



TE PAEPAE ATAATA

*Feature film development programme  
Guidelines for applicants*

## *Introduction* – Ariā

Te Paepae Ataata aims to identify and support Māori filmmakers. Funding will be offered to writers to write and develop a feature film (where a team is applying it will be up to the Māori writer to decide how to share the funding).

The level of funding will be determined by Te Paepae Ataata and may include funding towards the cost of a mentor or other third party additional costs in order to assist you in developing your project.

Please note that we cannot provide funding for costs already incurred by you (e.g in purchasing an option or fees already paid to a writer/consultant). For the first submission of applications, Te Paepae Ataata aims to identify and support Māori feature film writers.

### *How will the development be organised?*

Development will happen in three consecutive steps.

As a **first step** experienced script editors will evaluate all projects received and shortlist 20 scripts. Those 20 scripts will then be assessed by members of the Paepae. Within 2 months, the Paepae will select 5 scripts from these 20 for further development.

In a **second step**, the selected scripts will undergo further development. There will be a 2-day wānanga/workshop for each of the 5 writers to work with experienced professional script editors. Writers will be paid a writing fee to produce their second draft and get continuous feedback from experienced professional script editors, and act in close collaboration with members of the Paepae.

In a **third step**, each of the 5 writers will submit their second draft to the Paepae. The Paepae will select the 3 most promising scripts to be developed and to make ready to obtain Production funding. Depending on the individual project, approximately three months has been allocated for that final phase, for which the writers will be paid a writing fee.

### *Who can apply?*

Ko wai ka ahei ki te tono?

In order to apply to this programme you need to be:

- of Maori descent;
- a Maori writer/director; or  
a team comprising a Maori writer, director and producer

We are actively encouraging applications from writers and writer/directors who have worked in other mediums, eg shorts, theatre, television, comedy or who have been commissioned to write feature film screenplays that have yet to be released.

## *What about your film project?* Te kaupapa o tō kiriata?

Your film project needs to be capable of being developed as a feature-length fictional or documentary theatrical film (we do not provide development funding for short films, or programmes, series or serials intended primarily for television);

You can apply to create a screenplay adaptation of a published work (such as a novel) but only if you can provide us with documentary evidence to show that you have already acquired an option over the underlying work or that such an option is available to you.

The eligibility of your application will be determined by Te Paepae Ataata.

## *How to apply* Pēhea te tono

All requests for funding must be accompanied by a completed Development Fund application form for the 'Feature Film Development Programme'. The application form specifies what information you must send to us about your film and what additional material may also accompany your application.

*You must send us:*

- your film idea in a couple of sentences
- a half A4 page summary of what happens in the film;
- a half A4 page on why you want to make the film;
- a completed first draft
- your biography; which also includes your whakapapa and tribal affiliations.

Please read the application form carefully as your application may be turned down as ineligible if you do not include all of the mandatory information required. Should you wish to do so, you will also be able to provide other relevant additional material to support your application such as visual references, casting tapes, director's work, or a showreel, etc.

However such material is not essential and will not disadvantage your application.

## *What happens next?* Ka pēhea ā muri mai?

### *Acknowledgement* Kupu tautoko

Your application will be acknowledged in writing within 2 weeks of receipt.

### *Assessment* Aro matawai

Your application will be assessed initially and primarily on the creative merits of your script project. In assessing applications to the 'Feature Film Development Programme', Te Paepae Ataata will be assisted by a small panel of external advisors (including writers/directors in the film industry who may be invited to mentor successful applicants during the development process if appropriate).

### *Decision* Whakatau

We will announce the recipients of the funding from this programme and you will be informed in writing whether you have been successful or are being turned down. Te Paepae Ataata hopes to provide funding to a number of projects but may, however, not select any projects in any given submission round if it feels that the creative merits of the submissions are not strong enough. You will be informed in writing of the decision. If Te Paepae Ataata turns down your script Te Paepae Ataata may provide further advice on your script.

### *Offer* Tukutono


If Te Paepae Ataata decides to support your project we will write to you informing you of the decision, the amount of funding to be made available, and any special conditions attaching to the funding.

### *Return of materials*

Te Paepae Ataata is required to retain the application form for audit purposes. Other supporting materials will only be returned to you if a stamped self-addressed envelope is enclosed with the application form.

# *Important Information*

1. The information in these guidelines can change. The law and Government regulations on distributing funds may also change. Te Paepae Ataata therefore reserves the right to review the Development Fund and/or change its policies, procedures and assessment criteria.
2. The application form does not necessarily cover all the information Te Paepae Ataata uses to decide which applications to fund. Te Paepae Ataata can ask applicants for extra information.
3. All applications are made at the applicant's own risk. Te Paepae Ataata will not be liable for loss, damage or costs arising directly or indirectly from:  
  
The application process;  
  
Te Paepae Ataata's decision not to provide funding to an applicant; or  
  
Dealing with the application.
4. Please check your application form carefully. Te Paepae Ataata will not process applications which are incomplete or which do not comply with these guidelines. Original materials are sent at your own risk and Te Paepae Ataata will not be responsible for any damage to or loss of such materials.
5. Applicants must adhere to the submission round deadlines as advised, otherwise the application will not be considered.
6. Te Paepae Ataata's decisions on applications are final. There is no automatic right to funding. Decisions as to the creative merits of an application are entirely within the discretion of Te Paepae Ataata.
7. Te Paepae Ataata will not allow for any funding to be drawn down until it has received a fully executed copy of the Development Agreement and all conditions precedent to that agreement have been satisfied.
8. In providing funds for development funding Te Paepae Ataata will usually adopt the industry practice of providing funding in the form of investment. Fifty percent of such funds will be in the form of a loan repayable to Te Paepae Ataata upon first day of principal photography in the event that the project goes into production. The remaining fifty percent will be in the form of an equity participation by Te Paepae Ataata in the exploitation and revenues subsequently earned by the Project.
9. Te Paepae Ataata will publicise information on the number of applications it receives and funding made.
10. Sometimes Te Paepae Ataata members or staff may be involved in some way with applicants. This interest must be declared in applications from such applicants. The relevant Board Director or staff member will not be involved in assessing the application or the decision to make an award. Applicants are advised not to try to influence the success of their application by approaching a Te Paepae Ataata member or staff member.
11. It is important that applicants carefully check the information provided on the application form. Te Paepae Ataata's standard terms and conditions entitle it to withhold or reclaim funding in the following circumstances:
  - if the application was filled in dishonestly or with incorrect or misleading information about the organisation or the project whether deliberately or accidentally; and
  - if the funding recipient acts dishonestly or negligently to the disadvantage of the project.

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12. Appeals: Te Paepae Ataata invests in films which it considers will help ensure a consistent flow of high quality, diverse and challenging films. Applications will be judged, and may be turned down on creative merit or on other subjective grounds, such as the project's inability to fulfill the fund's remit, against which there is no appeal. The most common reason for not selecting a project is that, in the opinion of Te Paepae Ataata, the creative quality of the script is not strong enough to merit support from the fund.
  13. Te Paepae Ataata's decision is final. Inevitably applications will be turned down and applicants may be disappointed by this result. Formal appeals against the final decision will not be considered unless the applicant has good cause to believe that the procedures for processing the applications were not adhered to, or applied in such a way as to prejudice the outcome of the application. A copy of Te Paepae Ataata's Complaints and Appeals procedure can be obtained on request from the website [www.paepae@ngaahowhakaari.co.nz](http://www.paepae@ngaahowhakaari.co.nz).