

BFI GOVERNOR ROLE SPECIFICATION

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport would like to invite applications for a new Northern Ireland Governor at the British Film Institute (BFI). A further three ordinary Governors, as well as Governors to represent Scotland and Wales, will also be appointed.

Governors will have expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- **Cultural Leadership**
- **Independent Production, Distribution and Business**
- **Academia, Education and Skills**
- **Technology and Digital Innovation**
- **Television**
- **Games**

DCMS is committed to equality of opportunity and is committed to ensuring that public appointments better represent the views of the communities which they serve. We particularly encourage applicants from underrepresented groups, those based outside London and the South-East and applicants who have achieved success through non-traditional educational routes. We want to ensure any appointee is committed to promoting diversity, in its broadest possible sense. This will include embedding a commitment to the principles of levelling up and championing opportunity for all across the organisation, helping to ensure that the organisation is one in which a genuinely diverse range of views can be expressed, without fear or favour.

About the BFI

The BFI is a Royal Charter Charity that was established in 1933.

Purpose

We believe society needs stories. Film, television and the moving image bring them to life, helping us to connect and understand each other better. We share the stories of yesterday, search for the stories of today, and shape the stories of tomorrow.

Mission

The BFI is a cultural charity, a National Lottery distributor, and the UK's lead organisation for film and the moving image. Our mission is:

- To support creativity and actively seek out the next generation of UK storytellers
- To grow and care for the BFI National Archive, the world's largest film and television archive
- To offer the widest range of UK and international moving image culture through our programmes and festivals - delivered online and in venue
- To use our knowledge to educate and deepen public appreciation and understanding
- To work with Government and industry to ensure the continued growth of the UK's screen industries

Vision

We will transform access to our programmes, screen culture, and jobs by

- focussing on the diversity of our audiences;
- expanding our work to embrace television & video games;
- reframing the public's relationship with the BFI's collections;
- investing in the growth of our digital platforms; and,
- working with industry to deliver long-term strategies for education and skills

Role of Governors

The role of the Governors is primarily to develop and oversee the implementation of BFI strategy and policy, as well as provide constructive challenge to the organisation in order to support it in achieving its strategic aims. A Governor should have a commitment to the BFI's purpose, mission and vision, champion the BFI's charitable work, and act as an advocate for the BFI, including assistance with activities to generate funding from the corporate sector, trusts and foundations and philanthropy. Furthermore, the Governors will support the BFI to achieve value for money and sustainability across its activities.

Essential Criteria

All candidates will need to demonstrate in their application that they meet the majority of following essential criteria to a high standard:

- Capability and willingness to act as cultural advocates and fundraisers for the BFI across the industry and government.

- An understanding of and commitment to the mission and work of the BFI.
- Strategic decision-making ability, including an in-depth understanding of trends in the broader screen industries, helping to ensure that the BFI is connected to emerging opportunities in this area.
- A good understanding of the challenging self-generated income needs of the BFI with a focus on driving greater commercialisation and support of fundraising initiatives.
- Excellent communication skills with the ability to provide a cultural and/or an industry perspective, and check and challenge the Executive as required.
- A strong commitment to engaging communities outside of London, and factoring UK-wide perspectives into all decision making.

Relevant, but non-essential, cross-cutting themes and skills may include legal expertise, experience in organisational culture and transformation, political astuteness and relationships, and a UK-wide and international lens.

For the Northern Ireland Governor role, the successful candidate will have a strong connection, by residence or otherwise, with Northern Ireland.

Additional Criteria

- Successful applicants will also be able to demonstrate one or more of the following criteria:
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1. Cultural Leadership
Archive, Filmmakers & Creatives
Archive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ability to champion the BFI National Archive and BFI cultural programming on the domestic and international stage.
Filmmaker & Creative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An experienced filmmaker or creative with the ability to advocate on behalf of the BFI at the highest levels both nationally and internationally, including for fundraising and wider industry messaging

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2. Independent Production, Distribution & Business
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Senior experience and leadership in the field of independent film production or distribution, including a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the independent sector.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– A demonstrable commitment to and passion for developing audiences for a broad range of filmmaking on all platforms, with strong relationships in theatrical exhibition, video on demand and television.
3. Academia, Education and Skills
Academia
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Experience of and ability to develop world class research in an academic setting on film, TV and the moving image.
Education and Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Experience in education and skills provision and strategic delivery.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The ability to engage with and develop a broad international network of partners, either personally or institutionally.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The ability to advocate for creativity and film and the moving image as agents of change and inspiration for young people.
4. Technology and Digital Innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The ability to lead Board level thinking and discussion on opportunities and possibilities relating to the digital and technological transformation of the BFI and the national collection.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The ability to provide strategic, cutting edge insight into digital innovation and potential applications to the BFI and wider industry, including audience growth.
5. Television
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Experience working in Television commissioning or production, and ability to develop a network of high-level UK and international relationships across the sector, including with talent, SVOD platforms and PSBs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– A detailed understanding - including opportunities and challenges - of the emerging television landscape.

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6. Video Games

- Experience in immersive or interactive content, and a passion for how the BFI can support this content with cultural, commercial or educational potential.
- The ability to apply skills, experience and networks to drive discussion on utilising the national collection in innovative and groundbreaking ways.

National Representation

The Northern Ireland Governor will have particular responsibility for representing the BFI in their nation and for representing the interests of their nation at the Board.

In addition to the skills outlined above, the Northern Ireland Governor will be required to demonstrate the following:

- An ability to engage actively with stakeholders in the screen sector in Northern Ireland, and with the Northern Ireland Executive;
- An understanding of the work of the BFI and its partners, both in Northern Ireland and across the UK.

Time Commitment

Successful candidates will need to spend time familiarising themselves with the BFI and its workings and keeping that knowledge up to date. The Board meets six times a year, with most meetings and associated activities lasting half a day and one meeting usually spent away from the BFI for a full day. Most Governors also serve on one or more committee or advisory group, each meeting around three to four times a year. Additional time will be required to study papers, to attend BFI events, including fundraising events.

Location of Meetings

Board and Committee meetings are usually held at the BFI, 21 Stephen Street, London W1T 1LN or at different BFI locations across the UK. Governors will be free to join meetings virtually.

Remuneration

Board appointments are not remunerated, but reasonable expenses are paid.

Term of Appointment

The appointment is for a period of up to four years.