



New Zealand Film Commission Te Rautaki Māori Feature Film Initiative

He Aratohu mā ngā Kaitono Guidelines for Applicants

December 2019



Ma te huruhuru, ka rere te manu
With feathers the bird will fly

These guidelines are intended to help you deliver the strongest application you can. Please read them carefully, along with the suggested information sheets and documents, all of which can be found on our website.

You are welcome to get in touch before making a formal application for financing if you wish, as we can offer helpful advice and guidance. Email the coordinator for Te Rautaki Māori Feature Film Initiative; [Mechele Harron at mecheleh@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:mecheleh@nzfilm.co.nz) or phone (021) [531 052](tel:531052)



Kupu Whakataki - Introduction

Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga - New Zealand Film Commission is committed to ensuring Aotearoa New Zealand has a successful screen industry. The Māori voice is key to our success.

Te Rautaki Māori affirms the richness of New Zealand screen production is bound to the extraordinary strength of Māori culture and storytelling. Māori filmmakers and stories represent six of the top ten box office spots for Aotearoa films. Internationally, stories with diverse perspectives are in high demand and, in some cases, outperform mainstream theatrical films. Our goal is to champion Māori film and film makers to Aotearoa and the world.

To celebrate the launch of *Te Rautaki Māori* we are offering **Te Rautaki Māori Feature Film Initiative** - a **one-off dramatic feature film production financing** opportunity. We want to attract and encourage new and emerging Māori voices, as well as promote authentic representation of Māori characters, stories, places, history and culture and support high quality films led by Māori creatives. If you have an exciting, original project led by talented Māori key creatives, then we would like to hear from you.

Please get in touch well before making a formal application for financing, as NZFC staff can offer helpful advice and guidance.

Tirohanga whānui ki te whāngainga pūtea waihanga - Production financing overview

\$2 million has been set aside to put towards the production financing of dramatic feature films where a minimum of **two out of three key creative roles are Māori**.


Documentaries will not be considered at this stage.

The number of films supported through this initiative will depend on the range and quality of proposals received. Projects without a producer attached or that require further development may be considered for [other NZFC development opportunities](#).

The amount of financing you apply for should be in proportion to the budget and anticipated market/audience for your film.

Production financing is provided as an equity investment, which means the NZFC has a stake in the film and a recoupment and profit position for our investment. Like any investor, conditions are attached to the investment, and the NZFC expects to be involved in certain decisions. Conditions for investment are set out in the **Terms of Trade** document.

Additional funding may be available to you and your project through other government organisations including *Te Māngai Pāho* and *NZ on Air* as well as cultural institutions, international sources, private investors or other partners.



Investment is discretionary, and decisions are final. The criteria applied when making financing decisions may change from time to time, but all decisions will be consistent with the New Zealand Film Commission Act 1978.

Heoi anō tā mātou he āwhina atu - We are here to help

These guidelines are intended to help you deliver the strongest application you can. Please read them carefully, along with the suggested information sheets and documents, all of which can be found on our [website](#).

Making a production financing application can be a complex process and we strongly recommend you discuss your intended approach to financing with NZFC staff before you approach potential market partners.

We recommend you familiarise yourself with the online portal and application requirements to ensure you have all you need to upload by the due date.

If you need assistance, you can contact the coordinator for Te Rautaki Māori Feature Film Initiative, [Mechele Harron](mailto:mecheleh@nzfilm.co.nz) at mecheleh@nzfilm.co.nz or phone 021 531 052

Ko wai ka āhei ki te tono- Who can apply

To be eligible for Te Rautaki Māori Feature Film Initiative:

- The team must have Māori individuals in at least **two out of three key creative** roles of Writer, Director and Producer. **The content must be led by the Māori key creatives.**
- The **director must also be Māori and attached at the time of the application.**
- The Producer must be the person making the application for Te Rautaki Māori feature Film Initiative. This recognises the need for one person to take overall responsibility for the project and the producer's critical role in providing creative guidance, film financing expertise and an overall strategy for the project. The person named as the lead producer in your application **cannot be the same person as the writer or director.**
- Producers will only be permitted to apply for one project per production financing round. The main applicant must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.

If your project is a co-production, it must have a proportion of significant New Zealand content and an experienced producer who is a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.



