

A Parent and Carer's Guide to the NFTS Academy residential - your questions answered!

1. What is the NFTS Academy?

The NFTS Academy, supported by Disney, is an amazing opportunity for young people aged 16-19 with a passion and a talent for film. We want to ensure that the experience is the best possible for all participants.

2. Where does the NFTS Academy Residential take place?

There is an online Screenwriting weekend for six writers only, then an online weekend for all participants. The main 11 day residential is attended by all 54 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 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, a pool tables and board games. Meals will be provided at the residential, with breakfast at Moor Hall and usually a sandwich lunch 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?

There are no fees payable for this course. Places on the course are entirely free to successful applicants, as it is supported by Disney. Participants will be responsible only for the cost of travel to and from the residential course. A small amount of spending money (around £30) for extras over the residential is recommended.

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

We really welcome applications from disabled talent. 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 NFTS Academy 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 filmmakers 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 or vaping are only permitted in designated areas.
- No illegal activity is to take place at the NFTS Academy Residential, including possession of drugs or weapons.
- 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 NFTS Academy?

Participants are issued with a Certificate of Achievement and reference in support of their future careers or ongoing study.