

BIFA Springboard FAQs:

BIFA Springboard is focused on supporting those individuals who have a credit as Screenwriter/Writer, Director or Producer on one feature film. Credits are checked against IMDb and must match the titles above (associate, assistant or other positions are not accepted unless a significant case can be made). If your question is not answered in the FAQs below, please contact springboard@bifa.film.

Are there any exceptions for filmmakers who are yet to write, direct or produce a feature film?

>> BIFA Springboard is focused on supporting those individuals who have a credit as Screenwriter, Director or Producer on one feature film. Credits as Line Producer / Associate Producer / Production Manager do not qualify.

Are there any exceptions for filmmakers who have produced more than one feature film?

>> We understand that a feature filmmaking career is often non-linear and as such we aim to be fair when considering context in applications in the same way as for our awards. As such, where a writer, director or producer has a previous credit on a micro-budget feature (under £50k budget), they may still be eligible for a place on the programme, subject to review by our application panel. Additionally, previous television or documentary credits do not disqualify an individual from consideration. However, if you have multiple credits on feature documentaries this will be taken into account as potentially putting you at a more advanced career stage than other applicants.

I consider myself a hybrid filmmaker i.e. writer-director, writer-producer, writer-director. Can I still apply?

>> Yes, however we request that you choose the core discipline that you would ideally like to pursue as a career. The course is designed to cater to all three roles and much of the programme will cater to everyone, however, there will be specific sessions for each 'track': writer, producer or director. This is because our intention is to make it easier for filmmakers to hone their skills in a single discipline without the pressure of 'having to do everything', therefore supporting our cohorts to have a clearer pathway forward to a sustainable and fulfilling career. If you would like to discuss this, please contact springboard@bifa.film.

Where do you check credits?

>> Credits are checked against IMDb and must match the titles above (associate, assistant or other positions are not accepted unless a significant case can be made). If your credit is incorrect on IMDb or you would like to outline your case for acceptance outside of the specified roles, please email springboard@bifa.film.

I have a credit on a documentary feature, but my next project is a fiction feature. Can I still apply?

>> Yes. If your second feature film is a fiction based project, please do apply.

I have a writer/producer/director credit on a feature, but I will be taking on another role for my next project. Can I still apply?

>> No. We're looking for filmmakers who will be taking one of the three key roles on a feature film - writing, producing, directing - for the second time. If this would be the first time you'd take on one of those key creative roles, then you wouldn't be eligible.

I am based outside of London, will this prohibit me from attending?

>> This shouldn't be an issue. We offer access bursaries to cover travel and accommodation where necessary although this will require a conversation before approval. In addition, many of our sessions take place on Zoom.

I have limitations on my availability, can I still apply?

>> The course is designed to work around real life. It is not full time and we take into account things like school holidays, religious festivals, other industry events and so on.

>> The expectation is that you will be able to dedicate around 1.5 days / month to the core course content, with an 80% attendance rate.

>> If you are studying full-time, we would suggest that this might be a situation in which your time would be too divided as you should also be working on a second feature film in parallel to Springboard

When will you be announcing the full programme schedule?

>> The full schedule will be available to those filmmakers selected for the programme and will be supplied alongside a full welcome and information pack

>> All events will take place either online or at venues relevant to our chosen cohort. All venues will be accessible.

My feature film has been screened at non-BIFA qualifying festivals that are not in the official list, does that matter?

>> No. If your film has had festival screenings then please click 'none of the above' and use the box provided in the question below to tell us more.