

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School Foundation Bursary Policy February 2026

This policy outlines Bristol Old Vic Theatre School's assessment criteria and allocation of bursaries for the Foundation programme. This policy and assessment criteria are reviewed annually and are subject to change.

Making an application

Please ensure you read this policy in advance of making an application to us. Applications will be collected via an online form. This deadline will be communicated to all participants who have secured a place on the course. Bursary applications are only open to UK Home domiciled students and are not open to international applicants.

Assessment Criteria

The value of an individual's bursary award is assessed on need based on all the applications received by the School at the above deadline. Applications for bursaries will be considered in conjunction with our assessment criteria. These include but are not limited to:

- Applicants in financial hardship
- Applicants from areas of low progression to higher education (assessed by postcode)
- Applicants from areas of deprivation (assessed by postcode)
- Applicants in care/care leavers or estranged students
- Disabled applicants
- All other applicants who are 'hard to reach'

Allocation

Once applications have closed, the Bursary Committee will meet within the following days to allocate bursaries with communications to successful applicants being sent the following week. Where communications are unable to be sent the following week, the nearest working date will be chosen.

Each criterion listed above will have different weightings and these are agreed in advance by the Bursary Committee to ensure parity with the School's annual priorities and Access and Participation strategy. The weightings are then combined to produce an overall score which will be used to assess applicants' success based on the value of funding available.

The Bursary Committee consists of five members and includes two members of the School's Executive Leadership Team and three other members of Theatre School staff.

Disclaimer

The Bursary Committee meets annually to assess and allocate Foundation Course bursaries and we reserve the right to amend criteria and individual allocations dependent on the Theatre School's priorities. This means some applicants who previously received a bursary may not be eligible for it the following year if the Theatre School's criteria or priorities change; however, any changes will be reflected in our policy document and/or communicated to relevant parties.

Questions?

If you have any queries about the bursary process or would like more information, please contact **student-recruitment@oldvic.ac.uk**.