

# Made of Truth: BFI Doc Society Short Film Fund

## 2025 - 2026

Application Preview - for reference only - to apply to the fund [sign in here](#)

**\* Title of the project**

---

## DECLARATIONS

**\* My project is a short documentary or a work of immersive non-fiction**

Yes

**\* My project is Intended to be 'single form' and no longer than 40 minutes in length**

Yes

**\* My project will be completed and fully delivered by the end of September 2026**

Yes

**\* If granted, my project will set aside at least 10% of the requested award amount for finishing post production, delivery materials and enhanced access materials.**

Yes

**\* The director, or at least one of the co-directors, of my project is/are resident of the UK**

Yes

**\* The director(s) and producer(s) of my project each have a creative track record (this can be in film, TV or other creative artforms) and this can be demonstrated in the application.**

[ ] Yes

**\* The director(s) and producer(s) of my project are each aged 18 or over and not in full-time education or intending to start full-time education in the next twelve months.**

Yes [ ]

**\* I think my documentary short would be capable of qualifying for certification as a British film through The Cultural Test - [More info here](#)**

[ ] Yes

**\* My short film or immersive project will be wholly original to me and my team and is not based on anyone else's pre-existing work.**

[ ] Yes

**\* I believe that my project would be capable of obtaining a BBFC or PEGI certificate no more restrictive than '18'.**

[More details about the BBFC can be found here](#)

[ ] Yes

---

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

**\* Director's full name**

**\* Director's email address**

**\* Director's phone number**

**\* In which Nation or English region of the UK does the project's Director currently reside?**

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
- England - London
- England - Midlands
- England - North
- England - South West
- England - South East

**\* Does your project have a producer attached?**

- Yes
- No

---

**If yes -**

**\* Producer's full name**

**\* Producer's email address**

**\* Producer's phone number**

**\* In which Nation or English region of the UK does the project's Producer currently reside?**

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
- England - London
- England - Midlands
- England - North
- England - South West
- England - South East

## Organisation

*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.*

*We accept applications from individuals though may advise or require you to set up a production company prior to receiving any funding from us.*

### \* Organisation Name (with "Limited" or "Ltd" included if a limited company)

### 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)

### \* 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. If you are an individual, leave this question blank.*

---

**If No**

**\* If there is no producer attached to my project when submitting the application, I understand that I will need to work with Doc Society to find a producer within 2 months of an offer of funding.**

Yes [  ]

---

**All**

**How we will communicate with you**

*We usually send updates and decisions about your application by email. If email is not the best way to contact you or there is something you would like us to know about when we write to you, you can tell us.*

*For example, you might:*

- use assistive technologies*
- not use English as a first language*
- be neurodivergent*

*You can also ask us to contact someone else with updates about your application.*

**Is there anything you would like us to know that will help us communicate with you in the best way possible?**

**\* 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 any of your team previously received BFI National Lottery funding for any project?**

Yes

No

**If yes, please provide details here**

---

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**\* Have you previously submitted this project to the Made of Truth 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)*

Word Count Max 150.

**Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer**

**Does your proposed documentary project include any of the following elements?**

Immersive/AR/VR

Hybrid

Animation

Archive

**\* Story Summary/Synopsis**

*What is your story and story structure? Give an overview of your story, introducing the main characters and potential plot points. Describe the*

*anticipated story structure and narrative trajectory, or potential character arcs for your project. Discuss your access to the story and characters.*

**Suggested** length: 500 words/ 3 ½ min | **Maximum** length: 800 words/ 5 min

**Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer**

**\* Artistic approach - how are you going to tell this story?**

*Describe your creative vision for the finished project - its visual look and feel. Explain your intended use of cinematic language or any particular artistic approach that informs the storytelling. If applicable, mention any creative elements and assets, interactive elements, new technologies or non-traditional mediums that you intend to utilise. Explain how these elements will enhance the experience and interaction between viewers and the world of the story.*

**Suggested** length: 500 words/ 3 ½ min | **Maximum** length: 800 words/ 5 min

**Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer**

**\* Visual Materials**

*Please upload a treatment/pitch deck/moodboard that showcases your project's visual style and a teaser or trailer if you have one. If you are coming to us for completion funding we expect to see a rough cut or scene selects.*

**Upload Here**

**\* Examples of previous work**

*Please put links in the box below (making sure they are public or provide passwords for them) or upload samples using the upload button.*

**Upload Here**

**\*Content Warnings**

*Please let us know of any distressing content within the example of previous work you have provided. We ask for content warnings in the interests of due diligence and duty of care for our assessors. Providing content warnings will not have a negative impact on your application assessment.*

- Abuse
- Animal cruelty or animal death
- Death or dying
- Discrimination
- Drug use
- Eating disorders
- Explicit language / swearing
- Graphic Sexual Content
- Murder
- Nudity
- Violence
- Sexual violence, sexual threat and assault
- Self-harm or suicide
- Threat and horror
- Torture
- Other
- Not Applicable

**If other, please specify:**



**\* Please record and upload a one-minute video of yourself (Director) explaining your motivation for making this film.**

*This can be done using your mobile phone.*

**Upload Here**

**\* Why are you and/or your team members the right person / people to tell this story?**

*What is your connection to the community and/or participants? Please describe steps you took or plan to take in order to ensure ethical filmmaking practices where applicable.*

*Suggested length: 200 words / 2 mins*

**Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer**

**\* In which Nation or English region of the UK will your production work take place including pre-production, production and post production.**

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
- England - London
- England - Midlands
- England - North
- England - South West
- England - South East
- Outside the UK

**\* BFI Principles**

*Please describe what your project's **regional impact** will be. This can include telling us more about your production and location shooting plans; the places your film will represent on screen; any place-based plans for how the film will connect with audiences' and your own connections to specific*

regions or UK nations, such as where you grew up or have lived, if this has a connection to the project you are seeking to make.

