



**New Zealand  
FILM COMMISSION**



Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

# Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga New Zealand Film Commission

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

July 2023

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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 Talent Development Executive Nia Phipps at: [nia.phipps@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:nia.phipps@nzfilm.co.nz).

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## Introduction

Over the past five years, Te Tumu Whaakata Taonga | New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) has invested approximately \$2.8m through the Strategic Training Fund into training and skills development. This has been in strategic partnership with screen sector guilds, industry organisations and 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, actors, and/or below-the-line roles for HOD's or crew.

**This funding is available for programmes that run from July 2023 to June 2024.**

**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 fund aligns with 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. And contributes to the remaining three goals:
- To sustain and strengthen economic growth for our thriving screen industry; To maximise interest and audiences for New Zealand screen stories here and overseas. To build and maintain stakeholder relationships to generate excellence in partnerships.

The funding aims to support programmes that target a mix of emerging, mid-career and/or established talent as per the [NZFC talent level criteria definition](#). The NZFC is keen to fund 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. For the 2023-2024 financial year, there is a total of \$570,000 available for this fund.

## 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: Talent Development Executive Nia Phipps at: [nia.phipps@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:nia.phipps@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; that celebrate, champion and promote New Zealand talent; have a diversity and inclusion focus and/or support the development of





Māori talent. You cannot apply for Strategic Training Funding if you have any overdue contractual or reporting obligations to the NZFC.

## What you can apply for

The Strategic Training Fund is a contestable fund and is available for programmes that run from July 2023 to June 2024. These programmes should be aimed at producers, directors, writers, actors, and/or HOD's or crew.

Applicants may apply to the Strategic Training Fund for:

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

This fund does not cover:

- Core operating costs of an organisation
- 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, at its discretion, 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 are 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 encourages programmes that align with the principles set out in NZFC He Ara Whakaurunga Kanorau Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and those that meet the needs of underrepresented communities, in such cases, the NZFC expects the lead organisation will build partnerships in the design and implementation of the proposed programmes. Where possible, these programmes would be led and/or codesigned by members from within those 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 the 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);
  - Below the line roles within the industry (Heads of Department and/or crew)
  - Māori talent; and
  - Talent from underrepresented communities;
- Where the programme(s) is based:
  - Online;
  - In person in Auckland and/or Wellington; or
  - 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 filmmakers and/or diverse 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 co-design and co-deliver the programme(s) with written confirmation from the partners and the organisation's strategy to engage with and support Māori talent going forward; and
- If the programme(s) is focused on supporting the development of female filmmakers and/or diverse or underrepresented communities in the screen sector:



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- Demonstration of a proactive commitment to supporting female filmmakers and/or diverse or those 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 co-design and co-deliver the programme(s) with written confirmation from the partners and the organisation's strategy to engage with the 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 six weeks of 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 Talent Development Executive Nia Phipps at: [nia.phipps@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:nia.phipps@nzfilm.co.nz).

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