

Stop Gap Grant application guidance

What is a Stop Gap Grant?

Working in film and TV can be exciting and rewarding but we know it can also be tough. Working from project to project can lead to financial pressure and mean that you can't always manage an unexpected challenge or access opportunity.

Our Stop Gap Grants are here to help. We offer one-off awards of generally no more than £500, but may consider requests up to £750 at our discretion. Our grants are open to anyone currently working in UK film, TV and professional cinema services, or who have at least two years of recent professional experience*.

Our grants will be prioritised to those who are experiencing the greatest need and have the least financial resilience. These grants are for individuals working in the UK in film, TV and cinema, and we are unable to fund project development or production.

Am I eligible?

To be eligible, you will have been in paid or funded film and TV industry work for at least 40 days in the last 18 months OR have worked at least 18 months in film and TV and are seeking funding to return to work after a career break.

Your work may have been in any behind-the-scenes role, anywhere in the film, television, or cinema value chains. This is defined as working in a role that contributes to the creation, dissemination, or commercial exploitation of moving image entertainment content for:

- Broadcast and on-demand television in the UK
- Paid-for original content streaming services
- Cinemas (a confirmed run of at least 10 screenings)

We provide limited support to front-of-house cinema workers, including free access to our Support Line and online resources, but are only able to provide financial support including our stop-gap grants to individuals from back office or technical teams that have worked full-time in the cinema trade for at least 18 months in the last two years.

Some of your professional experience may be unpaid, but the proportion should be appropriate to your career stage.

At our discretion we may also consider short films or features films that have only screened at festivals. Read a list of eligible festivals [here](#).

Experience in the following will not count towards your eligibility:

- Moving image made for non-entertainment purposes, including corporate videography, commercials, music videos, community or campaigning filmmaking, and education or training.
- Any front-of-camera role, including presenters, actors and supporting artists.

We are unable to award grants to applicants who do not meet our criteria, so it is very important to check these before taking the time to apply.

Assessment criteria

As a charity, we need to carefully consider where our limited resources will have most impact. We therefore base our assessments on:

- **Need:**
 - The need is urgent and will have a significant detrimental effect on your health, career or finances if not met.
 - The cost is unexpected or higher than expected and could not have been planned for.
 - You have no recourse to income, accessible savings* or statutory funding to cover the cost
 - You face additional barriers personally and or professionally.
- **Financial resilience:**
 - You are unable to draw on other means of financing the cost.
- **Impact:**
 - it will have a demonstratable positive impact on your health, career or finances.

*Accessible savings **do not include** the following:

- Funds set aside to cover tax or NI liabilities for the previous tax year or for work already completed and paid in the current tax year
- Funds in officially designated pension schemes
- Funds in junior ISAs for dependent children
- Funds in a Lifetime Isa

What can I apply for?

Grants are generally no more than £500, although we may consider requests up to £750 at our discretion.

Stop Gap Grants are for immediate need support with:

- Rent
- An interest-only mortgage payment (please check out the Mortgage Charter via Direct.gov)
- A utility bill or council tax bill, or debts that relate to these (on production of evidence)
- Another pressing need due to the cost of living such as groceries
- We can also help with the pay gap (if statutory benefits have been awarded and DWP payment pending and you are unable to receive an advance from DWP).
- We only help with a financial grant once in a 12-month period.
- You will not be able to claim repayment of costs already incurred
- Grant need is generally not repeatable.
- Bankruptcy costs

This support may only be a contribution to need and may not always cover the full amount needed. All grants are assessed on their own merit, need and budget.

We are unable to provide grants to cover the following costs:

- Project costs including development or production
- Business debts including accountant fees and tax debt
- Travel (unless under extreme circumstances and related to industry work/career)
- Storage costs

- Repayments to family or friends
- Costs relating to County Court Judgements
- Driving lessons
- Vet bills
- Course fees
- Credit card and loan debt
- Other monthly debt repayments
- Opportunities.
- Private medical costs
- School uniform
- Clothing or footwear
- White goods (unless a medical emergency need)

How do I apply?

