New Zealand
FILM COMMISSION

Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

FILMMAKER INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANT

APPLICATION GUIDELINES
He Aratohu mā ngā Kaitono

November 2026

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

Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) provides grants to support international travel that builds opportunities for New Zealand filmmakers and their film projects (Grants).

You can apply for a Grant of up to NZ$6,500 + GST per trip and you can be awarded up to two Grants per NZFC financial year (the NZFC financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June).

Grants are available for attendance at major international film festivals and markets or other international travel where you can demonstrate significant potential outcomes for you and your project/s through that travel.

If you have made an NZFC-funded feature film, you will be working closely with our team on your film's festival and release strategy. Your Development and Investment Executive and/or our Festivals and Markets Executive should be your first port of call.

WHO CAN APPLY

You are eligible to apply for a Grant if you are:

- a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident; ***and***
- a director or producer who has a completed feature film premiering in competition at an eligible international festival; **OR**
- a director who has a short film premiering in competition at an eligible international festival and has at least one feature film in development; **OR**
- an experienced producer* who is travelling to an eligible international market and has at least one feature film in advanced development; **OR**
- a writer, director or producer who has been offered a place on a prestigious feature film lab, such as Sundance, Rotterdam, Torino.

*An experienced producer will have:

- a producer credit on a feature film and/or;
- a producer credit on a commissioned series with a total running time of over 90 minutes and/or;
- a producer credit on more than one short film that has screened at one of these listed film festivals.

WHAT THIS GRANT CAN SUPPORT

The Grant can contribute up to $6,500 + GST to your travel expenses, including economy flights only*, ground transport, accommodation, event accreditation, a daily per diem of up to NZD80, travel insurance and visa or travel authority costs. A maximum of two grants per filmmaker per financial year may be awarded.

*The grant can be used to fund only economy class flights. You can use your Airpoints or your own funds to upgrade to premium economy, but due to the NZFC's carbon credit limit, must not upgrade to business even if offered an upgrade by the airline.

In instances where NZFC-funded feature films are invited to eligible festivals, NZFC will consider funding for a maximum of three team members per film. Key creatives and lead cast can be considered. The producer must apply on behalf of the team.

Due to limited funding, the NZFC will generally not support:

- more than one producer attending the same market with the same project;
- more than one producer from the same company travelling to the same market;
- more than one festival trip with one film project;
- travel to Australia.

MATERIALS YOU MUST SUBMIT

- We will need you to provide:
    - Brief information about your project or slate of projects including information about their stage of development. If you are applying to travel to market, you must have at least one feature film project at an advanced development stage;
    - A plan, including meetings with relevant industry contacts and your proposed outcomes;
    - Budget - outline your total travel budget (excluding GST) and include any additional funding and/or festival/market contribution. We recognise that any NZFC Grant offered is likely to be a contribution to your overall costs, rather than covering them in full;
    - An itinerary clearly identifying your travel route and class of airfare(s);

- Additional documentation supporting your budget, such as flight quotes/receipts and accommodation booking quotes/receipts and other relevant cost confirmations;
- If you are travelling for your feature film premiere, a copy of the festival acceptance letter and a list of the other film festivals that you have applied to (including the film's respective application status).

HOW TO APPLY

Submit your application using the NZFC Portal **https://funding.nzfilm.co.nz/**

This fund is open year-round for travel applications, except for producer market travel to some specific markets such as Cannes, EFM or Annecy MIFA, which have time-bound rounds. See relevant deadlines on our website: New Zealand Film Commission | Filmmaker International Travel Grant

Please note there is an estimated two-week turnaround for decisions from receipt of an eligible application.

ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR TRAVEL TO FESTIVALS

- Feature film will be given priority over short film;
- The international reputation of the festival at which your film is premiering;
- The extent to which attendance supports the project's overall international sales and finance strategy;
- The strength of any feature film projects you have in development and the potential to leverage this opportunity.

ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR TRAVEL TO MARKET/LAB

- Producer/filmmaker track record;
- Strength of projects/slate in development with priority given to producers with projects that have received NZFC development funding in the last 24 months;
- The strength of the market strategy provided, including scheduled meetings;
- The international reputation of the market or lab.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- We assess each application taking into account the above considerations, the materials provided, your team's track record, your current NZFC-funded slate, the range of projects we are supporting across all funding programmes, and the funding availability at the time you apply;

- Applications will be assessed and decisions made by the Filmmaker International Travel Committee. All decisions are final.

By submitting an application for Funding, you agree to these Filmmaker International Travel Grant Guidelines (except to the extent varied or waived by us) and our Code of Conduct.

CONFIDENTIALITY

We will use reasonable efforts to keep the information you provide confidential. Please note that any information you give 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 travelfund@nzfilm.co.nz