



**New Zealand
FILM COMMISSION**

Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

New Zealand Film Commission Feature Film Development Financing – Guidelines for Applicants

December 2019

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 our website.

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



Introduction

Our mission at the New Zealand Film Commission (the NZFC) is to champion the New Zealand film industry.

We are here to help people in the industry make films that are distinctive, culturally significant, high impact and authentic. We want to support a diverse range of narrative feature film and theatrical documentary projects that will attract audiences here and overseas and further the careers of the filmmakers and the production companies behind them.

We work with filmmakers at all stages, from the development of exciting ideas, through to production and post-production.

As you develop your project, we may be able to support you with Development Financing. Keep in mind that the amount of financial support filmmakers apply for is far greater than the amount of money available. When deciding which projects to support, we look for screenplays with the potential to become great New Zealand films.

Feature Film Development Financing overview


Development Financing provides non-recoupable grants for the development of narrative feature films up to a total of \$80,000 across all stages per project. Grants may be applied as additional Producer Equity when the project goes into production.

We recognise that screenplays go through a number of stages of writing and development, and development financing is organised to reflect this progression.

The different stages of Development Financing are:

- 1. The Early Development Fund (EDF)** provides grants for the development of narrative feature film scripts. You can apply for up to \$25,000 per application and you can apply more than once per project, up to a total amount of \$60,000 EDF financing per project. This cap includes all EDF financing, whether it was made in the form of a grant or a loan (which was the NZFC's earlier practice). At this stage, we're looking to support the best ideas with the potential to be great films.
- 2. The Advanced Development Fund (ADF)** provides grants to support advanced narrative feature film projects into production. This is the final stage before applying for production finance. The main aim at this level is to assist projects to achieve the market attachments that will make them eligible for production financing, such as early packaging and pre-production costs. You can apply once to ADF for up to \$30,000 per project, so long as the accumulated total Development Financing doesn't go beyond \$80,000 per project. This cap includes all EDF financing and any other NZFC Development Financing, whether made in the form of a grant or a loan.





You don't need to have applied for or received EDF financing before applying to the ADF.

- 3. The CEO Delegation (CEOD)** is an option for projects where there is an urgent need for Development Financing and the project falls outside EDF or ADF criteria. CEOD is only available in exceptional circumstances and the NZFC will advise whether this may be an option for you. Please contact the Development and Production team if you think your circumstances may qualify for this financing. You cannot apply without talking to us first and you should not count on CEOD funds as part of your development plan.

In addition to the above, we recognise there may be a very rare circumstance where a project has reached its Development Financing cap of \$80,000 but is not yet ready for production, for example if it is picked up by a new team. Please contact the Development and Production Team to discuss what possibilities are open to you in this circumstance.

At each successive stage the criteria for assessing applications becomes more rigorous and more market-focussed. If you apply at more than one stage, it is expected each application you make shows evidence of significant advancement. There's more about the criteria on page 9.

Development Financing conditions

NZFC Development Financing is provided as a grant, which does not need to be repaid unless you breach certain terms of the Development Grant Agreement. Because grants are subject to GST, if you are GST registered, GST will be added to the grant when it is paid. For more information see the *Grant Agreements information sheet*.

The Development Financing will be paid when the Development Grant Agreement is signed and an invoice is received from you, and, where applicable, the NZFC has reviewed and approved your chain of title documentation. See the *Chain of Title Information Sheet*. You will specify in your application when you can supply your deliverables to the NZFC. This will be a number of months (6 for example) after you receive the Development Grant.

Certain reports and updated documentation will be required, in particular you will be required to report back to us on what you have done with the money. It is important for you to meet your reporting obligations.


You will be considered ineligible for funding if you have outstanding reports or deliverables relating to other NZFC funding or are in breach of any contract with NZFC.

Note that your project does not have to get NZFC Development Financing for it to be eligible for other NZFC Production Financing.

It is advised that you to keep your development spend in proportion to the intended production budget of your film.

While receiving NZFC Development Financing recognises the potential of your project, it does not imply an ongoing commitment to future NZFC financing. Projects that get a development grant cannot count on further grants and each application is considered on its own merits.





Investment is discretionary, and decisions are final. The criteria applied when making financing decisions may change from time to time, but decisions will be consistent with the New Zealand Film Commission Act 1978.