Please complete the form on our website to apply for a Stop Gap Grant. As part of your application, you will need to complete our [budget planner](#) and [benefits finder](#) tools. We also recommend that you seek appropriate financial information, advice or guidance before applying.

You will receive an automated email to confirm your application has been received. We will process your application within 10 days and will be in touch to confirm the outcome or discuss any further information that we might need.

If you have any questions about your application, you can contact us via email, grants@filmtvcharity.org.uk.

What if I need more support?

If you are in a more complex situation and our grants are unlikely to meet or resolve your needs, we may still be able to help.

We have a small team of Work and Wellbeing advisors who can work closely with you over a short period to help you think through your options and get back on track. They can discuss your ongoing needs and agree a support plan with you. They will offer information, guidance, and practical support to help you to improve your long-term situation and resilience.

If you feel this support may be what you need, please register your interest by completing [this form](#). One of our friendly work and wellbeing advisors will contact you to arrange a meeting to discuss your situation and needs and see if they are able to help.

Eligible Festivals

Festival	Country	URL	Qualifies for
Aesthetica Short Film Festival	UK	https://www.asff.co.uk/	B(B); Bi
AFI Docs Film Festival	USA	www.afi.com/afidocs	B(A); Bi
AFI Fest	USA	www.afi.com/afifest	Bi; O
Alcine – Festival De Cine De Alcalá De Henares	Spain	www.alcine.org	O
Angers Premiers Plans	France	www.premiersplans.org	B(A)
Anim'est – International Animation Film Festival	Romania	www.animest.ro	O
Anima Mundi	Brazil	www.animamundi.com.br	O
Anima, The Brussels Animation Film Festival	Belgium	www.animafestival.be	O
Animafest Zagreb – World Festival of Animated Film	Croatia	www.animafest.hr	O
Animator International Animated Film Festival	Poland	www.animator-festival.com	O
Animayo	Spain	www.animayo.com	O
Ann Arbor Film Festival	Romania	www.aafilmfest.org	O
Annecy International Animation Film Festival	France	www.annecy.org	O
Aspen Shortsfest	USA	www.aspenfilm.org	B(B); Bi; O
Athens International Film and Video Festival	USA	www.athensfest.org	O
Atlanta Film Festival	USA	www.atlantafilmfestival.com	O
Austin Film Festival	USA	www.austinfilmfestival.com	O
Banff Film Festival	Canada	https://www.banff-uk.com/	Genre
Belfast Film Festival	UK	https://belfastfilmfestival.org/	B(B)
Berlin International Film Festival	Germany	www.berlinale.de	B(A); Bi; O
Bermuda International Film Festival	Bermuda	www.biff.bm	O
Bechdel Test Fest	UK	http://bechdeltestfest.com/	Bi
Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival	UK	https://www.bfmaf.org/	Genre
BFI Flare (London LGBTQ+ Film Festival)	UK	www.bfi.org.uk/flare	B(B); Bi
BFI Future Film Festival	UK	https://whatson.bfi.org.uk/futurefilmfestival/Online/	Bi
BFI London Film Festival Oct	UK	www.bfi.org.uk/lff	B(A); Bi
BFM (Black Film Makers) Film Festival	UK	Defunct (see https://www.filmfestivals.com/festival/bfm-international-film-festival/)	Genre

