



BFI DOC SOCIETY FUND FAQ's

Please find below some commonly asked questions to help you out with the BFI Doc Society fund application process:

Do I need a producer to apply for the fund?

We expect applications to come from the project producer. We highly encourage applications from director producer teams and will only accept applications from projects without a producer attached if they are in very early stages of development and have not yet secured a producer. We would expect these projects to indicate their intentions for securing a producer in their application.

What if I am the director and producer?

In our experience, successful documentary features are driven by talented collaboration and a strong creative team. You can apply for the fund if you are a director/producer but we would urge you to consider the benefit an experienced producer would bring to the progress of the project and indicate your intentions in this regard.

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?

You can apply for funding for your project at any stage from development through to late production.

Does my project qualify for the Culture Test?

We are not able to advise on whether your project will qualify, but there are clear guidelines on the [BFI website](#) that should help you determine your eligibility. If you are still unsure or have a specific question you can contact the BFI certification unit team: certifications@bfi.org.uk

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?

For the shorts fund, you only need to submit for the cultural test if not shooting in the UK and wish to apply for the UK Tax Credit. For Features it is a requirement of funding that the film qualifies under the Cultural Test. 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 and either have an application for the interim certificate in progress or a

confirmation that your project qualifies. If you are in early development you may not have completed this yet and will need to evidence how your project qualifies should your application be selected for interview.

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.

What supporting materials need to be provided? And how do I upload them?

In the application you will be asked if you want to submit supporting materials. You will be able to upload materials once you have completed and submitted your application. Please do so using the blue UPLOAD button next to the title of your submitted application. These will include any film files you wish to upload as sample work. It is necessary to upload a budget, production schedule and your diversity monitoring form. It is optional to also upload any creative materials to support your application - a treatment, mood board or previous work. Please note that 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 **9 weeks** after the fund close date to make decisions. We do contact **ALL** applicants by email to let them know the outcome.

If my application is unsuccessful can I reapply?

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 my application

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