



# NZWG SEED & SEED ADVANCED GRANTS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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## NZWG SEED & SEED ADVANCED GRANTS

To give this industry its best chance of success we need strong and new ideas. We need stories that resonate. New Zealand Writers Guild (NZWG) believe in facilitating diverse pathways for developing these stories. We need to allow writers space to find their voices. NZ Film Commission (NZFC) funded Seed grants are for writers only and provide unencumbered development funding for feature film scripts.

The Seed Advanced grant pathway is aimed at reducing competition between upcoming writers and more experienced writers, as well as providing new opportunities for the latter, in the Seed pathway. The advanced grants provide accomplished writers with a higher grant level and flexibility around development costs to reflect their greater experience.

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### SEED

For 2020 NZWG Seed Grants are offered over two rounds with a total of eight grants of \$10,000 (+ GST if applicable) each for the development of feature film scripts. Included in the total is \$2,500 (+ GST if applicable) to put toward script consultation per feature film script.

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### SEED ADVANCED

For 2020 NZWG Seed Advanced Grants are offered over two rounds with a total of four grants of \$12,500 (+ GST if applicable) each for the development of feature film scripts. Included in the total is \$2,500 (+ GST if applicable) for a broad development process – possible development tools / processes can be (but are not limited to) workshops, table reads, research and multiple script consultants.

Seed & Seed Advanced grants represent an opportunity for writers to be innovative, to be brilliant, and to be excited about the chance to create something they own.

## AIMS

NZWG Seed Grants aim to:

- Create an opportunity for writers to experiment with new ideas and to develop a strong draft of a feature film screenplay before parting with any rights or presenting the work to producers or production companies.
- Seed Advanced aims to reduce competition in the Seed pathway, between upcoming and more experienced writers.
- Seed Advanced aims to provide more experienced writers with a higher grant level and more flexibility in development.
- Provide development funding specifically for writers-only to create a feature film script.
- Find new, exciting feature film projects.
- Create a unique facet of independent script development.
- Facilitate the creation of industry-ready feature film scripts.

## PARAMETERS

- These grants do not reflect in any way a purchase price for a draft. They are a contribution to the writer's own investment of time and skill in a project they retain the rights to.
- These grants are for feature film projects only.
- The writer must still own the rights within their work to apply i.e. no producer or production company is attached to the script.
- The script sample must be from the same feature film which is being applied to the Seed grant with.
- This grant is a subsidy, not a debt against the production. This means successful applicants receive \$10,000 (Seed Advanced) or \$7,500 (Seed) of unencumbered development funding.
- These grants are for New Zealand citizens or permanent residents only.
- An additional feedback service is available for \$100 at the time of applying online. These assessments commence after announcement of the recipients.
- All assessment is via a double-blind read: the assessors will be anonymous; assessors will not know whose work they are reading – decisions will be made on the strength of ideas and writing only.
- Assessors are independent. Each assessor will be an experienced industry practitioner with strong knowledge of script development.
- NZWG staff provide administration and the NZWG Board provide oversight to ensure clear, fair, and transparent processes.
- NZWG staff do not select recipients. The Board of the NZWG do not select recipients unless they are appointed as assessors in their independent professional capacity.
- NZWG Board members are eligible to apply for any round of Seed funding and will in such cases remove themselves from any discussion of that round of the grant.

## APPLYING

- Call for applications with a deadline a minimum of 6 weeks in advance.
- Two rounds per year.
- All eligible applications received by the deadline will be read blind (writers names removed) by three independent and experienced industry practitioners.
- Seed – Up to four applications may be selected per round, up to a maximum of eight per year.
- Seed Advanced – Up to two applications may be selected per round, up to a maximum of four per year.
- Writers of unsuccessful applications will be notified by email.
- Successful recipients will be contacted to engage in a discussion process before signing a tailored Seed or Seed Advanced Grant Agreement.

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## APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY

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### SEED

- Applicants must have written one or more the following to be eligible to apply:
  - Unproduced – Film, Short Film, Television, New Media, Literary Works, and Theatre where the applicant is the primary creator.
  - Produced – Under 90 cumulative minutes of; Film, Short Film, Television, New Media, and Theatre where the applicant has a Written By credit.

