



**New Zealand  
FILM COMMISSION**



Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

# Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga New Zealand Film Commission

## Unreal Engine Short Film Challenge

### Guidelines for Applicants

March 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.

If you have any enquiries please contact our Talent Development Team by email [talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz) or phone 0800 659 754.

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**Please also refer to the NZFC COVID-19 Policy**



## About this initiative

Epic Games, VicScreen, Screen NSW, Screen Canberra, Screen Tasmania, South Australian Film Corporation, Screenwest, Screen Queensland and Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) have partnered on an Australia – New Zealand initiative to provide funding towards the production of animated short films that utilise Unreal Engine 5 software.

New Zealand content creators can apply to the NZFC for up to \$50,000 NZD production funding to create an animated short film of up to five minutes using Epic Games' Unreal Engine 5 software

The NZFC anticipates funding two New Zealand projects.

Unreal Engine is a state-of-the-art real-time engine and editor that features photorealistic rendering, virtual production and much more, allowing filmmakers to conceive and execute visual storytelling without leaving their homes!

This initiative will allow content creators to explore real-time animation. These short films have the potential to be used as a proof of concept for a larger project.

Epic Games will offer a series of free training sessions to any New Zealanders interested in learning about Unreal Engine 5 from 11 April to 29 April 2022. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to participate. Further details [here](#).



## What are we looking for?

New voices and talent from across the film, television and games sectors. Creators eager to engage with new, innovative technologies and alternate methods of storytelling.

## Who is eligible?

You must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident or a New Zealand company - 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.

Applicants and all key creatives must be based in New Zealand.





## What projects are eligible?

Animated short films with a narrative that will use Unreal Engine 5. Projects are to be a minimum of 90 seconds and up to a maximum of five minutes in length (including credits).

The project must have significant New Zealand content. Please read the [New Zealand content information sheet](#) for more detail. The NZFC will assess the project as to whether it meets the significant New Zealand content requirement.

## What is not eligible for this programme?

- Your project cannot be a playable game prototype or interactive game experience
- Projects that are designed primarily for educational or training purposes
- Projects commissioned by either government or private entities
- Projects that are part of any educational course work
- Projects that can be classified as, infotainment, reality television, magazine shows, variety, light entertainment, how to, sports telecasts, news, current affairs, corporate or promotional media, training videos or community television shows
- Projects where the applicant team does not own the IP rights, licenses, or necessary materials to produce the project.

## What can you receive funding for?

All stages required to produce your short film, including:

- Script development
- Pre-production
- Production
- Post-production

## How much can you apply for?

\$50,000 NZD per project. Funding is offered as a grant.

## Who can you talk to about this programme?

The NZFC Talent Development Team, please email [talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:talentdev@nzfilm.co.nz) or phone 0800 659 754.





## Te Rautaki Māori

The NZFC's commitment to Tangata Whenua under Te Rautaki [\[Link\]](#) is to work in partnership with Māori to better support the development and progression of Māori talent.

Te Rautaki Māori Strategy is in place to ensure that responsible cultural representation is held by Māori with relevant experience or authority for the Māori content within a story or project, to have clear accountability, permission and leadership of the protocols, inclusion of cultural practice or tikanga elements in the project or story; and to elevate the capacity and capability of Māori creatives, cast, crew and advisors as an asset and critical to making great projects with Māori content.

Māori content is anything sourced and generated from a Māori world view, Te Ao Māori - including but not limited to:

- Māori kupu, proverbs, expression of language, dialect, geneological information, naming conventions
- Reference to or inclusion of Māori names, people, places, characters, protocols
- Anything based on Māori history, stories, myths and legends, songs, dance, cultural expressions that may or may not be in public domain
- Toi Māori – art, carving, tā moko, raranga, visual arts, games, both traditional and modern cultural expressions
- Taonga Māori - te reo, landmarks, whakapapa, photographs, heirlooms, tribal landmarks, museum artefacts, flora and fauna – native trees, birds, taonga species
- Use of or reference to specific whānau, hapu, Iwi tribal land, waterways, mountains, social systems and structures
- Mātauranga Māori - anything that is sourced in the wide context of Māori knowledge, its expression and cultural practice.

Projects that include Māori content are required to demonstrate clear, established involvement of Māori in the elements or content in the project.





## Diversity and inclusion

The NZFC is committed to providing opportunities and support for underrepresented communities. 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.

