



New Zealand
FILM COMMISSION



Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

New Zealand Film Commission

Whakawhanake Kiriata:

Māori Film Development Funds

– Guidelines for Applicants

March 2022

You are encouraged to read these guidelines carefully as they are intended to help you deliver the strongest application possible. Please also read the relevant information sheets on the website.

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



Introduction

Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) is committed to ensuring Aotearoa New Zealand has a successful film industry. The Māori voice is key to this success.

Te Rautaki Māori, the NZFC's Māori Strategy affirms that the richness of New Zealand film production is bound to the extraordinary strength of Māori culture and storytelling. Driving Te Rautaki Māori is its mission to champion Māori film and filmmakers to Aotearoa and the world.

The NZFC acknowledges the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the protection of te reo Māori as an official language of New Zealand and with this, endeavours to uphold Maihi Karauna, the *Māori Language Act 2016* and support the revitalisation of te reo Māori.

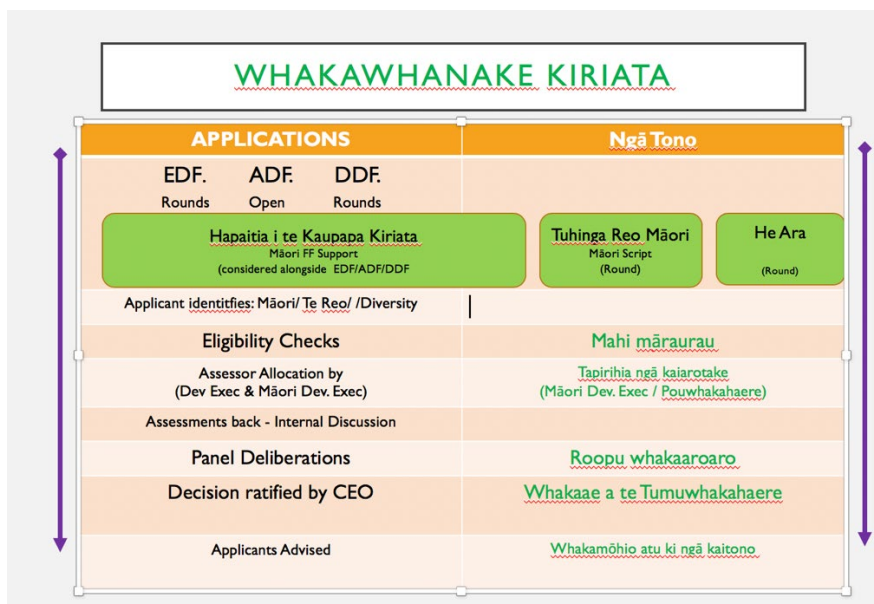
To continue the ongoing work of Te Rautaki Māori, the NZFC has established the Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Project Development Fund. This bespoke development programme is available to support Māori led projects at the critical stages of production from script development with specialist film industry review, through to supporting the collaboration of creative teams, to securing investment and distribution prior to production financing.

By supporting projects through the Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Project Development Fund, the NZFC aims to increase the number of high impact, culturally significant films written, directed and produced by Māori and their teams.



Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Development Fund - Overview


Applications may be received through the general rounds of Early Development Fund (EDF), Advanced Development Fund (ADF) and Documentary Development Fund (DDF) or may be received through the Whakawhanake Kiriata funding programmes and criteria. They follow the same process, and have Māori considerations at key points in the process. Only one award will be made to an applicant /company.



There are three funds under the Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Project Development Fund that focus on different areas of project development. Hāpaitia Te Kaupapa Kiriata – Māori Feature Film Support and Development and Te Tuhinga Reo Māori – Te Reo Development fund align with timings of other NZFC development funds. He Ara has its own round. Whakawhanake Kiriata Film Development Funds provide for Māori specific outcomes. The three funds that applicants can apply to are:

- **Hāpaitia Te Kaupapa Kiriata: Māori Feature Film Support Fund**
- **Tuhinga Reo Māori: Te Reo Māori Development Fund**
- **He Ara: Pathway for Māori and Pacific Island Screen Practitioners Fund**

Hāpaitia Te Kaupapa Kiriata: Māori Feature Film Support Fund provides bespoke development support by providing a grant to Māori led projects. Applications will be accepted for projects that are at early to advanced stages of development. This fund may also be applied to projects coming



through NZFC Production Financing where the decision panel identifies the project still needs development support. This fund is not for production financing.

