

Scholarship Policy

1. Introduction

- (a) The NFTS awards more scholarships to British students, relative to the size of our student body, than almost any other educational institution in the UK.
- (b) The School is committed to ensuring it is open to students of genuine ability, no matter what their background or financial circumstances.
- (c) As an institution that develops the next generation of creative talent, we feel a special responsibility to ensure our creative industries reflect the full diversity of our country.
- (d) The School's Scholarship programme is made up of a multitude of donors and patrons who have varying criteria, and these can change from year to year.
- (e) Named scholarships may be provided by an individual or institution that has some connection with the industry and/or School, some of whom may have an interest in mentoring the successful recipient.

2. Eligibility

- (a) Applicants must have been permanently resident in the UK for three years prior to the date of the start of the course applied for, and hold a British passport in order to be eligible.
- (b) Applicants must have received and accepted a formal offer of a place at the School on an MFA or MA course.

3. Applying for a Scholarship

- (c) When you are offered a place on an MFA or MA course, and if you are eligible, you will be invited to apply for funding. We expect all students to have applied for the maximum loan funding available to them before applying for scholarship funding.
- (d) Applicants must complete the application form in full, provide all the requested evidence and submit the application by the deadline notified to them in order to be considered for funding.
- (e) Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
- (f) Applicants may be requested to provide additional documentation in support of their funding application.

- (g) Applicants cannot apply for or request a specific scholarship donor, however, if an applicant matches the criteria for a specific donor, this will be confirmed to them when they are notified of the outcome of their application.
- (h) Scholarships can provide some (and in certain cases, all) of tuition fee support. They may be provided by a named individual or institution that has some connection with the Industry and/or School and who may have an interest in mentoring the successful recipient.

4. Selection of Scholarship recipient

- (i) A panel drawn from representatives of the industry meets annually to assess all scholarship applications; this panel includes the Director of the NFTS, NFTS governors, graduates and NFTS staff.
- (j) Applicants are assessed by the panel against the scholarship criteria and according to applicants' demonstrated level of financial need.
- (k) Applicants are notified of the outcome of their application usually within 4 weeks of the meeting of the panel.
- (l) The decision of the scholarship panel is final.

5. Payment of awards

- (m) Scholarships are treated as a reduction against the published tuition fee.
- (n) Unless otherwise specified, scholarships are awarded for each year of a student's course.
- (o) Students in receipt of more than one scholarship may combine these as long as the combined value does not amount to more than the total annual cost of tuition. A scholarship will not be awarded to anyone who already has a full scholarship or sponsorship to pay for their tuition fees.
- (p) Scholarship recipients are required to advise the School if their financial situation changes and they are subsequently granted full funding from another source.
- (q) The School reserves the right to withdraw all or part of a Scholarship if the student obtains sufficient alternative funding from another source. A student will not be disadvantaged if they already hold a partial scholarship, provided it would not exceed the tuition fee, as stated above.
- (r) Where a student has contributed towards their tuition fees and the award of a scholarship exceeds the total tuition fees due, the student will only be entitled to a refund of monies, in part or in total, that they have paid towards their fees.
- (s) Where there is a maintenance element to a scholarship, this will be paid monthly to the student in arrears.

6. Withdrawals and suspensions

- (t) If a student withdraws from their course, a proportion or all of the scholarship may be withdrawn, depending on when they withdraw from the course. This may mean that a student may become liable for any remaining balance of outstanding tuition fees due – see [NFTS Student Fee policy](#).
- (u) Where a student is receiving maintenance payments as part of a scholarship, these will be stopped from the date the student withdraws from their course.
- (v) Scholarships cannot be deferred. If an applicant awarded any NFTS scholarship defers their place to the following year, they will need to reapply for funding.
- (w) If a scholarship recipient suspends their studies, their scholarship may, at the sole discretion of the Registrar, be carried forward for a maximum period of 12 months.

7. Withdrawal of scholarship

- (a) Any student found to have provided the School with false information for the purpose of gaining funding they are not entitled to will have their funding withdrawn and become immediately liable for the full published tuition fee. They will not be eligible to apply for any further sources of School financial support, and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

This policy was approved in June 2025.