



Doc Edge Pitch 2026 — Submission Guide

Please take a few minutes to review the information and terms for Doc Edge Pitch 2026 before you begin your submission.

The annual Doc Edge Pitch will take place during the Doc Edge Festival 2026. Applications are invited for features, shorts, and series in development, production, or rough-cut stage.

Now in its 21st year, Doc Edge Pitch is New Zealand's premier platform for discovering and supporting new documentary and factual projects — helping them move from development to completion, and onward to theatrical and festival success. Through our extensive international networks, Doc Edge regularly connects selected projects with global markets including AIDC, Sunny Side of the Doc, DOK Leipzig, Dhaka DocLab, CNEX CCDF, TAICCA TCCF, Maritime Silk Route Documentary Forum, and Fresh Pitch.

We are looking for original, impactful projects with strong market potential. Finalists will pitch to an international and local panel of decision makers including commissioners, broadcasters, streamers, sales agents, distributors, funders, and festivals. Entry is competitive and all selection decisions are final. The programme will also feature projects selected from our international partner pitching events.

Key Dates

Early Bird Deadline: Friday 16 January 2026

Regular Deadline: Friday 20 February 2026

Late Deadline: Sunday 29 March 2026

Notification: Monday 20 April 2026

All deadlines close at **11.59pm NZT (UTC+13)**.

Fees

Early Bird — NZ\$125

Regular — NZ\$175

Late — NZ\$200

This Guide Contains

- Introduction
 - Rules
 - Submission Requirements
 - Minimum Specs for Uploads
 - Submission Terms
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INTRODUCTION

Doc Edge Pitch accepts submissions for:

- Short films
- Feature films / one-off TV
- Documentary series

Submission Criteria

- Open to NZ and international applicants.
- Accepts shorts (<40 mins), features (>40 mins) and series.
- Projects must be factual.
- Hybrid documentaries are eligible (including docu-drama elements, animation, reenactments, etc.).
- Projects may be in development or production.
- Rough-cut submissions must be in post-production and **not expected to complete before 31 May 2026**.
- Only one project per submission form. Multiple projects require separate submissions.

An acknowledgement email will be sent automatically once your submission is received. If you do not receive one, email info@docedge.nz.

RULES

Applicant Eligibility

- Open to NZ and international filmmakers.
- Individuals, teams, or companies may apply.
- Applicants must hold the rights to the project.
- Applicants must be 18 years or older.

- An application fee applies unless the project is a prize-winner from one of our partner markets.
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WHAT YOU RECEIVE FOR YOUR SUBMISSION FEE

If selected as a finalist

- Access to all pitch-related events, workshops, finals, and industry meetings.
- A 25% discount on any other Doc Edge Industry programme for 12 months.
- Pitch training workshops (online).
- A dedicated mentor to provide feedback on the project and pitch.

If not selected

- A 25% discount on any other Doc Edge Industry programme for 12 months.

Programme Format

- The pitch finals take place **in person** during Doc Edge Festival.
 - Workshops and mentoring occur **online**.
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SELECTION PROCESS

A committee will shortlist projects for the NZ and International Pitch streams based on:

- Originality and strength of the concept
- Market and commercial potential
- Anticipated impact of the project
- International appeal
- Track record of the creative team and confirmed financing

Decisions are final. Doc Edge does not engage individually with applicants regarding assessment outcomes.

PITCH FINALS FORMAT

New Zealand & International Pitch

Each project receives **15 minutes total**, consisting of:

- **7 minutes** for presentation (including video)
- **Up to 8 minutes** discussion with decision makers

Prizes are awarded separately for NZ and International finalists.

- NZ finalists must pitch in person.

- International finalists are strongly encouraged to attend in person.
 - If attendance is impossible, pitches may be presented live online or as a pre-recorded presentation, subject to Doc Edge approval.
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ROUGH CUTS SHOWCASE

Designed for projects seeking to close financing and secure sales, distribution, and festival opportunities.

Format:

- **15 minutes total** (approx. 5 minutes verbal pitch + up to 10 minutes footage)
 - Followed by **5 minutes** discussion with decision makers
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WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO COMPLETE THE SUBMISSION FORM

Prepare the following before starting:

Submitter Details

- First & last name
- Email
- Phone
- Organisation
- Position

(Submitter is the sole point of contact.)

Demographic Data

Required for funders (aggregated & anonymised):

- Age
- Gender
- Industry experience
- Ethnicity

What You Are Seeking

Outline what your project needs (finance, partners, sales, commissioning, co-production, etc.) and list any confirmed support or rights sold.

Project Information

(Word counts must be respected.)

- Title
- Type
- Duration
- Stage
- Logline (max 30 words)
- Short synopsis (max 100 words)
- Synopsis (max 250 words)
- Budget (USD)
- Confirmed financial support (source + USD amount)
- Consents & releases (narrative overview)

Team Details

For each team member (up to four):

- Name
- Email
- Mobile
- Role
- Previous credits
- Bio (max 150 words)
- LinkedIn
- Citizenship
- Country of residence

Supporting Material

(All downloadable — no view-only links.)

- Hero image
- Team headshots
- Video teaser/trailer (URL + password if required)
- Links: website, project social channels

MINIMUM SPECS

Hero Image

- Landscape 1920×1080px
- 300dpi
- JPG/PNG/WebP
- No posters, text overlays, or PDFs

Headshots

- Portrait or square
- Min 1080×1080px
- 300dpi
- JPG/PNG/WebP
- No text overlays or PDFs

Video

- .mov / .mp4 / H.264
- Min 1080p
- Max duration 5 minutes
- Subtitles required if not in English (hardcoded or .srt)

Video may be supplied after submission but must arrive by 31 March 2026.

CREDITS, PREMIERE STATUS & SUBMISSION TERMS

By submitting, you agree that:

- a) Film credits will include **Doc Edge Pitch** (with logo) plus the names **Dan Shanahan** and **Alex Lee**.
- b) Doc Edge will be offered the **New Zealand premiere** of the completed film (unless otherwise agreed in writing).
- c) You have authority to bind your team to all rules and conditions.
- d) All communication with Doc Edge is confidential and must not be shared with third parties.

For assistance, contact: info@docedge.nz