



**New Zealand**  
FILM COMMISSION

Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

# **New Zealand Film Commission**

## **Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga**

# **Hunga Taunaki ā Rorohiko**

## **Online Mentorship 2021 for Screen**

### **Storytellers**

## **Guidelines for Applicants**

May 2021

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You are encouraged to read these guidelines carefully as they set out important eligibility criteria and are intended to help you deliver the strongest application possible.

If you have any questions, please e-mail the Talent Pathways Manager at [talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz) Subject line Hunga Taunaki ā Rorohiko - Online Mentorship 2021.

Deadlines are unable to be extended, so please get in touch well in advance of final submission with queries.

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## Introduction

Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga New Zealand Film Commission (**NZFC**) supports the Aotearoa New Zealand screen industry. One of the ways it does this is through the development of sustainable and successful career pathways.

**Hunga Taunaki ā Rorohiko** recognises that it takes more than one person to help achieve your aspirations - it's not a singular endeavour. It's about working with and being supported by others.

The NZFC Talent Development Team has created the Hunga Taunaki ā Rorohiko - Online Mentorship 2021 funding programme to support screen storytellers in the writing space in an ever-changing screen industry. This mentorship programme will be conducted online.

Mentorship is one of the most effective ways to support screen storytellers to progress in their careers. The benefits of mentorships include new opportunities, networks, real life advice, personal and project progression, creative exchange, shared knowledge, and self-reflection. Successful applicants of the Hunga Taunaki ā Rorohiko- Online Mentorship 2021 will receive a grant of \$3,000 plus GST (if any). The NZFC will undertake a bespoke matching process to connect successful applicants with high calibre established mentors in their chosen field. The mentor will engage with the successful applicant in ten one-hour mentor/mentee online sessions. The ten sessions will run over approximately ten weeks during July, August and September 2021.

To be eligible, applicants are required to have a project they will work on over the course of the mentorship sessions. This project can be a feature film, online series, television series (drama, documentary or animation), interactive project or game. The purpose of the sessions are for the mentor to offer guidance, advice and feedback on the mentee's project. These sessions will also provide an opportunity for mentors to share their knowledge and expertise relating to career pathways.

**Your application must be completed online through the NZFC's application portal. All applications must be submitted by 1pm on Monday 31 May 2021. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances such as a technical difficulty with the application portal and you notify the NZFC immediately by emailing [funding@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:funding@nzfilm.co.nz). Applicants will be advised of final decisions in the week commencing 28 June 2021, subject to the number of applications received. Publication of the final decisions will follow the week starting 5 July.**

## Hunga Taunaki ā Rorohiko - Online Mentorship Funding overview

The aim of Hunga Taunaki ā Rorohiko - Online Mentorship 2021 is to:

- Enable learning and development with a focus on project progression.



- Extend mentees' industry networks and ignite new connections.
- Foster insight into dynamic career pathways and development.
- Activate high impact, authentic and culturally significant stories and facilitate dynamic pathways for outstanding people and projects.

Up to 10 mid-career screen storytellers will receive \$3,000 plus GST (if any). Funding will be provided as a non-recoupable grant. Successful applicants are required to document their learning across the mentorship programme and will be interviewed by staff from the NZFC's Talent Development team before Friday 24 September 2021. Mentees will be required to share insights from their experience and their learnings about project development and mentoring. Talent Development staff will write a short report based on the interview.

The NZFC encourages applicants to consider ethnicity, gender, gender diversity, accessibility and diversity that reflects Aotearoa New Zealand society in their projects. Applicants are also encouraged to promote the authentic representation of Māori characters, stories, places, history and culture in New Zealand films (in front of and behind the camera). Please refer to NZFC's [Te Rautaki Māori](#).

Funding is discretionary - that is, the NZFC chooses where best to apply the limited funding available. Where possible, the NZFC will aim to award 50% of the total funding available to individuals who identify as women. Decisions are final; the criteria applied may change from time to time, but all decisions will be consistent with these guidelines and the New Zealand Film Commission Act 1978.

