



BFI Film Audience Network (FAN)

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# Training & Skills Bursaries 2025/26

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Apply for a bursary to access training opportunities, events and consultancy that enhances your skills as a film exhibitor and benefits your organisation.



**CHAPTER**

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## At a glance

- **Funding:** up to £500
- **Applications:** rolling (4 weeks in advance of your training)
- **Activity window:** April 2025 – March 2026
- **Aim:** Professional development bursaries for exhibitors.

## Introduction

At Film Hub Wales (FHW), we celebrate cinema. We fund, train and advise organisations that screen film to public audiences, from film festivals, to societies and mixed arts centres. This fund aims to bring the best UK independent and international film to audiences across Wales, delivering against the priorities set out in the [BFI's Screen Culture 2033 strategy](#).

We're part of the [BFI Film Audience Network \(FAN\)](#), which has been awarded BFI National Lottery funding with the aim of reaching audiences across the UK, giving them the opportunity to enjoy a broad range of films, regardless of geography or circumstance.

Chapter is appointed as the 'Film Hub Lead Organisation' (FHLO) in Wales. For information about some of our work to-date [see our FHW highlights](#).

# What are training bursaries?

This bursary fund enables FHW member staff and volunteers to develop their skills, benefitting their organisation and the wider Hub network.

From attendance at strategic meetings outside your local authority, to more intensive marketing or fundraising courses – the overall aim should be to develop audiences for UK independent and international film and the wider moving image in Wales.

## Activities can include:

- Training courses (technical, programming, business development, fundraising, marketing, diversity and inclusion, HR, climate emergency etc.),
- Conferences,
- Meetings,
- Festivals,
- Screenings and fact-finding visits to other organisations,
- Consultancy / specialist advice to support the development of your organisational business model.

[Find useful course examples here.](#)

## We are unlikely to support:

- A previous bursary recipient to take part in the same activity more than once,
- More than one person per organisation to participate in a particular opportunity.

If you can make a strong case for support in these circumstances, your application will be considered. Applications from under-represented groups within the exhibition workforce will also be prioritised in these cases.

## Who is eligible?

- Staff and volunteers at FHW member organisations.
- Applicants that have not previously received bursary support will be prioritised.
- Submissions that encourage diverse leadership and support representation within the exhibition workforce will be prioritised.

[See some examples of previous bursaries supported here.](#)

# You might also be interested in the following links:

- [FHW Resources](#) (includes topics such as sustainability, fundraising and inclusion)
- [FHW Film Forum](#) (quarterly online programming sessions)
- [Hub Helo](#) (annual Hub get together) information circulated in FHW newsletters.
- [Welsh Film Preview Days](#) (watch Welsh films prior to release, with other exhibitors)
- [Cinema for All Equipment Hire Scheme](#) (located at Iris Prize, Cardiff)
- [BFI Sustainable Screen Programme](#)

## How much can I ask for?

- A bursary can cover course or consultancy fees, travel and accommodation costs.
- Bursaries up to £500 are available – a maximum of 100% fees and 50% travel and accommodation. We will also consider the costs of carbon offsetting for travel.
- Bursary funds are in high demand so please only apply for the amount you require.

## How to access support

- Submissions can be made on a rolling basis (with no set deadlines). We do not accept retrospective submissions.
- You should submit your bursary request at least four weeks before the intended activity takes place.
- We may consider your request within a shorter timescale but you should write to us separately seeking our advice on this before you submit.
- The supported activity must take place within the relevant financial year of submission and must be completed by March 2026.

# Decision making

- Decisions will be made by a senior member of FHLO (Film Hub Wales) staff.
- Please bear in mind that demand is high and we will not always be able to offer support to everyone, or to the level requested.
- We will give priority to those requests that most closely fit our priorities.

## Priorities for support

### **a) We will prioritise applications that develop skills in line with the BFI Screen Culture 2033 strategy:**

- **Young audiences** (aged 25 and under) and families,
- **Equity and Inclusion:** Breaking down social, economic and geographical barriers for audiences,
- **Audience engagement** with a wider choice of film and the moving image including independent UK (including Welsh) and international film, documentaries, TV and immersive and interactive technologies,
- **Screen heritage:** Greater access to national and regional archive collections, that reflect the diversity of Wales,
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Proposals that seek ways to reduce their environmental impact.

**Please see our FEF priorities for more information on these areas.**

### **b) We also wish to use our Bursary Scheme to support the updated BFI Diversity Standards by:**

- Enabling people / organisations from minoritised communities to access training and professional development opportunities;
- Broadening the range of films available to audiences with diverse narratives, casts, crew and places depicted;
- Promoting training opportunities that will help to break down social, economic and geographical barriers (such as improved access for disabled audiences).

### **c) Clear public value from our investment is important as BFI FAN funding comes from the National Lottery good causes.**

# Prevention of Bullying, Harassment and Racism

There is much work to be done to create safe, respectful, workplaces across the screen industries.

BFI and BAFTA developed a set of principles and zero- tolerance guidance in consultation with organisations, unions and industry bodies across the film, television and games industry in response to urgent and systemic issues. We encourage applicants to read and share them within their organisation.

Should you wish to raise any queries or concerns [please read our feedback process and contact us here](#).

## Re-Cap

**The strongest submissions will be those that in the view of the Hub, clearly establish –**

- A strategic fit with BFI and Hub priorities;
- Support for BFI Diversity Standards;
- The specific benefits and legacy to your organisation and the wider Hub network;
- Value for money;
- Environmental sustainability.

## Evaluation and Payments

- Please keep original receipts as these must be provided for all costs.
- Costs will be paid following completion of a bursary evaluation form and blog (which may be done in video format). We may publish this blog in order to disseminate useful information and to promote best practice.
- Quotes from reports may be published and shared anonymously, unless you consent to the use of your name and organisation details for this express purpose.

# Next Steps

If you wish to discuss a potential proposal with FHW prior to submission, please get in touch with:

- **Lisa Nesbitt, Member Support Officer** - [lisa@filmhubwales.org](mailto:lisa@filmhubwales.org) / 02920 311067

## Other Funding Available

- Film Exhibition Fund (FEF) (larger audience development screening programmes)
- FEF Pitch Pot (single events or short term programmes)
- Made in Wales (applications should be made to FEF)
- Festivals (applications should be made to FEF)

If you're looking for funding for an activity we cannot cover, please see our [fundraising resource](#) for external links.

We also offer networking events, training courses, marketing support, and industry news.

## Not a Film Hub Wales member?

To become a member, [fill in our Application Form](#).

Membership is free to qualifying organisations and offers access to our range of funding, support and benefits.