IGNITE-Docs

DOCUMENTARY TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

IGNITE-DOCS DOCUMENTARY TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME GUIDELINES

A joint initiative of Cork International Film Festival and Docs Ireland

1. The IGNITE-Docs Documentary Talent Development Training Programme is open to filmmakers with their first or second feature documentary in development. Documentary projects at all stages of development will be considered. Projects in the early production stage will also be considered.

2. The scheme is project-based. 6 to 8 projects in total will be selected.

3. Documentary features of all genres, thematic content and subject matters will be considered, with priority given to documentaries with a clear cinematic approach, and an international appeal. For the purposes of the scheme, we are considering projects of 60 minutes and above.

4. Projects with or without funding attached will be considered for the scheme.

5. Projects with cross-border teams are accepted, and encouraged.

6. Applications are open to Irish and Northern Irish born and/or based filmmakers.

7. Projects in the Irish or English language, as well as those that are bilingual, are accepted and encouraged.

8. Applications are encouraged from director/producer, director/writer, co-director and solo director teams. Each team member must have at least one documentary credit in their proposed role (short form, mid or feature length).

9. Full time students are not eligible for the training programme.

10. Applications will be assessed on originality and creative strength of the project, and creative track record of the applicants. We will be striving for gender parity and equal representation from Ireland and Northern Ireland in the final selection for this programme.

11. The deadline for IGNITE-Docs project submissions is **Friday October 9th at 5pm**. The application form for the scheme is available on our website, in English and in Irish. We are accepting applications via the application form **only**.

12. The training programme will take place over the following dates in 2026/27:

DATE	**LOCATION**	**DETAILS**
November 19-21 2026	Cork City Centre	IGNITE-Docs Training Days at Cork International Film Festival
December 1-2 2026	Online	IGNITE-Docs Online Training Days
Spring 2027	Online	Online workshops / training (February - April - Dates TBD)
June 10-12 2027	Sheffield, United Kingdom	Participant attendance at Sheffield Doc Fest
June 17-19 2027	Belfast City Centre	IGNITE-Docs Training Days at Docs Ireland, including participation at the Docs Ireland Marketplace, and a live project pitch to attending industry and the public.

13. Participants must be available to attend all online and in person training sessions.

14. During this comprehensive training initiative, participants will gain a grounding in all facets of developing their project, and will acquire market knowledge of the documentary industry, learning about the current trends in non-fiction film production, and giving them an expansive understanding of the sector. The programme will include workshops, masterclasses, and in person conversations with established documentarians, broadcasters, funders, sales agents, and other industry professionals.

All training will take place in an intimate environment, which will allow a hands-on approach; facilitating maximum learning potential and the opportunity to network and foster new relationships.

15. Accommodation will be provided for up to two participants per project at the Cork International Film Festival and Docs Ireland training days. Complimentary accreditation for both festivals will also be included.

16. Accommodation will be provided for up to two participants per project at Sheffield Doc Fest. Complimentary accreditation for the festival will also be included.

17. If your project is selected to participate in the IGNITE-Docs Programme, there is a course participation fee for each project.

18. We would appreciate it if, when submitting your application, you complete the IGNITE-Docs Equality, diversity & inclusion form for both members of your creative team. It is completely anonymous, and is used for the purpose of the diversity monitoring of both Cork International Film Festival and Docs Ireland. The form is available in both English and Irish.

19. All information provided by applicants is confidential and stored securely in compliance with GDPR regulations. Your information will not be shared with any third parties.

If you have any queries related to the IGNITE-Docs programme, please contact ignite@corkfilmfest.org.