

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Am I eligible as a non UK resident director working in the UK on a co-production?

A. Open to a writer, director and/or writer/director with a first or second fiction feature film premiering in the BFI London Film Festival and either holding a UK passport and working and residing in the UK, or currently a formal resident in the UK, having lived or worked here for the last five years are eligible.

Q2. How do you define a first fiction feature?

A. For the purpose of Bursary Award, a previous self-financed or micro-budget fiction feature film need not count as a 'first' feature *unless* it has premiered at a film festival with International or UK-wide reach and profile or received theatrical distribution in any territory in the World. Similarly, a feature length production commissioned for a non-theatrical platform – e.g. Television – that fulfils all other criteria need not count as a 'first' feature film either.

Q3. Is there a rule to what you consider 'feature' length?

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

Q4. What will you need to assess my application for the IWC Bursary Award?

A. As filmmakers, you will be shortlisted according to the following criteria:-

- the merit of the specific work premiering at the Festival
- a 150 word biography
- a filmography
- a detailed summary of any project(s) in development
- a detailed statement of intent no less than 300 words that sets out how you intend to use the Bursary Award should you win.

Q5. 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. You will be notified by the BFI Festival team if you have been shortlisted by email or telephone and will receive further information that explains the next stages of the Award and process in more detail.

Q6. 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.

Q7. Who will select the recipient of the Bursary Award?

A. All submissions will be assessed by a Shortlisting Panel that will include BFI Director of Festivals Tricia Tuttle and a further four senior executives representing the UK film industry, from development and production through to distribution, exhibition and film journalism/criticism. The Shortlisting Panel will put forward three filmmakers for consideration, with the Decision Making Board – which will include BFI CEO, Ben Roberts, IWC Schaffhausen CEO Christoph Grainger-Herr and a key representative of the UK film industry to be announced later in 2020 – deciding which filmmaker will benefit from this extraordinary opportunity.

Q8. Will the Shortlisted filmmakers need to do anything?

A. The shortlist will be announced in autumn 2020 and the Shortlisted Filmmakers agree to participate in Bursary related events, interviews, photoshoots and filming as specified in the further

information referred to in Q5 that will be sent to filmmakers once they have been shortlisted and complete the submissions form.

Q9. 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).

Q10. 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.

Q11. 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 time and freedom to develop – both themselves and their projects – ensuring their future success.

Q12. When will the winner(s) be announced and receive their Award?

A. The winner(s) will be announced and receive their Award at an IWC Schaffhausen black-tie dinner to celebrate the BFI on the evening of Tuesday 6th October in London and attendance on this date is required.

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