information as you can to help us make a full and fair assessment. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

What to include in your application

The Fund offers funding for a single year, so your application needs to address how your festival proposes to achieve the following goals over that period:

- Audience growth
- Increased and more diverse audiences for the New Zealand films included in the festival programme
- Strong programming vision for diverse and high-calibre New Zealand and international films across a mixture of genres and styles
- Increased audience engagement with film culture which includes, but is not limited to, increased opportunities for New Zealand audiences to connect with New Zealand and international films, filmmakers, festival events, film discussion panels, workshops, and other film-related initiatives.
- Opportunities for New Zealand filmmakers to connect and network with international filmmakers and film markets
- Ongoing sustainability - will the festival have the ability to continue when the funding period is over?

Your application must also include:

- A comprehensive overview of the festival, its objectives and its audience growth over the last three years

- A marketing plan in which you identify the audience for your festival and how you propose to reach them
- A comprehensive and realistic budget

Assessment criteria

We give priority to supporting festivals that meet the criteria and goals in these Guidelines.

What happens to your application

Applications are assessed by a panel of NZFC staff who will make recommendations to the CEO who will give final approval for Funding.

Applicants will be contacted as soon as possible after a decision is made.

Confidentiality

We will use reasonable efforts to keep the information you provide confidential. Please note that any information you give to us can be requested under the Official Information Act 1982. If we get such a request, we can talk to you before responding.

If you have any further questions, please email us at marketing@nzfilm.co.nz