

BURSARY POLICY 2020

Equality and inclusion are at the core of our charitable aims and we are committed to working to remove economic, social or geographical barriers that might prevent young people from accessing our opportunities. Our Bursary Fund awards over £650k worth of support every year to ensure that financial barriers don't prevent young people from engaging with our opportunities. We also offer a wide-range of free targeted opportunities, designed to reach young people who face financial, social or geographical barriers that prevent them from accessing high quality drama. We never charge a young person a fee to be in one of our productions. You can find more information on our free opportunities [here](#).

We share the concerns of colleagues and friends in the industry and beyond about the accessibility of creative educational opportunities and if you'd like to get in touch about access you can email us on info@nyt.org.uk.

This policy sets out the financial support available and the eligibility criteria for NYT bursary funding. The following should be noted when applying for an NYT Bursary:

- The National Youth Theatre is not a funding organisation and may not be able to provide financial support.
- There is no automatic entitlement to bursary funding though the National Youth Theatre and we do not offer automatic funding based on set thresholds (except in the case of Fee Waivers for Intake Auditions and Backstage Interviews and Company Membership)
- All bursaries are reviewed and awarded in accordance with this policy.

Introduction

1. Throughout the NYT's 63 year history financial assistance has been given to young people suffering from financial hardship and in the 2000s a Bursary Fund was formally set up to facilitate these payments
2. From 01 April 2014 NYT has provided a non means-tested bursary, *The Bryan Forbes Assistant Director Bursary*
3. From July 2018 NYT committed to offering *The Hugh Bonneville Audition Access Fund*, providing free intake auditions to schools and community groups where arts funding or engagement has been dramatically reduced
4. From Autumn 2018 NYT committed to piloting an offer of waived audition fees for young people from Islington who meet certain characteristics, including qualifying for free school meals.
5. From November 2019 NYT has committed to offering automatic fee waivers for Intake Auditions and Backstage Interviews and Company Membership to those who meet the outlined criteria
6. NYT endeavours to optimise the use of the Bursary Fund to provide meaningful support to prospective and current members facing financial barriers, which hinder engagement with NYT activities
7. Each financial year the Finance Department, in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, set the quota of bursary funding available to each project and department
8. Each financial year the NYT Development Team raise funds through Trusts and Foundations, Individuals, corporate and other supporters to grow the size of the dedicated funding available for bursaries. Fundraising includes initiatives designed to generate named bursary funds that may come with specific criteria.
9. All bursaries are awarded on a discretionary basis and NYT is free to decide which applicants should receive bursary funding and the amount they should receive.

The World's First
Youth Theatre
Discovering Epic
Talent Since 1956

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National Youth Theatre of Great Britain
A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England and Wales no. 699144
Registered Charity in England
and Wales no. 30607
Registered Charity in Scotland no. SC043665

10. NYT accepts bursary applications for the following:
- The NYT REP Company
 - The Bryan Forbes Assistant Director
 - NYT Productions, Acting and Backstage Members
 - Playing Up
 - Stepping Up
 - HUB Subscriptions (*including Acting Audition and Backstage Interview Bursaries*)
 - Company Membership
 - Epic, Backstage, Junior and Senior course fees
 - Epic, Backstage, Junior and Senior accommodation
 - Travel
 - Subsistence
 - Personal Hardship
 - Access arrangements and additional support

Bursary Fund Management

11. The Bursary Fund is overseen by the Executive Director with support from the Associate Director and the Director of Finance
12. The management team reserve the right to amend the bursary application process and the criteria for eligibility at any time
13. Bursary eligibility criteria and the application process is reviewed annually and any recommendations for changes are submitted to the CEO for approval
14. The management team make decisions based on the information provided within each application and on the available funds. The team are often in the situation where decisions need to be made between applicants. The NYT team is not in a position to receive outside referrals from directors, Associate Artists or staff working on individual projects or productions, but only on the basis of the information provided by the applicant in each case.

