

NEW ZEALAND SCREEN PRODUCTION GRANT FOR NEW ZEALAND PRODUCTIONS & OFFICIAL CO-PRODUCTIONS SUMMARY & CRITERIA



The New Zealand Government offers generous incentives to film and television productions under the New Zealand Screen Production Grant (NZSPG)¹.

OVERVIEW

For New Zealand productions and official co-productions, the NZSPG offers a cash grant equivalent to 40 per cent of Qualifying New Zealand Production Expenditure (QNZPE). This grant is capped at NZ\$6 million per production unless the production qualifies for an Additional Grant. Productions that have QNZPE of above NZ\$15 million and meet additional criteria are entitled to an additional grant of 40 per cent of QNZPE above NZ\$15 million (Additional Grant). The Additional Grant is capped at NZ\$14 million.

ELIGIBILITY

Format

The grant applies to New Zealand screen productions in the following formats: feature film, television and other non-feature film formats (either a single-episode programme, or a series or season of a series) and short – form animation, with some exclusions.

Expenditure thresholds²

Format	Minimum QNZPE
Feature Film	\$2.5 million total
Single episode – scripted	\$1 million total & no less than \$800,000 per hour
Single episode – unscripted	\$250,000 total
Series – scripted	\$1 million total & no less than \$500,000 per hour
Series – unscripted	No less than \$250,000 per hour
Short form animation (single or series)	\$250,000 total & no less than \$400,000 per hour

Distribution, Audience Engagement and Reach

Feature films must have a binding agreement for theatrical distribution in New Zealand that demonstrates audience reach commensurate with the value of the Grant applied for. Other formats must have a similar distribution agreement on an appropriate and accessible platform in New Zealand demonstrating audience reach commensurate with the value of

the Grant applied for. All formats must have an Audience Engagement Plan that demonstrates how the production will be seen by audiences in New Zealand.

Other Government funding

Feature films, children’s drama television and animated productions that have already received production funding through a New Zealand government agency will remain eligible to receive the grant. This does not apply to any other television or other formats.

Applicants

An applicant must

- be a New Zealand resident company (which carries on business in New Zealand and, has its management and control, or shareholder control in New Zealand) or partnership for tax purposes;
- have been actively and significantly engaged in film or television production in New Zealand for 18 months prior to the start of Principal Photography;
- be the entity responsible for all activities involved in making the production in New Zealand;
- be a special purpose vehicle established solely to make the production in New Zealand (exceptions apply – see full criteria).

Only one entity per screen production can apply for the grant.

An applicant must also be entitled to equity (including both a recoupment and profit position) in the production that is generally commensurate with the value of the grant and in a position similar to that of other equity investors

Additional Grant

To qualify for an Additional Grant, productions must have QNZPE over NZ\$15 million and satisfy additional criteria relating to producer’s experience and export potential. In addition, all productions seeking an Additional Grant, including Official Co-productions, must have significant cultural value (measured in accordance with the Significant Cultural Benefits Test) and provide cultural benefits to New Zealand that are commensurate with the value of the Grant applied for (including Official Co-productions)

The New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) will take a share of recoupment and profit from the production relating to the Additional Grant.

What is QNZPE?

Qualifying New Zealand Production Expenditure (QNZPE) is the production expenditure spent by the applicant on:

- goods purchased, hired or leased in New Zealand where those goods are sourced from within New Zealand; or
- the use of a good that is sourced from overseas, provided that:
 - the good is not otherwise available in New Zealand; and
 - that good is located in New Zealand when used in the making of the production; and
 - that good is purchased, hired or leased in New Zealand from a New Zealand Resident who is a habitual supplier of those goods in New Zealand; or
- services provided in New Zealand; or
- the use of land located in New Zealand.

There are also specific inclusions to and specific exclusions from QNZPE. Please contact the New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) for more details (see overleaf).

Significant New Zealand content

To qualify for a grant, productions must have significant New Zealand content as determined by a points test. The test considers

- New Zealand subject matter (setting, lead characters, creative material, culture/history)
- New Zealand production activity (shooting location/studio, visual post/VFX and audio post)
- New Zealand personnel (in particular directors, producers, writers, lead actors) and
- New Zealand business (ownership of intellectual property, business development outcomes).

Guidelines are available to help producers assess the significant New Zealand content in their screen production.

Official co-productions, not applying for the Additional Grant, are deemed to have significant New Zealand content for the purposes of the baseline grant. However, to be eligible for the Additional Grant, all productions (including official co-productions) must satisfy additional criteria requirements.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

The grant is administered by the New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC).

Registration

All applicants must either register with the NZFC prior to the start of Principal Photography or apply for a provisional certificate.

Provisional Certification

If an applicant chooses not to register, they must apply for a provisional certificate before the start of Principal Photography. Provisional Certification does not guarantee payment of the grant and applicants must apply for Final Certification once the production is completed.

Those applying for an Additional Grant must apply for Provisional Certification.

Final Certification

The application for a Final Certificate must be submitted to the NZFC no later than six months after completion of the screen production. Applications are generally processed within three months of receipt of a completed application.

An application fee may be payable for making an application for the New Zealand Grant.

For information on the criteria and grant application process contact:

Incentives Executive

Phone: +64 4 382 7680

Email: NZSPG@nzfilm.co.nz

For information on bringing your production to New Zealand contact:

The Enquiries Manager

Phone: +64 4 382 7680

Email: enquiries@nzfilm.co.nz

1. The NZSPG was introduced on 1 April, 2014. This document includes changes effective 1 July 2017.
2. For Official Co-productions, the relevant expenditure threshold is calculated by reference to Total Production Expenditure (TPE) instead of QNZPE.

The full criteria for the NZSPG is available on the New Zealand Film Commission website. www.nzfilm.co.nz

The information in this fact sheet relates to productions which have started principal photography or (key animation) after July 1, 2017.

VISUAL OVERVIEW OF THE NEW ZEALAND GRANT