Other development opportunities

NZFC development funds are just some of the options for development assistance. Other options include the following:

- [Seed Grants](#) are funds the NZFC has devolved to the New Zealand Writers Guild as a writer-focused early development fund.
- [He Ara](#) is a devolved development scheme aimed at assisting established New Zealand writers, producers and directors of Māori and/or Pasifika heritage to express authentic Māori and Pasifika film perspectives. Eligible producers and creator teams can apply for support towards developing a slate of projects.
- [Premiere Pathways](#) helps feature-focused filmmaking teams finance shorter moving-image materials that showcase a proposed feature film and their talent.
- [The Co-Production Development Fund](#) supports New Zealand filmmakers to develop feature films as official co-productions.
- From time to time the NZFC will devolve development funds through schemes such as the Business Development Scheme (BDS), Boost and He Ara. Individual writers and directors may consider contacting successful recipients of these schemes to see if a project is of interest to them.
- There is also career development support not related to specific projects. Check out the career section on our website www.nzfilm.co.nz.

We are here to help

These guidelines are intended to help you deliver the strongest application possible. It is recommended you discuss your project with the Development and Production Team as you work on your application.

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





Who can apply

In order to be eligible for Development Financing, you must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident and your film must have significant New Zealand content. Read the *New Zealand Content information sheet* for more detail.

The lead applicant is usually the producer of the project in development (see *Producer attachment* below).

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 your 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. Development Financing is generally only provided for New Zealand-based and/or New Zealander-specific development costs. Find out more about co-productions on our website www.nzfilm.co.nz/international-productions/co-productions.

You must hold or share intellectual property rights for your project. Read the *Chain of Title information sheet* for more detail. Development Financing is not available for initial option fees.



You cannot apply for Development Financing if you have outstanding obligations under the Business Development Scheme (BDS).

Producer attachment

You must have a New Zealand producer attached to the project, and the producer must be the person making the application for Development Financing. 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 your 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 SPV (special purpose vehicle).

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 your application. You may want to discuss this with the Development and Production Team.





Repeat applications

Please note that if you've applied for Development Financing for a project once and been unsuccessful, you can reapply after six months has passed and the project has been substantially changed, developed or reworked. If you have re-applied and been unsuccessful twice with the same project, you cannot apply for Early Development Financing for that project again.

What you can apply for

You can apply directly for:

- Early Development Fund (EDF) – up to \$60,000 in amounts of \$25,000 or less.
- Advanced Development Fund (ADF) – up to \$80,000 including previous development financing (whether grants or loans), in amounts of \$30,000 or less.

You can only apply for actual and reasonable costs involved in the development of your project. There's a detailed list for each fund in the section on *What to include in your application*.

What you cannot apply for

Development Financing is not available for:


- initial option payments;
- treatments;
- short film development;
- television programme development or production;
- development or production of any film intended to run at a duration of less than 90 minutes;
- capital works or acquisitions;
- equipment purchases; or
- projects that are part of formal academic assessment.

Retrospective applications will not be considered; you cannot apply for financing to cover costs you have already incurred.

How to apply

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





The eligible person must apply using the online application portal at <https://funding.nzfilm.co.nz/>. Search for 'Early 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 information we require.

If you are using the online application portal for the first time you will need to sign up for a new account. Be aware there can be up to a 24 hour wait while we set up your account however, in most cases the wait will be much shorter.

The deadlines for applications to be submitted are published on our website (www.nzfilm.co.nz/funding/key-dates) and must be submitted by 1pm on the day. Late applications may not be accepted.

Allow time to complete your application.

EDF deadlines are on our website www.nzfilm.co.nz/funding/feature-films/early-development/early-development-fund. Applications must be received by **1pm** on the deadline day.

ADF applications can be made at any time but please call the Development and Production Team to discuss timing first.

Wherever possible, we encourage you to test the strength of both your application and script with an external reviewer before you send it to us. Services such as the NZ Writers Guild's (NZWG) script reader service and virtual writer groups (Huddles) are a great way to strength-test your project in a supportive environment.

Getting a fresh pair of eyes to review and proofread your application is also recommended. You only get one chance to make a first impression.

It's important you provide as much information as you can to help us make a full and fair assessment. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

In the next section, we will walk you through the information required in your application.

