

BOOST 2021

FAQ

Last updated: March 2021

GENERAL

Q: Is BOOST funding a grant or a loan?

The BOOST scheme is provided as a non-recoupable grant.

ELIGIBILITY

Q: I have an ongoing NZFC funding agreement with one of the projects on my slate, is it eligible?

Yes, you can apply with a project that has ongoing contractual obligations as long as it is not overdue and for other costs.

Q: I've had a BOOST already, can I apply?

Yes, but only if you have finished it and have nothing overdue to report. You cannot apply if you have an active BOOST that hasn't been approved by the NZFC as completed.

Q: I've had other business and/or slate support in the past from the Business Development Scheme (BDS), He Ara, Boost UP or similar, can I apply?

You cannot apply if you have an active grant that hasn't been approved by NZFC as completed. You can if you have had one in the past, but you have finished it and have nothing overdue to report.

Q: What is considered a project in "advanced development"?

Based on the guidelines for BOOST, the NZFC will use the following criteria as appropriate to the format to determine whether a project is in advanced development:

- Director or key creative/s attached (series/feature films/interactive) and;
- Advanced script, series bible or outline, game design document; and;
- Project overall is market-ready/currently being packaged or financed.

Q: What is considered a "long form" project?

A long form project is defined for our purposes as being more than 80 minutes in duration (i.e. a feature length film or a series). If the project is comprised of episodes, the duration counted may include all episodes of the same title.

Q: Is it expected that all projects on the slate should be considered in “advanced development”?

We require that you have a slate with at least one long form project that would be described as being in “advanced development”. Your lead project does not have to be in advanced development as long as there is another project in your slate that can be considered as such under the above conditions.

Q: Can any projects on my slate be intended to be structured to qualify for NZSPG?

Yes, projects that are structured to qualify for the New Zealand Screen Production Grant are accepted.

Q: Can producers co-apply?

There can only be one applicant, but it is acceptable for producers or companies to come together with a joint-venture and that arrangement can be verified through agreements between the parties. The application allows for companies and individuals to apply, and in both instances, there are opportunities to record individual producers for projects, and other key people as applicable.

Q. Do I need to have a *film* in development?

No. The applicant must have a project in advanced development which complies with the criteria, but this can include a range of genres or formats and is not restricted to film.

Q: Do writers need to have their rights assigned to the producer before applying?

The lead applicant needs to hold or share intellectual property rights in relation to the lead project or any project on which they intend to spend the funds applied for if successful. Requirements for film are set out in the Chain of Title information sheet. The applicants will not be eligible to receive any funding unless they hold the necessary rights to all the project(s) on their slate.

Q: Can the lead applicant be attached as a director and/or writer to any projects on the slate?

Yes, that is not restricted although the applicant will need to comply with the eligibility requirements. Note that the NZFC does not allow writers or directors to be lead applicants for Production Financing equity investment.

Q: Can the creative team on any project be all internationals?

The funding is intended to provide funding to New Zealanders. The applicant must warrant that they comply with the criteria around Aotearoa New Zealand identity. However,

international key persons attached to projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and the reasons for attachment, including the value brought, should be clearly laid out in the application.

APPLICATION

Q: Which project should be the lead project for my application?

The lead project should be the project you can make the most progress on in the short and immediate term. The factors to consider include the ability to produce, finance and distribute it to audiences. You should consider the project that will have the most meaningful impact/benefits on you and assist your business in a post COVID-19 environment.

Each project will be different, but some of the things you might want to consider are:

- Does the project have a strong market imperative and will it provide cashflow?
- Will it help you to scope the challenges of production for the rest of your slate?
- Does it involve new partnerships and/ or diversification in response to the market?

There is no right answer and some, or all, of the above considerations may not apply to you.

Most importantly the project should have a clear relationship to your business plan and strategy.

You also need to demonstrate through your plan how you will allocate the funding to the project and team within the stated guidelines if successful.

Q: What costs can I include in the budget?

The budgeted activity intended should take place in Aotearoa New Zealand and will need to be able to be achieved under COVID-19 government directives.

You are required to provide a detailed budget using the BOOST budget template that clearly shows how the funding will be spent. You may include up to 50 percent of funding towards producer overhead costs and fees focussing on developing your business, the rest must be spent on project development costs. This needs to include projected income from other sources.

