

PRESS RELEASE

ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY LAUNCHES 2022 BURSARY SCHEMES

Expanded RTS Digital Innovation Bursary Introduced

London, 8 March 2022 – The **Royal Television Society (RTS)**, Britain’s leading forum for television and related media, has launched its prestigious bursary schemes for 2022 and is now taking applications until 15 July 2022

New for this year, the RTS Digital Innovation bursary, which builds on and replaces the previous Technology bursary, has been shaped to help meet the growing demand for these sought-after skills in the industry and to encourage students to consider the career opportunities available in this field. This bursary supports individuals from lower income backgrounds who are interested in working at the intersection of technology and entertainment, which now includes students taking level five or six HND courses or an undergraduate degree in any undergraduate degree from STEM subjects Engineering or data analytics to subjects which evidence logic such as philosophy.

The Television Production and Journalism bursary is also now open for applications and has been extended to include students studying any subject for a degree or HND level five or six course.

All applicants need to demonstrate an interest in the television industry. This change comes as the RTS continues to encourage talented individuals from all over the UK and with a range of educational paths to apply. The criteria for selection prioritises creativity and fresh perspectives.

For 2022, the RTS hopes to award up to 30 scholarships to individuals studying Television Production or related subjects, with an additional 10 scholarships for the Digital Innovation bursary.

Simon Pitts, CEO of STV and Vice Chair of the RTS Board, said: “I am genuinely excited by our new bursary programmes and how they will help us provide the industry with a very desirable source of new talent across both schemes. At STV, every year we’ve been blown away by the bursary scholars’ work, drive and enthusiasm, and I and my colleagues at STV are delighted to support the new cohort of scholars for 2022.”

Theresa Wise, CEO of the RTS, said: “Our bursary programmes continue to grow every year, supporting individuals from lower income backgrounds. It is important for us to adapt to current industry needs and highlight to prospective students the fantastic opportunities in our industry. Our students are among the most determined, committed, and resilient, and with 80% of our graduates employed in the industry, we find our partners are delighted with the quality and new perspectives they bring to the workplace.”

The RTS first introduced its bursary schemes in 2014 and since then over 240 scholars and alumni have benefitted from the initiative. The schemes support students about to start their studies, or in the first year of a degree or HND level five or six. The RTS supports and helps alumni in a variety of ways, including to get into a job following higher education. There are now five cohorts of graduates carving out careers in a fast-growing industry.

The schemes attract widespread industry support in the form of donations to fund bursaries and in-kind support, such as mentoring, providing webinar sessions, and offering internships and work experience. Donations to support the scheme from STV, All3Media, Disney and YouView have enabled the scheme to grow and flourish. Many other companies and individuals have contributed to the success of the RTS Bursary schemes, the mentors provide unparalleled support to the students, providing insight and motivation for students during the current pandemic.

For more information on eligibility please visit: <https://rts.org.uk/education-and-training-pages/bursaries>

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RTS Bursary Schemes Background Information:

The programmes aim to:

- Increase the diversity of the workforce by recruiting more talented women and people from diverse backgrounds.
- Demonstrate to scholars that the industry offers potentially more glamorous and interesting careers than some of the other options open to them.
- 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 3,500 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 HRH The Prince of Wales 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.