<p>You can apply for ADF at any time. Applications for EDF are considered in 'rounds' – about once every seven weeks. You can find out the deadline for the next round on our website.</p>
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What we are looking for

Keep in mind hundreds of applications are received every year. Your application needs to make the best case for your project.

What to include in your application

Your application has to make it easy for assessors to see that you are on your way towards developing an exciting idea into a great film that will contribute to a successful New Zealand film industry.

Remember, Development Financing for narrative feature films is organised in steps or stages.

Early Development Fund

At the first stage (EDF) your application should already demonstrate the foundations of a strong story for the big screen, with a compelling beginning, middle and end. It should also demonstrate that the team involved has the experience and ability to advance the project towards production.





Advanced Development Fund

At the ADF stage you should be ready to take your script to market. Projects applying to the ADF are expected to have a clear strategy for packaging and financing the film.

CEO Delegation

You will only be advised to apply for CEOD financing if the Development and Production team agrees that your project is eligible and you have an urgent need for financing that falls outside the EDF or ADF criteria. If you are advised to apply, with a form and further details will be provided to you at that point.

The next sections provide detail about the information required for applications to the EDF and ADF and what we are looking for. The evaluation of applications is by its nature an inexact science, but the NZFC aims to be open and transparent about what is taken into account when making decisions.

Early Development Fund (EDF) application

Allow yourself enough time to complete your application. Deadlines for applications are on our website www.nzfilm.co.nz/funding/feature-films/early-development/early-development-fund. Applications must be received by **1pm** on the deadline day. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Here the information you will have to include with your application is set out, and below each section is what is looked for as your application is assessed.

What to include

Your application will include the following sections:

1. Creative material
2. Team vision
3. Background
4. Budget and timeline
5. Key personnel
6. Rights



1. Creative material

Logline

You have to put your logline on the application coversheet. The logline is a statement, in 35 words or less, that reflects the narrative 'hook', premise or essential dramatic dilemma inherent in the proposed film. This is not a tagline for a movie poster, but rather a one or two-line summary of the film's essential storyline.

Keep in mind that the title and sometimes the logline of all funded projects will be published. If you want to keep any details confidential please let us know and provide another version for publication.

Synopsis

The synopsis is a highly condensed story outline of no more than one page that clearly reflects the dramatic spine of the film. It must touch on the film's tone, genre, emotional journey and key characters, and must include the film's ending.

EITHER a draft script, OR, a treatment and screenwriting sample.

The reality is that you will have done a certain amount of 'spec' work before making an EDF application. It is expected your script or treatment demonstrates that your great idea is already well on the way to becoming a compelling feature length story suitable for the big screen. EDF is not available for applicants still 'finding the idea' or struggling to translate that idea into a form that suggests it will become a compelling feature film.

Draft script


Your draft script of the proposed film should be about 90 to 120 pages in industry standard 12 pt courier.

OR

Treatment and screenwriting sample

Alternatively, you can provide a treatment, of five to 15 pages in industry standard 12 pt courier. This should deliver an outline of the core narrative story, including a beginning, middle and an end. The treatment should also convey the emotional journey, structure and genre, as well as something of the tone and characters. Shorter treatments must be just as compelling as those taking more pages.

Remember to tell us who wrote the treatment.



The treatment must be supported by a screenwriting sample (80-plus pages). The screenwriting sample should be the best example of the writer's feature-length screenwriting. The screenwriting sample might be a produced or un-produced feature-film screenplay written by the writer alone – that is, not co-written. We require the full draft of such a writing sample (in electronic PDF format). The producer's overview (see Team Vision) should include a note about the choice of the screenwriting sample, outlining why the writer is suited to the project and referring us to the strongest or most relevant sections or scenes (for example, the first act pp. 1-15).

You are welcome to include some scenes from the proposed project, but this does not replace the need for the feature screenwriting sample.

What we are looking for in your creative material

ALL your creative material (logline, synopsis and script or treatment) will be assessed against the following questions:

- Is the premise strong, distinct and original?
- Does the story convey an emotional journey?
- Does this project have the potential to become a film that is distinctive, high impact and authentic?
- Does it have the potential to be culturally significant?
- Does it have the potential to achieve critical acclaim?
- Does it have the potential to achieve commercial success, attracting larger audiences to New Zealand films?

Script OR treatment and screenwriting sample

- Recognising that some projects will be at the early stage of script development, the draft script needs to deliver a convincing narrative idea, characters with distinctive voices, and show the potential for a compelling cinematic experience.
- We will be assessing whether there is a high quality of writing in the script and treatment.





