



GUIDELINES TO APPLICANTS

THE KWAZULU-NATAL FILM FUND 2022/23

Applicants are requested to read through the guidelines to ensure that they understand the objectives of the film fund and whether their application meets the requirements. Failure to comply with the requirements will result in automatic disqualification.

Objectives of the KwaZulu-Natal Film Fund

- To provide funding to support opportunities for emerging stakeholders in the KwaZulu-Natal film industry
- To build a skills base in KwaZulu-Natal through increased production of national and international productions in the region
- To develop and showcase KwaZulu-Natal local content
- To showcase the province's talent, locations and infrastructure through productions

What do we fund?

The KwaZulu-Natal Film Fund has been created to stimulate the growth of the film industry in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Thus, the fund is targeting KwaZulu-Natal based companies and companies producing films in KwaZulu-Natal.

The KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission provides Film related funding in five broad categories:

- **Development Funding**
- **Production Funding**
- **Audience Development**
- **Marketing and Distribution**
- **Markets and Festivals** (provision to only be made for the KZNFC call for delegations)

Funding applications meeting the following criteria will be considered for funding (**taking into consideration the budgeted funding made available in each financial year**):

A KwaZulu-Natal story, which could include but is **not limited** to the following:

- A story located in KwaZulu-Natal, i.e. Pietermaritzburg as Pietermaritzburg.
- A story of cultural, historical or social relevance to KwaZulu-Natal.
- A story portraying the Zulu culture.

- A story shot in KwaZulu-Natal, with the location representing a location as another. I.e. Richards Bay as Port Elizabeth, etc.

To qualify for production funding, **50% of the total production budget must be spent in KwaZulu Natal**. Where it is not possible to spend 50% of the production budget in KwaZulu-Natal, the Commission may consider supporting a project for up to **25% of the production budget spent in KwaZulu-Natal**, subject to the funding ceiling in the category.

To qualify for development funding, **50% of the total development budget must be spent in KwaZulu Natal**. Where it is not possible to spend 50% of the development budget in KwaZulu-Natal, the Commission may consider supporting a project for up to **25% of the development budget spent in KwaZulu-Natal**, subject to the funding ceiling in the category.

Production funding applicants are to include costs related to the adherence of Covid-19 health protocols to their production budgets for consideration by the KZNFC.

Script Development Funding (Only KZN applicants can access development funding)

Nature of Production	Maximum Script Writing Funding
Feature length films (Recoupable)	R200 000 (R40 000 reserved for script editor).
Micro budget feature films (R1 200 000 production budget and below) (Non-recoupable)	R120 000 (R40 000 reserved for script editor)
Documentaries (Non-recoupable)	R100 000
Documentary and TV series (at least 220 minutes) (Non-recoupable)	R150 000
Short Films (Non-recoupable)	R120 000 (R20 000 reserved for script editor)
Animation (Recoupable)	R200 000 (R40 000 reserved for script editor).

Production Funding

Nature of Production	Maximum Production Funding
Feature length films (Recoupable)	R1 500 000
Micro budget feature films (R1 200 000 production budget and below) (Non-recoupable)	R400 000
Documentaries (Non-recoupable)	R350 000
Documentary and TV series (at least 220 minutes) (Recoupable)	R1 000 000
Short Films (Non-recoupable)	R250 000
Animation (Recoupable)	R1 500 000

Applicants for micro budget (made-for-TV) movies need not apply according to these dates. A special call will be announced for this category of funding annually.

Audience Development

This category will cater for staging of film festivals, markets and audience development initiatives in the province.

The purpose is to create culture of watching locally produced films.

Maximum funding: R300 000

Marketing and Distribution

Maximum funding: R 150 000

In addition, the following will be considered.

- Proposals from Women filmmakers.
- Proposals from Youth filmmakers (age less than 35 years).
- A project that has secured 70% Black production crew.

What we don't fund

- Anything **not** film related e.g. theatre productions and music concerts.
- Talk shows.
- Music videos.
- News or Current Affairs shows.

- Commercials or infomercials.
- Game Shows.
- Events (Social, Musical or Sport).
- Training and Corporate Videos.
- Adult Content.

Who can apply for funding?

South African individuals, companies and organizations may submit funding applications to the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission for grants in any of the above four funding categories.

Specific conditions are applicable in each funding category, and **it is important for applicants to take careful note of these conditions before applying**. The conditions are contained in each of the application forms.

The KZNFC is a member of the **South African Audio-Visual Forum (SAAVF)**, a body that represents film funding government entities at national and provincial level. SAAVF has agreed on standardisation of how applicants are classified and the appropriate intervention that can be offered.

In a bid to ensure a consistent flow of high-quality, diverse, audience-engaging projects into the marketplace, the KZNFC has implemented the Grading System below as a guide on who should apply for funding. Applicants will be graded using the approved standards as contained in the Grading System, relevant experience and demonstrated capacity to deliver on the project being applied for is required.

