

BAFTA Scholars in the UK (2018-19)

British Scholars:

Alesha Ledeatte-Williams

(Prince William Scholarship in Film, Games and Television, supported by BAFTA and Warner Bros.)

Alesha Ledeatte-Williams, aged 31 from Barking, East London, is awarded £12,000 to study an Advanced Certificate in Make-Up and Hair Artistry at The Iver Make-Up Academy.

She previously studied Business Management Marketing at Brunel University before working in education both in the UK and Japan. Currently, she works part-time at MAC Cosmetics as well as working part-time as a Freelance Beauty Make-up Artist.

Alesha said: "I'm overwhelmed to have been chosen for the scholarship and I think it's really important that make-up is being awarded funding as there really isn't enough out there for people wanting to study at this level. I feel that it has cemented the path that I want to follow and being awarded this scholarship is an affirmation that I'm heading in the right direction with my career goals. I'm really excited to start my course and am looking forward to learning all that The Iver Make-up Academy has to offer, as well as being a BAFTA Scholar, supported by Warner Bros! I especially want to be able to help others in the future whether it's mentoring or potentially, even teaching as time goes on.

Gagandeep Kalirai

Gagandeep Kalirai aged 22 from Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, is awarded £5,000 to study the MA in Directing Animation at The National Film and Television School.

Gagandeep was born and raised in Southampton and has a degree in Animation from the University of Creative Arts in Farnham, Surrey. She worked full time in retail and also did social work to help fund her studies. Gagandeep has as held roles as a volunteer dance instructor and a freelance portrait artist.

Gagandeep said: "I feel incredibly honoured to have been awarded such a prestigious scholarship. To be given such an opportunity has greatly bolstered my morale and I feel that my future ambitions are no longer unreachable, but attainable and able to be realised to their fullest capacity. I feel proud to be able to call myself a BAFTA Scholar."

Georgia Gable

(BAFTA Reuben Scholarship)

Georgia Gable, aged 31 from Clayhill, London is awarded £10,000 towards the Advanced Certificate in Make-Up and Hair Artistry at The Iver Make-Up Academy. She currently works as a Freelance Beauty Make-up Artist and Hairdresser.

Georgia said:" To be awarded the scholarship is beyond my dreams. I never imagined I would receive it, but now I have, I can envisage a bright future in the industry working with and learning from the tutors at The Iver Make-up Academy and also through BAFTA. Having the scholarship means I can attend the Academy and do the Advanced Certificate in Make-up and Hair Artistry. Without BAFTA this would never be a reality for me."

Jamie Brannan

(Prince William Scholarship in Film, Games and Television, supported by BAFTA and Warner Bros.)

Jamie Brannan, aged 30 years old, is awarded £5,500 to study for the MProf in Computer Games Development at the Abertay University.

Jamie grew up in Alexandria on the West Coast of Scotland and currently lives in Dundee. A recent graduate in Games and Production Management, Jamie currently works part-time in a cleaning position to save money before his course starts.

Jamie said: "I'm currently in awe, and very proud to be selected for the BAFTA Scholarship supported by Warner Bros. It means I will be able to further my education, develop my skills and understanding of the games industry in my chosen area of expertise: Level Design. The opportunities these programmes provide will be incredibly valuable for my future. They will both better prepare me for entry into employment within the industry and give me the confidence that I have the skills to get to work right away."

Jon Hague

(BAFTA Tinopolis Scholarship)

Jon Hague, aged 50 from Malborough in South Devon, is awarded £10,000 to study an MA in Screenwriting at the London College of Communication, UAL

Jon trained as a nurse and went on to serve as a military nurse in Afghanistan, Iraq and Northern Ireland, before leaving to pursue his career as a writer.

Jon said: "Self-belief and the support of valued friends and peers has brought me this far, but having BAFTA behind me for my ongoing development as a writer is the difference between rowing across an ocean and sailing it in a small dinghy, with BAFTA giving the power to my sail. In times of inevitable self-doubt, I will always be able to draw on the endorsement my scholarship represents. It will hold as a persistent reminder that without heed to background and past constraints, my creative potential is real, and that I am not alone during my journey to thrive as the best writer that I can be."

Leo LeBeau

(Prince William Scholarship in Film, Games and Television, supported by BAFTA and Warner Bros.)

Leo LeBeau, aged 27 from Chigwell, Essex, is awarded £12,000 to continue his studies on the MA Directing and Producing Television Entertainment at the National Film and Television School (NFTS).

Before joining the NFTS, Leo studied Photography at the London College of Communication. He also worked as a freelance photographer and editor for various high profile clients.

Leo said: "Being awarded the BAFTA scholarship is life changing for me. It feels like validation of my hard work and previous achievements. I can finally pursue my dreams knowing that I have had a heavy financial weight lifted from my shoulders. I am so excited to have access to some of the most talented people in the industry to mentor me as I try to become the best that I can be. Having worked for a BAFTA winner in the past I recognise the huge respect the name BAFTA brings. To be selected for this scholarship has made me feel like a winner."

