

## THE FINNISH FILM FOUNDATION SUPPORT GUIDE



### THE FINNISH FILM FOUNDATION

The Finnish Film Foundation is an independent foundation under the guidance of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The aim of the Film Foundation is to promote high-quality, diverse and innovative film production in Finland. The Foundation grants support for the professional production, screening and distribution of films in various distribution channels. The Foundation is also responsible for the export of Finnish films, promoting the internationalisation of Finnish films and filmmakers and distributing support for the international promotion of films. The Foundation grants support for nationally significant international film festivals in Finland.

The Finnish Film Foundation receives its funds from Veikkaus and the Finnish gaming system from the monies allocated to the government's budget for the promotion of film. The Film Foundation's support is discretionary and falls under the Act of Discretionary Government Transfers and act on the government promotion of film culture. The support is granted based on applications.

The aims and specific criteria of the support vary across support types. They have been described in support-specific grant announcements and in this guide. The grant announcement defines for whom the support is intended and who may apply. The Film Foundation's support is granted for professional operations.

### ACT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR THE PROMOTION OF FILM CULTURE (1174/2018)

The aim of the act is to promote

- 1) diverse and professional Finnish film production
- 2) the broad supply and distribution of films
- 3) the internationalisation of Finnish films and filmmakers
- 4) film culture and its development.

Participation, pluralism, cultural diversity and artistic freedom form the basis for reaching this aim.

(Act on the government's support for the promotion of film culture, section 2)

The Foundation's grants are based on the act on the government's support for the promotion of film culture (1174/2018). The grants apply the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001). The Foundation follows the Administrative Procedure Act, the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999), the Language Act (423/2004), the Sámi Language Act (1086/2003), the Archives Act (831/1994), the Act on Electronic Services and Communication in the Public Sector (13/2003) and the Privacy Protection Act (9/2018).

### ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

According to the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999), a document submitted to the Finnish Film Foundation is public. Documents may also be designated confidential under the law or access to them may be discretionary. Confidential official documents include documents that contain information about private business or trade secrets.

### BLOCK EXEMPTION REGULATION

The support granted by the Foundation is government aid that falls under the EU's Treaty, Article 107, and the decision by the EU Commission on 26 November 2008 concerning subsidies for the Finnish film industry (Commission regulation (EU) 651/2014), later block exemption regulation (BER).

Support granted by the Foundation must fulfil conditions listed in the BER's Articles 1–9 (general regulations) and Article 54 (aid schemes for audiovisual works).

According to the BER, support must be directed to a cultural product and can be granted for the production of audiovisual works, pre-production and distribution. According to section 3 of the act on the promotion of film, support may be granted for the production and distribution of films if the film can be considered an independent work of art, its content is based on cultural values originating in cultural identity and the film involves a significant artistic contribution by creators and performers whose wages and salaries form a significant portion of the production costs.

According to the BER's Article 53 (aid for culture and heritage conservation), the support may be granted for festivals and other similar cultural activities. According to the Article, support may take the form of either operating or investment aid.

According to the BER's general regulations, **the support should not be applied** to cases where the recipient would execute their project with or without the support, government support that has conditions or financing methods that do not follow EU legislation and especially support measures where the recipient is required to operate mainly from or in the country granting the support. However, the requirement that the recipient has a place of business or a subsidiary in the country granting the support is permissible.

An unconditional requirement is that the support cannot be granted to a corporation which is subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring the aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market (BER, Article 1, Section 4 a).

## SUPPORT GUIDE / Travel support for international promotion

### GENERAL

#### Preparing an application

- Study the grant announcement, support guide and the section on travel support for international promotion carefully.
- Register as a new client to the online application system or log in to your existing account (new registrations are usually processed within one week).  
<https://ses.fi/tukitoiminta/sahkoinen-hakujarjestelma/>
- Fill in an application in the online application system that consists of an electronic application form and the necessary appendices.
- Submit the application to the online application system.

[See the grant announcement](#)

#### The aim of the support

The aim of the support is to promote the internationalisation of filmmakers, the international distribution of Finnish films, boost the international status of Finnish films and to expand the skill set of film professionals.

#### To whom?

Travel support for international promotion is intended for filmmakers (artistically responsible crew member) or production companies to cover travel expenses to an international film event where the applicant's film is competing or being screened.

The Finnish Film Foundation is responsible for the export of films whose main production country is Finland.

Support for international promotion may be primarily granted for films that have received production support from the Foundation. The support covers completed and soon to be completed feature films, short or serialised drama, documentary, animation or children's films and combinations thereof.

#### For what purpose and how much?

Travel support for international promotion is primarily intended for the reasonable travel expenses of filmmakers (not daily allowances). The support is granted mainly when a festival offers free accommodation to invitees.

Travel support may also be granted for export travel initiatives developed by the Film Foundation.

Support may be granted in full (100%) for necessary and justified reasons in order to reach stated objectives. Travel support applications should be filed no later than six months after the end of the trip.

The cost estimate accounts for the project expenses without VAT. If the grant recipient does not have the right to VAT deductions, the costs may be approved with VAT.

Previous support decisions may be viewed from the Foundation's [support decisions page](#).