Eligibility

15. Applicants must be current NYT applicants or members, Playing Up or Stepping Up Participants or have a letter of acceptance for one of NYT's intake courses
16. The applicant must be aged between 13-26 years of age
17. The applicant must be a UK resident
18. The applicant must be able to prove financial hardship or the requirement for additional financial outlay above any advertised costs, in order to engage with NYT activities
19. The Bryan Forbes Bursary requires the successful recipient to be:
 - 18-30 years of age
 - have previous professional experience within the industry

Conditions

20. Applications are only accepted during advertised date ranges. Applications received outside of the advertised date ranges will not be considered
21. Incomplete applications will not be considered
22. Evidence of financial hardship such as evidence of household income or proof of receipt of benefits must be provided as part of the application process, with exception to the Bryan Forbes Bursary
23. NYT reserves the right to pursue repayment of bursary funds, along with a £50 administration fee, if a young person withdraws from NYT activities
24. NYT does not provide bursaries for rent or loss of earnings in any circumstances

The NYT REP bursary

25. Members who have successfully gained a place on the REP training course are eligible to apply for a bursary for the period of the course
26. There will be an initial payment at the start of the course followed by equal monthly instalments and is subject to the members' continuing good attendance
27. The amount of the bursary is dependent on a submitted application along with proof of income
28. If NYT accrues any unused bursary for the year e.g. a member leaves their course early, funding will be reallocated for future applicants

The Bryan Forbes bursary – Assistant Director

29. Upon a successful interview the Bryan Forbes Assistant Director will be eligible for a training bursary of £10,000
30. There will be an initial payment at the start of the course followed by equal monthly instalments and this bursary is subject to the Assistant Directors' continuing good attendance, managed by the Associate Director. Failure to complete the full period of the NYT REP will result in the forfeit of the remaining balance of the bursary.

NYT Productions

31. To qualify for a Production bursary an applicant must be cast in a role after a successful audition or offered a Backstage position
32. A Production bursary must be applied for at the earliest opportunity and within 5 working days of the production offer being confirmed. No applications will be considered outside of this timeframe.
33. Accommodation costs may be considered for a bursary contribution when relocation is a requirement of the casting and all other daily return transport options are reasonably ruled out
34. Travel costs to the location will be considered for support. In line with our Environmental policy NYT reserves the right to only consider the cheapest available public transport or to request carpool options where appropriate
35. Hardship Bursaries may be provided in exceptional circumstances (see below)

Intake Courses

36. To qualify for a course or accommodation bursary an applicant must be accepted onto a NYT intake course after a successful audition or interview
37. A discretionary bursary of up to 100% of the course and accommodation cost may be awarded subject to assessment of the application
38. The applicant must pay any balance outstanding in full before the start of the course
39. Travel fees may be covered in some cases
40. Hardship Bursaries may be provided in exceptional circumstances (see below)

HUB Subscriptions (including Acting Audition, Backstage Interview) and Membership Fees

41. Automatic Fee Waivers are available for HUB Subscriptions and Membership Fees to those meeting the outlined criteria upon receipt of supporting evidence
42. NYT can cover a discretionary bursary of up to 100% of the HUB Subscription or Company Membership Fee
43. NYT cannot cover travel to HUB Subscriber activity unless eligible under an Access and Inclusion bursary (see below)
44. Applicants wishing to submit an audition/ interview application must do so at least 10 working days prior to the final submission deadline for the year.
45. Applicants may only apply once per annum for a HUB Subscription Fee Waiver/ Bursary.
46. Audition and Interview fees may also be waived through initiatives including but not limited to; the Audition Access Fund and the Islington Pledge.

47. HUB Subscribers auditioning through their school are eligible to apply to the NYT Fee Waiver/Bursary Fund. The School will be provided with a link to an application form which the teacher responsible for the booking should distribute to young people meeting the relevant criteria. Successful applicants will have the HUB Subscription fee removed from the school's final invoice.
48. Fee Waivers/Bursaries are not able to be applied to school workshop fees. Fee Waivers/Bursaries for the workshop portion of the audition day would need to be covered by the school.

Travel bursary

49. This may be paid to those members who live over 8 miles away from any NYT training centre and where travel creates a barrier to attend an NYT course
50. Travel bursaries within London zone 3 will be exclusively paid to support bus travel, unless particular circumstances render this unreasonable
51. Travel bursaries are awarded after review of a bursary application
52. Notification will be emailed to the applicant with the granted bursary amount to the email address provided at the time of application
53. Travel bursaries are paid directly to the named member on the application by BACS
54. Travel bursaries are awarded in line with the NYT environmental impact and sustainability policy whereby participants are expected to travel by public transport where options exist to do so. Where travel by car is the only available option then participants may be asked to make reasonable adjustments to their journey in order to carpool.