Find out more about co-productions on the NZFC website

<http://www.nzfilm.co.nz/international-productions/co-productions>.

Te āheinga kaupapa mō te kōkiri Kiriata Māori Rautaki- Project eligibility for Te Rautaki Māori Feature Film Initiative

Te Rautaki Māori Feature Film Initiative is one of several options for getting support from the Film Commission. The following points will help you decide if it's the right option for your feature film project.

- The Film Commission would like to support projects led by Māori and have set aside \$2 million for production financing under this initiative.
- Projects that are bringing in other sources of finance and a higher budget are welcome.
- Market attachment at application stage is welcomed but not a requirement to **apply**.
- If your project already has market attachment or other finance, please submit offers or letters of interest with your application.
- Ideally, your script will be production ready. However, the Film Commission will consider scripts which still require finessing, and these projects will be assessed with the potential for support through alternative development frameworks.
- Projects will be required to provide an audience engagement plan; however, a non-traditional approach will be considered. The audience engagement plan information sheet can be found on the NZFC website.
- You can apply for Te Rautaki Māori Feature Film Initiative at any budget level. The amount you apply for should be in proportion to the budget and anticipated market/audience for your film.
- If you don't have market attachment or other finance partnerships, you will need to demonstrate the film can be made within the budget of \$2 million or less.
- You can apply for production financing for a certified official co-production; that is, a joint project with someone in another country or 'territory' covered by a film treaty or agreement. You will need a producer in both places and each producer is expected to raise the finances that are intended to be spent in each place. Find out more about co-productions on our website www.nzfilm.co.nz/international-productions/co-productions
- The Film Commission is primarily interested in funding narrative or documentary feature films which are intended to be screened theatrically and are not less than 80 minutes in length. Formats which are generally considered to fall outside of core funding objectives are:
 - [advertising programmes or commercials](#);
 - [news or current affairs programmes](#);
 - [productions of a public event or live event, including sports events, stage-plays, music concerts, dance performances or comedy shows](#); and
 - [programmes primarily intended for television broadcast](#).

- Your film must have significant New Zealand content. Read the New Zealand Content information sheet for more detail.
- **If you haven't got all your financing in place yet but plan to apply for the main NZFC production financing fund or Te Rautaki Māori Feature Film Initiative, please get in touch.**

Me pēhea e tono - How to apply

1. Please register your interest via email to the coordinator for Te Rautaki Māori Feature Film Initiative – [Mechele Harron at mecheleh@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:mecheleh@nzfilm.co.nz) or phone 021 531 052
2. Register as a user and complete the *Te Rautaki Māori Feature Film Initiative* application online and upload the required documents - <https://funding.nzfilm.co.nz/>

In the next section, the information required is set out. It's important you fill in as many fields as you can, and upload as much of the requested material online as possible, as this information is needed to make a full and fair assessment. If your application is incomplete, it may not be considered.

Late applications will not be considered for funding.

Te Pūtea Āwhina Mahi Kiriata o Aotearoa - NZSPG

- These production financing guidelines set out how to apply and qualify for Te Rautaki Māori Feature Film Initiative, one of the NZFC's discretionary production funds. They are not connected to those of the **New Zealand Screen Production Grant (NZSPG)**. The NZSPG is administered by a separate team within the NZFC on behalf of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Enterprise (MBIE) . The NZSPG team operates to separate criteria and timelines.
- If you are structuring the finance of your feature film project to include the NZSPG it is critical that you review in detail what makes a project eligible for NZSPG, how the process of qualifying for the grant works and how long it takes.
- You may wish to consider seeking expert advice regarding the details of the films ability to qualify for the NZSPG.
- The NZSPG details can be found on the NZFC website <http://www.nzfilm.co.nz/funding/feature-films/production-funding/new-zealand-screen-production-grant/nzspg-new-zealand-productions> and enquiries can be



directed to nzspg@nzfilm.co.nz or call the Incentives Executive on +64 4 382 7680.

He aha tā mātou e kimi nei - What we are looking for

The NZFC wants to invest in feature film projects based on strong, original ideas delivered by a distinctive Māori voice.

Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga in consultation with the Māori film sector have recently launched *Te Rautaki Māori mo te Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga*, the New Zealand Film Commission's strategy for Māori film. *Te Rautaki Māori* guides how we will champion Māori films to Aotearoa and the world. Please read *Te Rautaki Māori* and become familiar with its objectives and how they align with your project and feel free to contact us if you have any questions. *Te Rautaki Māori* is available on the NZFC website.

We are also looking at your application to provide practical information that demonstrates you have what it takes to deliver your project successfully. Funding for additional talent support is available through the NZFC Talent Development fund.

Your application needs to make the best case for your project.

He aha ngā mea hei whakauru atu ki tō tono - What to include in your application

The table on the following page sets out what you need to provide, and what will be looked for in that material. Remember to also read the information sheets and *Terms of Trade* document, and check in with NZFC staff if you have any questions.



Ngā mea me homai e koe - What you need to provide	Ngā mea e kimihiā ana e mātou - What we are looking for
<p>Tono Auaha - Creative material:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A 'production-ready' script.• A logline that accurately reflects the story of the film in a couple of sentences.• A short synopsis that accurately reflects the story of the film including the ending (max 250 words).• One-page synopsis that accurately reflects the story of the film including the ending• Director's vision statement.• Producer's overview• Notes about the genre of the film.• If the creative materials relate to a whanau/hapū or Iwi story or perspective- How will this involve or how will the filmmakers consult with whānau /hapū or Iwi? What considerations have you made to manage and protect those interests and the production outcomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the film authentic and high impact ?• Is the script production-ready? NZFC staff can talk you through what this means.• Is the film culturally significant? Will it reflect Aotearoa - New Zealanders or Māori?• Is the film an exciting idea that will lead to a great film with unique voices or stories that have no boundaries or genre limits.• Is the film likely to achieve critical acclaim?• Is the film likely to achieve commercial success, attracting larger audiences to New Zealand film? Will the film attract different audiences e.g. indigenous, Māori communities, social impact etc.





Ngā mea me homai e koe - What you need to provide	Ngā mea e kimiha ana e mātou - What we are looking for
<p>Mahere pūtea me Te here haumi - Finance plan and recoupment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viable finance plan and details of any third party financiers including any letters of interest/commitment from those parties. • Recoupment structure (this determines to whom and in what order film income is distributed). This should detail the proposed recoupment structure and a projected ‘waterfall’ of all relevant parties against the minimum recoupment estimates. • Any financial or investment agreement with whānau/hapū or lwi supporting the production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who else is providing financing and how strong is their commitment? A letter of interest from investors detailing the terms on which they would be providing funding (for example, the types of financing e.g. equity investment, loan, grant, sponsorship, deferrals, the recoupment position they would expect and any additional conditions of their financing) is expected. • Is the amount of financing from market sources, such as pre-sales and/or private gap/equity investment, relative to the prospects for the film? • Generally, the NZFC expects to recoup a share of our investment alongside other equity investors. Ensure your recoupment structure reflects the <i>Terms of Trade</i> document. • Where applicable, this will include written evidence of arrangements with distributors and a sales agent. A signed deal is not recommended at application stage; an offer is preferable.
<p>Mahere tūhono tangata Audience engagement plan:</p> <p>A credible plan setting out the target audience and how you will reach them. Plan may include specific focus on models of distribution to communities, marae, local / national festivals/ international/ indigenous specific, in addition to traditional models of distribution. If you know your audience well how will you engage them amidst the myriad of other films?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will this contribute to getting more eyeballs on New Zealand films? • Does the plan describe the audience for your film and how to reach them? See the <i>Audience Engagement Plan information sheet</i> for the minimum requirements. • What is the anticipated New Zealand box office and income from ancillary markets such as TV, VOD, DVD? • Do you have a distributor? What distribution plans do they have for the film? What are their terms? • Do you have a sales agent? What is their sales strategy for the film? What are their terms? • Is there a domestic broadcaster? What is their licence fee? • Are the rights of the sales agent, distributor and broadcaster aligned? <p>Where applicable, this will include written evidence of arrangements with distributors and a sales agent. A signed deal is not recommended at application stage; an offer is preferable.</p>





