

Open Horizons

What Are We Looking For?

Open Horizons is a funding initiative by North East Screen designed to support Writers, Directors, and Producers in advancing their careers. This flexible funding allows individuals to apply for the support they need, provided they can justify how it will be a game changer for their career.

This year we have a limited amount of grants for individuals who are not only **ambitious** but also **realistic** about their career **growth potential**. Applications should show us why this opportunity is a game changer for long-term career development.

The Headlines

Career Development Support

The fund is aimed at Writers, Directors and Producers in the North East who need financial backing to take their careers to the next level.

Flexible Funding

You can apply for what you need. Just show us how it will be a game changer for your career.

External Spend Only

The funding must be used for external costs, it cannot be used for living expenses or wages.

Awards from £300-£3000

Applicants can request funding from £300 to £3000 depending on their specific needs and the impact their project will have on their career.

Funding is paid retrospectively on proof of expenditure. Money spent before the dated offer letter will not be eligible. This funding is a grant/bursary and is not match-funded.

What Is The Process?



Award can only be used for expenditure incurred **AFTER** the date of offer letter

We **cannot** award funding for projects or activity where money has already been spent

How do I apply?



- Complete the Application Form with a detailed proposal explaining how the funding will be game changing for your career.
- Include a breakdown of costs (also on the application form).
- Provide proof of North East residency (utility bill or similar).
- Complete the SME Eligibility form.
- Include any supporting documents required to enhance your application (e.g. quotes, consultant details, training program details).
- Provide a CV and/or showreel demonstrating your industry experience

Eligibility



Based in the North East



Writer, Director or Producer



Over 18 and not in FT education

Types of activity we may fund:



Training & Coaching – Industry training programs, courses, or professional coaching.



Consultancy Support – Working with a consultant to develop skills or strategies.



Travel & Accommodation – Attending industry events, or networking opportunities.



Bespoke Requests – provided you can justify that it is game changing for your career

Consultants

NEW FOR 25-26

Get funded expert guidance tailored to your specific career stage and project needs.

For a **writer**, a consultant might help refine scripts or provide industry insights on pitching to networks and production companies.

A **director** could benefit from mentorship in production planning or navigating the challenges of directing on set.

For a **producer**, a consultant might assist in developing financing strategies and budgeting, securing distribution deals, or building industry connections.

Ultimately, a consultant will help you make informed decisions, strengthen your projects, and elevate your career to the next level.

Before applying for a consultant, book in a 1-2-1 with the Talent and Business Development team to discuss. You can come prepared with your own consultant, or we may be able to suggest someone for you.

Our Policies

- o **Good Working Practices**

Wellbeing, rates of pay, equitable recruitment processes, unconscious bias and diversity should be at the core of your project. We also expect that companies conduct their business professionally and responsibly with all those involved in the project including the NES team.

- o **Sustainability**

Sustainability should be at the heart of your project. Considerations and efforts must be made to reduce your carbon emissions.

- o **Accessibility**

Film and TV should be inclusive. Your company will take reasonable steps to ensure the project is accessible to all individuals, including those with disabilities.

- o **Under-represented People**

Where possible, the project will provide opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds, including those from different ethnicities, genders, abilities, socio-economic statuses, and other historically under-represented groups, promoting diversity both in front of and behind the camera.

Good Working Practices Resources

<https://filmtvcharity.org.uk/>

<https://www.riskpal.com/improving-working-practices-in-television/>

<https://www.raisingfilms.com/creating-inclusive-productions-resource/>

<https://6ftfrom.org/>

<https://www.leapers.co/>

Sustainability

<https://wearealbert.org/>

<https://juliesbicycle.com/>

<https://sustainablefilm.green/>

Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion

<https://www.wftv.org.uk/>

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/>

<https://www.beaconfilms.org.uk/>

<https://www.evenbreak.com/>

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/tv-radio-and-on-demand/equity-and-diversity/resources-on-accessibility-best-practice/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/accessibility/>

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/inclusion-film-industry/diversity-standards-resources>

<https://www.screenskills.com/online-learning/learning-modules/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-for-the-screen-industries/>


<https://www.pact.co.uk/resource-hub/diversity-equity-inclusion.html>

<https://productionguild.com/download/file/S9U/>

North East Screen's Open Horizons fund is funded by the North East Screen Industries Partnership (NESIP).



**North
East
Screen**

In partnership with  **NESIP**