Tuhinga Reo Māori: Te Reo Māori Development Fund is a flexible fund established to support the development of projects in te reo Māori. These projects could then apply for production financing from the NZFC, including through the [*He Pounamu Te Reo Māori Feature Film Initiative*](#), if eligible. Applications for funding from the Te Reo Māori Development Fund will be accepted for projects that are at early to advanced stages of development. In exceptional cases (as decided by the NZFC), projects identified as having less than 50% te reo Māori content but having outstanding cultural significance for Māori, may also be considered under this fund.

He Ara: Pathway for Māori and Pacific Island Screen Practitioners Fund is an established fund intended to support Māori and/or Pacific Island filmmakers to create a diverse range of quality New Zealand films shaped through their own development framework. This fund supports teams or companies with a slate of at least two projects in development who are wanting to support:

- increased development of culturally diverse, outstanding New Zealand projects and talent;
- the freedom to use Māori and/or Pacific Island development frameworks; and
- screen practitioners of Māori and/or Pacific Island heritage gaining clarity on the target audience and market engagement for their films.

Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Development Funds Conditions

Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Development funding is provided as a grant, which does not need to be repaid unless certain terms of the development grant agreement between NZFC and the grant recipient are breached. Because NZFC grants are subject to GST, if the recipient of the grant is GST registered, GST will be added to the grant when it is paid. For more information see the [*Development Grant Agreement information sheet*](#).

Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Development funding will be paid when the development grant agreement is signed and an invoice is received and where applicable, the NZFC has reviewed and approved the chain of title documentation. See the [*Chain of Title information sheet*](#).

If an applicant is successful in receiving Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Development funding, they will receive an agreement and be required to report to the NZFC on the plan they have provided. It is important for agreed reporting obligations to be met.

Applicants will be ineligible for funding if they have outstanding reports or deliverables for any other projects that have received or will receive NZFC funding or are in breach of any contract with the NZFC.

Applicants may apply for this fund multiple times, but cannot receive more than the maximum amount available for each fund within a 12-month period.





The NZFC are here to help

These guidelines are intended to help applicants deliver the strongest application possible. Before submitting an application, it is recommended that you discuss your project with our Rautaki and/or Development and Production Team as you work on your application.

To contact us please email rautaki@nzfilm.co.nz or phone 0800 659 754.

Who can apply

To be eligible for Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Development funding, the applicant must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident and the film must have significant New Zealand content. Read the [New Zealand Content information sheet](#) for more detail.

The lead applicant should be the producer of the project in development.

If you do not have a producer, you have two other options:


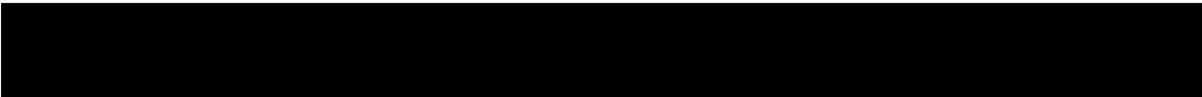
- If you are seeking early te reo Māori script development funding, it is recommended you liase with [Ngā Aho Whakaari](#) (regarding Ngā Aho Shorts Programme).
- For other early script development, it is recommended you liase with the [New Zealand Writers Guild](#) (regarding its SEED funding programme).


If the application is being made in the name of a company, it must be a New Zealand company; that is, the company must be incorporated and carrying out business in New Zealand, and its central management and control must be held by New Zealand citizens or permanent residents.

