

BFI Doc Society Fund: Features Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Who can apply for the fund?

Applications must be made by the producer of the film. The fund is unable to accept applications from directors without a separate lead producer.

Do I need a production company?

Yes, your application does need to be made through a company registered or centrally managed in the UK.

At what stage can I apply?

Any stage of early development, development, pre-production, production or post-production. We cannot accept applications from completed projects looking for funding towards Impact campaigns, distribution or festival attendance.

When should I apply?

The Doc Society BFI Feature Documentary Fund accepts applications on a **rolling basis** and is open year round. Applications are assessed as they are submitted. The sooner you apply, the sooner we can process your application.

What support can I get for help with my application if I have access requirements?

BFI Doc Society is committed to making its funding accessible to all. [TAPE Community Film and Music](#) will be providing individually tailored support for applicants with access needs. Find all the details on what support you can receive and how to get the help required to make an application [in this PDF document](#).



Does my project need to qualify as British?

Yes, you must be confident at the time of application that your project will qualify as a British project by meeting either the [cultural test](#) for film or the cultural test for video games.

When does the cultural test need to be submitted? Do I need to apply for the cultural test ahead of my application to the BFI Doc Society Fund?

It is a requirement of funding that your film or immersive project qualifies under the DCMS cultural test, which is administered by the [BFI certification unit](#). Ideally you will have submitted your application for an interim certificate with the British Film certification unit at the BFI ahead of your funding application. If you are in early development you may not have completed this yet and will need to evidence how your project qualifies should you be selected for an interview as part of the application process.

If I am a British Citizen living in a country other than the UK, can I apply?

Yes. As long as your company is registered or centrally managed in the UK and your project qualifies as a “British Film” by virtue of scoring 18 points on the Cultural Test and/or as an official co-production.

If my film is shot in a country other than the UK, can I apply?

Yes, provided your film qualifies as a British Film.

Do I need to have match funding in place to apply?

No, you can apply to the Fund to be the first money into the project. You will need a clear plan of how and when you intend to raise the rest of the funding as BFI Doc Society Fund cannot be the only funder of a project.

Can funds from the applicant production company or crowd funding campaign be considered as other funds?

Yes, provided Doc Society approves the terms on which the funds are made available to the project.

What supporting materials need to be provided?

You have the option of uploading film files or links of sample work in support of your application. You must upload a budget, production schedule and your diversity monitoring form. You also have the option to upload any creative materials in support of your application - a treatment, mood board or links to previous work. Please note that any support materials **MUST** be uploaded before the application deadline.

Can I apply with more than one project?

You can apply with more than one project. The fund is limited and you may wish to think about which project is most developed and suitable prior to application. You will need to fully complete an individual application form for each individual project that you submit.

After you have submitted your application:

When will I find out if my application has been successful?

To ensure a thorough and fair review process, it takes our readers, team and external peer reviewers up to 10 weeks after the fund close date to make decisions. We contact all applicants by email to let them know the outcome.

If my application is unsuccessful can I reapply with the same project?

Yes. However please consider how you will be able to demonstrate that the project has developed since your last application. Do you have new material? Added any senior roles to your team? Developed characters, access or progressed with other funding sources? If we receive a repeat submission for a project that cannot demonstrate significant development, it's unlikely that it will be selected.

If you have any further questions, please contact us on: hello@docsociety.org