BFI Doc Society Fund 2023 - 2026

Expression of Interest
Application Preview

URN
Date Received

Eligibility

* Title of the project

* I am over 18 years old and not in full time education
[ ] Yes

* I can confirm that my organisation has not, and will not, act in a way or hold business connections (or receive funding from a third party which undertakes activities or holds business connections) which may damage the reputation of the BFI or the funding programme or the National Lottery.
[ ] Yes

* My project is
[ ] a feature documentary film (go to section 1A)
[ ] an immersive non-fiction project (go to section 1B)

Declarations

1A For feature Documentary Projects

* My documentary is intended to be at least 70 minutes in length
[ ] Yes

* My documentary film is capable of qualifying as a British film
MORE INFO ON CULTURAL TEST
MORE INFO ON CO-PRODUCTIONS

All questions about the cultural test and co-production tax relief should be referred to certifications@bfi.org.uk. For minority co-productions, please see guidelines section 3.

[ ] My film will qualify as British because it will be an official co-production
[ ] My film will qualify as British because it will pass the cultural test

* My film will be capable of obtaining theatrical and video release certification, no more restrictive than BBFC '18

MORE INFO ON BBFC
[ ] Yes

* My film is intended to be shown in Cinemas
[ ] Yes

1B for immersive non-fiction Projects

* What is the intended run time of your immersive non-fiction project?

* Where do you intend it to be shown?

Word Count Max 200.

Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer

* What outcomes would the grant enable?

Word Count Max 200.
My immersive project is capable of qualifying as a British project
Information about how to apply for the cultural for film can be found here. Information about how to apply for the cultural for video games can be found here. All questions about the cultural test and tax reliefs should be referred to certifications@bfi.org.uk.

[ ] My project will qualify as British because it will pass the video games cultural test
[ ] My project will qualify as British because it will pass the film cultural test

My project will be capable of obtaining either:
BBFC Classification guidelines can be downloaded here. Information on PEGI certification for interactive works can be found here.
[ ] BBFC Certification, no more restrictive than ‘18’
[ ] PEGI Certification, no more restrictive than ‘18’

Applicant Information

* Director's name & Biography
You must have a director attached to the project inorder to apply

Word Count Max 150.

In which Nation or English region, is the Director's permanent residence?
We are keen to ensure applications are received from across the Nations and English regions of the UK. You can find out more about our key performance indicators in Section 2 of the Guidelines.
[ ] Northern Ireland
[ ] Scotland
[ ] Wales
[ ] The Midlands
[ ] Greater London
[ ] Northern England
[ ] South East England
[ ] South West England
[ ] Other

* Lead producer's name
Your project must have a dedicated producer, applications from director/producers are ineligible. See guidelines section 3

* Lead producer's email address

* Lead producer's phone number

Names and roles of any other key creatives who are attached to the project
Add names of any other producers, co-producers, executive producers, additional directors, or editors who are attached to the project.

* Production company name

Trading name of production company (if applicable)

* Registered address of production company
* Company number
If you are not applying with a company limited by guarantee, please share the details of the organisation making the application.

Production company website

* In which Nation or English region, is the production company or British co-production company registered in?
[ ] Northern Ireland
[ ] Scotland
[ ] Wales
[ ] The Midlands
[ ] Greater London
[ ] Northern England
[ ] South East England
[ ] South West England

* Has the production company received any public subsidy funding in the last three years? If so, how much was awarded?
The company or, if relevant, the group of companies to which it belongs, cannot have received public funding or subsidies labelled as “minimal funding assistance” totalling £315,000 or more in the total period including the elapsed part of the current financial year (i.e., from 1 April), and the two financial years immediately preceding the current financial year. The application will also be ineligible if the amount applied for takes the company or relevant group of companies over this threshold of £315,000.

[ ] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, please provide details here

* Do you or any of your team have another application or live project with any BFI Fund at present?
[ ] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, please provide details here
Have you or your director previously received BFI National Lottery funding for any project?
[ ] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, please provide details here

Project Information

Have you previously submitted this project to the BFI Doc Society Fund?
[ ] Yes
[ ] No

If your project is a resubmission, please detail how the project has progressed since the last application

Applicants are welcome to re-apply with projects previously unsuccessfully submitted. In order to be eligible, re-submissions must demonstrate there has been a substantial change in elements (e.g. a change of director, or significant developments occurring in relation to the subject matter of the project since the previous submission)

Logline

Please provide a brief summary of the project that captures the most important elements — setting, participants, central conflict, or concerns.
* Story summary/synopsis

Give an overview of your story, introducing the main participants and potential plot points. Describe the anticipated story and narrative trajectory or potential character arcs for your film. Explain the relevant cultural, historical, political, or social context for the film. Detail the topics, issues, themes, challenges, stakes, or questions that your project will cover.