*Suggested length: 300 words / 2 mins*

**Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer**

**\* Environmental Sustainability**

*Please describe how your project will address and contribute to **environmental sustainability**. This could include any ways in which your project engages editorially with the living world around us, the climate, more sustainable ways of living etc. in relation to its content, narrative or contributors. For related resources and case studies see [BAFTA Albert Editorial](#).*

AND/OR

*How you will produce your film in order to minimise its negative impact on the environment, and any potential for making a positive impact instead. See [BAFTA Albert Production Handbook](#) for guidance.*

*If successful you'll be required to do a BAFTA albert carbon footprint calculation for your film, pre and post production.*

*Suggested length: 300 words / 2 mins*

**Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer**

---

## KEY CREATIVE PERSONNEL

Please provide brief biographies for the director(s), and if attached, the producer(s), cinematographer, and/or editor. Include notable credits and/or major recognition or award information. This can be film and non-film (but arts related). For each key creative team member, include information about relevant expertise and the individual's role in the project. Bullet list names and titles of any advisors and/or consultants.

(Suggested length: one short paragraph bio per team member)

### \* Director('s)

Max 150 words / 1 minute

**Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer**

## IS THE DIRECTOR...

### \* Is the Director..

- A new/emerging filmmaker
- A filmmaker looking to move into documentary
- A filmmaker with some experience making documentary film or immersive non-fiction

## BFI Film Academy

### \* Are any of your team graduates of BFI Film Academy?

- Director
- Producer
- None

**Producer('s) biography**

*Max 150 words/1 minute*

**Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer**

**Cinematographer biography**

*Max 150 words/1 minute*

**Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer**

**Editor biography**

*Max 150 words/1 minute*

**Audio or Video Upload alternative available for this answer**

---

# BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

## \* Award amount requested excluding access costs

Maximum: £25,000

Please note you are only able to put numbers into this text box.

£

## Additional award amount requested for access costs

Please note you are only able to put numbers into this text box. The figure included here should match the access costs figure included in the uploaded project budget.

£

## \* Total estimated project Budget

Please note you are only able to put numbers into this text box. The total project budget, including access costs, may exceed £25,000.

£

## \* Please upload your budget and schedule here, showing how the project will be completed by the end of September 2026

You should use the budget and schedule template provided on the website. This template includes a separate tab for any additional access costs.

**Upload Here**

## Additional funding plan

*\* Mandatory if there is a funding gap in your budget. If you have secured additional funding or have applied elsewhere for your project please let us know. Please distinguish between potential sources of funding and secured amounts. List the status of other sources of funding currently under consideration, whether to be applied for or decision pending. Please note funding from other sources is not a requirement.*

**Upload Here**

## \* Other institutional support/partnerships?

Are there other organisations assisting/working with you on your film in some capacity? For example: charities, community groups, non-profits or other financiers?

Max. 250 words/ 2 min

---

## BFI 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](#). (Clicking this link will download the criteria)

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.

[Download PDF](#)

[Download Word Document](#)

**\* Upload your completed BFI Diversity Standards Form here.**

Within the form you should briefly outline how your project will engage with the aims of the BFI Diversity Standards. You do not need to respond to every Standard or criteria, but you should read the guidance and respond wherever you feel is relevant.

We expect you to engage with at least two of the five standards, taking particular note of Standards C & E. If leaving any sections blank, please write N/A in the box. You can write in paragraphs or provide responses in a bullet list format, as you prefer. We don't expect you to have everything confirmed at this stage but we do expect you to have clear and detailed intentions on how you will meet the diversity standards.

Upload Here

---

## 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](#)

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

- Director
- Producer
- Writer (if applicable)

---

## DECLARATIONS

### **Artificial Intelligence**

The BFI would like to gather some early data on the use of AI in funding applications. This will help us to better understand where and how it is being used by applicants. *Providing this information will not have a negative impact on your application assessment.*

**\* Did you use Artificial Intelligence, or a tool based on it, to complete this application?**

Yes

No

**\* Are you applying for funding for a project that contains outputs (e.g. script, completed film, events, screenings and related activity) from Artificial Intelligence, or a tool based on it?**

*It is important that all projects respect copyright and intellectual property rights. If you are applying for funding with a project using AI outputs, please make sure that this does not infringe copyright or IP law.*

Yes

No

Unsure

**If you answered Yes or Unsure to either of the above questions, please include further details here:**

--

**\* General Conditions**

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 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 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

**\* Reputational Risk**

*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

**\*Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy**

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 on this here. Please tick to confirm that you have, or intend to put in place, an anti-bullying and harassment policy for your organisation.

Yes

**\*Data Protection**

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. Please tick to confirm that you have read and agree to this.

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 Doc Society or BFI board members, advisory panels, sponsors, donors, partners or employees. The 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?**

Yes

No

**If yes, please provide details here**

---

**REVIEW & SUBMIT**