		festival 0)	
Bilbao International Documentary and Short Film Festival (Zinebi)	Portugal	www.zinebi.com	B(B); Bi
Bilbao International Festival of Documentary and Short Film	Spain	www.zinebi.eus	O
Bogotá Short Film Festival – Bogoshorts	Colombia	www.bogoshorts.com	O
Bolton International Film Festival	UK	https://www.boltonfilmfestival.com/	Emerging
Boston SciFi festival	USA	https://www.bostonscifi.com/	Genre
Brest European Short Film Festival	France	www.filmcourt.fr	B(B); Bi
British Urban Film Festival	UK	https://www.britishurbanfilmfestival.co.uk/	Bi
Bronzelens Film Festival	USA	www.bronzelens.com	O
Brussels Short Film Festival	Belgium	www.bsff.be	O
Bucheon International Animation Festival	South Korea	www.biaf.or.kr	O
Busan International Short Film Festival	South Korea	www.bisff.org	O
Calgary International Film Festival	Canada	www.calgaryfilm.com	O
Cambridge Film Festival	UK	www.cambridgefilmfestival.org.uk	B(B); Bi
Cannes International Film Festival	France	www.festival-cannes.org	B(A); Bi; O
Cartagena International Film Festival	Columbia	www.ficcifestival.com	O
César Awards (Académie Des Arts Et Techniques Du Cinéma)	France	www.academie-cinema.org	O
Chicago International Children's Film Festival	USA	www.festival.facets.org	O
Chicago International Film Festival	USA	www.chicagofilmfestival.com	B(A); Bi; O
Chilemonos International Animation Festival	Chile	www.chilemonos.com	O
Cinanima International Animated Film Festival	Portugal	www.cinanima.pt	O
Cinequest Film Festival	USA	www.cinequest.org	O
Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival	France	www.clermont-filmfest.com	B(A); Bi; O
Cleveland International Film Festival	USA	www.clevelandfilm.org	O
Cork International Film Festival	Ireland	www.corkfilmfest.org	B(A); Bi; O

CPH: DOX	Denmark	https://cphdox.dk/en/	B(A)
Curtacinema - Rio de Janeiro International Short Film Festival	Brazil	www.curtacinema.com.br	B(B)
Deaffest	UK	https://deaffest.co.uk/	
DOK Leipzig (International Leipzig Documentary and Animated Film Festival)	Germany	https://www.dokleipzig.de/en/home	B(A)
DokuFest (International Documentary and Short Film Festival)	Kosovo	https://dokufest.com/2019/	B(B)
Dubai International Film Festival	U.A.E.	www.dubaifilmfest.com	O
East End Film Festival	UK	http://www.eastendfilmfestival.com/	Bi
Edinburgh International Film Festival	UK	www.edfilmfest.org.uk	B(A); Bi
Edmonton International Film Festival	Canada	www.edmontonfilmfest.com	O
Encounters Short Film and Animation Festival	UK	www.encounters-festival.org.uk	B(B); Bi; O
Fantasia	Canada	https://fantasiafestival.com/en/	Genre
Fantastic Fest	USA	https://fantasticfest.com/	Genre
Flatpack Festival	UK	https://flatpackfestival.org.uk/	B(B)
Flanders International Film Festival	Belgium	https://www.filmfestival.be/en	Bi
Flickerfest International Short Film Festival	Australia	www.flickerfest.com.au	B(B); O
Florida Film Festival	USA	www.floridafilmmfestival.com	O
Foyle Film Festival	Ireland	www.foylefilmfestival.org	B(A); Bi; O
Frameline Film Festival	USA	https://www.frameline.org/	B(A)
Frightfest	UK	https://www.frightfest.co.uk/	Genre
Galway Film Fleadh	Ireland	www.galwayfilmfleadh.com	O
German Short Film Award	Germany	www.deutscher-kurzfilmpreis.de	O
Gijon International Film Festival	Spain	www.gijonfilmfestival.com	O
Glasgow Short Film Festival	UK	https://glasgowfilm.org/glasgow	B(B); Bi
Go Short International Short Film Festival Nijmegen	Netherlands	www.goshort.nl	B(B); O
Göteborg International Film Festival	Sweden	https://goteborgfilmfestival.se/en/	Bi
Guanajuato International Film Festival	Mexico	www.guanajuatofilmfestival.com	O
Hamburg International Short Film Festival	Germany	http://festival.shortfilm.com	B(B); Bi
Hamptons International Film Festival	USA	http://hamptonsfilmfest.org/	B(B);)