Projects which include content or themes within its characters, stories, places, history and culture that relate to underrepresented communities, will be assessed on authentic representation of this content. It would be expected that the project is lead by creatives from within these underrepresented communities, or evidence is provided to demonstrate there are partnerships in place and a consultation process that will ensure authentic representation.

## Application Details

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

The NZFC will use reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of the information provided in your application. However, 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; and
- the NZFC will need to share personal information that is included in your application with Epic Games and its industry partners for their assessment of your project. By submitting your application, you consent to the NZFC providing your application information (including personal information that is included in your application) to:

- a) Epic Games and their industry partners; and/or
- b) External assessors,

in each case, for the purpose of them assessing your project.

Please also note that the NZFC can only make this programme available with Epic Games' involvement. If Epic Games ceases to be involved for any reason prior to any successful applicant entering into a grant agreement, the NZFC may withdraw or make changes to this programme.





## What to include in your application?

- Genre
- Logline
- Synopsis
- Runtime
- Script
- Video pitch – up to 3 minutes, introducing the team and the project
- Director’s summary including vision for the short film with five inspirational images
- Link to Director’s best work
- Details of the project as a proof of concept, including a summary of the larger project
- Budget and timeline
- Target audience for the short and (if applicable) the larger project
- Short bio and CV for each team member
- Te Rautaki Māori considerations (if applicable)
- Diversity and Inclusion considerations

## What happens after you apply?

### Stage 1



Your application will initially be assessed by the NZFC Talent Development Team and potentially external assessors. A shortlist will be determined following a recommendation to the Head of Talent Development.

This shortlist of applications will be provided to Epic Games and its industry partners for selecting the successful applications.

Decisions will take into account the **Assessment Criteria** listed below, the NZFC’s availability of funds, diversity of the projects and teams.

### Assessment Criteria

#### The project:

- Quality of the script
  - The strength and distinctiveness of the idea
  - Director’s vision
  - Target Audience
  - Confirmation of eligibility
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### **Team Capability:**

- The experience and ability of the team to successfully deliver the project

### **Te Rautaki Māori considerations (if applicable):**

If the project includes Māori content, the applicant will need to provide evidence to demonstrate clear established involvement of Māori in the elements or content in the project such as:

- Applicant has engaged with early and secured advisor/s and/or creatives with the cultural competency, te reo me ona tikanga, and authority to lead and assure the content as part of, or alongside the creative team.
- The expectation to reflect Māori representation in the creative team, should be commensurate to the level of Māori content and capacity required for the production.
- Demonstrate as a production a clear partnership of engagement with, or inclusion of, Māori creative/s, Māori advisor/s and where applicable, hapū and/or Iwi across the production to ensure genuine consultation and where necessary, permission for use.

### **Diversity and Accessibility considerations:**

- How the project content encompasses gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness
- How the proposed project team (confirmed or planned) encompasses gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness
- If applicable: If the project includes content or themes within its characters, stories, places, history and culture that relate to underrepresented communities, the applicant will need to provide evidence to demonstrate partnerships are in place and consultation processes that will ensure authentic representation of that community if they are not represented within the project team.

## **Stage 2**

The successful teams will have eight weeks to produce their short films using Unreal Engine software.

## **How long until a decision is made?**

You can expect a decision on whether you have been selected six weeks from the deadline date, via email or phone.





## What happens if you get funding?

Successful applicants will enter into a standard, non-negotiable agreement with the NZFC, setting out the terms and conditions of the approved funding, including the requirement to enter into an End User Licence Agreement with Epic Games, specific deliverables and credit requirements.

You will have eight weeks to create your short film from Monday 27 June to 19 August 2022.

You will be required to take some behind the scenes footage and images of you utilising the software.

Your finished short film and Unreal Engine project file must be delivered to the NZFC and Epic Games by 19 August 2022.

Any work undertaken or commissioned by an approved applicant prior to a fully executed agreement being signed is the responsibility of the applicant and the NZFC will not be held liable for such work or costs.

## What happens if you don't get funding?

We will contact you to let you know if you have been unsuccessful in obtaining funding.

You are welcome to get in touch with the Talent Development Team, to receive feedback on your application.

## What will help your application?

- Read these guidelines and review the online application form – make sure you have all required documents ready to be submitted with the application and please allow time to complete your application.
- Make sure your application speaks to the **Assessment Criteria** (set out above).
- **Get your application in on time** and check the deadline date for this programme. Applications are due by 1pm NZST on the deadline date unless otherwise stated on the programme page on the NZFC's website.
- Late 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).

## Ready to start your application?

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