If the project is a co-production, it must still have a proportion of significant New Zealand content and an experienced producer who is a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident. Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Development funding is generally only provided for New Zealand-based and/or New Zealander-specific development costs. Find out more about co-productions on the [NZFC website](#).

The applicant must hold or share intellectual property rights for the project. Read the [Chain of Title information sheet](#) for more detail.

There must be a New Zealand producer attached to the project, and the producer must be the person making the application for Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Development Funds. 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 the application cannot be the same person as the writer or director.





It is best practice for the producer to have a limited liability company that is incorporated and carrying out business in New Zealand, though at the development stage this does not need to be a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

Please keep in mind that the NZFC will be looking at the strengths and experience of the team as well as the potential of the idea. If your team is relatively inexperienced in feature film development and production, you may want to think about attaching another, more experienced producer or executive producer to strengthen the application. You may want to discuss this with the Development and Production and/or Rautaki Team.

Each fund of the Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Development funding programme has eligibility requirements detailed below:

Hāpaitia Te Kaupapa Kiriata: Māori Feature Film Support Fund

- The director must be Māori
- The project and content should be led by the Māori key creative/s
- The team should include strong representation of Māori reflected in other key creative roles.

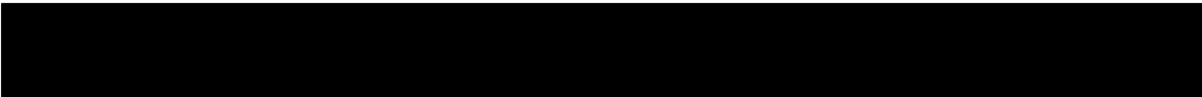

Tuhinga Reo Māori: Te Reo Development Fund


- The director must be Māori
- The majority of the script/film should be in te reo Māori
- The content should be led by the Māori key creative/s
- The team should include strong representation of Māori reflected in other key creative roles
- Short films, interactive and/or series drama projects will be considered, however priority will be given to the development of feature film projects

Funding may also be applied to projects submitted for [He Pounamu Te Reo Māori Feature Film Initiative](#) which may require further te reo Māori script development. In exceptional cases (as decided by the NZFC), where the majority of the script/film is less than 50% te reo Māori, the NZFC may provide funding to a project if the screen story is of outstanding cultural significance to Māori.

He Ara - Pathway for Māori and Pacific Island Screen Practitioners Fund

Applications must be made by the producer on behalf of either a team or a company in which:

- At least two out of three key creative roles (writer, director or producer) are of Māori and/or Pacific Island heritage;
 - One producer is of Māori and/or Pacific Island heritage; and
 - At least one member of the team or company is an established New Zealand writer, director or producer, with evidence of at least one feature credit in one of these roles on either a feature film, or a substantial body of produced and broadcasted television work in one of these three roles.
- 
- 



Teams that include Māori and/or Pacific Island heritage collaborators with significant experience in a related area of screen production (for example TV commercials, digital, online, gaming) or the wider arts sector (for example playwrights, novelists, traditional storytellers) are also eligible to apply.

Please follow this link to the NZFC website to view the full guidelines for the [He Ara: Pathway for Māori and Pacific Island Screen Practitioners Fund](#).

What you can apply for

Hapaitai i Te Kaupapa Kiriata – Māori Feature Film Support Fund

- *For early development of a draft feature film script or treatment:* the producer can apply for a grant of up to \$25,000 per application for the development of a draft feature film script and up to \$20,000 per application for the development of a draft feature film documentary treatment. The accumulated total development funding from any NZFC development fund for any one project (whether paid as a grant or loan) cannot exceed \$60,000 for projects with a feature film script, or \$40,000 for projects with a feature film documentary treatment.
- *For advanced development of a feature film scripted or documentary project:* the producer can apply for a grant of up to \$30,000 per application for the development of a feature film scripted project and up to \$20,000 per application for the development of a feature film documentary project. The accumulated total development funding from any NZFC development fund for any one project (whether paid as a grant or loan) cannot exceed \$80,000 for feature film scripted projects, or \$40,000 for feature film documentary projects.

