



Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka

**General guidelines and application for filming in Sri Lanka
by foreign nationals**



- A) The National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka (NFC) is the main competent authority to grant permission for filming in Sri Lanka by foreign nationals. The following rules and regulations are stipulated by the NFC for this purpose. All foreign nationals who wish to engage in professional filming in Sri Lanka should go through the process below.
- B) By signing this document, the signing party accepts to abide by Sri Lankan laws and regulations, particularly those relating to granting permission to film in Sri Lanka. NFC as the main competent authority on filming by foreign nationals, has the right to approve, reject, inspect, observe and/or decide on all filming related projects of foreign nationals in Sri Lanka.
- C) The filming process and final production shall not adversely affect national security, public order, religious and communal harmony, environment, culture and dignity of Sri Lanka. The filming shall also be free from pornography, violence, direct or indirect marketing of dangerous drugs, alcohol or tobacco, children, women or animal abuse, impinge religious and cultural beliefs of the people of Sri Lanka or any other country.

D) Requirements based on the categories:

Feature Film >TV Drama >Short Film >Docudrama >Co-production

- *Required to submit the complete final script for approval at least 2 weeks prior to filming with Rs. 2,000/= non-refundable payment.
- *Required to assign a professional local production company or fixer for the entire shooting period
- *Recommended to apply visa through the local agent after receiving the script approval
- *Approval fee for Feature Film: Rs. 75,000/=, TV Drama, Short Film, Docudrama, Co-production: Rs. 60,000/=
- *NFC Officer fee: Rs 1,000/= per day with food, lodging and transportation (If appointed)

Reality Series >Commercials >Music Video >Film Song

- *Required to submit the program description/storyboard/product and company profile/ lyrics as applicable
- *Required to assign a professional local production company or fixer for the entire shooting period
- *Recommended to apply visa through the local agent after receiving the approval
- *Approval fee (any category given above) Rs. 40,000/=
- *NFC Officer fee: Rs 1,000/= per day with food, lodging and transportation (If appointed)

Documentary >Sports >Travel, Tourism and Lifestyle >Photo Shoot

- *Required to submit the storyline/ program description/ profile of the project as applicable
- *Required to assign a professional local production company or fixer for the entire shooting period
- *Recommended to apply visa through the local agent after receiving the approval
- *Approval fee (any category given above) Rs. 12,500/=
- *NFC Officer fee: Rs 1,000/= per day with food, lodging and transportation (If appointed)

News and Current Affairs >Diplomatic Delegation >Governmental Aid Project Review

- *Not required to follow this process
- *Contact the relevant Sri Lankan mission abroad or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs directly
- *No approval charges required

Religious/ Pilgrimage

- *Required to submit the documents of proof as applicable
- *Required to assign a professional local production company or fixer for the entire shooting period
- *No approval charges required

- E) All foreign nationals who wish to engage in professional filming related to one or more categories mentioned above are required to obtain media visa to enter Sri Lanka. It is a punishable by law for foreigners to be engaged in professional filming in Sri Lanka without a valid visa. Any category applicant can submit this application to the relevant Sri Lankan mission in your country directly. For more details <http://www.mea.gov.lk>
- F) However, you can directly apply to NFC by assigning a local professional production company or fixer for a speedy process. The NFC encourages all foreign applicants to use professional local production companies/ fixers for the entire filming period in Sri Lanka. A list of NFC recognized professional local production companies and fixers could be found at NFC official website <http://www.nfc.gov.lk>
- G) The NFC permission is the main permit required for filming in Sri Lanka. It shall not supersede any other permission or approval needed to be obtained based on the locations or production nature. In such an event, the applicant or his/her local agent should obtain the necessary permissions from any other government or private institution as required. Any stipulated cost, agreement or condition acceptance in this regard with such institution shall also need to be borne by the applicant separately.

Locations under direct purview of the Department of Archeology, Central Cultural Fund, Department of Wildlife, Department of Forrest, National Zoological Gardens, National Botanical Gardens, Civil Aviation Authority, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Police and Ministry of Defense etc should require separate permissions by using NFC filming permit.

- H) Filming projects considered as a potential for Sri Lanka tourism promotion, could coordinate with Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) for mutually benefiting contra agreements and assistance through a recognized local agent. For more details <http://www.srilanka.travel>
- I) All applicants should not commence filming without prior approval of NFC. Filming should only be limited to the applied category. The NFC should be informed by the applicant or the local agent well advance should there be any change of category, script, location or crew.
- J) Equipments intended to be brought for used in filming should use a carnet, bank guarantee or NFC letter of guarantee to be declared to Sri Lanka Customs at the arrival and departure.
- K) NFC has the right to appoint an officer to monitor filming in Sri Lanka. The monitoring officer's duty is to observe the filming and advice the production crew based on the guideline. Per Diem payment for the officer plus his/her food, lodging and transportation need to be provided by the applicant or the local agent. Decision to exclude the monitoring officer is solely decided by the NFC.