* Why are you the right person to tell this story?

What unique lens, perspective, insights, or bias do you bring to the story – i.e., your values, interests, underlying assumptions, worldview, or motivations? If relevant, describe your relationship with the participants or community being filmed. What are your processes of accountability, including consent, transparency, feedback, and any other steps being taken to ensure the participants or communities that are featured in your film have agency in the filmmaking process, from pre-production through to distribution.
* Please select the Nation(s) and/or English region(s) that your project will take place in (production and post-production)

[ ] Northern Ireland
[ ] Scotland
[ ] Wales
[ ] The Midlands
[ ] Greater London
[ ] Northern England
[ ] South East England
[ ] South West England
[ ] Outside the UK

Please specify where outside of the UK, your project will be taking place.

* What stage is your project at?

Doc Society makes reference to 5 of the 6 Documentary Accountability Working Group’s Framework definitions for the stages of development of a feature documentary film. We recommend you download the framework.

DOC ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

[ ] Early development
[ ] Research and Development
[ ] Pre-production
[ ] Production
[ ] Post-production

* What is the total (estimated) project budget?

This should include all costs necessary to complete the film, including producer, director and other key crew fees, production fees where appropriate, post-production costs and access materials. Please note you are only able to put numbers into this text box.

* How much are you applying for?

The amount requested cannot exceed £150,000. Please note you are only able to put numbers into this text box.

* What is the gap in the budget?

The gap should be the difference between the total budget figure (A) and the sum of confirmed funds (B), plus any anticipated tax credit amount (C) and confirmed investment (D)

\[
A - (B+C+D) = \text{Gap}
\]
* Are access costs included in your budget?

The BFI Doc Society Fund encourages access costs, over and above production costs being included in the total budget. If you or the participants in the project have additional access requirements, please set out the costs you would intend to offset using this provision. You can find more information on access in section 4 of the guidelines.

[ ] Yes
[ ] No

If so, how much do you intend to apply for?


* Is this a first feature film/immersive project for the director or producer?

[ ] Director
[ ] Producer
[ ] Neither

* How secure is your access to the story you want to tell?

Please tell us if you have secured, or have a contractual right to secure, the rights (including any underlying rights) in the idea you are proposing. This includes use of any necessary archive or biographical material. You will be required to provide proof of this prior to any funding offer or payment of any award from the BFI Doc Society Fund.

[ ] Secured and documented
[ ] Secured, not documented
[ ] Under discussion
[ ] Proposed

* What outcomes will a grant enable? (Tick all that apply)

[ ] Treatment
[ ] Documented access
[ ] Research footage
[ ] Core production
[ ] Teaser
[ ] Rough cut
[ ] Fine cut
[ ] Mixed cut
[ ] Graded cut
[ ] Other - my project is immersive non-fiction (answered in section 1B)
Diversity Standards

The BFI Diversity Standards aim to put equity, diversity and inclusion at the centre of projects as they are being developed. They aim to encourage behavioural change and inspire project leaders to use more inclusive practices in creating content, developing activity and recruitment. The term under-represented groups primarily relates to the protected characteristics defined in the UK Equality Act 2010.

You can find the full Film criteria and guidance here. Please read this guidance before you start filling in the form as it includes examples for each criteria.

Please download and complete the BFI Doc Society Diversity Standards form before answering the questions in this section.

Download PDF
Download Word Document

* Upload your completed BFI Diversity Standards Form here.

Upload Here

* My Project complies with mandatory Diversity Standards C and E
  [ ] YES

* Which additional non-mandatory BFI Diversity Standards does your project comply with?
  To achieve the Standards, 3 Standards must be met including C and E
  [ ] Standard A
  [ ] Standard B
  [ ] Standard D

Equality and monitoring

Before you submit your application, you and your team are required to complete the equality monitoring form. Your application will not be assessed until we have confirmed receipt of the form for each member of the team. You can share the link below with your team so that all
information can be submitted privately. The questionnaire does not store
names or email addresses.

Please submit the form quoting this unique reference number [URN] and
pass the reference number on to other members of your team who are
completing the form.

All responses to this form will be kept anonymously and will not be shared
with the assessors of the application.

Link to equality monitoring form - https://forms.gle/5y3MWXJvJd1IRkbE7

* I confirm that completed equality and monitoring forms have been
submitted for:

[ ] Director(s)
[ ] Producer(s)
[ ] Writer (if applicable)

SUBMIT FORM