Please note any funding is conditional upon the recipient complying at all times with all applicable laws, regulations, rules and Government directions, including in relation to any pandemic such as COVID-19 and any industry guidelines or best practice procedures in relation to COVID-19. Details of this will be outlined in the funding agreement.

## Who can apply

To be eligible for Hunga Taunaki ā Rorohiko - Online Mentorship 2021 funding, [applicants must](#):

1. Be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident;
2. Be a mid-career (as per the [Talent Development Eligibility Criteria](#) definition) storyteller. This includes writers, writer/directors (with focus on writing), writer/producers (with focus on writing), documentary makers or narrative designers. You will need to provide evidence of this by submitting a relevant film/television writing or interactive project or online game credit as narrative designer and your writer focused CV; and;
3. Have an active feature film, long-form project, interactive project, or game you are currently working on (at any stage of development). These do not need to be in development or production with the NZFC.



## Elements of your application

Applications may be for the following formats: feature film, online series drama, television, series drama, interactive project, or online game.

Your project should be one that you can make the most impact on in the short and immediate term across a ten-week time frame and one you perceive will have the most meaningful impact/benefits on your career and assist your career progression. Your project does not have to be in advanced development.

Your application must demonstrate that you have thought deeply about how you could benefit from this mentorship, a clear plan for project development and how you will measure success resulting from the development. You are required to include the following in your application:

### **ROLE**

- Evidence that you are mid-career, with a link to the project credit supporting your level of mid-career for that role as defined by the [Talent Development Eligibility Criteria](#). To be eligible for mid-career you must have one of the following:
  - A feature selected in a significant international festival or NZIFF / Doc Edge, HIFF, ImagineNATIVE
  - Significant credits in key head of department roles on a major feature film
  - Market success with a feature film (\$350k+ drama / \$150k doc / or 10,000 admissions at NZ box office)
  - Short film selected by a top tier festival (e.g. Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Sundance, SXSW, Berlin, Clermont Ferrand, Rotterdam)
  - Long history of key credits in head of department roles in local TV productions
  - Regular online audience of narrative content over 500,000 views
  - Narrative designer credits on at least 2 titles as a mid, senior, lead or director position whose role is at least 50% made up of narrative responsibilities on titles OR on small teams with only a single writer or narrative designer, the applicant must be able to prove they had senior and above responsibilities for narrative on titles

If you are unsure whether your credit meets eligibility requirements, please contact the Talent Pathways Manager at [talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz), subject line: “Hunga Taunaki ā Rorohiko - Online Mentorship 2021 eligibility criteria”.

- Identify why you are interested in screen storytelling mentorship.

The role as writer or narrative designer must be aligned to the role you will be undertaking on the project you are developing.



## **HOW THIS MENTORSHIP WILL PROGRESS YOUR CAREER PATHWAY**

Two succinct statements outlining why a mentorship at this stage of your career would be useful, and how it might progress your career (two sections of 400 words maximum). These statements should show how the opportunity will help meet the NZFC's goal to facilitate dynamic pathways for outstanding people and projects.

The statements must include:

- How this mentorship will help you progress the project, your own methodology and your career.
  - How you will utilise the support of a mentorship and how you best learn / what your learning style is (e.g. do you learn best by reading, watching, doing or talking about things?)
  - How a mentorship could assist in achieving your development goal.
- There will be a check box to confirm you are available and committed to ten online meetings and insight updates.

## **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND GOAL**

- A project description and plan (800 words maximum) which must include:
- The stage of development your project is at and what plans you have to progress the project further;
  - The content of your project, including tone and themes of the project;
  - The potential audience for your project;
  - Any potential or agreed creative collaborators on your project.
- And can also include:
- An explanation of how your project reflects gender equity or diversity (if applicable);
  - An explanation of how your project will fulfil at least one of the NZFC's goals, which is to: 'activate high impact, authentic and culturally significant stories'.
- A project logline (35 words);
- A project synopsis (350 words maximum);
- A link to the project's supporting visual material (if you have some) and evidence of previous produced work (either PDF and/or link to previous work);
- A short statement of your development goals for the project (300 words maximum), including your envisioned outcome – what will be completed by the end of the mentorship to progress the project. This goal will be developed further with the support of the mentor.