1. Team vision

Your team vision sets out how you (the producer) and your writer and director see your project developing.

Producer's overview

We would expect this to cover:

- the producer's vision for the film;
- what genre(s) you think the film best fits into, and why);
- who the intended audience is;
- what the expected scale of production is, along with some indication of a possible production financing strategy;
- the producer's assessment of the current stage of the script;
- the next steps required to move the project forward, including how the intended development process will work between the parties involved;
- if you are proposing to use a script consultant, please describe how you intend to work together; and
- a note about the screenwriting sample (see above).

Writer's script development notes

The writer's script development notes are a critical part of your application. These notes are where the writer critically evaluates both the strengths and weaknesses in the current draft and a plan to address such weaknesses in order to advance the script's development; for example, weaknesses in characterisation, in structure, or resolution.

Director's vision

If you have a director attached to your project, your application should include a written statement from the director demonstrating her/his understanding of the current stage of development, the project's strengths and weaknesses, and intentions for moving the project towards production readiness. The director's notes should provide a sense of the director's creative vision for the film, personal engagement with the themes, and how the director sees this story speaking to the intended audience.

What we are looking for in your team vision

- What is the project's distinctiveness and quality in comparison to other projects funded by the NZFC in development and production?
- Is there depth and quality in the notes relating to future development of the screenplay and project overall?
- Has there been a degree of clear progress made since the previous application (if applicable)?





3. Background

Project history

The project history should be no more than two pages. It might include, among other things, the origins of the project, history of previous scripts or other creative development, any other past creative participants, and/or information about any underlying options.

Other NZFC financing or support

To be accountable for the taxpayers' money entrusted to us, the NZFC has to be able to verify what has happened as a result of any loan or grant.

Please list any other projects you as the applicant have in active development with the NZFC. If there are any outstanding reports or deliverables relating to those other projects, or any other NZFC grants, loans or equity, they should be delivered before, or alongside, this application. Note that you will be considered ineligible for funding if you have outstanding reports or deliverables or you are in breach of any contract with the NZFC.

What we are looking for in your background information

This gives context to help understand how your team has been working together on the project.

- Have you fulfilled your obligations in relation to any other NZFC funding?
- How has any previous Development Financing been used to successfully advance the project?
- What's happened as a result of our previous support?

4. Budget and timeline

Detailed development budget

You are applying for a grant to cover the actual and reasonable development costs of your project. Your budget is where you set out what you expect these costs to be. Please remember that you cannot apply for funding to cover costs you have already incurred.

The costs that you can include in your budget are:

- writer fees – the [New Zealand Writers Guild rates](#) are a good guide;
- producer fees;
- script consultant fees;
- script assessments;
- director fees (on projects where the writer is also the director you should not include a separate fee);
- script-related research costs;
- limited travel costs (for example where all team members do not live in the same city);
- legal costs;
- extensions to rights costs; and
- direct script and project-related overheads such as printing, couriers, phone etc.





Proposed development timeline

This should set out your proposed timeline including the start and finish dates of the development work you are seeking support for, and any other milestones or dates you feel are relevant. As part of our Development Funding you are required to provide the deliverables (updated script/treatment and the required reports) to the NZFC by a certain date. This date will need to be reflected in your timeline. (see our *Grant Agreements information sheet* for more on reporting requirements).

Expenditure to date

You should provide details of all the money you have spent on developing your project so far, whether self-funded or not, including any previously received NZFC Development Financing, NZWG Seed Grant, He Ara Funding or, in the case of a proposed co-production, money from other financing bodies.

What we are looking for in your development budget and timeline

- Is the development budget realistic?
- Is the development timeline realistic and achievable?

5. Key personnel

CVs or bios of key people.

Please provide a CV or bio (no more than one page each) for all individuals mentioned in the application including producers, writer, director (if attached) and any consultant and script editor who may be attached to the project.

If you mention any individual as providing support or advice, you must demonstrate what they will bring to the project, how they intend to work with you, and provide their letter of interest or a copy of their notes.

What we are looking for in your key personnel

We are looking at the potential and experience of the team as well as the creative idea.

Be aware that, although NZFC may know of your work, we sometimes ask external assessors to review EDF applications and you should not assume they are necessarily aware of your previous work.





