

RTS Bursary Application Guide

Eligibility Criteria - Who can apply?

1. You must be enrolled or applying for the 2025 intake of an:
 - o Undergraduate degree OR
 - o Level 5/6 National Diploma (HND).
2. Have a minimum of two academic years of study remaining.
3. Your annual gross (before tax) household income must be £35,000 or less. Proof will be required if successful.
4. Must be classed by Student Finance or equivalent body as a Home/UK student.

How do I apply?

1. Complete the online [RTS Bursary application form](#). You can save your progress and return to it later.
2. Provide the contact details for a referee (school/college tutor or employer) but not a friend or member of your family.
3. Upload samples of your work to support your application. This work should showcase your creativity or interest.
 - o Please specify your role if it's a group effort
 - o Provide a working web address, YouTube link or use a common file format. Hard copies will not be accepted.
4. Submit the fully completed application, online, by the stated deadline. Late submissions will not be considered.
5. If you have any issues please contact us on bursaries@rts.org.uk.

Bursaries available

There are **two** types of bursaries, with specific awards in each.

1. **Television Production and Journalism Bursary (TVPJ) – From £1,500 per annum**

For applicants with an interest in:

<u>Journalism</u> - filming or editing news stories, research/investigation, documentary production.	<u>Content creation</u> – pre-production, idea development.
<u>Visual</u> – roles in an art department eg costume, makeup, set design – props & scenery.	<u>Craft skills</u> – writing, camera operation, sound, vision mixing etc
<u>Direction</u> – turning an idea into a final piece of film or TV programme, video or podcast.	<u>Production</u> – management of the process incl budgeting, planning, administration, health and safety.
<u>Communications</u> - social media, public relations.	<u>Location scouting</u> - management, casting

- a. STV Television Production and Journalism (*awarded £1,500 per year*)
A UK-wide bursary which supports at least two applicants from Scotland each year. It includes work experience at STV Studios and an STV mentor. Students do not need to be based in Scotland to apply.
- b. Steve Hewlett Scholarship (*awarded £2,500 per year*)
Steve Hewlett was a renowned journalist and fearless documentary filmmaker with a talent for communicating the most complex stories in an accessible way. This scholarship will be awarded to a journalism student with a passion for current affairs and documentaries and who embodies Steve's dedication and ethos.
- c. Beryl Vertue Scholarship (*awarded £2,500 per year*)
Supported by Hartwood Films, the scholarship commemorates Beryl Vertue's long and successful production career. The scholarship will be awarded to a TVPJ student who wishes to pursue a career in TV production.

2. Digital Innovation Bursary (DI) – from £1,500 per annum

For applicants from a science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM), computer science or software development background, or for those with a digital media background who would like to pursue a career in:

<u>Hardware/software development</u> – creative problem solving, product development, innovation in video/audio content delivery.	<u>New technology</u> – artificial intelligence, virtual reality, robotics, animation, motion graphics, CGI, post-production, VFX
<u>Sound</u> – engineering, composition	<u>Application of technologies</u> - data visualisation or addressable advertising
<u>Digital</u> - production and distribution of broadcast quality content on digital or social platforms	

- a. STV Digital Innovation (awarded £1,500 per year)
Specifically, for DI applicants attending/applying to attend an institution in Scotland. It includes work experience at STV Studios and an STV mentor.
- b. The Andy Taylor Foundation Digital Innovation (awarded £2,500 per year)
Andy Taylor was a pioneer of digital media in the UK. He co-founded Little Dot Studios in 2012, and it is now one of the largest distributors of premium content on YouTube and producer of factual channels. This scholarship will be awarded to those with an interest in digital content production and distribution.

Selection Criteria

Your application responses play a crucial role in the selection process. We ask that you:

- Demonstrate interest in television.
- Explain why you chose to apply for the RTS Bursary Scheme and how it could benefit you.
- Highlight qualifications or relevant experience.
- Express interest in the industry and familiarity with the work of the RTS and the scheme.
- Submit work that showcases your potential for success.
- Talk about your desired role in the TV industry.
- The decision of the panel is final, and there is no appeals process.

Assessment Process - What happens after I apply?

- Your application is assessed against the criteria.
- Referees may be contacted.
- Shortlisted applicants will have a short interview via phone or zoom.
- A selection panel of industry experts will award bursaries to the best candidates, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria. Evidence of household income will be requested.
- Successful scholars will be notified, by email, of the panel's decision in early October 2025.

Benefits for Scholars - What do I get if I'm successful?

- £1,500 per year (Plus, an additional £1,000 per year for recipients of the Steve Hewlett Scholarship, Beryl Vertue Scholarship or Andy Taylor Foundation Scholarship).
- An industry mentor in your second or third year
- Membership of the RTS and the associated benefits
- Access to landmark events, networking opportunities and support from the bursary team.
- Opportunity to join a 10-day industry focused Summer Tour for DI Scholars.
- Recognition as an RTS Scholar.

Please note: Every effort is made to ensure that all details included in this Guide are correct at the time of writing. They are intended to act as an information source and in no way should they be legally binding or guarantee an award of a bursary. The Royal Television Society will not be deemed to be in breach of any Terms and Conditions due to changes to eligibility criteria beyond their reasonable control. This Guide will be regularly reviewed and may be subject to change from time to time. The decision of the selection panel is final, and there is no appeal against the decision of the panel on the award of bursaries. We regret that we are unable to provide individual feedback, as we anticipate receiving many applications.

RTS Bursary Scheme Application

Definitions and Clarifications

- **Higher Education**
Refers to undergraduate degree course or equivalent at the Higher National Diploma level 5/6.
- **A first-year student**
Started your undergraduate degree or Level 5/6 HND in 2024 and will be entering your second year of study in September 2025.
- **Home student**
Has settled status as a national of the UK or having the right of permanent residence or indefinite leave to remain in the UK.
- **Household gross income**
Household income is the total amount your family earns each year before tax and National Insurance. It should be below £35,000 to be eligible for a bursary. Verification from the Student Loans Company, relevant organisation or P60 will be requested if awarded a bursary.
- **Firm choice**
Is the offer accepted as your first choice from a university or college.
- **Submitted work**
Is required to support your application. This should be sent in an electronic form in usual formats, plus links to websites must be valid with password stated on your form if required.
- **Exam results**
Are requested as evidence of your ability to focus on your studies and your predicted grades.
- **What if I don't take up the place on the course**
The bursary will be withdrawn if you do not join the course within three-weeks of the start date.
- **What if I withdraw from the course**
You will be ineligible for any remaining bursary payments. You should also notify the Bursary team immediately of your decision.
- **Bursary payment**
Is usually made at the end of each February for consecutive years of the course. Payment will:
 - NOT be made during gap years or when on a paid work experience.
 - Be paid subject to receiving the required end of year report and video diary. Further details will be provided when you are awarded an RTS Bursary.
 - Be paid after receiving verification from your tutor/university that you remain on the course and are performing satisfactorily.
 - Payment will be made by bank transfer and we recommend that it's used to support living and study costs.
- **Postgraduate students**
Cannot apply for the RTS Bursary scheme.
- **Taking a gap year...**
Apply for the bursary in the year you will start the course and NOT before.
- **If I am unsuccessful, can I reapply next year?**
Yes!