Tuhinga Reo Māori: Te Reo Māori Development Fund

- For the development of feature film scripts, the producer can apply for a grant of up to \$25,000 per application as long as the accumulated total development funding from any NZFC development fund for any one project (whether paid as a grant or loan) does not exceed \$60,000.

He Ara: Pathway for Māori (and Pacific Island) Screen Practitioners Fund

- For the development of feature film scripted (also referred to as narrative) and/or documentary projects, the producer can apply for a grant of up to \$50,000 per application. Projects may range in development status from an expanded idea for a film to an existing draft script.

You can only apply for actual and reasonable costs involved in the development of your project. A detailed list for each fund can be found in the section *What to include in your application*.





What you cannot apply for

Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Development funding is not available for:

- Initial option payments;
- short film development (unless in te reo Māori and/or proof of concept for a developed feature film project);
- television programme development or production;
- development or production of any film intended to run at a duration of less than 90 minutes (unless proof of concept for a developed feature film project);
- capital works or acquisitions;
- equipment purchases; or
- projects that are part of formal academic assessment.

The NZFC will not consider retrospective applications; you cannot apply for financing to cover costs you have already incurred.

How to apply

Apply through the online application portal ([linked here](#)).

1. The lead applicant must apply using the online application portal.
2. `Search for 'Whakawhanake Kiriata: Māori Film Development funding' and click 'New Application'. The form will take you step by step through the application process and prompt you to provide all the required information.


NB: If you are using the online application portal for the first time you will need to sign up for a new account. Please note it can take up to 24 hours to create an account, so make sure to factor in this time when submitting your application.

The deadlines for applications to be submitted are published on the NZFC [website](#) and must be **submitted by 1pm on the deadline day**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Allow plenty of time to complete your application.

- **Hāpaitia Te Kaupapa Kiriata: Māori Feature Film Support Fund** is an open consideration within each of the general development funds and deadlines for EDF, ADF, DDF. Applications therefore would need to be completed within the deadlines for these main funds. Once checked for eligibility and accepted as eligible, applicants will be notified of a decision as per the respective funds.
- **Tuhinga Reo Māori: Te Reo Māori Script Development Fund** is an open consideration within each of the general development funds and deadlines for EDF, ADF, DDF. Applications therefore would need to be completed within the deadlines for these main funds. Once checked for eligibility and accepted as eligible, applicants will be notified of a decision as per the respective funds.



- 
- **He Ara – Pathway for Māori and Pacific Island Screen Practitioners** deadlines are on the NZFC [website](#). Applications must be received by **1pm** on the deadline day.

Wherever possible, it is encouraged you test the strength of both your application and script with an external reviewer before you submit it. Services such as Ngā Aho Whakaari Writers Wananga, the New Zealand Writers' Guild's script reader service and virtual writer groups (Huddles) are a great way to strength-test your project in a supportive environment.

If your script is in te reo Māori, it is suggested you work with an experienced te reo script advisor before you submit. Please talk to the NZFC's Rautaki or Development and Production team if you need help.

It is also recommended you get a fresh pair of eyes to review and proofread your application.

What NZFC are looking for in your application

The NZFC has a commitment under Te Rautaki Māori to work in partnership with the Māori filmmaking community to achieve mutually agreed aspirations. Please read [Te Rautaki Māori](#) and become familiar with its objectives and ensure they align with your application.

[\(Te Rautaki Māori in English\)](#)

[\(Te Rautaki Māori in te reo Māori\)](#)

The applicant must ensure that Māori are key to the design and implementation of the development process and that it is targeted at and benefits Māori key creatives and/or progressing their projects.

Please read and become familiar with [Urutahi Koataata Māori - Working with Māori in Film and Television](#).


The NZFC acknowledges that Māori are an ever-evolving people and will look to regularly review funds and programmes to allow for dynamic and fluid creative processes and to ensure robust assessment processes for projects involving Māori content.