Ngā mea me homai e koe - What you need to provide	Ngā mea e kimihia ana e mātou - What we are looking for
<p data-bbox="204 398 603 427">Tātai Pūtea me te maramataka-</p> <p data-bbox="204 439 655 546">Budget and schedule: Production budget top-sheet and one copy of the full production budget.</p> <ul data-bbox="204 562 683 1346" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="204 562 683 824">• Proposed overall production schedule. The production schedule should include adequate time to conclude contracting (six weeks to three months) and allowance for a test screening (see the <i>Terms of Trade</i> document).<li data-bbox="204 840 683 981">• Draft Production schedule to highlight indicative timing and/or shooting schedule for narrative features.<li data-bbox="204 996 683 1346">• A full shoot schedule and one liner. At time of application these details are optional - however, dependent on level of investment sought, a high level breakdown of the script is helpful when assessing the viability of vision to budget. These will be required if you proceed to contracting stage.	<ul data-bbox="719 439 1428 864" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="719 439 1428 510">• Is the budget relative to the anticipated audience for the film?<li data-bbox="719 517 1428 589">• Can the film be achieved with the proposed budget and methodology?<li data-bbox="719 595 1428 667">• Does it allow for the specific NZFC costs and requirements listed in the <i>Terms of Trade</i> document?<li data-bbox="719 674 1428 703">• Is the production schedule realistic?<li data-bbox="719 710 1428 864">• Please note that all budgets will be reviewed to ensure they adequately cover all elements and an independent budget assessment may be commissioned.





Ngā mea me homai e koe - What you need to provide	Ngā mea e kimiha ana e mātou - What we are looking for
<p>Te Hunga mahi - Key personnel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Details of key personnel attached to the film, including one-page CVs, tribal affiliations, and connection to the story or kaupapa if any, and a short bio• Details of proposed key cast and plans to confirm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will this project develop the careers of the Māori filmmakers involved?• Are the producer and director experienced enough?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If your budget is above \$1 million, producers will need a proven track-record in producing feature films, short films, high-end television drama and/or commercials. Directors will need a proven track record in short films, high-end television drama and/or commercials.○ For lower budget films, producers and directors may have less experience, but at least have a proven track-record in short films, television drama and/or commercials.• What will other key crew bring to the project?• What are the Māori cultural competencies of the applicant to deliver the project?
<p>Ētahi atu kōkiri a Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga - Other NZFC projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Details of any projects in active development with the NZFC (project title and NZFC involvement).• If there are any outstanding reports or deliverables relating to those other projects, or any other NZFC grants, loans or equity, they should be delivered before, or alongside, this application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is your background with the NZFC?• What's happened as a result of our previous support? To be accountable for the taxpayers' money entrusted to us, the NZFC has to be able to certify what has happened as a result of any loan/grant.• Are you up to date with all your NZFC obligations?





Ngā mea me homai e koe - What you need to provide	Ngā mea e kimihia ana e mātou - What we are looking for
<p>Mahere Tiaki Tikanga - Māori Cultural Considerations and Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline the contribution that the project will make towards reflecting Māori culture or Iwi/hapū perspective and the diversity of the Māori experience. • How the project will manage the need to engage with the kaitiaki of that material and how will iwi/ hapū/ whānau considerations be managed in the project. • An explanation of how the applicant nurtures tikanga me te reo Māori within its own team and within the production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consultant who sits outside the key creative team / cast / crew who facilitates the needs of the production seeking to portray Māori in their project, and to ensure all Māori concerns that may arise are dealt with correctly. It is essential to the maintenance of cultural integrity and tikanga on a production where Māori communities are involved or referenced. • Clear outline of what importance te reo and tikanga has in your production and how this carried out as a naturally significant part of the production. • Correct use of Te Reo Māori • Considerations for tikanga in production and engagement with crew and talent • Appropriate consultation and advice from stakeholders/ kaitiaki/ iwi/ hapū/ whanau. <p>Supporting information may be useful from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Matawai - Te Maihi Māori Strategy • Te Māngai Pāho - Te Mahere whakapuaki Reo <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ko te reo kia Māori – promotes a Māori world view • Ko te reo kia ora – contributes to normalization • Ko ngā tikanga kia tautokongia – embraces tikanga Māori <p>Additional information can be found on the NZFC website to assist with Māori cultural guidelines and considerations for production</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Māori in Screen Production • Te Urutahi Koataata Māori – Working with Māori in Film & Television • The Brown Book



Ka ahatia tō tono- What happens to your application

Once your application is received, an email confirmation will be sent acknowledging receipt.

