

KWAZULU-NATAL TOURISM & FILM

KwaZulu-Natal Tourism and Film is the authority of Tourism and Film for the province of KwaZulu-Natal
Established by the Act No.02 of 2024



GUIDELINES TO APPLICANTS

THE KWAZULU-NATAL FILM FUND 2026/27

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?

Funding Criteria

General

- Preference will be given to designated groups as defined in PPPFA regulations, in this regard, a minimum of 70% of the KZN Tourism and Film Fund will be allocated for this purpose.
- KZN based companies will receive preferences, yet funding will not exclude other companies that are producing their films in KZN.
- KZN local content stories will be given preference.

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 Tourism and Film Authority provides Film related funding in five broad categories:

- **Development Funding**
- **Production Funding**
- **Post Production Funding**
- **Audience Development**
- **Marketing and Distribution**
- **Markets and Festivals** (provision to only be made for the KZNTAFA 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.

Submission Process

- All applications must be submitted through the official online film fund portal, accessible at <https://funding.kznfilm.co.za/>
- Applications submitted via email or any method outside the designated portal will **not** be considered.

Funding Limitations

- 7.1 Music videos.
- 7.2 News or Current Affairs shows.
- 7.3 Commercials or infomercials.
- 7.4 Game Shows.
- 7.5 Events (Social, Musical, or Sport).

7.6 Training and Corporate Videos.

7.7 Adult Content.

7.8 Anything not film-related, e.g., theatre productions and music concerts.

7.9 Talk shows.

7.10 Any commissioned content.

Application Status Inquiries

- Discussions regarding the status of an application will only be held with the **project holder** and not with any third party.

KwaZulu-Natal Spending Requirements Production Funding

- To qualify, **50% of the total production budget** must be spent in KwaZulu-Natal.
- Where spending 50% of the production budget in KwaZulu-Natal is not feasible, the Commission may support the project if **25% of the production budget** is spent in the province, subject to the funding ceiling for the respective category.

Development Funding

- To qualify, **50% of the total development budget** must be spent in KwaZulu-Natal.
- Where spending 50% of the development budget in KwaZulu-Natal is not feasible, the Commission may support the project if **25% of the development budget** is spent in the province, subject to the funding ceiling for the respective category.

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).
Emerging Filmmakers Development Projects	R120 000 (R40 000 reserved for script editor)

Documentaries Development (Non-recoupable)	R100 000
Documentary and TV series (at least 220 minutes) (Non-recoupable)	R150 000
Short Films Development (Non-recoupable)	R120 000 (R20 000 reserved for script editor)
Animation Development (Recoupable)	R200 000 (R40 000 reserved for script editor).
Co-Production Development	R200 000 for Fiction (feature and shorts) R120 000 for Documentary

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)	Up to R1 200 000

Short Documentaries (Non-	R350 000
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recoupable)	
Documentary and TV series (at least 220 minutes) (Recoupable)	R1 000 000
Short Films (Non-recoupable)	R350 000
Animation (Recoupable)	R1 000 000
Co-Production	R1 500 000

Post Production

TV Series	R350 000
Documentary	R350 000
Feature Films	R350 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.

Community screenings

Community film screenings within or outside of a festival

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

funding: R100 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.

Markets and Festivals

For the costs per person and/or a maximum of 2 applicants per project on the trip.

Maximum funding: R50 000

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.
- Commissioned projects

Who can apply for funding?

South African individuals, companies and organizations may submit funding applications to the KwaZulu Natal Tourism and Film Authority 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.

Right to Halt Processes

The KZN Tourism and Film Authority reserves the right to pause or terminate the application and funding processes at any stage should the organization encounter budgetary constraints. Applicants will be notified accordingly in such instances

The KZNTAFA 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 KZNTAFA 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 Window

The KwaZulu-Natal Tourism and Film Authority will issue an Open Call for funding applications once in every financial year.