Rory McCutcheon

(BAFTA Reuben Scholarship)

Rory McCutcheon, aged 37 from Skipton, North Yorkshire, is awarded £6,500 to study for the MSc Sound and Music for Interactive Games at Leeds Beckett University.

Rory previously studied Creative Music and Sound Technology before working as a lead audio QA. He is currently freelancing in sound design and audio recording for independent games and e-learning.

Rory said: "It's simply amazing to be accepted onto the scholarship programme. It really means the world to me and I am very excited to get started on the course. Having the backing of an organisation such as BAFTA is incredible, especially the mentorship part of the programme, while the finances allow me to focus fully on the course and make the most of my opportunities. Being recognised by BAFTA is also a great vote of confidence in my sound design abilities and I look forward to seeing what the future brings!"

Xsara Helmi

(BAFTA Reuben Scholarship)

Xsara Helmi 33, who lives in Muswell Hill, London, is awarded £6,888 to study for an MA in TV Journalism at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Xsara previously studied child and adolescent psychotherapeutic counselling and has gained various diplomas in Popular Music. She is passionate about using the arts therapeutically to help disadvantaged youth communities.

As a singer-songwriter, Xsara's music has been played on the BBC and praised by a number of publications including Q magazine, The Unsigned Guide, and Computer Music Magazine. This background led her to broadcast music journalism and radio presenting, where she created her own show, the award-winning 'Shoreditch Unsigned', which celebrates the best unsigned and independent musical talent from the UK.

Xsara said: "BAFTA has changed my life and my future and I am eternally grateful! Having a prestigious organisation such as BAFTA believe in my talents, skills and work enough to invest in my future is a wonderful feeling. Having access to a BAFTA mentor and BAFTA events will be truly invaluable. To receive this from people I admire in the industry has given me even more motivation to carry on. Pursuing a career in the creative industries has required constant sacrifices over the years in every sector of my life; I now feel it has all been worth the struggle."

British Scholars supported for a second year:

Angus Nicholson – Mcomp in Composition for Screen, Royal College of Music

Kalungi Ssebandeke – MA in Acting, Guildhall School of Music and Drama

Chinese Scholars:

Sze Ying Chan

Sze Ying Chan aged 24 from Hong Kong, is awarded £5,000 towards the MComp in Composition for the Screen at the Royal College of Music.

Sze Ying graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in Music (B.A.), in 2017. She has composed and orchestrated music for several productions in Hong Kong and has also written music for occasions and cultural events.

Sze Ying said: "To be awarded a BAFTA Scholarship is a great encouragement to me in pursuing my dream. BAFTA does not only provide financial support but also valuable resources and mentorship that are otherwise difficult to get access to. It is a rare opportunity to meet, learn, and connect with people from the industry. What seemed very far away is now something reachable and it is because of BAFTA's support that all of these can happen. It is truly an honour to be a BAFTA Scholar. "

Tashi Gelek Jenne

Tashi Gelek Jenne aged 25 from Qinghai Province, China, is awarded £15,000 towards course fees and living expenses for the MA in Documentary at Liverpool John Moores University.

Tashi Gelek has a Law degree from Lanzhou University, as well as a specialist applied English sub degree from Xi'an Eurasia University. Following his studies, he spent three years as a schoolteacher, while also making films in his spare time.

Tashi Gelek said: "BAFTA is like a bridge that it helps me to across a swift river to my dream place! It's such an honour to receive BAFTA scholarship. I am truly grateful that BAFTA supports students in their education and development in various ways! The scholarship means that I could become an independent documentary filmmaker telling diverse stories."

Xu He

Xu He, aged 31 from Beijing, is awarded £15,000 scholarship towards course fees and living expenses for the MA in Games Design and Development at the National Film and Television School.

As an independent game developer Xu has created titles such as *Memory Detective* and *Cat Bounce*. She has also worked in China for the companies Gamegou Ltd and Playcrab Inc.

Xu previously studied Biotechnology at Beijing Forestry University and Psychology at Capital Normal University in Beijing.

Xu said: "Being awarded a BAFTA scholarship is really a great honour for me. It gives me great confidence and the power to realize my ambition to create impressive games that can influence the world. It not only means recognition of what I have done in the past but also trust of what I can do in the future. The financial support, the mentoring and the access to BAFTA events will all absolutely help a lot for my future study and career. I really appreciate all these."

Chinese Scholar supported for a second year:

Zhizi Hao – MA in Filmmaking, London Film School

Note: For BAFTA Scholars in the US, go to:

[BAFTA Los Angeles Scholarship Program](#)

[BAFTA New York Media Studies Scholarship Program](#)