6. Rights

Chain of Title

You need to confirm that you have secured the necessary rights to develop the screenplay and made provision to purchase the rights to produce the film and exploit it worldwide.

Where the project's Development Funding reaches a cumulative total of over \$60,000 or reaches Advanced Development Funding (ADF) stage, the NZFC will need to review and approve your Chain of Title documentation. In addition, if there are concerns or queries about the Chain of Title for a project that has applied for funding, it may be required the Chain of Title be reviewed and approved before development funds are drawn down. See our *Chain of Title information sheet*.

What we are looking for in your rights information

We want to know that you have secured the necessary rights with written agreements between all parties and have sought professional advice if necessary. We don't need to approve the documents demonstrating Chain of Title for an EDF application but reserve the right to ask for them.

For further information, or to clarify requirements, please contact the Development and Production Team by email development@nzfc.co.nz or phone 0800 659 754.

Advanced Development Fund (ADF) application



Applications can be made at any time but please call the Development and Production Team to discuss timing first, phone 0800 659 754.

This is the last step before your project goes into production, so you should have read the *NZFC Feature Film Production Financing Guidelines* and *Terms of Trade* to get a greater sense of the context for development and production financing decisions. When you apply to the ADF you must have a director on board.

You should apply for ADF to support the final development necessary to get your project production-ready, including a final polish or a production-specific rewrite of the script, and early pre-production activities such as budgeting, scheduling, financing and casting.

Here the information you will have to include with your application is set out and below each section is what we will be looked for in assessing your application. It is important to note that external assessors review these applications and may not be aware of your previous work.

If you have not previously applied to the EDF for your project, then you should read the previous section on what to include in your application, as it provides more definition of some requirements.





What to include

Your application will include the following sections:

1. Creative material
2. Audience engagement
3. Background
4. Budget and timeline
5. Key personnel
6. Right

1. Creative material

Logline

Synopsis

Script

Your script should be about 90 to 120 pages in industry standard 12 pt courier.

Producer's overview and development notes

Provide a written statement setting out the following:

- the producer's vision for the film;
- what genre(s) you think the film best fits into, and why);
- who the intended audience is;
- what the expected budget of the production is, the proposed finance strategy, and a timetable for attracting the finance;
- the producer's assessment of the current stage of the script;
- the next steps required to move the project forward, including how the intended development process will work between the parties involved;
- notes on directions for future development of the project from key team members relating to script, market, visualisation, packaging; and
- proposed cast and crew.

Director's vision


Similar to the EDF requirement this is a strongly articulated director's vision for the final film.

What we are looking for in your creative material

ALL your creative material will be assessed against the following questions:

- Is this a strong script with theatrical potential?
- Does this project have the potential to become a film that is distinctive, high impact and authentic?
- Does it have the potential to be culturally significant?
- Does it have the potential to achieve critical acclaim?
- t have the potential to achieve commercial success, attracting larger audiences to New Zealand film?





Producer's overview and development notes

- What is the project's distinctiveness and quality in comparison to other projects funded by the NZFC in development and production?
- Is the proposed scale of the film and financing strategy in line with market expectations?
- Is there depth and quality in the notes relating to future development of the screenplay and project overall?
- Has there been a degree of clear progress made since the previous application (if applicable)?
- What is the talent and experience of the proposed cast?
- A clear statement about the proposed financial structure for the film, and timetable to confirm this financing strategy.
- Is the anticipated NZFC production investment in proportion to the anticipated audience for the film?

2. Audience engagement notes

Provide expanded notes on the target audience for the film, including the genre of the film in relation to this audience. You should also briefly set out your ambitions to connect to this audience. These notes should explain why you think the intended audience will be interested in this film. See the *Audience Engagement information sheet* for more information.

What we are looking for in your audience engagement notes

- Is there clarity about the intended audience for the film domestically?
- Is there clarity about the genre?
- Is there clarity throughout the application about the intended audience?
- Is there clarity about the international opportunities for the film?





3. Background

Project history

The project history should be no more than two pages. It might include, among other things, the origins of the project, history of previous scripts or other creative development, any other past creative participants, and/or information about any underlying options.

Other NZFC financing or support

To be accountable for the taxpayers' money entrusted to us, the NZFC has to be able to verify what has happened as a result of any loan or grant.