If a direct recommendation is given by the relevant Sri Lankan mission abroad, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau or any other government ministry, department or institution involving the project, it would be considered by the NFC to include or exclude the monitoring officer's service.

- L) In case a complaint is received regarding the filming content, NFC shall summon the foreign crew, local agent or any other parties involved to preview/ review all footage/ photographs. NFC has the right to cease any such footage/ photograph/ equipment containing the objectionable or NFC guideline violating content to be taken away from the country. Legal action, fine, warning, blacklisting or deportation would result if proved of any misconduct. The NFC shall not be liable for any loss, either financial or otherwise caused in this regard.

M) It is advised to insure the foreign crew for the entire filming period in Sri Lanka. However, the NFC may request the foreign applicant or the local agent to insure the NFC monitoring officer based on the locations or the nature of the production.

N) In case of co-production, at least 50 percent of the total number of technicians and artistes should be Sri Lankan. The local producer needs to provide the certified copies of legal agreements entered into with the foreign producer, business registration and details of shareholders, directors of all parties, artiste and technician agreements, production/ownership ratio, financial declaration and intended foreign exchange component to be brought to Sri Lanka etc.

Co-production which intends to commercially release in Sri Lanka should be done in Sinhala, Tamil or English languages. Co-productions done in other languages which are intended to commercially release in Sri Lanka, should not dub its versions in Sinhala, Tamil or English. Such productions could be permitted to be subtitled with a national language in Sri Lanka.

O) After completing the production, the final edited version should be submitted to the relevant Sri Lankan mission where the applicant applies at least one week prior to broadcast or publish. Any objection raised by the Sri Lankan mission should reasonably accommodate and/or a right of reply should be given to the Sri Lankan mission, in the same production with equal priority. The same footage should not be used for any other production without properly acknowledging the Sri Lankan mission.

However, film, television and media companies who have signed mutual agreements with the NFC, SLTPB and Sri Lankan missions abroad shall be given exemption on mutual understanding for above clause.

.....
Signature of Foreign Applicant

.....
Signature of Local Agent (as applicable)

Name:.....

Name:.....

Passport No:.....

N.I.C No:.....

Company :.....

Company:.....

Country:.....

Sri Lanka Address:.....

.....

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Date:.....

Date:.....

1) Name of the applicant/ company:.....

2) Address :.....

.....

Country:.....

Tel:..... Email:.....

Web:.....

3) Country/ Channel/ Medium of the final production to be aired/ screened/ published:

.....

4) Film/ Production/ Publication original title (with English meaning as applicable):.....

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5) Category:

Feature Film TV Drama Short Film Docudrama Co-Production

*Required to submit the complete final script for approval at least 2 weeks prior to filming with Rs. 2,000/= non refundable payment.

*Required to assign a professional local production company or fixer for the entire shooting period

*Recommended to apply visa through the local agent after receiving the script approval

*Approval fee: Feature Film Rs. 75,000/= TV Drama, Short Film, Docudrama, Co-production: Rs. 60,000/=

*NFC Officer fee: Rs 1,000/= per day with food, lodging and transportation (If appointed)

Reality Series Commercial Music Video Film Song

*Required to submit the program description/storyboard/product and company profile/lyrics as applicable

*Required to assign a professional local production company or fixer for the entire shooting period

*Recommended to apply visa through the local agent after receiving the approval

*Approval fee (any category given above) Rs. 40,000/=

*NFC Officer fee: Rs 1,000/= per day with food, lodging and transportation (If appointed)

Documentary Sports Travel, Tourism and Lifestyle Photo Shoot

*Required to submit the storyline/ program description/ profile of the project as applicable

*Required to assign a professional local production company or fixer for the entire shooting period

*Recommended to apply visa through the local agent after receiving approval

*Approval fee (any category given above) Rs. 12,500/=

*NFC Officer fee: Rs 1,000/= per day with food, lodging and transportation (If appointed)

News and Current Affairs Diplomatic Aid Project Review Religious/Pilgrimage

*Not required to obtain NFC filming permit

*Contact the relevant Sri Lankan mission abroad or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs directly

*No approval charges required

Other (please specify).....

- 6) Online reference about the program if any:.....
- 7) Original language:.....
- 8) Number of Productions/ Episodes/ TVC/ Length:.....
- 9) Filming format:.....
- 10) Filming duration (days):.....
- 11) Arrival date:.....
- 12) Departure date:.....
- 13) Local Agent/ Production Manager/ Fixer/ Company:
(Required to hire a NFC recognized professional local agent/ production manager/ fixer/company)
.....
Tel:..... Email:.....
- 14) Local Recommendation/ Host/ Sponsor/ Inviter/ Coordinator:
(Required to submit the letter of recommendation/ invitation/ sponsorship/ proof as applicable)
.....
Tel:..... Email:.....
- 15) Local Travel Agent/ Company:
.....
Tel:..... Email:.....