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### SEED ADVANCED

- Applicants must have the following Written by Credit to be eligible to apply:
  - Produced – Over 90 cumulative minutes of; Film, Television, and Theatre where the applicant has a Written By credit produced by a recognised production company, platform, or authority or has been theatrically performed.

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## TWO OR MORE WRITER APPLICANTS

Where there is more than one writer per application, eligibility will be determined as follows:

- The application to either Seed or Seed Advanced will be based on the writer with the MOST amount of experience.
- This is determined by any one of the writers of the application meeting the above Seed Advanced eligibility criteria **OR** at the discretion of the NZWG Executive Director, where writers of the application combined written by credits exceed the Seed eligibility criteria.

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## ALL APPLICANTS

- Applicants must be New Zealand citizens or permanent residents.
- Applicants must hold the rights to the application project.
- One or more applications may be submitted per round, by the same applicant(s).
- Applicants can only apply to one fund per round – either Seed or Seed Advanced.
- Applicants can apply with the same project up to three times.
- Applicants who have received a grant cannot apply again with that successful project.
- Applicants who have received a grant cannot apply to the grant again within six calendar months of completing the grant requirements.

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## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Application is online.
- Application Materials include Eligibility Materials and Assessment Materials.

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## ONLINE APPLICATION

Apply Online at [nzwg.org.nz/seed-grants](http://nzwg.org.nz/seed-grants)

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## APPLICATION FEES

**\$20.00** – Members of NZWG, Women in Film and Television (WIFT), Pan-Asian Screen Collective (PASC), Pacific Islands Screen Artists (PISA) and / or Nga Aho Whakaari. Please note which group you are a member of (with membership number) if it is not NZWG.

**\$40.00** – Non-members of any of the above organisations.

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## ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK (OPTIONAL) FEE

**\$100.00** – Additional Feedback (optional) service is available at time of applying. This is one page of feedback written by an assessor covering notes on the application.

- Additional feedback assessments commence after the grant recipients are announced.
- Additional feedback completed by a different assessor than the judges of that round.

## ASSESSMENT

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### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Assessments are based only on the following Assessment Materials: logline, short synopsis, potential audience, treatment, and screenplay sample.

Eligibility Materials are not provided to, nor sighted by, the assessors.

Assessors will be assessing each application on the following criteria:

1. Idea – is it compelling/engaging? Does it have an audience?
2. Craft – is the writer able to execute the screenplay on a high enough level to deliver on the promise of the idea?
3. Voice – is the writer's voice original and clear?

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### SELECTION OF ASSESSORS

Each assessor engaged by the NZWG will be an experienced industry professional with a proven track record for assessing scripts. Potential assessors will be selected by the Board of the NZWG, with suggestions from NZFC.

The Executive Director of NZWG will select four different assessors to be engaged each round. And an additional script assessor capable of providing the optional Additional Feedback purchased by applicants.

Assessors will immediately disclose any potential conflict(s) of interest and – where actively involved with the development of an application / project at the time of assessment – will subsequently remove themselves from any discussion, decision or selection relating to the application(s) in question.

Assessors will be made public at the time of the announcement of the grant recipients.

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### ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND FEEDBACK

- To be considered for a grant, an application score must make it into the Top 20 or Top 10 or are a judge's "wildcard".
- Score is marked in three criteria – Idea, Craft and Voice – from each of the assessors.
- The score is calculated from the total assessors' marks for each of the three criteria. 1-3 – 3 being the highest in Seed and between 1-5 – 5 being the highest in Seed Advanced in each criterion.
- An adjudication session will be held to select the successful grant application(s).
- The assessors are under no obligation to award grants.
- Writers of unsuccessful applications will receive an email, including a short comment regarding assessment of their application according to the three criteria (craft, idea, voice). No further correspondence with the assessors will be entered into.
- Additional Feedback (optional) service is available at time of applying - \$100 + GST. A different assessor reviews the application and gives 1 page of detailed notes. These assessments commence after the grant recipients are announced.