Funding application of GRADING SYSTEM			
Tier	Category	Target Market Criteria	Funding intervention
• Tier 5	Aspirant level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First time to the industry • No formal training in film • Want to enter the industry with no relevant background • May have qualifications in an unrelated field • Has not done any work in the industry 	Cannot apply to the film fund. Training interventions to be considered.
• Tier 4	Entry level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First time to the industry • 0-3 years in industry • No formal training at NQF level 6 • Want to enter the industry with no relevant background • Produced short film • Worked in industry as intern/assistant 	Can apply for: Short films, micro budget, short doccies
• Tier 3	Emergent (A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced short film • 4-7 years in industry • No formal training at NQF level 6 • Worked in industry as crew/assistant • Produced Micro-budget film/television/fiction or non-fiction 	Can apply for: Short films, micro budget, short doccies
	Emergent (B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed degree or 3 national SETA certified diploma PDI Male and female • Recent graduate • Portfolio of Evidence • 0-3 years in industry 	Can apply for: Short films, micro budget, short doccies
• Tier 2	Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filmmakers with limited experience but who have developed and produced 1-2 theatrical feature films, television fiction and/or non-fiction, +5 short films and/or commercials seeking to venture into feature film development and production. • Graduates with 4 – 7 years' experience • 7-10 years in industry (non – graduates) 	Can apply for: Short films, micro budget, short doccies, TV series, animation & feature films
• Tier 1	Established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced filmmakers who have a proven track record for developing and producing 3-5 theatrically released feature films, television fiction and/or non-fiction. 	Can apply for: Short films, micro budget, short doccies, TV series,

		<p>Graduates with +7 years' experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> +10 years in industry (non – graduates) 	<p>animation & feature films</p>
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When should one apply for funding?

With the lockdown still in effect, the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission has revised the funding schedule in the financial year 2022/23. The revised schedule for funding will be as follows:

- 1st funding cycle opens from **01 February - 30 April 2022**.
- 2nd funding cycle opens from **01 June – 31 August 2022**.
- 3rd funding cycle opens from **01 October – 15 December 2022**.

Correspondence regarding the outcome of the application will be sent through the email address provided in the application form.

In each category of funding, **only one** funding application per organization, individual or company will be considered in each call for applications.

What form does funding take?

Funding will take the form of a grant (some funds are subject to a recoupment agreement). Funding allocation to selected projects will vary according to the specific cash flow needs of the project. Applicants should also note that the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission has adopted a recoupment policy on feature film development, television concepts and production as well as documentary production funding.

This policy will apply to all funding applications that come in through the funding process. This is to ensure that there is a return on KwaZulu-Natal funded projects in order to repopulate the funds for future projects in line with funding models of other international funding bodies. Applicants are advised to take note of the recoupment policy that is applicable whilst submitting their application.

The KZNFC investment into feature film development and production funding is recoupable from exhibition revenues as per the recoupment schedule to be included in the production contract. The KZNFC investment / participation is to be made up of the KZNFC's percentage of the budget. If the project is sold by license in any market, such license fee shall be split with the KZNFC receiving its percentage contribution in the project unless the fee is part of the original financial plan.

The KZNFC will take the last position in recoupment once the project has paid back all other finance partners (loans). KZNFC reserves the right to be paid first prior to the distribution of any proceeds from funded projects to other non-preferential stakeholders (equity investors).

An organisation, individual or company may only receive funding for one project in development and one in production in any given time. Consideration will be given to organisations, individuals or companies that have received funding under a special programme, such as Heritage Programmes,

Short Films Special Programmes, or Slate Programmes.

Who evaluates funding applications?

For each of the four categories an evaluation panel with relevant expertise in that area will be consulted. The evaluation panel is comprised of peer industry practitioners with a proven track record in their areas of expertise. Selected panel members do not make decisions on funding but merely advise and recommend projects which are deserving of funding. The final decision will be made by the executive committee of the KZN Film Commission.

The basic criteria to be considered along with the documents mentioned above, as a minimum would be:

- Script evaluation (structure).
- Synopsis and Treatment (structure).
- Experience of Technical Team.
- Realistic budgets and accurate sales forecasts.

How should I apply during the lockdown?

In a bid to ensure that filmmakers are still able to access the Film Fund during the lockdown, applications can now be emailed to KZNFilmFund@kznfilm.co.za with all the required documentation **ZIP folded in a single email**. This will allow applicants to apply with the most minimum amount of movement and interaction with others.

Applicants are to note that attachments sent in multiple emails will not be considered and the application will be Null and Void. **Links to files containing the application will not be considered**, attachments are strictly to be attached or ZIP folded in a single application email.

Applicants are to further note the following:

- There will be only one point of contact for all funding applications and or queries. All enquiries are to be sent to the KZNFilmFund@kznfilm.co.za email address.
- Prior to the closing date of the film fund applicants can request an appointment through the KZNFilmFund@kznfilm.co.za email to discuss their applications prior to submission.
- Any enquiry sent to any other email address at the KZNFC will not be responded to. Only enquiries sent to the KZNFilmFund@kznfilm.co.za email address , will be responded to.
- No further correspondence will be entered into with any funding applicant once they have submitted their application for funding.
- Applications must be submitted in full and in one instalment, no additional documents are to be sent separately. Any documents sent separately will not be considered in the evaluation of the project.
- **No additional information shall be accepted after the closing date of the film fund.**
- Correspondence will only be entered into with the funding applicant, no other representative will be responded to.
- Instructions on what is required for each form of funding is to be found on the funding application form on the KZNFC website on www.kznfilm.co.za.
- Any funding application that is submitted to the KZNFC through any other channel than what is prescribed in the funding application form or guidelines will be considered invalid.

- All funding applicants are requested to use the most recent funding application form found on the KZNFC website on the day of application as the funding forms change from time to time.

Where can I obtain funding application forms?

For funding related queries email KZNFilmFund@kznfilm.co.za. Application forms can be downloaded from the KZNFC website at www.kznfilm.co.za under the funding tab.

Disclaimer

Please note that failure to submit the required documentation will result in automatic disqualification.