

BURSARY GUIDELINES **FOR NFTS CYMRU WALES COURSES**

Please read carefully

The aim of these Welsh Government supported bursaries is to help increase diversity and equality within Wales's screen and television industry by helping those from under-represented groups and those who, without financial support, would find it difficult to access training and therefore job opportunities.

When awarded, a bursary will cover a proportion of the cost of a course, and in some cases, fully fund it. Bursaries are only available to those who are eligible and can demonstrate commitment to their chosen field of training or work. Bursaries will be allocated based on NFTS Cymru Wales'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 the sector's aim of increasing equality and diversity in the screen industries.

We have a limited amount of funding to distribute but we aim to provide bursary support for approximately one third of our course places. Your application will be assessed against the criteria set out in these guidelines on a first come, first served basis.

Our criteria for providing support are based on income and diversity and inclusion which are outlined below. Please note applicants must also be:

- aged over 18
- resident in Wales for the last 3 years
- not in full time education at the time of the course.

INCOME CRITERIA

If you earn **£21,000** per year or less as an individual, or live in a household with a combined income of less than **£34,000**, you may be eligible for a contribution to course fees and/or care costs.

If you earn **£25,500** per year or less as an individual, or live in a household with a combined income of less than **£40,000**, **AND meet at least one of our diversity and inclusion criteria**, you may also be eligible for a contribution to course fees and/or care costs.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CRITERIA

We are very keen to encourage participants from a broad range of backgrounds and those who may have experienced barriers to progression in the film, television and games industry. 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 on 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 Wales 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, or directing, or writing

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.

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

Please note:

- You must be resident in Wales for three years or more. The requirement for evidence of residency may be waived for certain groups (e.g. travellers) at the discretion of NFTS Cymru Wales.
- 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.
- Bursaries will not be provided for students currently in government supported full-time education

You will be asked to provide a personal statement telling us why you are applying for financial support for this course which should include:

- Your reasons for wanting to take part in this course;
- The barriers you face in establishing or progressing a career in the screen industries;
- How you plan to use the experience gained from your participation in this course in your future work;
- Any previous experience in this area;
- Whether you have already undertaken training in this area, and if so what and when;
- How you will fund any balance required, including self-funding.

BURSARIES AVAILABLE

- **Contribution to course fees based on income, diversity and inclusion criteria**
This contribution to course fees is available if you meet income, diversity and inclusion criteria.
- **Contribution to course fees based on income only**
This contribution to course fees is available if you meet the income criteria.

- **Care cost bursary**

This contribution to the total cost of care is available if you meet the income criteria and require to pay for someone to cover your caring responsibilities while attending the course.

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 Cymru Wales and the Welsh Government department supporting our bursaries. It will be used only for assessing your eligibility for an NFTS Cymru Wales 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 Wales (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. travellers) at discretion of NFTS Cymru Wales.

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/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 Cymru Wales.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

Bursaries should be applied for as early as possible to provide you with the best chance of securing one.

The bursary programme is discretionary with a rolling deadline. However funding is limited and once the total fund has been awarded, the programme will close.

MULTIPLE BURSARY APPLICATIONS

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.

CONTACT US

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

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

March 2022