

A photograph of a film set. On the left, a person in a cap is operating a large professional camera mounted on a dolly. On the right, another person stands in profile, holding a device. The background is a bright, golden light source, possibly a window or a large light panel, creating a warm, hazy atmosphere. The floor is dark, and there are some cables and equipment visible.

NFTS

NATIONAL
FILM AND
TELEVISION
SCHOOL

Corporate Plan Summary 2023-2028

About the NFTS

For more than half a century the **National Film and Television School (NFTS)** has developed and nurtured some of the creative industries' top talent. It is widely acknowledged to be the best Film, TV and Games school in the UK, and one of the top five in the world.



NFTS graduates are crucial to the film and TV industry; 85% of film and 90% of High-End TV spend involves an **NFTS** graduate in some capacity. Our award-winning alumni include Roger Deakins (*Blade Runner: 2049*), Nick Park (*Wallace and Gromit*), Lynne Ramsay (*You Were Never Really Here*), David Yates (*Harry Potter* and *Fantastic Beasts*), Laurie Nunn (*Sex Education*) and Nick Broomfield (*Whitney: Can I Be Me*).

The **NFTS** runs more behind-the-camera courses than any other film school in the world, including core craft areas such as directing and cinematography, as well as specialisms such as script supervision and production accounting.

In 2018, it opened its first hub in Glasgow (**NFTS Scotland**), followed by further hubs in Cardiff and Leeds, creating greater access to it in the nations and regions.

In the same year it launched the StoryFutures Academy: The National Centre for Immersive Storytelling, through which it has developed cutting-edge creative training and research programmes in immersive storytelling to ensure the UK creative workforce is the most skilled in the world in the use of eXtended Reality (XR).

In 2022, the **NFTS** was granted degree awarding powers in recognition of its excellence as a specialist Higher Education provider.



Our plan

The purpose of the NFTS is to nurture exceptionally talented people from all backgrounds, providing the highest calibre education to empower them to play leading roles in the future of the film, television and games industries through making and sharing the stories that shape our culture.

The five-year plan is designed to consolidate our global status as a centre of excellence for film, television and games education by fostering talent, widening participation, enhancing teaching excellence, developing strong industry partnerships, and shaping new practice.

1. Expanding nations and regions provision
2. Shaping future storytelling
3. Promoting teaching excellence through R&D
4. New approaches to delivery
5. Enhancing student support
6. Fostering new graduate opportunities

Expanding nations and regions provision

To attract outstanding talent and nurture distinctive voices the **NFTS** must connect with underrepresented groups across the UK.

To make this happen we will grow our hubs in Scotland, Wales and Leeds by offering more courses to fill skills gaps and identify new voices. We will also develop a new regional hub in order to increase our reach and ensure that we fulfil our role as the UK's national film and television school. We want anyone with talent to see the **NFTS** as a welcoming and supportive destination.



Shaping future storytelling



The technological convergence of gaming, screen, audio, performance, and wider digital entertainment is happening at a dizzying pace and the NFTS must ensure that it anticipates as well as responds to new developments.

We will develop new courses in areas relating to games, virtual and real-time production, immersive storytelling, audio, and artificial intelligence to maintain our position at the forefront of moving image storytelling. We will ensure that all of our students are prepared for this evolving world, and build relationships with new industry partners who can support our work in these areas.



It is vital that the NFTS maintains and enhances its teaching excellence by ensuring that it is informed by research, innovative practice and new knowledge.

Over the next five years, we will amplify our existing Research and Development work through projects and partnerships with industry, and support our staff and students to produce and disseminate new knowledge through professional practice and scholarship. This will all inform and enhance the excellence of our teaching.

Promoting teaching excellence through R&D

New approaches to delivery

The NFTS will continue to develop innovative ways of learning, and creating new opportunities for engaging with it which are flexible, affordable and which minimise barriers to entry.

We are committed to making the School more accessible by exploring and developing different modes of learning, such as apprenticeships, online and hybrid provision, and alternative models of full time learning which allow students to blend work and study. We will also enhance our relationship with industry to develop continuing professional development opportunities for existing employees.



Our students are the lifeblood of the NFTS and we will ensure that they reach their full potential by investing energy and resources in their resilience, mental health, belonging, and financial support.

The success and wellbeing of our students is essential to both their future and ours, so we will continue to make the School and our curriculum inclusive. All students, regardless of background, will feel welcome and will be supported to succeed. We will raise new hardship and scholarship funding, ensure that our facilities are fully accessible and sustainable, and explore possibilities of student accommodation.



Enhancing student support

Fostering new graduate opportunities



It is essential the NFTS continues to support students beyond graduation in order to help them find work which meets their skills, needs and talents.

To achieve this, we will support every student in making the transition to employment, helping them identify opportunities and make connections with employers by creating the new role of Talent and Alumni Manager. We will also make it easier for employers to identify **NFTS** talent by making our graduates more visible. We know that students really benefit from being part of the wider **NFTS** community when they leave, so we will connect them with graduates through a strengthened and more active alumni network.

Change doesn't happen in a vacuum and our mission to become the leading film, television and games school in the world is supported by some key enablers.

We will continue to invest in infrastructure – both physical and digital – spending more on buildings, facilities and equipment than at any other point in the School's history, committing to accessibility and excellence. Digital investment will transform cross-School working and facilitate enhanced data gathering, which will inform future funding bids and advocacy projects.

We will also continue to invest in people, ensuring that the School has a diverse, dynamic, world-class team of staff dedicated to the success of our students.

And underpinning all of this is sustainability – we will make sure that the School is financially secure through strategic fundraising, that our relationships with industry are sustained by being agile and responsive, and that we embed our commitment to environmental and climate objectives by leading sustainable production, encouraging innovation and new thinking.

Creating the conditions for success



Thank you.

The NFTS is immensely grateful to the individuals, trusts, foundations and companies who support our work. Many have supported the School for decades.

The NFTS is a registered charity (no 313429) and receives around 32% statutory funding. In order to fund the remainder of its core activities and scholarships, it depends on voluntary income.

Thank you for your continued support.

Key Partner Sponsors



Key Partner Funders



Other significant project funders:

- Screen Scotland
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- UK Research and Innovation
- Creative Wales
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