

Screen POD 2023 – Guidelines for NZFC Applicants May 2023

Applications are open for **Screen POD 2023**, with Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga NZ Film Commission (**NZFC**) supporting up to five individual NZ writers and/or producers, or teams consisting of a writer and a producer, to participate in the six-month online programme.

About Screen POD

Now in its eighth year, Screen POD is a leading story and script development programme, designed and facilitated by Screen Canberra, who has opened applications to practitioners across Australia and NZ.

Running online from the beginning of June to the end of November, the market-driven programme consists of regular training, workshopping, and industry panel talks, culminating in two days of one-on-one pitches to top international producers and distributors.

With a focus on feature film and TV series, applicants will have multiple opportunities to learn, develop and deliver a project pitch that articulates their intentions, and connects with the market gatekeepers based on direct feedback. Screen POD will train applicants in proven development methods, helping them develop their projects under the tutelage of respected international script developer Karel Segers.

If you are successful, the NZFC will pay your registration fees for Screen POD.

Find out more about Screen POD [here](#).

How to apply

Applications can be made by individual writers and/or producers, or teams consisting of both a writer and a producer.

Applications are to be emailed to Screen Canberra via this email address pod@screencanberra.com.au. **The deadline for applications is 5pm NZT on Wednesday, 24 May 2023.** *Late applications will not be considered.*

Please include your name and the letters NZ in the subject heading and submit a **single PDF document** which includes:

- Up to date CV
- Bio (500 words maximum)
- Expression of Interest – why you want to participate in Screen POD and which proposed outcomes you wish to achieve (500 words maximum)
- An overview of up to three projects (feature film and/or TV series) currently in development – including the title, format, logline and one-paragraph synopsis. Please note ‘in development’ does not mean it has to be in development with the NZFC.

To be eligible to apply, you must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, and your projects in development must have significant New Zealand content as defined by the Film Commission Act 1978.

Assessment Process

Out of the eligible applications submitted, Screen Canberra and the NZFC will decide on a short list of suitable candidates to attend Screen POD. The NZFC will then decide on the final candidates based on the short list. In doing so, the NZFC will consider the information submitted by the applicants in their applications and the applicant’s ability to maximise the development programme with one of the up to three projects described in their application.

All funding decisions are discretionary – that is, the NZFC chooses where best to apply the limited funding available based on the application provided and any other factors that it considers relevant. Decisions are final. Decisions will be consistent with these Guidelines and the New Zealand Film Commission Act 1978.

If your application is unsuccessful, you will receive an email from NZFC advising you of this. If your application is successful, you will receive a decision letter from the NZFC confirming that you are one of the selected participants.

Please note that any information you provide in your application is subject to Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) requests. In processing a request under the OIA, the NZFC will consult with the relevant applicant prior to making a decision to release or withhold any information.

Support provided

Successful applicants will have the cost of their Screen POD registration paid directly to Screen Canberra by the NZFC. Successful applicants will also receive the opportunity to apply to NZFC for a travel funding contribution if they wish to attend Pitch Fest, the industry pitch opportunity offered as part of Screen POD, in person.

NZFC is not obligated to pay any travel contribution for successful applicants to attend Pitch Fest in person and any award of such funding will be at NZFC discretion, including the sum offered.

Should you be successful in being awarded the registration fee and/or a travel contribution, you will be required to enter into an agreement with the NZFC to document the support awarded. The agreement will include obligations that apply to the support, including but not limited to the requirement for you to report on your experience at Screen POD and provide the NZFC with certain deliverables. You will be considered ineligible if you have outstanding reports or deliverables relating to other NZFC funding or are in breach of any contract with NZFC.

Testimonials from some of the NZ participants in Screen POD 2022.

“Screen POD offered our team an extraordinary opportunity to push our project to the next level, with generous support from both facilitators and fellow attendees. In particular, the opportunity to pitch in Canberra and receive feedback from some of Australia’s biggest producers has given us the confidence and market knowledge we needed to appeal to prospective EPs.”

“The ScreenPod initiative was an opportunity for our team to take an original idea from concept to pitch. The opportunity strengthened our creative partnership and helped me forge new relationships by pitching to executives within the Australian market.”

“ScreenPOD not only allowed me to develop two new projects from idea to treatment, I was also able to pitch a feature to Australian producers at a pitching event in Canberra which generated considerable market interest. The whole experience enabled me to forge new connections and derive support from mentors who understand how to get the best out of the project. I highly recommend it.”

For more information regarding this opportunity please contact NZFC Talent Pathways Manager jude.mclaren@nzfilm.co.nz