BFI Doc Society Fund
Research & Development Funding
2023 - 2026 Application
Released: 7th December 2023

URN:
Date Received:

* Title of the project

[   ]

* Are you a producer applying with multiple projects simultaneously?
A maximum award for multiple project applications will be £10,000 per producer

[ ] Yes
[ ] No

If 'Yes' Please enter the project titles of any additional applications to be considered

[   ]

* 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 documentary, once completed, is intended to be a film shown in cinemas and at least 70 mins long, or is an immersive project of any length

[ ] Yes

* Once completed, my documentary film or immersive project is capable of qualifying as a British project

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

* This is a first or second feature film/immersive project for the director
[ ] Yes

* The research and development delivery materials can be delivered within 3 months of contracting

You can find out about what the delivery materials are in the fund guidelines

[ ] Yes

Applicant Information

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* Director's name and biography

You must have a director attached to the project in order to apply

Max 150 words / 1 min 30 sec.

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Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer

* Directors place of residence:

Recipients of this fund need to be based in the UK to be eligible.

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

* Is there a producer attached to this project?

The producer also needs to reside in the UK in order to be eligible for this fund.

[ ] No
[ ] Yes

If yes, where in the UK is the project producer based?

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

Producer's name and biography

Max 150 words / 1 min 30 sec

Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer

* Lead applicant's name

If you have a producer attached we expect the lead applicant to be the producer

* Lead applicant's email address

* Lead applicant'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.

* Organisation name (with "Limited" or "Ltd" included if a limited company) or name of individual if not a registered company.

Please provide details about your organisation; this would be the named organisation on a funding agreement. If you do not have a registered company, please provide your details as an individual producer or director. We accept applications from individuals though may advise or require you to set up a production company prior to receiving any funding from us.

Trading name (If applicable, state the trading name of the organisation)

* Organisation Type

[ ] Limited Company
[ ] Individual
[ ] Charity
[ ] Other

* Address. If you are applying as an organisation, this must be identical to the address listed on Companies House or Charity Commission)

if you applying as an individual, this should be your home address

* Registry

Please select where your organisation is registered, or if you are applying as an individual, select that option:

[ ] Companies House
[ ] Charity Commission
[ ] Individual

Registration Number

This must be the legal registration number of your organisation on Companies House or the relevant charity register. If you are an individual, leave this question blank.

[   ]

* Do you (director or producer) have another application or live project with any BFI Fund at present?

[ ] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, please provide details here

[   ]

* Have you (director or producer) previously received BFI National Lottery funding for any project?

[ ] Yes
[ ] No

If yes, please provide details here

[   ]

Project Information

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* Have you previously submitted this project to the BFI Doc Society Fund?

Applicants are welcome to re-apply with projects that have been declined by the BFI Doc Society Fund before. In order to be eligible, re-submissions must demonstrate how RAD funding would enable a previous submission to be progressed

[ ] Yes
[ ] No

If yes - please give details of when you applied to the BFI Doc Society Fund and how RAD Funding would enable your project to progress.

Word Count Max 150 / Video length 2 mins

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* Have you previously submitted this project to the BFI Doc Society RAD Fund?

[ ] Yes
[ ] No

If your project is a resubmission to this fund, please detail how the new submission differs from the last application

Applicants are welcome to re-apply with projects that have been declined by the BFI Doc Society RAD Fund before. In order to be eligible, re-submissions must demonstrate there has been a significant change in elements this would usually be a change of director (for a project where the original application was made by a producer who remains involved); a significant change in the approach to the project; and/or a change in circumstance of the participants. You can find more information in section 7 of the guidelines.

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* Logline

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

Word Count Max 50./ Video length 1 min

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* 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.

Word Count Max 500 / Video length 4 mins

Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer

* Artistic approach

Describe your creative vision for the finished project. What are the visual and audio elements that will bring your project to life? Explain your intended use of artistic devices or any particular creative approach that informs the storytelling (e.g., animations, re-creations, transitions)

Word Count Max 500 / Video length 4 mins

Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer

* Creative development

Please outline how research and development support for your project/s will advance the creative development to the next level. What will you be able to achieve through this period?

Word Count Max 500 / Video length 4 mins

Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer

* The Director's previous work

We encourage applicants to include a link to a previous work (any length or genre) by the director. Emerging filmmakers with no previous directing experience may also apply without a previous directing sample although we would like to see examples of previous work in a related field. Discuss the relevance of the work to the current project. If the current project is a departure from the previous work, how will this film differ? Assessors may choose not to watch the work in its entirety (e.g. if it's over 10 mins long), so please point towards the part they feel is strongest/most want assessors to see. Please include any passwords.