The costs you can include in your budget are:

- Costs for developing and progressing the lead project, and any other projects in your slate.
- Any relevant COVID-19 related costs for the lead project including, but not limited to, re-budgeting, rescheduling, re-casting, virtual scouting, Health and Safety consultation, legal, production design and pre-visualisation.
- Any relevant COVID-19 related costs to develop your business in this current environment.
- Writer fees – see *NZWG Guide to Recommended Minimum Writing Rates*
- Extensions to rights or optioning costs
- Script assessment fees
- Project or professional consultant fees
- Producer fees
- Director fees (unless the director is also the writer or script consultant)

- Direct script and project-related overheads (such as printing, couriers, phone, software licenses, server costs, etc).
- Interactive designer, game artist, programmer and/or developers' costs
- Prototype costs (interactive, gaming)
- Project-related research costs.
- Legal costs

Q: What is expected under the section “Page three - Track Record – Personal projects credits”?

This section is optional but you may want to provide details of independently verifiable credits you hold that are additional to the mandatory eligibility criteria credits. These may include for example:

- Roles other than producer
- Formats other than the lead project and/or advanced development project criteria
- Gained outside the timeframe criteria
- Additional credits that add to your producing profile

These additional credits should add to the strength of your application, and it is up to you to determine the relevance of any credits supplied.

Q: How is diversity captured in the application and then measured?

These criteria are captured through the fields under the section “Business Model - How will BOOST enhance diversity in your slate and business?”

The above information will be assessed against the criteria “Other Consideration” as set out in the guidelines and in the below assessment grid and reflecting the NZFC’s Statement Of Intent 2020-2021. [\[link\]](#)

This is the expected structure for this section, providing the following details:

How your proposal will fulfil the NZFC's aim to activate high impact, authentic and culturally significant stories. Factors considered:

- Does the applicant’s business and/or lead project/slate include female creative collaborators? Recipients of devolved funding are encouraged to fund half of their projects with female writers, directors and other key creatives.
- Does the applicant’s business and/or lead project/slate include Māori creative collaborators?

How does the applicant’s proposal facilitate dynamic pathways for outstanding people, projects and businesses? Factors considered:

- Does the applicant’s business help screen practitioners to build sustainable careers?
- Does the applicant’s business help screen practitioners develop bespoke pathways and opportunities?

How will BOOST enhance diversity in your slate and business? Factors considered:

- Does the applicant's business and/or lead project/slate involve those from a recognised under-represented community including gender diverse, LGBTQIA+, those with a disability and/or from a diverse background?
- Do any of the projects on the applicant's slate promote the authentic representation of gender diverse, LGBTQIA+, those with a disability and/or from a diverse background in the characters, stories, places, history and culture?

Q: What if I don't fill out the statistical information or I can't get permission to do this from my collaborators?

It's fine not to fill out the statistical information section and you will not be penalised for choosing to do so. The NZFC collects statistical information to enable us to report anonymised aggregated information and trends to our stakeholders, to measure our performance against our Statement of Performance Expectations, and for planning purposes. The statistical information requested as part of your application aligns with Statistics NZ Census data. Providing this information is voluntary, but we encourage you to complete this as it is helpful in enabling us to accurately measure, report on, and respond to, trends in the industry. Any personal information collected will not be passed on or sold to third parties, will only be reported in an anonymised aggregated manner and will be managed in accordance with the NZFC's Privacy Policy.

The statistical information is not a compulsory part of your application. If you do not wish to provide this information, select 'prefer not to disclose'.

Q: What happens to the personal information I supply as part of my application?

All treatment of personal information will be handled in accordance with the [NZFC's Privacy Policy](#). Be aware that you will also be asked to confirm when submitting your application that you have read and understood the NZFC's Privacy Policy and that you comply with its terms.

DECISION CRITERIA

Q: How many external assessors will be reviewing the application?

BOOST will have two or more external assessors, with each external assessor reviewing every eligible application.

Q: How is my slate going to be assessed?

In order to accelerate the assessment process in this unprecedented time, every application will be assessed against the criteria set out in the guidelines following a grading system as outlined at the end of this FAQ. You may be requested to provide further information via video conference or phone call, but that will be decided after reviewing the final applications.

Q: What if I have a conflict of interest with an assessor?

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](#).

You will be contacted via the NZFC online portal to check if you have any conflict of interest to declare once your application has been submitted.