Please list any other projects you as the applicant have in active development with the NZFC. If there are any outstanding reports or deliverables relating to those other projects, or any other NZFC grants, loans or equity, they should be delivered before, or alongside, this application. Note that you will be considered ineligible for funding if you have outstanding reports or deliverables or you are in breach of any contract with the NZFC.

What we are looking for in your background information

This gives us context to help us understand how your team has been working together on the project.


- Have you fulfilled your obligations in relation to any other NZFC finding?
- How has any previous Development Financing been used to successfully advance the project?
- What's happened as a result of our previous support?

4. Development budget and timeline

Development budget

Provide a detailed advanced development budget and an updated cost report outlining project development expenditure to date.

The costs that you can include in your budget are:

- storyboarding;
 - packaging, financing, marketing and other related professional consulting expenses;
 - preliminary casting;
 - location scouting costs;
 - preparation of advanced production budget and schedule;
 - script rewrite or polish fees (the [New Zealand Writers Guild rates](#) are a good guide);
 - producer fees;
 - script assessments;
 - director fees;
 - script-related research costs;
 - travel costs (for purposes of financing, marketing, casting or script development);
 - legal costs;
 - extensions to rights costs; and
 - direct script and project-related overheads such as printing, couriers, phone etc.
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Timeline

Set out your anticipated timetable for advancing the project into production, including plans for travel costs etc associated with advanced development. As part of Development Funding you are required to provide the deliverables to the NZFC by a certain date. This date will need to be reflected in your timeline (see the *Grant Agreements information sheet* for more on reporting requirements).

Proposed draft production budget

Provide a draft production budget top-sheet and/or preliminary production budget that supports the proposed scale of the film.

What we are looking for in your development budget and timeline

- Are the costs set out in the development budget realistic and reasonable?
- Will Development Financing help advance the project to production-readiness?
- Is the development timeline realistic and achievable?



5. Key personnel

CVs or bios of key people.

Provide a CV or bio (no more than one page each) for all individuals mentioned in the application including producers, writers, the director and any consultant and script editor who may be attached to the project.

If you mention any individual as providing support or advice, you must demonstrate what they will bring to the project, how they intend to work with you, and provide their letter of interest or a copy of their notes.

What we are looking for in your key personnel

- What is the talent and experience of the team involved?
 - Will the film develop the careers of the filmmakers involved?
 - What is the possibility of key talent development?
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6. Rights

Chain of Title

You must demonstrate Chain of Title including, where appropriate, copies of any signed agreements. The NZFC will need to review and approve your Chain of Title documentation. See our *Chain of Title information sheet*.

What we are looking for in your rights information

We need to see evidence that you hold or share the necessary rights to make and exploit the film worldwide. At ADF level the NZFC needs to see and approve all documents relating to the Chain of Title.

What happens to your application

When your application is received, it will be checked for eligibility and that all relevant information is included. Once your application is confirmed as being eligible, you will be advised of a decision within six weeks.

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.

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 identify 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 our [website](#) and declare any Conflicts of Interest you may have.

EDF decisions are made collectively by NZFC Development Team members with input from External Assessors.



ADF applications are considered by two NZFC senior managers, development staff, and one or two external industry professionals.

CEO Delegation applications are decided on by the CEO in consultation with the Development and Production Team.

If declined you are able to reapply once per project after 6 months has passed and the project has been substantially changed, developed or reworked. You are not able to reapply for a project that has been declined twice.

Next steps

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

You will receive an email notification with the decision.


If your application is not successful, the email will have a decision letter attached. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide headline feedback on the reasons for our decision.

If your application is successful, your letter will outline any conditions attached to the Development Financing and provide some feedback for the next stage of development.

We recommend you have a limited liability company as the NZFC will enter into a Development Grant Agreement with your company.

The Development Grant Agreement will outline the obligations and conditions of the grant, including regular reporting deadlines and deliverables. Make sure you read and understand this agreement.

See the *Grant Agreements information sheet* for more on the terms and conditions.



Remember that your deliverables must be provided to the NZFC by the specified date. Makes sure this will fit into your schedule. We are looking for a short, simple report.

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 contact us at development@nzfilm.co.nz.

The *Grant Agreements information sheet* contains more about reporting obligations.

A final reminder that if you have any questions please contact our Development and Production Team by email development@nzfilm.co.nz or phone 0800 659 75