What to include in your application

Your application should demonstrate that you are on your way to developing an exciting idea into a great film that will contribute to a successful New Zealand film industry.

Allow yourself enough time to complete your application. Deadlines for applications are on the NZFC website. Applications with a deadline must be received by **1pm** on the deadline day. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.





If you are having trouble with any part of the application process, please get in contact with the Rautaki or Development and Production Team.

To contact us email please rautaki@nzfilm.co.nz or phone 0800 659 754.

Hāpaitia Te Kaupapa Kiriata: Māori Feature Film Support Fund

The information you will need to include in your Hāpaitia Te Kaupapa Kiriata: Māori Feature Film Support Fund application can be found on the NZFC website within the [Development Financing Guidelines](#).

- For projects applying for EDF please refer to page 9 of the [Development Financing Guidelines](#)
- For projects applying for ADF please refer to page 15 of the [Development Financing Guidelines](#).

Tuhinga Reo Māori: Te Reo Māori Development Fund

The information you will need to include in your Tuhinga Reo Māori: Te Reo Māori Development application can be found on our website within the [Development Financing Guidelines](#).

- For projects applying for EDF please refer to page 9 of the [Development Financing Guidelines](#)
- For projects applying for ADF please refer to page 15 of the [Development Financing Guidelines](#)
- For individuals seeking early script development without a producer, please contact rautaki@nzfilm.co.nz.

There are additional and/or alternative creative material requirements for this fund which require applicants to:

- Highlight any dialectal nuances within the script
- Outline any plans to collaborate and work alongside senior script advisors and te reo Māori language specialists
- Include an English translation of the script. This is optional, however it can be beneficial for the assessment process and allows a wider assessment range
- Submit examples of previous writing in te reo Māori (optional).

He Ara – Pathway for Māori and Pacific Island Screen Practitioners Fund

Please follow this link to the NZFC website to view the full guidelines for the [He Ara: Pathway for Māori and Pacific Island Screen Practitioners Fund](#).





What happens to your application

Once your application is received, the NZFC will confirm eligibility requirements and that all relevant information is included. Once your application is confirmed as being eligible, you will be advised of a decision within six to eight weeks.

The NZFC engages a range of local and international individuals who are specialists in areas of development, finance, production and/or film licencing of screen content (external assessors). For these funds, assessors with appropriate cultural knowledge, te reo competency and/or experience associated with an under-represented community may be engaged to provide valuable objective insight.

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

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 identity 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 the NZFC [website](#) and declare any conflicts of interest you may have.

Decisions for *Hāpaitia Te Kaupapa Kiriata: Māori Feature Film Support Fund* are made collectively by the Pouwhakahaere and Head of Development and Production who make seek input from the Head of Talent Development.

Decisions for *Tuhinga Reo Māori: Te Reo Māori Development Fund* are made collectively by the Pouwhakahaere and Head of Development and Production who make seek input from the Head of Talent Development.

Decisions for *He Ara: Pathway for Māori (and Pacific Island) Screen Practitioners* will be made by collectively by the Pouwhakahaere, Head of Development and Production and Head of Talent Development with input from a panel of external industry advisors.


Next steps

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

You will receive an email notification linking you to the online application portal where your decision letter is held.

If your application is unsuccessful under the Whakawhanake Kiriata Māori Film Development Funds, feedback may be provided to you over the phone as agreed.





If your application is successful, your letter will provide feedback on your application. You will be sent a letter of agreement outlining the obligations and conditions of the grant, including regular reporting deadlines and deliverables. Make sure you read and understand this agreement. Please remember that your deliverables must be provided to the NZFC by the specified date. Make sure this will fit into your schedule.

It is important to note that if you don't meet your commitment to report, you will rule yourself out of further funding from NZFC. If things change and you need to shift your report-back date, please make contact to discuss this.

A final reminder that if you have any questions please contact the **Te Rautaki Māori Team** by email rautaki@nzfilm.co.nz or phone 0800 659 754.
