Northern Ireland Screen Feature Development Pitch 2026

Docs Ireland and Northern Ireland Screen, in association with Yellowmoon Post Production, are offering a chance for new and emerging documentary makers to receive an award of up to £9,000 towards a pilot for a documentary feature. Established in 2019 during the first Docs Ireland festival, the Northern Ireland Screen Pitch has ushered a wealth of non-fiction talent through the process of developing their feature documentaries.

Application Process

If you would like to submit a proposal for consideration for the pitch, you must complete and submit an application, which can be found on our website.

The deadline for applications is Friday April 24th at 5pm.

The shortlisted filmmakers, selected from open application by members of the Docs Ireland and Northern Ireland Screen teams, will present their projects at Docs Ireland, where they will receive feedback from a panel of leading Irish film industry players. You can pitch your project through a production company, or as an individual.

The pitch will take place as part of the Docs Ireland festival on **Saturday June 20th** in Belfast City Centre. The event is free of charge but ticketed. Full details of the event will be made available closer to the festival.

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact roisin@docsireland.ie.

- The deadline for consideration for the Northern Ireland Screen Pitch is **Friday April 24th at 5pm.**
- Shortlisted projects announced **Friday May 29th.**
- The pitch will take place on **Saturday June 20th,** as part of the Docs Ireland festival in Belfast.

Please note: If successful, a production company must submit an application to Northern Ireland Screen for the funds to formalise the award. If the successful candidate has pitched as an individual, Northern Ireland Screen and Docs can help facilitate the attachment of a production company. The pitch winners must be in a position to contract with Northern Ireland Screen by **March 31st 2027.**

Key terms of the Feature Development Pitch:

There is no prescribed duration. Northern Ireland Screen will consider a broadcast hour, feature length projects and may, if the rationale is compelling, consider two-parters or mini-series. Nothing will be automatically excluded on duration.

This is a development call; projects that are already in production are not eligible. Projects that have already received funding through Northern Ireland Screen's feature documentary development call are also ineligible.

The successful applicant is expected to deliver a **teaser** at the end of the development period.

The intention is for the supported project to submit the completed teasers to Hot Docs, IDFA and other leading documentary festival markets.

Priority will be given to:

A project that can demonstrate serious interest from a national or international broadcaster or sales agent. Priority will be given to a project that has international distribution interest rather than a project picked up for only the UK and Ireland.

Key assessment criteria:

- The quality of the proposed story and treatment (60%)
- The track record of the creative team (40%)