## How and when to apply?

Applications are submitted online (<https://hakemus.ses.fi>) by sending in the application and appendices to the Finnish Film Foundation.

New applicants must register to the online application system. New registrations are processed within a week.

Prior to submitting an application, the applicant must carefully read the relevant grant announcement and support guide.

The call for the travel support is ongoing. The application will be processed in the first board meeting after the application has been submitted. The processing time is approximately 3–8 weeks after the application and all the required appendices have been submitted. The Finnish Film Foundation's board meets about once a month.

### **Travel support handlers by support group:**

Feature films and series (episodes over 22 min): International Promotion Coordinator Jenni Domingo, tel. +358 9 6220 3032, [jenni.domingo@ses.fi](mailto:jenni.domingo@ses.fi)

Documentaries (over 30 minutes): Advisor / International Promotion and Cultural Export of Documentary Films Suvi Railo, tel. +358 9 6220 3021, [suvi.railo@ses.fi](mailto:suvi.railo@ses.fi)

Short films (including documentaries under 30 minutes), series (episodes under 22 minutes): Advisor / International Promotion and Cultural Export of Short Films Otto Suuronen, tel. +358 9 6220 3019, [otto.suuronen@ses.fi](mailto:otto.suuronen@ses.fi)

## **TRAVEL SUPPORT APPLICATION**

The application consists of an online application form and the obligatory appendices submitted to the system.

### **Obligatory appendices for the travel support application**

- travel plan or report including an argument for the significance of the event in terms of internationalisation for the film or filmmaker
- invitation to the event
- a summary of travel costs and a report of actualised costs (an extract from accounting or receipt of paid invoices)

**Note!** The type of appendix should be named to correspond with the appendix so that the online application system refrains from sending an automated message about missing appendices.

### **A good application and smooth communication**

The Film Foundation's international department processes roughly 300–350 applications per year. It is essential for evaluation and comparison of applications that the application is a clear and carefully prepared. Be clear and relate the essentials in your application. Think about how the applied support reflects its goals.

Please note that the Film Foundation's online system does not automatically inform the Foundation's employees of updated information or appendices. Inform the international promotion advisor via email.

Support cannot be granted if the application is insufficient and the required information is not uploaded into the online application system despite requests to do so.

## How are the applications evaluated?

Travel support for international promotion is discretionary. Granting the support is based on the overall evaluation and comparison of the applications.

The following guidelines are used to evaluate the applications:

The applications are evaluated according to the internationalisation needs of filmmakers and/or production companies. The evaluation is also affected by the international significance of the film festival or event. The support is granted mainly when a festival offers free accommodation to invitees.

Other support previously granted by the Film Foundation to the applicant is also taken into account.

## What conditions must the applicant fulfil?

A prerequisite for granting the support is that the recipient has complied with earlier support agreements and met their conditions.

Travel support costs are approved without VAT. If the grant recipient does not have the right to VAT deductions, the costs may be approved with VAT.

The actualised overall funding of the project must not exceed the project's actualised costs.

The Film Foundation may request further information if it deems it necessary for the decision-making process.

The Film Foundation oversees the use of the support and it has the right to audit the recipient's finances and operations.

## How are the decisions made?

The Finnish Film Foundation's Board decides on the travel support for international promotion based on the CEO's presentation.

The application will be processed in the first board meeting after the application has been submitted. The processing time is approximately 3–8 weeks after the application and all the required appendices have been submitted. The Finnish Film Foundation's board meets about once a month.

All applicants receive the decision in writing.

The decision is based on the act of government funding for the advancement of cinema (56/2018), the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001) and the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003).

The grounds of the decision are the application and the appended plan on the use of the support, an invitation to the film event and a report on the travel expenses.

After the decision, the support is paid in a single instalment to the recipient's Finnish bank account.

### **Appeals for changes**

No appeals will be accepted. Appeals are overruled in section 34 of the Act on discretionary government transfers and section 49b of the Administrative Procedure Act.

An interested party dissatisfied with the Finnish Film Foundation's decision may apply for rectification within 30 days of receiving notification of the decision. The appended rectification notice indicates how to proceed when seeking rectification.

### ***Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001) section 20***

#### ***Repayment of discretionary government transfers***

*Recipients of discretionary Government transfer must repay without delay any transfer or part thereof they have received through error, in excess or manifestly without cause. Recipients must also repay a transfer or part thereof if it cannot be used as required in the transfer decision. If the repayable sum does not exceed 100 euros, it is not necessary to repay it.*

In addition to the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001), section 20, the recipient must abide by the following repayment conditions:

- The recipient is obliged to immediately repay the support or part of the support if the support has not been used during the time period agreed upon by the parties and if the Film Foundation has not granted an extension.
- The repayable amount must include annual interest and an added three percent following the Interest Act (633/1982), section 3, subsection 2. The interest is calculated from the last payment to the support repayment date.
- The target of the support and application number must be mentioned in the message field during repayment.

The support must be repaid to the Finnish Film Foundation's bank account:

Nordea Bank Abp  
IBAN FI74 1572 3000 0305 77  
BIC NDEAFIHH