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

Only correctly completed and entry fee paid for, applications are eligible to be accepted into the grant assessment process.

Once the application payment and application materials have been approved, the applicant will receive an email to confirm.

Incomplete applications, and applicants that have not paid the entry fee will not be accepted or refunded.

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## ELIGIBILITY MATERIALS

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### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

On application, these terms and conditions are agreed to by the applicants – see the last page of this guide.

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### APPLICANTS BIOGRAPHY / RESUME

This should demonstrate eligibility according to Application Eligibility and will include identifying details which will not be supplied to the Assessors.

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### SEED – BUDGET AND PLAN

A simple outline of how the Seed grant of \$7500 (+ GST if applicable) will enable the applicant(s) to write and deliver the next draft of the script. Also describing the \$2500 (+ GST if applicable) for the script consultant(s).

Applicants cannot apply for funding to cover costs already incurred.

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### SEED ADVANCED – BUDGET AND PLAN

A simple outline of how the Seed Advanced grant of \$10,000 (+ GST if applicable) will enable the applicant(s) to write and deliver the next draft of the script. Also describing the \$2500 (+ GST if applicable) for the development fee, which can include (but is not limited to): script consultant(s) fees, script assessments, script related research costs, table reads and script workshops.

Applicants cannot apply for funding to cover costs already incurred.

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## RIGHTS

Applicants must be the rights holder of the works in the application. Whether the work is original, an adaptation, or based on other source material the writer must hold and maintain the rights in the work when entering and while they are a current recipient of a grant.

On entry the applicant(s) confirm these rights.

These grants are for writers working on their own projects only. They are not available for producers looking for alternative sources of funding to pay writers to work on projects where the producer is a rights holder.

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## ASSESSMENT MATERIALS

PDF format only for the Treatment and Script.

Presented in industry-standard formatting and 12 pt courier font.

Treatment and Script PDF's must have all identifying details removed. Identifying details are writer(s) names, contact details and other type of personal identifiers. Script and Treatment PDF's cannot contain pictures, links to websites, casting references or director's vision.

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## LOGLINE

The logline is a statement, in 35 words or less, that reflects the narrative 'hook', premise or essential dramatic dilemma inherent in the proposed film. This is not a tagline for a movie poster, but rather a one or two-line summary of the film's essential storyline.

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## SYNOPSIS

The synopsis is a highly condensed story outline of no more than 250 words that clearly reflects the dramatic spine of the film. It must touch on the film's tone, genre, emotional journey, and key characters, and must include the film's ending.

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## POTENTIAL AUDIENCE

This paragraph will answer to the following questions. Who is the primary target audience? What makes this movie different from competing movies? Why should your audience spend their time and money watching this movie?

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## TREATMENT

This is first of the two key documents on which the application will be assessed.

The treatment length must be, and is strictly enforced as:

- Seed – five (5) pages
- Seed Advanced – five (5) to ten (10) pages.

This should deliver an outline of the core narrative story, including a beginning, middle and an end. The treatment should also convey the emotional journey, structure, and genre, as well as something of the tone and characters.

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## SCREENWRITING SAMPLE – 10 PAGES

This document is the second of the two key documents to be assessed. Whilst the synopsis and the treatment state the promise and potential of the idea, this screenwriting sample delivers on that promise. It must show that the writer can execute this screenplay in a skillful and professional manner. This includes tone, dialogue, cinematic imagery, transitions between scenes, and all the other elements that create a filmic experience in the reader's mind.



- The screenwriting sample must be from the same feature film as in the application.
- The sample pages must include some dialogue.
- The sample pages may include non-consecutive scenes.
- 10 pages of standard script formatted sample.

## SUCCESSFUL GRANT RECIPIENTS

The goal of this grant is to assist in the creation of industry-ready feature film scripts. Extra to the financial assistance of the grant funding, the NZWG will provide on-going, tailored support to give the best chance of the recipients achieving this goal.