Festival			
Heartland Film Festival	USA	www.heartlandfilm.org	O
Hiroshima International Animation Festival	Japan	www.hiroanim.org	O
Hollyshorts Film Festival	USA	www.hollyshorts.com	O
Hot Docs Festival (Canadian International Documentary Festival)	Canada	www.hotdocs.ca	B(A); Bi
Huesca International Film Festival	Spain	www.huesca-filmfestival.com	O
IDFA (International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam)	Netherlands	www.idfa.nl	B(A)
IFFR (International Film Festival Rotterdam)	Netherlands	https://iffr.com/en	B(A); Bi
In the Palace International Short Film Festival	Bulgaria	www.inthepalace.com	O
Indy Shorts	USA	https://heartlandfilm.org/indys_horts/	O
Interfilm International Short Film Festival Berlin	Germany	www.interfilm.de	O
Iris Prize LGBT+ Film Festival	UK	https://www.irisprize.org/festival/	B(A); Bi
Jerusalem Film Festival	Israel	www.jff.org.il	O
Krakov Short Film Festival	Poland	https://www.krakowfilmfestival.pl/	B(B); O
LA Shorts International Short Film Festival	USA	www.lashortsfest.com	B(B); Bi; O
Lebu International Film Festival	Chile	www.cinelebu.cl	
Leeds International Film Festival	UK	www.leedsfilm.com	B(A); Bi; O
Leipzig International Festival for Documentary and Animated Film	Germany	www.dok-leipzig.de	O
Leuven International Short Film Festival	Belgium	www.kortfilmfestival.be	B(B); O
Locarno International Film Festival	Switzerland	www.pardo.ch	B(A); O
Loco London Comedy Film Festival	UK	http://locofilmfestival.com/	B(B)
London International Documentary Festival	UK	www.lidf.co.uk	B(B); Bi
London Short Film Festival	UK	http://shortfilms.org.uk	B(B); Bi
Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival	USA	www.festival.vconline.org	O
Lund International Fantastic Film Festival	Sweden	http://www.fff.se/	Genre
Melbourne International Film Festival	Australia	http://miff.com.au	B(A); Bi; O
Molodist International Film Festival	Ukraine	https://molodist.com/	B(A)
Montreal Festival du Nouveau Cinema	Canada	www.nouveaucinema.ca	O
Morelia International Film Festival	Mexico	www.moreliafilmfest.com	O

Festival			
Nashville Film Festival	USA	www.nashvillefilmfestival.org	O
Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival	Switzerland	https://www.niff.ch/fr/	Genre
New Orleans Film Festival	USA	www.neworleansfilmfestival.org	O
New York International Film Festival	USA	https://www.filmlinc.org/nyff2019/	Bi
New York International Children's Film Festival	USA	www.nyciff.org	O
Nordisk Panorama Film Festival	Pan-Scandinavian	www.nordiskpanorama.com	O
Norwegian Short Film Festival	Norway	www.kortfilmfestivalen.no	O
Norwich Film Festival	UK	https://www.norwichfilmfestival.co.uk	B(B); Bi
Oberhausen International Short Film Festival	Germany	www.kurzfilmtage.de	B(B); Bi; O
Odense International Film Festival	Denmark	www.filmfestival.dk	O
Open City Documentary Festival	UK	https://opencitylondon.com/	B(A); Bi
Oska Bright Film Festival	UK	https://oskabright.org/	B(B); Bi
Ottawa International Animation Festival	Canada	www.animationfestival.ca	O
Outfest Los Angeles	USA	www.outfest.org	O
Palm Springs International ShortFest	USA	www.psfilmfest.org	B(B); Bi; O
PÖFF Shorts (Black Nights Film Festival)	Estonia	http://shorts.poff.ee	B(B)
Raindance Film Festival	UK	www.raindance.co.uk	B(B); Bi; O
Reel Sisters of The Diaspora Film Festival	USA	www.reelsisters.com	O
Regard – Saguenay International Film Festival	Canada	www.festivalregard.com	O
Rhode Island International Film Festival	USA	www.film-festival.org	B(B); O
Rio De Janeiro International Short Film Festival	Brazil	www.curtacinema.com.br	O
Riverrun International Film Festival	USA	www.riverrunfilm.com	O
RSF Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival	USA	www.mvaaff.com	O
San Francisco International Film Festival	USA	www.sffilm.org	O
San Sebastian	Spain	https://www.sansebastianfestival.com/in/	Bi
Santa Barbara International Film Festival	USA	www.sbfilmfestival.org	O
Sarajevo Film Festival	Bosnia and Herzegovina	www.sff.ba	O

