**PROJECT-BASED DEVELOPMENT FOR FILMMAKERS FUND**

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

**as at June 2025**

**If you have any accessibility requirements or require this information in a different format, please contact:** [**development@nzﬁlm.co.nz**](mailto:development@nzfilm.co.nz)

Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga The New Zealand Film Commission (**NZFC**) invests in talented ﬁlmmakers and exciting New Zealand ﬁlms to be enjoyed in Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world. A great New Zealand film may perform well in cinemas and/or be selected for premium international film festivals. These are important measures of success.

The NZFC recognises that writers, directors and producers, while completing a feature film that will go on to achieve these kinds of results, often do not have the time to significantly progress their next project in order to apply for NZFC Development Funding.

The NZFC’s Project-Based Development For Filmmakers Fund (**Fund/Funding**) supports previously NZFC-funded filmmakers to develop their next project(s) to the stage where they will be able to, if they wish, apply for NZFC Development Funding.

Successful applicants will receive **a one-off grant of up to $25,000 NZD + GST** (if applicable) towards developing their next project(s).

Funding is discretionary and our decision is final. All Funding is dependent on the availability of funds in the given financial year, the extent to which your application meets our assessment criteria, and any other criteria we consider to be relevant (in our sole discretion).

**Please note:**  If you are awarded this Funding, you will not be eligible to apply for NZFC Filmmaker International Travel Funding for 6 months following payment of this Funding to you.

You can only receive this Funding once.

By submitting an application for Funding, you agree to comply with these Guidelines and our Code of Conduct.

**WHO CAN APPLY**

You are eligible to apply for Funding if:

* You are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident; ***and***
* You are working on at least one new feature film project (**Project**); ***and***
* You have not received NZFC production funding for any project since your Successful Film (as defined below); **and**
* You are the credited writer, director and/or producer of a “**Successful Film**”, i.e. a NZFC-funded feature film that has:
  + been released in New Zealand on or after 1 July 2023, ***and***
  + achieved gross local NZ Box Office gross of $500k or more, **and/or**
  + has:
    - been selected for its world premiere at one of the following film festivals: Cannes, Berlin, Toronto, Sundance, Venice; ***or***
    - won an audience or “best” award at a significant international film festival such as: Tribeca, Melbourne, Rotterdam, SXSW, Fantastic Fest, International Documentary Festival Amsterdam, Clermont Ferrand, Busan, Sydney, Hot Docs, Tallinn Black Nights, Hawaii International Film Festival, or ImagineNATIVE.

**Rautaki Māori**

If the Project(s) you wish to use the Funding for will have [Māori content](https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/sites/default/files/2023-07/M%C4%81ori%20Content%20Information%20sheet%20Feb%202025.pdf) , you will need Māori in creative roles commensurate to the level of that content.

* For Rautaki Māori eligibility queries, please email <rautaki@nzfilm.co.nz> to arrange a discussion.

**WHAT THIS FUND CAN SUPPORT**

* scriptwriting fees
* director fees
* producer fees
* writers’, directors’ and/or producers’ legal costs
* other script development costs, including script research (and associated travel), workshopping/wānanga/residency costs, story consultants
* director preparation and/or skills development, including workshops
* travel, including to festivals and markets.

**MATERIALS YOU MUST SUBMIT**

* A one page description of the Project(s) in development and how the Funding will help you progress it/them.
* A budget showing how you will spend the Funding.
* Please provide a summary of the chain of title for your project, including the expiry dates for any rights or options, or a narrative on how you plan to secure chain of title.

**HOW TO APPLY**

* Submit your application using NZFC’s funding application portal.
* You can submit your application at any time throughout the year.

**APPLICATION ASSESSMENT**

NZFC staff will assess each application based on the above eligibility criteria, the materials provided and the funding available.

**DECISIONS**

We will endeavour to process your application and notify you of our decision within four weeks after submission.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

We will use reasonable efforts to keep the information you provide confidential. Please note that any information you give to us can be requested under the Official Information Act 1982. If we get such a request, we can talk to you before responding.

**If you have any further questions, please email us at development@nzfilm.co.nz**