16) Filming schedule with dates and location:

(Please use a separate sheet if necessary)

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17) Names/ Passport numbers/ Nationalities of the foreign filming crew:

(Please use a separate sheet if necessary)

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OFFICIAL USE ONLY
REPLY FORM

Applicant reference
number:.....

This part should be filled by the Sri Lankan mission: (as applicable)

Application forwarding date:.....
Recommended for filming approval:
 with NFC supervision with SLTB supervision without supervision not recommended

Background/ Past records/ Reputation or any other remark about the applicant:
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.....
.....

Name and designation of the officer-in-charge:.....
Country and city of the mission:.....

This part should be filled by the Public Communication Division at MEA: (as applicable)

Application forwarding date:.....
Recommended for filming approval:
 with NFC supervision with SLTB supervision without supervision not recommended

Background/ Past records/ Reputation or any other remark about the applicant:
.....
.....
.....

Name and designation of the officer-in-charge:.....

This part should be filled by the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau: (as applicable)

Application forwarding date:.....
Recommended for filming approval:
 recommended and undertaken recommended only not recommended

Background/ Past records/ Reputation or any other remark about the applicant:
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.....

Name and designation of the officer-in-charge:.....

Decision of the National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka

Applicant name and reference number:.....

Approved Rejected Waitlisted Re-submit

with NFC supervision
 with SLTPB supervision

.....
.....

Name, date and designation of the officer-in-charge:.....

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF FILM SHOOTINGS IN SRI LANKA

1. Original film title :

2. English title :

3. Category

	Feature
	Short film
	T.V. drama
	Documentary
	Commercial
	Music video

4. Format :

5. Film original language:

6. Synopsis:

7. Country:

8. Director:

Name	
Nationality	
Passport No	
E mail	
Telephone	
Address	

9. Producer:

Name	
Nationality	
Passport No	
E mail	
Telephone	
Address	

10. Crew members:

11. Starting date of shooting:

12. Period of shooting:

13. Locations :

14. Production House:

Name	
E mail	
Telephone	
Address	

15. Local Representative

Name	
ID Number	
Job Title	
E mail	
Telephone	
Address	

Further we / I hereby agree to the rules and regulations prevailing in the National Film Corporation regarding foreign shootings in Sri Lanka. The above facts are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of the Applicant / Applicants

Date:

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01. Payments:

Amount	Receipt Number	Date

02. Name of investigation officer:

Application for the Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) for Sri Lanka

Information of Applicant

1. Surname / Family Name

2. Other Names

(Pl. affix your
Photograph)

3. Title Rev. Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms.

4. Date of Birth Date Month Year

5. Gender Male Female

6. Nationality

7. Country of Birth

8. Occupation

9. Passport No

10. Passport Issued Date Date Month Year

11. Passport Expiry Date Date Month Year

12. Information of accompanied children under age of 12 years (if applicable)

	Surname / Family Name	Other Names	Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY)	Gender	Relationship
i.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
ii.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
iii.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
iv.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
v.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>

13. Travel Information

i.) Intended arrival in Sri Lanka Date Month Year

ii.) Flight No. & Airline Vessel

iii.) Period of Visa required Days Single Double Multiple

iv.) Purpose of the Visit

(a) Diplomatic / Official (Pl. specify)	
(b) Tourist	<input type="checkbox"/> Sightseeing / Holiday <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting friends / Relatives <input type="checkbox"/> Medical treatments including Ayurvedic / Herbal & Yoga <input type="checkbox"/> Sports events & Competitions <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Pl. specify)
(c) Other Purposes	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Meetings / Negotiations <input type="checkbox"/> Conferences / Workshops / Seminars <input type="checkbox"/> Short-term Training programmes <input type="checkbox"/> Art , Music & dance events <input type="checkbox"/> Participate for symposiums <input type="checkbox"/> Religious events <input type="checkbox"/> Filming for making documentaries/commercials etc. <input type="checkbox"/> For making News stories, editorials, interviews
(d) Transit (Pl. specify)	

14. **Contact Details of the Applicant's Organization or contact details in Korea**

Organization / Company	Postal Address	E-mail	Telephone No.	Mobile No.	Fax No.

15. **Contact Details in Sri Lanka**

Organization / Company/ Hotel	Address	E-mail	Telephone No	Mobile No	Fax No

16. Have you been to Sri Lanka previously ? Yes No

Declaration of the Applicant

I solemnly declare that the information furnished by me in this application is true and I have not willfully suppressed any information that is required, that in the event of issue of visa. I shall comply with the terms and conditions subject to which the visa is granted, and I shall not engage myself in any employment, paid or unpaid, or in any business or trade other than the purpose of visit is granted, and that I shall notify the Controller of Immigration and Emigration of any change in my address during my stay in Sri Lanka.

Date

Signature