

Focus on Film Masterclass & Shorts Film Fund 2026

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Supporting Pacific filmmakers to create high-quality scripted short films

Issued: May 1, 2026



Introduction

Pacific Cooperation Broadcasting Limited (PCBL), through the Pasifika on Air initiative, invites Pacific-based filmmakers, production teams, and affiliated Pacific broadcast teams to submit proposals for the development and production of scripted short films under the **Focus on Film Masterclass & Shorts Film Fund 2026**.

This is a highly selective initiative designed to support Pacific creative teams to develop, execute, and deliver original short films grounded in authentic Pacific storytelling. Five (5) teams will be selected to participate in a structured programme combining an intensive masterclass with staged production funding of up to **NZD \$30,000 per team**.

All projects will be developed and delivered within a defined production timeline concluding May 1, 2027. Completed films will premiere on all PCBL platforms and selected films from each team will be entered into the [Pacific Island Film Festival](#) New York City, 2027.

Purpose of the initiative

This initiative seeks to strengthen Pacific filmmaking capability by prioritising story, script, and performance as the foundation of high-quality screen content.

It aims to build a cohort of filmmakers who can demonstrate practical delivery, professional discipline, and culturally grounded storytelling, while contributing to a growing body of Pacific-owned screen content.

Funding overview

Each selected team will receive **up to NZD \$30,000**, delivered through a staged funding model tied to performance and delivery across three short films.

Funding must cover all aspects of development and production, pre-production, production, post-production, and required delivery materials.

Masterclass programme

All selected teams are required to participate in a 5-day intensive, hands-on masterclass designed to build practical filmmaking capability and establish clear, repeatable production processes suited to Pacific contexts.

The masterclass focuses on eliminating common short film mistakes while strengthening story development, directing, performance, and production discipline.

Participants will engage in both observational learning and practical exercises, including writing, pre-production, shooting, and editing short-form content within tight timeframes.

The masterclass is designed to accommodate varying experience levels and reflects the realities of filmmaking in Pacific Island environments, including limited resources and crew.

Eligibility

Applications are open to:

Pacific-based filmmakers, production teams, and affiliated Pacific Broadcast teams.

Teams must have a minimum of two people in above the line (ATL) roles-
Producer/ Director/Writer

Emerging to mid-career practitioners, including those transitioning into narrative filmmaking. One of the team must have content credits and can provide a link to their work.

Applicants must demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively and commit to the full programme, including training, development, and delivery phases.

Scope and priorities

The team must have a short film idea for the first part of the Masterclass.

These ideas must be:

Story-driven, with a strong focus on character and performance

Designed specifically for the short film format

Achievable within realistic production constraints

Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate clarity of vision, simplicity of execution, and strength of storytelling.

Projects that rely on scale, budget, or concept without a strong script and performance foundation will not be competitive.

AI use in Pasifika on Air applications

With the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in screen production, applicants must clearly outline any intended use of AI in their proposal.

This includes administrative uses (such as proofreading) and creative applications (such as visual references or concept development). AI must not replace human creativity, cultural knowledge, or storytelling, but may be used to support presentation and clarity of ideas.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed on:

Creative strength of idea, including originality, clarity of story, and quality of character development

Feasibility, including realistic scope, experience in creating content and delivery capability

Discipline and professionalism, including planning, collaboration, and readiness to meet deadlines

Growth potential, including engagement with the masterclass and contribution to the wider Pacific screen sector

Timeline

RFP release: Friday, May 1, 2026

Applications open on Portal: Friday, May 8, 2026

Applications close: Friday, May 29, 2026 (4:00pm NZT)

Q&A Webinar Session: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 (3:00–4:00pm NZT)

Successful teams notified: Friday, July 3, 2026

Masterclass: End of July/August 2026

Final delivery deadline: May 1, 2027

Reserved rights and terms

The following terms and conditions apply to this RFP and the RFP process:

- a. Applicants are responsible for all costs associated with preparing and submitting proposals.
- b. All submitted information must be complete and accurate.
- c. PCBL may rely on all statements made in proposals.
- d. PCBL reserves the right to amend, suspend, or cancel the RFP at any time.
- e. PCBL may vary timelines or process details with reasonable notice.
- f. Late applications may be accepted at PCBL's discretion.
- g. PCBL may request clarification or meet with applicants.
- h. PCBL is not obligated to accept any proposal.
- i. PCBL may enter negotiations with one or more applicants if required.
- j. Both parties agree to protect confidential information.
- k. Confidentiality is subject to applicable laws, including the Official Information Act 1982.
- l. No binding agreement exists until a formal contract is executed.
- m. This RFP includes all supporting materials issued by PCBL.
- n. This RFP is governed by the laws of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- o. Submission indicates acceptance of all terms outlined above.

Submission details

Applications must be submitted to the Pasifika TV online portal

You must register with the portal before you can apply.

The submission deadline is Friday, May 29, 2026, at 4:00pm NZT.

Late applications may not be considered.