



**New Zealand  
FILM COMMISSION**



Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

# New Zealand Film Commission Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

## **STRATEGIC TRAINING FUND** Guidelines for Applicants

April 2022

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You are encouraged to read these guidelines carefully as they are intended to help you deliver the strongest application possible.

Please feel free to get in touch before making an application, as we can offer helpful advice and guidance. You may email [talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz).

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## Introduction

Over the past four years, Te Tumu Whaakata Taonga | New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) has invested approximately \$2.1m through the Strategic Training Fund into training and skills development. This has been in strategic partnership with screen sector guilds, industry organisations and industry training providers to deliver industry level training and development programmes that are holistic, developmental and progressive in their approach. The Strategic Training Fund is available for programmes aimed at above the line roles of producers, directors, writers and actors.

**This funding is available for programmes that run from July 2022 to June 2023.**

**Your application must be completed online [through our application portal](#). Please see the NZFC website for application and decision deadlines.**

## Strategic Training Funding overview

The Strategic Training Fund fits within the NZFC's [Statement of Intent](#), specifically the:

- Vision to champion exceptional storytellers to create enduring taonga for Aotearoa;
- Mission to empower and attract distinctive and diverse screen productions for all audiences;
- Goal to activate high impact, authentic and culturally significant screen stories; and
- Goal to facilitate dynamic pathways for outstanding people, projects and businesses.

Successful applicants will be expected to work closely with the NZFC Talent Development team on the ongoing development of the programmes and the identification of talent. The funding aims to support programmes that target a mix of new, emerging, mid-career and/or established talent as per the [NZFC talent level criteria definition](#). The NZFC is keen to receive programmes of training that are available across the country and meet the needs of those from the various regions and demographics. The NZFC is committed to providing opportunities for Tangata Whenua and those from underrepresented communities.

## We are here to help

These guidelines are intended to help you deliver the strongest application possible. You are welcome to discuss your application and proposed programmes with the NZFC Talent Development team, however, please note we cannot read your application prior to submission. Contact us via email [talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz)

## Who can apply

To be eligible for Strategic Training Funding, applicants must be screen sector organisations, companies and/or collectives that are registered in New Zealand. They may be, but are not limited to, organisations that: have a membership; are talent development focused; celebrate, champion and promote New Zealand talent; have a diversity and inclusion focus; and/or support the development of Māori talent. You are not eligible for Strategic Training Funding if you have any overdue contractual or reporting obligations to the NZFC.





## What you can apply for

Applicants may apply to the Strategic Training Fund for:

- Bespoke programmes of talent development that include (*but are not limited to*):
  - Industry skills development;
  - Development Labs (writers, directors, producers, actors);
  - Mentoring programmes;
  - Industry events;
- Essential operational running and delivery costs of the proposed programmes.

This fund does not cover:

- Costs already funded by third party financiers or investors
- Costs for capital expenditure.

We encourage applications from across New Zealand that cater for specific regional developmental needs and requirements.

*The NZFC reserves the right to provide one-off funding throughout the year for dedicated programmes that address specific industry skills shortages and diversity.*

## Te Rautaki Māori

Te Rautaki Māori is the NZFC's commitment to working in partnership with Māori to achieve mutually agreed aspirations and to better support the development and progression of Māori talent. The strategy and its execution is informed by the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Ao Māori. We acknowledge that there is more than one Māori world view, and we respect and recognise the value and unique point of difference Māori bring to the screen sector as Tangata Whenua. We aim to uphold the distinction that Māori creatives, content, te reo Māori and cultural practices bring to our story telling, films and film making community that create taonga for Aotearoa and are critical to our identity as a nation.

Please visit our website to check out other support offered through [Te Rautaki Māori](#)

## Diversity and Inclusion

The NZFC is committed to providing opportunities and support for underrepresented communities and has a diversity and inclusion vision to be an industry leader that fosters a diverse and inclusive environment for the Aotearoa screen sector.

The NZFC has identified the following groups as underrepresented: Māori, Pacific peoples, Asian communities, MELAA (Middle Eastern, Latin American and African), women, gender diverse, LGBTQIA+ communities, people with a disability, regional communities (defined for the purposes of the New Zealand screen sector as those outside of Auckland and Wellington), people below the age of 30 and people above the age of 60.

The NZFC encourages programmes targeted at meeting the needs of underrepresented communities, and in such cases expects partnership in the design and implementation. Where possible, these programmes would be led by members from within these underrepresented communities.





## How to apply

Apply using the online application portal at <https://funding.nzfilm.co.nz/>.

It is important you provide as much information as you can to help us make a full and fair assessment. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

*Early applications are encouraged.*

## What to include in your application

**Applications must include:**

- A short history of the organisation with links to a website if available
- Details of the types of training/development being proposed and evidence of need for the proposed programme(s)
- Track record of the organisation and/or individuals involved to deliver the highest quality of talent development/training including bios of individuals leading the programme(s)
- Who the training/development is targeted at, including:
  - Talent level (as per NZFC Talent criteria);
  - Above the line roles within the industry (producers, directors, writers, actors); and
  - Māori talent
  - Talent from underrepresented communities
- Where the programme(s) is based:
  - Online
  - In person in Auckland and/or Wellington
  - In person in other centres across New Zealand (specify)
- Proposed learning outcomes for the participants, and how many expected participants would benefit from this training/development
- How the application fulfils the NZFC's goals
- A detailed budget including any other investment and income
- A full schedule of activity and key events
- A summary of how the organisation and its programme(s) supports the development of Māori talent, female identifying filmmakers and/or underrepresented communities
- If the programme(s) is focused on supporting the development of Māori talent:
  - Demonstration of a proactive commitment to supporting Tangata Whenua including the organisation's policy, strategy or guiding principles that illustrate this. In the absence of this, include any partnerships in place to help deliver the programme(s) with written confirmation from the partners and the organisation's strategy to engage with and support Māori talent going forward
- If the programme(s) is focused on supporting the development of female identifying filmmakers and/or underrepresented communities:
  - Demonstration of a proactive commitment to supporting female identifying filmmakers and/or underrepresented communities including the organisation's policy, strategy or guiding principles that illustrate this. In the absence of this, include any partnerships in place to help deliver the programme(s) with written confirmation from the partners and the organisation's strategy to engage with underrepresented communities going forward





## What happens to your application

When your application is received, it will be checked for eligibility. All eligible applications will be reviewed by the NZFC's Talent Development team, with recommendations made to the NZFC's Head of Talent Development and CEO, who will make the final decision.

All the information included in your application will be considered. If more information is needed from you, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Funding is discretionary – that is, the NZFC chooses where best to apply the limited funding available. Decisions are final. The criteria applied may change from time to time, but decisions will be consistent with these guidelines and the New Zealand Film Commission Act 1978.

**Final funding decisions will be made within five weeks from the closing date of applications.**

The NZFC will use reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of the information provided by the applicant. Please note that any information you provide to the NZFC is subject to Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) requests. In processing a request under the OIA, the NZFC may consult with the relevant applicant prior to making a decision to release or withhold any information.

## Next steps

If your application is successful, you will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the NZFC. You will receive a letter from the NZFC detailing our offer for funding and outlining any conditions. No payments will be made until you have entered into a funding agreement.

If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified via the online application portal.

## Key dates for Strategic Training Funding

**Please refer to website for dates of the following:**

- Deadline for applications
- Funding decisions announced

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A final reminder that if you have any questions, please contact our Talent Development team by email [talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz).

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