



Channel 5 invests in training fund to boost industry learning and development

Broadcaster also re-evaluates programme tariffs on peak-time commissions

23rd August 2021: Channel 5 has announced it is committing an annual seven-figure sum towards a dedicated training fund in order to boost industry learning and development. Production companies can submit applications to the fund for their employees and freelancers working on Channel 5 programming, at any stage during a contracted production.

Production companies can choose the course topics and which training providers they wish to use, giving rationale in their application as to how it will benefit an individual or a crew. There is an annual training allowance cap of £15k per any one indie.

Channel 5 has also signed up to ScreenSkills' 'Unscripted TV Skills Fund' which means 0.25% of the budget of factual and entertainment programmes will go towards training. In addition, Channel 5 is requiring all cast and crew on its productions to complete ScreenSkills' free anti-bullying and harassment training prior to production commencing.

Channel 5 has also committed to reevaluating its hourly programme tariffs for peak-time commissions, in order to release individual productions from the constraints of a per-hour budget model. Moving forward, Channel 5 will agree the genre for each programme, then negotiate and agree indicative pricing that addresses specific production requirements rather than applying a fixed, per-hour pricing tariff model.

Ben Frow, Chief Content Officer, ViacomCBS Networks UK said: "The clamours for change in our industry are loud and it's important that we do our best to respond to them. We are a sector which is wholly dependent on talent and through this training fund we are helping to invest in people's future careers.

"It is no secret that Channel 5 has always operated on lower tariffs and we want to ensure that fixed hourly budgets don't put undue pressure on the production process. By reevaluating the constraints of per-hour tariffs, we can look at commissioning deliverables more holistically going forward."

Production companies wishing to submit an application to Channel 5's training fund should contact Nan Whittingham, Vice President, Productions.

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About Channel 5

Channel 5 is a public service broadcaster and the UK's third largest commercial TV station. Launched in March 1997, Channel 5 has been owned by ViacomCBS Networks International since September 2014. Channel 5, 5STAR, 5USA, 5Select and My5 TV reach 3 in 4 of the UK viewing public each month with a diverse schedule including issue-led documentaries, popular factual, accessible history, stunning natural history, inclusive entertainment and reality, top level sport, high quality scripted programming and critically acclaimed children's, news and current affairs programming. Through its agenda-driving commissions, Channel 5 has led on societal issues from inequality to inner city gang life, homelessness to mental health, aiming to tell the story of modern Britain by reflecting the lives of people across the nation. In 2018, Channel 5 won its first BAFTA for Cruising with Jane McDonald and was named 'Channel of the Year' at the Edinburgh TV Festival. In 2019, Channel 5 won best documentary award for The Abused at the RTS Awards, Edinburgh TV Awards and the Association of International Broadcasters Awards. In 2020, Channel 5 was crowned Channel of the Year at the Broadcast Awards and Channel of the Year at the RTS awards. In addition, it secured its first ever Grierson award win for the Best Single Documentary - Domestic category with Suicidal: In Our Own Words. This year, Channel 5 scooped the Best lockdown programme - fact ent, popular factual & kids for Springtime On The Farm at the Broadcast Awards.