Word Count Max 200 / Video Length 1 min 30 sec + samples of work any length.

Upload Samples + Audio or Video upload alternative available for this answer

* Why is the Director the right person to tell this story?

What unique lens, perspective, insights, or bias do you bring to the story – for example; your values, interests, underlying assumptions, worldview, or motivations? If relevant, describe your relationship with the participants or community being filmed. What will your processes of accountability be, including consent, transparency, feedback, and any other steps being taken to ensure the participants or communities that will be featured in your film have agency in the filmmaking process, from pre-production through to distribution.

Word Count Max 500 / Video length 4 mins

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Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer

* 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.

[ ] Secured and documented
[ ] Secured, not documented
[ ] Under discussion
[ ] Proposed
[ ] A key activity of our early development
[ ] Free Text Box

Finance

* How much are you applying for? (for this project)

The amount requested cannot exceed £5,000 for individual directors or £10,000 for individual producers applying with more than one project. Please note you are only able to put numbers into this text box.

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

What will you use the funding for, which you will then need to deliver evidence of to the BFI Doc Society Fund?

[ ] Treatment
[ ] Documented access
[ ] Research
[ ] Director / Producer Fees
[ ] Research footage
[ ] Finding a Producer
[ ] Finance - Budget & Finance Plan
[ ] Market Strategy
[ ] Other

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* Are disability access costs included in your budget?

The BFI Doc Society Fund encourages access costs, over and above research & development 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 are you applying for?

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What outcomes would the access costs enable?

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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

Declarations

* General Conditions of National Lottery Funding Read Here
Please tick to confirm that you have read and agree to abide by the BFI National Lottery Funding General Conditions.

[ ] Yes

* Authorised to Apply
Please tick to confirm that you are authorised to make this application, accept a conditional offer and that you have the authority to repay the Doc Society in the event of the conditions not being met.

[ ] Yes

* Supporting Materials

Please tick to confirm that you have read and understood the BFI Doc Society Fund's Research and Development application guidelines. You confirm that the information you have given on this application is true and correct. Any material you have sent to support your application is also true and correct. You will inform Doc Society immediately if this information or the supporting material needs to be updated. You give consent for Doc Society to provide copies of this form and any supporting materials to any person or organisation Doc Society wishes to consult about your application.

[ ] Yes

* Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy **Read Here**

We would like to encourage all organisations that apply to the BFI Doc Society Fund to have an anti- bullying and harassment policy in place. You can find the BFI's principles and guidance in the link above.
Please tick to confirm that you have, or intend to put in place, an anti-bullying and harassment policy for your organisation.

[ ] Yes

* ID Checks

The British Film Institute may use a credit reference agency to validate information you have provided in your application including an identity check on the people named in your application. This is not a credit check and will not affect the ability of those checked to receive credit from other organisations. The credit reference agency used may keep a record of the information and may disclose the fact that a search of its records was made to its other clients, in order to stop fraud. By submitting this application, you are providing your informed consent (permission) for the BFI to run such an identity verification check on the people named in your application, including its access, use and storage. If you have knowingly provided false or inaccurate information to us at any point, we may provide details to fraud prevention agencies. If you are a company this will include the names of the Company Directors at the time of the fraud. You must undertake to inform all Directors, Trustees and Committee members of this notice.

Please tick to confirm that you have read and agree.

[ ] Yes

* Data Protection **Read Here**

Part, or all, of the information you give us will be held on an internal grants management system for the administration of applications and awards. We may also use this information for the evaluation of our funds. We may provide copies of the information in confidence to further individuals or organisations who are helping us assess applications, directly managing other BFI programmes or monitoring funding.

Please tick to confirm that you have read and agree to the BFI data protection policy.

[ ] Yes

* Conflict of Interest

To ensure that measures can be introduced to prevent a conflict of interest arising between those assessing an application and the applicant, Doc Society is required to identify all relevant financial or personal interests that may exist between applicants and BFI or Doc Society board members, advisory panels, sponsors, donors, partners or employees. A conflict of interest covers the interests of themselves, their partner, a close family member or a person with whom they have a close personal relationship, whether or not living in the same household.

Do you or any of your colleagues on the project have a potential conflict of interest in relation to existing relationships with Doc Society or BFI staff or board members?

[ ] Yes

[ ] No

If Yes - please provide details of the nature of the relationship (e.g. spouse, relative, financial interest).

Equality 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/4BWey2U5etsd7JPu8

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

[ ] Director(s)
[ ] Producer(s)

SUBMIT FORM