Screamfest LA	USA	https://screamfestla.com/	Genre
Seattle International Film Festival	USA	www.siff.net	O
Sheffield Doc/Fest	UK	www.sheffdocfest.com	B(A); Bi
Short Shorts Film Festival	Japan	www.shortshorts.org	O
Show Me Shorts Film Festival	New Zealand	www.showmeshorts.co.nz	O
Siggraph	USA	www.siggraph.org	O
Singapore International Film Festival	Singapore	www.sgiff.com	O
Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia	Spain	https://sitgesfilmfestival.com/eng	O
Slamdance Film Festival	USA	www.slamdance.com	B(A); Bi; O
St. Kilda Film Festival	Australia	www.stkildafilmfestival.com.au	O
St. Louis International Film Festival	USA	www.cinemastlouis.org	O
SOUL Film Festival	UK	https://filmfreeway.com/SOULFestival	Bi
Stockholm International Film Festival	Sweden	http://www.stockholmfilmfestival.se/sv	Bi
Stuttgart Festival of Animated Film	Germany	www.itfs.de	O
Sundance Film Festival	USA	https://www.sundance.org/festivals/sundance-film-festival/	B(A); Bi; O
SxSW (South by Southwest Film Festival)	USA	https://www.sxsw.com/festivals/fil	B(A); Bi; O
Sydney Film Festival	Australia	http://sff.org.au	B(A); O
Tampere International Short Film Festival	Finland	www.tamperefilmfestival.fi	B(B); Bi; O
Telluride Film Festival	USA	www.telluridefilmfestival.org	B(A); Bi
The Pan African Film & Arts Festival	USA	www.paff.org	O
The Shortest Nights	UK	https://shortsightedcinema.com/	Bi
The Smalls	UK	https://thesmall.com/	Bi
Tirana International Film Festival	Albania	www.tiranafilmfest.com	O
Toronto After Dark Film Festival	Canada	https://torontoafterdark.com/	Genre
Toronto International Film Festival	Canada	www.tiff.net	B(A); Bi; O
Tribeca Film Festival	USA	www.tribecafilm.com/festival	B(A); Bi; O
Trieste Science+Fiction	Italy	https://www.sciencefictionfestival.org/?lang=en	Genre
UK Jewish Film Festival	UK	http://ukjewishfilm.org/festival/21st-uk-international-jewish-filmfestival/	B(B); Bi
Underwire Festival	UK	www.underwirefestival.com	B(B); Bi
Uppsala International Short Film Festival	Sweden	www.shortfilmfestival.com	B(B); Bi; O
Urbanworld Film Festival	USA	www.urbanworld.org	O
Venice International Film Festival	Italy	www.labiennale.org/en/cinema	B(A); Bi; O
Vienna Shorts	Austria	https://www.viennashorts.com/nc	B(B)
VIS Vienna Shorts Festival	Austria	www.viennashorts.com	O

Visions Du Réel	Switzerland	https://www.visionsdureel.ch/en	B(A)
Warsaw Film Festival	Poland	www.wff.pl	O
Winterthur International Short Film Festival	Switzerland	http://www.kurzfilmtage.ch	B(B); O

Qualifications: B(A) – BAFTA A List; B(B) – BAFTA B List; Bi – BIFA; Emerging – high quality newer festival; Genre – significant genre festival; O - Oscars