Hardship Bursary

55. A hardship bursary may be awarded to those members whose household income is below £12,500 or those with exceptional circumstances
56. Notification will be emailed to the applicant with the granted bursary amount to the email address provided at the time of application
57. A hardship bursary may contribute towards attending an NYT training course and should be used to pay for meals, personal hygiene products, laundry and essential costs including materials for the course and or production
58. The hardship bursary will be paid directly to the named member on the application by BACS
59. Per diems may be allocated in exceptional circumstances at NYT's discretion
60. A contribution to childcare costs arising specifically from participation in an NYT Programme may be considered if all reasonable alternatives and options have been exhausted

Playing Up Bursary

61. Funded by the Leverhulme Trust all Playing Up and Stepping Up students that live further than walking distance from the course location will be automatically entitled to a daily travel bursary of £5 per day that the course runs. Students of the Playing Up and Stepping Up courses will be provided with an Oyster Card that will be topped up weekly in advance of attendance to support off tube or bus travel. If a student travels by train from outside London and would prefer for the travel bursary to contribute to their train costs, arrangements will be made for alternative weekly or monthly payments.
62. When a student is absent from class the travel bursary for the number of days absent will be deducted from the following week's top up allocation.
63. If a student does not require the full travel bursary (their travel costs are under £5 per day from their home address to the course location) they will be allocated the amount required and remaining funds will be reallocated to students that have a higher financial need or who have further to travel.
64. The cost of an initial oyster card will be met by NYT but lost / replacement cards must be paid for by the Playing Up / Stepping Up student.

65. As a member of City and Islington college Playing Up / Stepping Up students will be provided information on how to access any travel, childcare or hardship grants that are available through the college, following enrolment onto the academic course (this can be 28 days after the commencement of the course). NYT is a separate organisation from the college and has no influence over criteria or funding available from year to year.
66. No other bursaries for living costs, accommodation costs or loss of earnings can be offered while studying on Playing Up or Stepping Up. If a Playing Up Student fulfils the criteria and is eligible for NYT Travel, Hardship or Access and Inclusion Bursaries they may apply to them directly.

Access and Inclusion Bursaries

67. NYT wishes to support all participants across our programme including all those with access and inclusion needs or specifically needs arising from a disability. We recognise that needs are individual, and each case will be assessed in dialogue with NYT. Applicants will be asked to engage with NYT proactively to discuss other potential ways in which their needs and requirements on the course may be met in order to ensure that the funding available in the Bursary Pot can be shared as widely as possible.
68. An Access and Inclusion Accommodation Bursary for carers will be considered in order to support participants through NYT Programmes. NYT reserve the right to request sharing accommodation in these circumstances, where appropriate.
69. Travel costs for carers will be considered
70. NYT cannot cover wages and living costs for carers or recruitment costs/agency fees
71. In addition to direct bursary payments, NYT will consider additional support staff to be directly employed by NYT to support the individual and the group. Where appropriate, these staff and Associates will be briefed both by NYT and by the individual and their representatives.
72. In addition to direct bursary payments, NYT will consider covering the costs for additional specialist needs including BSL, Language Interpreters, etc to enable full participation by both the individual and the group

Payments

73. The REP and Bryan Forbes bursaries will be paid monthly during the period of engagement
74. Travel and hardship bursaries will be paid on a schedule. Recipients of travel and hardship bursaries will be notified of the payment schedule in advance of the project
75. Epic, Intake and accommodation bursaries are in-kind bursary's where no cash is transferred to an applicant, if the member is not awarded a full bursary they must pay the balance outstanding in full before the course begins
76. Direct payments made to the members will be through BACS transfer, to accounts in the member name only, unless otherwise requested in the application form
77. Checks will be carried out on the member attendance throughout the duration of the course

Data Use

78. NYT is compliant with GDPR Regulations and manages data according to current guidelines
79. Supporting documentation is deleted from NYT's account 20 days after the application closing date
80. NYT acknowledges the sensitive nature of bursary applications, and only shares the information included in any application with staff members involved in the allocation of bursary funds
81. NYT uses a third-party website to collect bursary applications
82. NYT pays a premium subscription to ensure the highest levels of data protection and security offered by the third-party supplier
83. NYT is not responsible for any data misuse as a result of breach of the third-party supplier