Special Calls for applications will be issued for projects like the Emerging Filmmakers Programme and Culture and Heritage, among others, as and when the need arises.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The KwaZulu-Natal Tourism and Film Authority carefully supervises its projects, as undertaken by Production analysts to monitor project performance and compliance with contractual obligations, internal policies, and procedures

Funding Applications Tier System:

Funding Application for the GRADING SYSTEM			
Tier	Category	Target Market Criteria	Funding intervention

Tier 5	Aspirant level	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	Can apply to the film fund through special calls and mentoring interventions to be considered.
Tier 4	Entry level	First time in the industry 0-3 years in industry No formal training at NQF level 6 Want to enter industry with no relevant background Produced short film Worked in the industry as an intern/assistant	Can apply for: Short films, micro budget, short doccies
	Emergent (A)	Produced short film 4-7 years in industry No formal training at NQF level 6 Worked in the industry as a crew/assistant	Can apply for: Short films, micro budget, short doccies
Tier 3		Produced Micro-budget film/television/fiction or non-fiction	
	Emergent (B)	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	Filmmakers with limited experience but who have developed and produced 1-2 theatrical feature films, television fiction or non-fiction, +5 short films 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	Experienced filmmakers who have a proven track record for developing and producing 3-5 theatrically released feature films, television fiction or non-fiction. Graduates with +7 years' experience +10 years in industry (non – graduates)	Can apply for: Short films, micro budget, short doccies, TV series, animation & feature films

When should one apply for funding?

The KwaZulu Natal Tourism and Film Authority has revised the funding schedule in the financial year 2025/26. The revised schedule for funding will be communicated on our website as well as our online social media platforms.

Correspondence regarding the outcome of the application will be sent through the email address provided on the applicant profile on the online funding portal. The profile holder must strictly be the applicant, as no communication will be entered into with a third-party person.

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

Processing of Unsolicited Applications

Proposals submitted outside official call-out periods will be regarded as unsolicited and will only be processed once funding becomes available.

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 Tourism and Film Authority** 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 **KZNTAFA** 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 KZNTAFA investment / participation is to be made up of the KZNTAFA's percentage of the budget. If the project is sold by license in any market, such license fee shall be split with the KZNTAFA receiving its percentage contribution in the project unless the fee is part of the original financial plan.

The KZNTAFA will take the last position in recoupment once the project has paid back all other finance partners (loans). KZNTAFA 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 funding categories, an evaluation panel with specific expertise will be consulted. The panel is strictly composed of accomplished industry practitioners with proven credentials in their respective fields. **Under no circumstances does the panel have authority to make funding decisions.** Their role is

limited to providing recommendations on projects they consider deserving of support. **All final funding decisions rest solely and exclusively with the Executive Committee of the KZN Tourism and Film Authority.**

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?

Applications must strictly be submitted through the film fund online portal and not through any other platform. Applicants are encouraged to send us an email should they have any issues with the portal.

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@visitkzn.co.za email address.
- Prior to the closing date of the film fund applicants can request an appointment through the KZNFilmFund@visitkzn.co.za email to discuss their applications prior to submission.
- Any enquiry sent to any other email address at the KZNTAFA will not be responded to. Only enquiries sent to the KZNFilmFund@visitkzn.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.
- Non compliant applications will be granted 7 days to resubmit their applications. Failure to do so, will result in an automatic disqualification.
- **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 KZNTAFA website on <https://visitkzn.co.za/>
- All applications are to be submitted to the film fund online portal available on <https://funding.kznfilm.co.za/>

Where can I obtain funding application forms?

For funding related queries email KZNFilmFund@visitkznsa.com. Application forms can be downloaded from the KZNTAFA website at [https://visitkzn-sa.com/under the funding tab](https://visitkzn-sa.com/under%20the%20funding%20tab).

Approval and Effective Date of the Policy

The Film Fund Policy is applicable from the date of approval by the Board at the meeting.

Policy Review Period

This policy will be reviewed every three years or as and when amendments are required to the policy.

As adopted by the Board at the meeting held on 11 August 2026

Disclaimer

Please note that failure to submit the required documentation post the 7 day grace period will result in automatic disqualification.