

The IWC Filmmakers Bursary Award in association with the BFI

Frequently asked questions

Q. Am I eligible as a non UK resident director working in the UK on a co-production?

A. Only resident British writers, directors and/or writer/directors with a first or second fiction feature film premiering in the BFI London Film Festival are eligible.

Q. How do you define a first fiction feature?

A. For the purposes of the Bursary Award, as with the Festival itself, a feature length production commissioned for a non-theatrical platform (e.g. Television) need not count as a 'first' feature film. Likewise, a previous self-financed or micro-budget fiction feature film need not count as a 'first' feature **unless** it premieres at a film festival with International or UK-wide reach or received theatrical distribution in any territory in the World. The final decision on any cases lacking clarity will remain with the BFI Head of Festivals.

Q. Is there a rule to what you consider 'feature' length?

A. Feature length films are more than forty (40) minutes with no maximum length.

Q. What will you need to assess my application for the IWC Bursary Award?

A. We will assess the quality of the work premiering at the Festival that year and an application that includes a 150 word biographical note, a filmography, a précis of project(s) in development and a statement of intent for how the Bursary Award would be used should you win.

Q. At what stage will I complete the application and give you the documents to be considered for the Bursary Award?

A. You can register your interest at submission stage but documents will not be asked for or accepted until after your film is invited to the Festival and the Official Selection Form has been completed.

Q. I have written my films with a director but this is not their first or second feature. Can we still apply together?

A. While two people can apply together, the Bursary Award can only be given to writers or directors working on a first or second feature to use to develop projects of their choosing.

Q. Who will select the recipient of the Bursary Award?

A. All submissions will be assessed by a Shortlisting Panel that will include BFI London Film Festival Director, Clare Stewart, Director of the BFI Lottery Film Fund, Ben Roberts, and a further four senior executives representing the UK film industry, from development and production through to distribution and exhibition.

The Shortlisting Panel will put forward three filmmakers for consideration, with the Decision Making Board – which will include BFI CEO, Amanda Neveill, IWC Schaffhausen CEO Georges Kern and a key representative of the UK film industry to be announced later in 2016 – deciding which filmmaker will benefit from this extraordinary opportunity.

Q. Will the Shortlisted filmmakers need to do anything?

A. The shortlist will be announced in the month before the Festival and the Shortlisted Filmmakers agree to participate in a press presentation/panel discussion in September (date to be determined) to announce said shortlist.

Q. If I apply with someone else and we both win, do we get £50,000 each?

A. In the event the Bursary Award is given to two individuals under one Shortlisted Nomination/Project, the Bursary Award shall be split equally between those two individuals (£25,000 and £25,000).

Q. If I am successful, is the Bursary Award shared with the rights holder of the film in the Festival?

A. While viewing your work on the film is part of the assessment process – along with consideration of previous work and also other application documents, the Bursary Award is made to you as the filmmaker, not the Festival film, its rights holder or specific future projects.

Q. If I receive the Bursary Award, do I have to deliver a new draft of a screenplay or treatment by a specific time?

A. If you are successful, you would be expected to write a short paper within 12 months outlining how the Bursary has supported your development. But the Award is designed to provide the chosen filmmaker with the freedom to develop – both themselves and their projects – ensuring their future success.

Q. When will the winner(s) be announced and receive their Award?

A. The winner(s) will be announced and receive their Award at the IWC Dinner in Honour of the BFI, or at LUMINOUS. The nominees will be invited to attend, and for clarity, these are held in alternate years on the night before the BFI London Film Festival Opening Night Gala in October.

More announcements relating to the Bursary Award to follow during the year.