

PRESS RELEASE

ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY LAUNCHES 2023 BURSARY SCHEMES

London, 22 February 2023 – The **Royal Television Society (RTS)**, Britain’s leading forum for television and related media, is set to launch its prestigious bursary schemes for this year and will be accepting applications from Tuesday 7 March 2023 until Thursday 29 June 2023.

One of the core goals of the RTS is to support the television industry in reflecting the exciting and diverse voices of Britain today which starts by changing the industry from the inside, championing and helping talented students to consider the creative industries.

The RTS runs three main schemes – the **TV Production and Journalism Bursary**, the **Digital Innovation Bursary** and the **Steve Hewlett Scholarship**. In addition to the core schemes, the RTS introduced the Beryl Vertue Scholarship in 2022. From the pool of applicants being considered for the TV Production and Journalism bursary, one additional scholarship is to be awarded to an exceptional candidate with an interest in producing. The successful scholar will receive additional support and funding from Hartswood Films, the company run by the daughters of the late Beryl Vertue. This scholarship is designed to honour and commemorate Vertue’s illustrious television career. All bursaries are awarded to talented students from lower-income backgrounds studying an undergraduate degree or HND Level 5 or 6.

The RTS considers candidates studying all subjects: including but not limited to TV Production and Journalism; Humanities and Social Sciences; and STEM related courses, provided that the student demonstrates an evident interest in pursuing a career in television, film or related media industries.

Following a record year in 2022 for both the number of applications submitted and bursaries awarded, in 2023 the RTS hopes to award up to 35 scholarships to individuals studying Television Production or related subjects, with an additional 10 scholarships for the Digital Innovation bursary.

Theresa Wise, CEO of the RTS, said: “Each year the RTS bursaries provide much-needed support to the next generation of talent in television, and every time we are amazed at the calibre of students emerging from the schemes who go on to do phenomenal work within the industry. We are really looking forward to welcoming another cohort of talented and dedicated students to the RTS bursaries this year, who will no doubt go on to do incredible things.”

Madison Jennings, 2022 RTS bursary recipient, said: “The RTS bursary scheme has helped me massively. The financial aspect allowed me to say yes to more opportunities and allowed me to live comfortably at university. The networking side gave me access to so many inspirational people.”

The schemes attract widespread industry support in the form of donations to fund bursaries and in-kind support, such as mentoring, hosting networking events, and offering internships and work experience. Donations to support the scheme from STV, All3Media, Steve Hewlett Fund, Hartwood Films, ITV Daytime and YouView, as well as support from many other companies and individuals, have enabled the scheme to grow and flourish.

For more information on eligibility and how to apply please visit:
<https://rts.org.uk/education-and-trainingpages/bursaries>

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For further information please contact:

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RTS Bursary Schemes Background Information:

The programmes aim to:

- Increase the diversity and inclusivity of the workforce by recruiting people from diverse backgrounds.
- Demonstrate to scholars that the TV industry can offer them a wealth of interesting and inspiring career opportunities
- The Digital Innovation bursary aims to address skills gaps in the industry through recruiting scholars studying subjects including but not limited to VFX, IT systems, Engineering, Cyber Security and Virtual Reality.
- The Television Production and Journalism bursary aims to address skill gaps in the industry through recruiting scholars studying subjects including but not limited to TV Production, Journalism, Animation, Costume Design and Set Design.

About The Royal Television Society:

From glamorous award ceremonies to lively debates, the RTS embraces all aspects of television, and is open to anyone with an interest in the medium.

As an educational charity, we encourage and celebrate work in television and its related fields, from finding out how the nation's favourite shows are made in our Anatomy of a Hit series, to celebrating burgeoning talent at our annual Student Awards.

The industry's most talented individuals give us an insight into the work that goes into making cutting edge contemporary TV. From Government ministers and CEOs to workshops with great runners, our events look at every part of the business.

Our annual Television Journalism, Programme, Craft and Design, and Student Awards celebrate achievements across the broadcasting industry.

Each year, we offer Television Production and Technology bursaries to help those from less affluent backgrounds get a foothold in the industry, and Masterclass sessions bring together students, academics and industry heads.

Global television leaders gather to discuss what the future holds for television at our London Conference or the RTS Cambridge Convention.

Alongside our engaged community of around 3,800 full members, the Society is supported by Britain and the world's biggest broadcasters, producers and consultants, including Principal Patrons BBC, Channel 4, ITV and Sky.

Originally founded as the Television Society in 1927, the Society was granted its Royal title in 1966 and His Majesty King Charles III became Patron of the RTS in 1997.

Today, 15 regional and national groups curate lively events and awards around the UK and Ireland, from Glasgow to Galway.

RTS Futures, which is aimed at those in their first two years of employment, organises an exciting roster of discussion, training, and social occasions. Recent events have included workshops on learning how to format shows and how to survive as a freelancer, and expert panels explaining how to be the best researcher and how to make it on-screen.