The grant payment is usually structured as follows:

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### SEED

- Successful recipient(s) paid \$3,750 (+ any applicable GST) on signing of the Seed Grant Agreement with NZWG.
- The recipient(s) must provide accurate invoices for NZWG to make any payment.
- Funding is subject to attaching an approved script consultant. This can be arranged with NZWG assistance if required.
- The working relationship between the writer and the script consultant will be established on a case-by-case basis to provide the writer with feedback and support in a way that works best for them.
- The script consultant(s) fee of \$2,500 (+ GST if applicable) will be paid directly to the consultant(s).
- The final payment of \$3,750 (+ any applicable GST) will be paid to the recipient(s) on completion and delivery of a polished draft based on the outcomes of the development process.
- Barring circumstances beyond the writer's control, applicants will have 6 months to complete the process or the remainder of the money will not be released.

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### SEED ADVANCED

- Successful recipient(s) paid \$5,000 (+ any applicable GST) on signing of the Seed Advanced Grant Agreement with NZWG.
- The recipient(s) must provide accurate invoices for NZWG to make any payment.
- Funding is subject to suitable development processes and tools being approved by NZWG. Assistance and guidance will be provided by NZWG to ensure the development processes and tools are fit for purpose for that project / recipient(s).
- The development fee of \$2,500 (+ any applicable GST) will be paid directly to service provider(s) as agreed in the Seed Advanced Grant Agreement by the NZWG
- The final payment of \$5,000 (+ any applicable GST) will be paid to the recipient(s) on completion and delivery of a polished draft based on the outcomes of the development process.
- Barring circumstances beyond the writer's control, applicants will have 6 months to complete the process or the remainder of the money will not be released.

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## SUPPORT SERVICES

Successful recipients will participate in meetings with the Executive Director of the NZWG to discuss their plans, their progress, and the expectations for deliverables.

Recipients will also receive guidance on pathways for the project once the draft has been completed. This will include participation in any appropriate NZWG networking and pitching events.

## DATES

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### ROUND ONE

Open call for entries	21 February 2020
Closing deadline for Round One	3 April 2020
Entries to Assessors	14 April 2020
Assessors selections to NZWG	8 June 2020
Notification emails to applicants	3 July 2020

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### ROUND TWO

Open call for entries	31 August 2020
Closing deadline for Round Two	9 October 2020
Entries to Assessors	16 October 2020
Assessors selections to NZWG	7 December 2020
Notification emails to applicants	18 December 2020

## CONTACT DETAILS

New Zealand Writers Guild

Physical: 400 C Great North Road, Grey Lynn 1021, Auckland

Postal: PO Box 47886, Ponsonby 1144, Auckland

Phone: 09 360 1408

Email: [guildhq@nzwg.org.nz](mailto:guildhq@nzwg.org.nz)

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

1. The Applicant understands that the New Zealand Writers Guild Seed & Seed Advanced Grants are part of the Seed Programme run by the New Zealand Writers Guild (NZWG) with funding from the New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) and is for feature film projects only.
2. No relationship of agency is established between the NZWG Seed Grants or the NZWG or the NZFC and the Applicant by the submission of this application.
3. The Applicant acknowledges and agrees that:
  - a. The NZWG and the NZFC receive many ideas, scripts and projects for consideration or assessment and it is possible that some of the ideas, scripts and projects already under consideration or submitted after the date of this application may be similar or identical to some or all of the project submissions; and
  - b. The Applicant will not hold the NZWG or the NZFC liable in any way for the use of ideas of a general or generic nature contained in the submission (including, without limitation, any idea, theme, situation, geographic area and/or period in history).
4. All rights in the submission remain the property of the Applicant. NZWG may copy the submission for assessment, however, will not otherwise copy or distribute the submission without the prior consent of the Applicant. However, the Applicant agrees that details about their project and their name and identifying details will be held by NZWG for reporting to NZFC and tracking for future workshops.
5. The Applicant understands that this is a blind submission process and has not included their name on any page of the script or treatment.
6. NZWG is not responsible for the loss of submissions. Applicants must retain a copy of their submission.
7. Non-payment of application fee invalidates the entry.
8. All decisions concerning applications and assessments of project submissions are at the absolute discretion of NZWG. No further correspondence will be entered into with Applicants.
9. All Applicants must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.
10. Assessors and staff of the NZWG are not eligible to enter this competition.