

# **A Parent and Carer's Guide to the BFI Film Academy Craft Skills Residential delivered by the NFTS - your questions answered!**



Delivered by

**NFTS**

NATIONAL  
FILM AND  
TELEVISION  
SCHOOL

## **1. What is the BFI Film Academy Craft Skills Residential?**

The Craft Skills Residential is an amazing opportunity for young people with a passion and a talent for film. We are very proud to host the Craft Skills Residential and want to ensure that the experience is the best possible for all participants.

## **2. Where does the Craft Skills Residential take place?**

There is an online Screenwriting weekend for six writers *only*, then an Online weekend for all participants. The main 12 day residential is attended by all 66 participants. The main venue is the National Film and Television School at Beaconsfield, and we will also be using Moor Hall Conference Centre nearby in Cookham.

## **3. How are the participants selected?**

They fill in an online application writing a personal statement about why they feel they should have the opportunity. They ask a teacher or a regional film academy leader or other adult who knows their work to write a reference and submit it with the application form. They also send evidence of their work - in the case of Screenwriting applicants, a short script excerpt, and for all other Craft skills, links to video or other material online that they have made or helped to make. These applications will be viewed by a panel of industry experts and they will select the participants. Flexibility is built into the selection process so that a candidate who does not have much evidence of past work or maybe doesn't write a very strong personal statement could still be offered a place because of the strength of recommendation of potential from a referee.

## **4. Where will the young people be staying and will meals and transport be provided?**

Accommodation is at Moor Hall, with en-suite single rooms for everyone, facilities such as seminar rooms, social areas, snooker tables and board games. Meals will be provided at the residential, with breakfast at Moor Hall and sandwich lunch normally at the NFTS. Evening meals will mainly be at the NFTS, with some at

Moor Hall. There will be a coach between Moor Hall and the NFTS each day and for the visits to other venues, while minibuses will be provided for the days of the shoot. Daily travel from home to the NFTS will not be possible, as this is a fully residential course.

## **5. What costs are involved for participants?**

The cost of travel from home and back again for the main residential and a means tested fee payable on acceptance of a place on the Craft Residential. A small amount of spending money (around £20) for extras over the fortnight is recommended. [More information on the means tested payment is available here.](#)

## **6. If a young person has a disability or other needs, how will the Craft residential cater for this?**

If your son/daughter has any learning needs or disabilities, they should include this information on their application form. Any dietary needs should be notified to us on the acceptance form so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

## **7. Who will look after the young people?**

Chaperones will supervise the young people throughout the residential; all have extensive educational experience. All key staff have current DBS clearance.

## **8. What does the Craft Residential programme involve?**

Everyone will have opted for a craft specialism from producing, directing, editing, cinematography, production design, screenwriting and sound. At the residential, they will spend some of the time working in specialist groups with tutors helping them to develop these skills, some of the time attending masterclasses with film-makers talking about their work, and most of the time in a team planning, shooting and editing a short film. Each team will be led by a tutor with industry experience and will be supported on the production by other NFTS tutors, students and graduates.

## **9. What are the rules for participants?**

- All participants are expected to behave in a professional manner at all times, observing health and safety regulations and following instructions from staff.
- Participants should not leave the grounds of the NFTS or Moor Hall Conference Centre without the express permission of staff.

- In the event of any emergency, participants are asked to follow instructions from staff.
- All participants have their own rooms at Moor Hall and will be expected to keep rooms tidy and report any damage (accidental or otherwise). The expectation is that only the occupant of the room uses that room.
- No alcohol consumption by participants is permitted throughout the period of the Craft Residential.
- Smoking is only permitted in designated areas.
- No illegal activity is to take place at the Craft Residential, including possession of drugs or weapons
- Craft Residential staff reserve the right to withdraw any participant who fails to behave in an appropriate and professional manner at any time during the pre-residential weekend or the main residential. Should it be necessary to do so, parents/carers will be informed and arrangements agreed for the participant to travel home.

## **10. What happens after the Craft Residential?**

An alumni officer will help participants to organise an online profile to showcase their work and will keep in touch with details of work experience opportunities and graduate films on which they might wish to volunteer, as well as invitations to film festivals and other events geared to their aspirations.