## **COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS**

Please note there may be additional considerations around COVID-19 and we may ask you to speak to these if you are shortlisted for funding. We will get in touch with each shortlisted applicant if we determine we require further information from you, in this regard.

## **Relationship to other NZFC funding**

You will need to indicate in your application if you have projects in active development with the NZFC or have any current loans or grants with the NZFC. You are not eligible for funding if you have any overdue contractual or reporting obligations to the NZFC.



# How is your application assessed?

## Decision Criteria

When assessing Hunga Taunaki ā Rorohiko - Online Mentorship 2021 applications, the following factors will be taken into consideration:

### Potential for Progression

- How clear are the ideas about how this mentorship will support career progression?
- How might this contribute to the career pathway of the applicant?

### Strength of the project and achievability of the goal

- How strong are the main ideas of the project?
- Are there strong creative collaborators attached or intended?
- Is there a clear goal for the duration of the mentorship?
- Is the goal a stretch but achievable?

### Originality and impact of the project and approach

- Is the project or approach original and unique?
- Is the project or approach impactful?

### Diversity

- Does the applicant's project involve those from an under-represented community including, but not limited to, gender diverse, LGBTQIA+, those with a disability and/or from a diverse background?
- Does the applicant's project promote the authentic representation of ethnic diversity, gender, and gender diversity, accessibility and/or diversity that reflects Aotearoa New Zealand society in characters, stories, places, history and culture?

### Gender

- Does the applicant's project include female creative collaborators?

### Māori

- Does the applicant's project include Māori creative collaborators?



We will use the following grid for scoring applicants:

<b>Statement</b>		<b>20</b>
Clarity of how this mentorship would help career progression	10	
Clarity of plan of how this mentorship would help the development of the project and a clear development goal set	10	
<b>Other Considerations (as part of the statements)</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Dynamic Pathways</b>	5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will this application facilitate a dynamic pathway for the applicant and their project?</li> <li>- Will the proposed mentorship contribute to building a sustainable career, develop a bespoke pathway and open up opportunities?</li> </ul>		
<b>High impact, authentic and culturally significant stories</b>	5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will this project and/or the applicant's approach fulfil the NZFC's aim to activate high impact, authentic and culturally significant stories?</li> </ul>		
<b>Enhancing Diversity</b>	5	
<p>How will this application enhance diversity in the sector? Factors to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does the project involve those from a recognised under-represented community including gender diverse, LGBTQIA+, those with a disability and/or from a diverse background?</li> <li>- Does the project promote the authentic representation of gender diverse, LGBTQIA+, those with a disability and/or from a diverse background in characters, stories, places, history and culture.</li> </ul>		
<b>Project</b>		<b>15</b>
Project Description	5	
Logline /Synopsis	5	
Visual material and links to evidence of previous produced work	5	
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>

## What happens to your proposal

Applications must be completed and submitted via the online portal by **1pm** on Monday 31 May 2021.

Applications will be assessed by a panel of NZFC Talent Development staff against the criteria as outlined in these guidelines. The ten mentors will be chosen by NZFC. The panel will make a shortlist recommendation to each mentor.

Applicants will be contacted by the Talent Pathways Manager if shortlisted. Shortlisting will not be published. The mentor will make a recommendation of the mentee they wish to work with from the shortlist and the final decision will be ratified by the HOD Talent Development and the Chief Executive of the NZFC.

Announcements will be made week of 05 July.

Unfortunately, feedback on the reason for decisions cannot be provided to unsuccessful applicants.



## Next steps

If you are shortlisted, you will receive an email from the NZFC by Friday 25 June.

Once the Head of Talent Development and the Chief Executive of the NZFC have ratified the mentorship recommendation, the NZFC will make an offer of funding week of 28 June, whereby you will be invited to enter into an agreement with the NZFC for your Hunga Taunaki ā Rorohiko - Online Mentorship 2021.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email before the public announcement during the week of 5 July 2021.

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A final reminder that If you have any questions, please e-mail the Talent Pathways Manager as far in advance of the application deadline as possible at [talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz) with the subject line: Hunga Taunaki ā Rorohiko - Online Mentorship 2021 application.

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