

BURSARY GUIDELINES: *Please read carefully*

The Channel 2 Bursary Scheme aims to help increase diversity and equality within Scotland's film and television industry by helping those from low-income backgrounds to access entry level training **on courses with vocational outcomes**. The fund is aimed at those who, without financial support, would find it difficult to access training and therefore job opportunities within the sector.

Our criteria for providing support is based on income, and diversity and inclusion:

INCOME CRITERIA

If you earn £16,000 per year or less as an individual or live in a household with an income of less than £25,000 you may be eligible for a full bursary and/or care costs through the Channel 2 scheme.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CRITERIA

Eligibility for a Channel 2 Bursary is primarily assessed on income criteria, however, we are very keen to encourage participants from a broad range of backgrounds and those who may have experienced barriers to progression in film and television. To this end, we particularly welcome applications from people who consider any of the following to be a barrier for them:

- Having a disability or long term health condition.
A disability is defined in the Equality Act 2010 as a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term impact a person's ability to carry out day-to-day activities. This includes progressive and long-term conditions from the point of diagnosis.
- Being minority ethnic.
- Living in a geographical area of Scotland where distance and availability of transport limits access to professional training.
- Being a carer.
- Being female (or identifying as female) and aiming to specialise in the technical areas of film & TV drama.

If you meet the income criteria and/or require to pay for someone to cover your caring responsibilities while attending the course, you may also receive a contribution to the total cost of care.

Channel 2 bursaries cover the full cost of your chosen course, and where eligible, full care costs. Bursaries will be allocated based on NFTS Scotland's assessment of the application, including financial and diversity criteria, supporting evidence and a personal statement. We are looking for applicants who will further the School's and sector's aim of increasing equality and diversity in the screen industries. At the discretion of NFTS Scotland, and in exceptional circumstances, *Channel 2* may instead award partial bursaries in line with the criteria laid out in the Scottish Government Bursary guidelines [here](#).

Bursaries are provided at the discretion of NFTS Scotland. They are paid to enable you to attend training. Bursaries are not loans. You don't have to pay them back.

- You must be resident in Scotland for three years or more. The requirement for evidence of residency may be waived for certain groups (e.g. travelling community) at NFTS Scotland's discretion.
- The bursaries are means-tested and you will only be considered eligible if your household income is at or below the stated income threshold.
- Acceptance on your chosen course is a pre-requisite for consideration for a bursary.

You will be asked to provide responses (max 200 words each) to the following:

1. Please tell us why you wish to undertake this specific course.
2. Please tell us any reasons why you're struggling to begin or progress a career in the screen industries.
3. Please outline any previous experiences (if any) you have in the area you wish to specialise in.
4. Please give an example of any work undertaken (paid or voluntary) or a project that you've been involved in that demonstrates your work ethic.

EVIDENCE OF ELIGIBILITY

In order to assess eligibility for a bursary, we require you to provide certain personal information. The information you provide is confidential and will be reviewed only by NFTS Scotland and the Channel 2 Fund. It will be used only for assessing your eligibility for an NFTS Scotland bursary and, if successful, processing your bursary.

Course fee bursaries

We require you to submit the following documents (where applicable) along with your completed bursary application form.

Evidence of your residence in Scotland (please supply one)

- A utility bill (e.g. gas, electric, council tax)*
- A letter from your local authority addressed to you*
- A bank statement addressed to you*

The requirement for evidence of residency may be waived for certain groups (e.g. travelers) at the NFTS Scotland's discretion.

Evidence of your income (please supply one)

- P60*
- Full TCAN Notice*
- Self-employed earnings (official tax return)*
- Other benefits or pension award letter*

and the last three months of wage slips for your household **OR** evidence of household members' entitlement to Income support/Universal Credit **OR** the last three months' bank statements for your household.

Care cost bursaries

To qualify for a care cost bursary, you must provide evidence of the cost of alternative care arrangements for the person or people for whom you are the sole carer for the duration of the course. Care cost bursaries will be paid on submission of original receipts/invoices to NFTS Scotland.

Disability

If you are applying for a bursary on the basis of disability or long-term health condition, we will require evidence of receipt of Personal Independence Payments/Disability Living Allowance, or a recent letter (within the previous six months) or documentation from a medical professional, e.g. your GP or consultant outlining the nature of the details of your disability or medical condition.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

Bursaries should be applied for at least four weeks prior to the course start date to provide you with the best chance of securing one.

The bursary programme is discretionary with a rolling deadline. However, we anticipate a high demand for our bursaries and funding is limited. Once the total fund has been awarded, the programme will close for the financial year.

GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

If you have received a bursary from us, you must wait for twelve months before applying for another, unless the further bursary is for a course which clearly progresses you within a chosen specialism. For example, you may be eligible for an introductory two-day course and a related certificate or diploma course, if available, within the same year. However, it is unlikely that we will support bursaries for multiple short courses in unrelated subject areas.

If you have any questions about our bursaries, the bursary process or if you require support to complete your application, please email scotland@nfts.co.uk with 'Bursary Enquiry' in the subject heading.

We will keep these criteria, including financial thresholds, under review.