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**This guidance is specifically related to bursary support for applicants to the Production Guild’s Step up to Production Accountant course (North West) This bursary support is limited to residents of the Liverpool City Region (including Liverpool, Sefton, Knowsley, St. Helen’s, Halton and Wirral) and the Greater Manchester area.**

If you have any questions about Connected Opportunities, or the process, or if you require support to complete your application e.g. you would like this information in another format, please email your local film office:

Liverpool Film Office - crew@liverpool.gov.uk

Screen Manchester – elli@screenmanchester.com

with **‘Production Guild SUPA Course’** in the subject heading.

**What is it?**

Connected Opportunities helps to remove barriers for people from underrepresented communities who are already working in the screen industry, to ensure a more equal representation. Initiatives like these are important steps toward breaking down barriers and promoting diversity and inclusion in the workforce.

The programme provides for opportunities that will help crew move onto the next stage in their careers.

**Who can apply?**

You will already be working in the screen industry (not a new entrant) and have 3 credits or more.

You will also identify with one or more of the following groups, currently underrepresented within the screen industry:

* Global majority
* Women
* Non-binary/gender queer
* LGBTQIA
* Disability - including those identifying as D/deaf or neurodiverse and those with a longstanding physical or mental diagnosis
* Working class background
* Those with caring responsibilities
* Those returning to work after a leave of absence

We will ask you to fill in an anonymous equality, diversity and inclusion form to tell us which of these groups you identify with, but this will not be linked to your personal details.

We (and the BFI, who provide this funding) simply use this information to help us work out who we are currently reaching, and identify any areas in which we need to do more work.

**What can I apply for?**

Connected Opportunities can cover the costs of an opportunity that you’ve found, that you believe will help you advance in your career.

This could be:

* An opportunity to work within a department that is new to you, if you are looking to move to a different screen role
* An opportunity for you to gain experience working on a production with a mentor if you are returning to the industry after a leave of absence
* An opportunity to work on a production shadowing a professional in a more senior role that you are working towards
* An opportunity for coaching and/or mentoring with a professional who is working in a role you are interested in stepping up to
* Associated costs for travel/accommodation for you to engage with the opportunity
* Associated costs for software/technical kit for you to engage with the opportunity

You will need to be able to provide receipts/evidence. You will also need to explain on the application form how you think this opportunity will help you step up in your career. We’ll also ask you at the end to submit a report to tell us how the funding has helped.

**How much can I apply for?**

You can apply for up to £1500 per opportunity.

**How to apply?**

If you are successful in applying to the Production Guild course, you will need to contact the film office you live closest to: Screen Manchester or Liverpool Film Office.

They will send you a digital application form and a digital Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) form to complete.

They will then follow up with your application and take it from there.

This bursary is available across the Screen Alliance North Partnership and runs year round. You can apply to the bursary for other career development activity by contacting your local film office: North East Screen, Liverpool Film Office, Screen Manchester, Screen Yorkshire.