NZFC staff will then:

1. Check that it's eligible in accordance with the eligibility criteria on pages 3 and 4 of these guidelines. Any applications that are late or ineligible will be declined.
2. The NZFC engages a range of local and international individuals who have various specialisations across the areas of development, finance, production and/or film licencing of screen content (External Assessors).

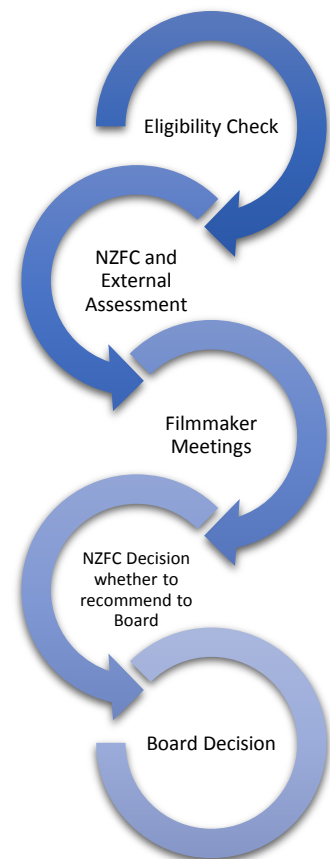
While some of these individuals specialise in specific areas (for example documentary, animation, interactive projects), all External Assessors provide a useful and an independent perspective on funding applications to NZFC staff.


Where relevant, an additional assessor with appropriate cultural knowledge and/or experience associated with an under-represented community may be engaged to provide valuable objective insight (Cultural Assessor). For example, if your project has Māori content or characters, the NZFC will seek an independent perspective considering our Te Rautaki Māori guidelines.

Please note that by submitting your application for funding from the NZFC, you acknowledge and agree that your application may be reviewed by external assessors, and you also accept that the identify of any particular assessor(s) used to assess your application will be kept strictly confidential to the NZFC and will not be released.

For the current list of External Assessors please visit our [website](#) and declare any Conflicts of Interest you may have.

3. Your application will be reviewed by the Pouwhakahaere and Production and Development team at the NZFC and get an independent assessment of the script





and the market potential of the film. Assessors will include at least 1 Māori assessors/ reo assessor.

4. Once assessments have been returned, and your application is identified that it has the potential to proceed, NZFC staff will want to talk to you about all aspects of your project. It is likely they will want to **meet with you**, and request further information. You will receive an anonymised summary of the assessment of your project prior to the meeting.
5. All this information, including any conversations, will be taken into account alongside your formal application when the decision whether or not to ultimately **recommend the project to the NZFC Board for investment** is made.
6. Any recommendation made to the Board will include a summary of your application including key information and assessment. **The Board will make the final decisions on whether the NZFC will invest.**



Te huarahi whakamua - Next steps

You will receive the outcome by phone or email **within one working day of the Board meeting**.

If the Board decides to offer investment, the NZFC will make you an offer of conditional production financing. The *Terms of Trade* will apply. There may be additional conditions on a case-by-case basis. This will be set out in a conditional offer letter that you will be required to counter-sign.

Conditional production financing offers are usually **valid for four months**. During this time, you must satisfy any pre-closing conditions (as set out in the *Terms of Trade*), otherwise the offer will expire. If requested, it may be possible to have an extension of up to two months if significant progress has been made in meeting the conditions of the offer.

Formal contracts are negotiated before any production financing is released. The contracting stage, “closing”, can take between six weeks to three months, which must be built into your production schedule. During this period, you can expect to work closely with NZFC staff to ensure conditions are met and all required documents and information are provided.

Following the Board meeting, the names of the successful projects will be made public, but not the amount of funding being offered. Once contracting for the film has closed, the amount of NZFC equity investment will be published.

Remember, you are welcome to contact staff at any time to discuss your application
[Mechele Harron at mecheleh@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:mecheleh@nzfilm.co.nz) or phone 021 531 052

You can find more background on some topics on information sheets on our website, including Chain of Title, New Zealand Content, Audience Engagement, and Distributors and Sales Agents.