The Application Process

84. NYT expects that all applicants will have made an attempt to raise funds for the project prior to submitting their application, or have significant barriers preventing an attempt to fundraise, to be detailed during the application process
85. Applications are only accepted through the advertised medium for the project
86. Applications must be received prior to the closing date and must be completed in full
87. Where there is no advertised closing date or timeframe communicated elsewhere in this policy or directly, applications to the bursary fund must be received at least 21 days prior to the commencement of the project
88. Where evidence of financial hardship is required, this must be submitted as part of the application. NYT does not accept supplementary evidence after the closing date
89. Where the applicant is unable to supply evidence of financial hardship, due to exceptional personal circumstances, an NYT reference form may be used to provide the required evidence.
90. The applicant, and any person assisting the applicant with their application, must both sign the declaration before an application can be considered
91. The applicant will be asked to share the outcome of previous bursary applications to NYT. Whilst there is no barrier to the number of bursary applications supported for an individual member, this may affect final decisions when deciding between applications of equal merit.

Reference Form

92. NYT only requires a reference where an applicant is unable to provide evidence of their financial hardship
93. NYT does not require a character reference at any point during the bursary application process
94. NYT does not make decisions based on the quality of a person's contribution to our programme and recognises that such qualitative references are subjective
95. An NYT Bursary Reference Form can be found at NYT's website
96. The Bursary Reference form should be completed by a working professional, who knows the applicant well and who is able to verify the applicant's personal circumstances truthfully and accurately
97. The referee should not be related to the applicant and should be a person of good standing in the applicant's community, or work in (or be retired from) a recognised profession
98. The contact details, job title of the referee and relationship to the applicant must be provided on the reference form
99. It is the responsibility of the applicant or applicants' representative to notify referees that they may be contacted by NYT representatives, in order to verify the applicant's circumstances

The Review Process

100. Bursary applications are reviewed concurrently, after the application closing date
101. Bursary applications undergo a three-stage review process
102. First Stage Review is conducted by the Project Manager. The Project Manager makes first stage recommendations for the allocation of Bursary Funds having reviewed all applications for the project.
103. Second Stage Review is conducted by a peer review or Line Manager. The second stage reviewer reviews the recommendations and either confirms or suggests alterations to the allocation of bursary funds
104. Third Stage Review is conducted by The Executive Director or a member of the Senior Management Team to meet deadlines. The Director reviews the amended recommendations and either confirms or suggests alterations to the allocation of bursary funds
105. The Directors decision is final

Bursary Outcomes

106. Applicants are notified of their bursary outcome on the date detailed in the application or where this is not set, within 14 working days of the receipt of the application
107. Bursary outcomes are sent via email to the address provided with the application
108. Applicants receive the outcome of their bursary application only.
109. Bursary Outcomes are as follows:
 - All bursary funding applied for awarded
 - Part bursary funding applied for awarded
 - No bursary funding applied for awarded
 - Applicants will be asked to accept their bursary allocation within 3 working days of the Award Outcome being received. Alternatively, applicants will have the option to appeal.

Appeals

110. Applicants are entitled to appeal their bursary outcome for the following reasons:
 - A significant change of circumstances since the submission of the application
 - Evidence that an application has not undergone three stage review
 - Evidence of bias, prejudice or preferential treatment
 - If they are now able to provide evidence requested by the NYT Bursary Panel
111. Appeals should be submitted using the online form, within 5 working days.
112. Appeals undergo a review by a member of NYT Management, who was not on the original review panel, and their recommendation is made to the Executive Director (or alternative Director as appropriate)
113. Applicants are notified of the outcome of their review on the date stated in the application or where this is not specified, within 5 working days
114. Outcomes of appeal decisions are final
115. Applicants may only appeal a bursary award on one occasion per project
116. Applicants are advised that the appeal may also result in the reduction of the original bursary award made.
117. The Finance and Sub Committee of the Trustees of NYT are responsible for the fair allocation of Bursary funds and may be involved in an appeal outcome where appropriate

Prohibitions

118. Applicants who are found to have made false statements or submitted fabricated evidence on their application form will be barred from all future bursary funding and may have their NYT membership, HUB Subscription or place on a programme revoked
119. Applicants who attempt to influence the bursary application process through bribery, blackmail, coercion or extortion will have their NYT membership, HUB Subscription or place on a programme revoked and will be barred from all future engagement with NYT
120. NYT does not permit or consider advocacy for an applicant from any third party other than via the reference form attached to the original application.
121. In no circumstances will travel costs be met from outside the UK

Feedback and Comments

122. Applicants to the bursary fund are welcome to provide feedback and constructive criticism at info@NYT.org.uk