



Doc Edge Pitch 2027 - Submission Guide

Bring us the story you believe needs to be told.

Welcome to Doc Edge Pitch 2027

Every documentary begins with a story, a question, a character or an idea that will not let go. Doc Edge Pitch exists to help strong factual projects find the people, perspective and momentum they need to move forward.

Applications are invited from Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world for feature documentaries, one-off factual projects and documentary series in development, production or eligible rough-cut stage. The Pitch takes place during Doc Edge Festival 2027.

Doc Edge Pitch is Aotearoa New Zealand's leading platform for discovering and supporting documentary and factual projects. Selected teams have the opportunity to strengthen their projects, sharpen their pitch and connect with the local and international decision-makers who can help take a project towards financing, commissioning, production, sales, distribution, festivals and audiences.

Through our international networks, Doc Edge regularly connects projects and filmmakers with 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 distinctive, compelling and impactful projects with a clear sense of purpose and audience. Entry is competitive, but we encourage you to show us what makes your project special, why it matters now and why you are the team to tell it.

Key Dates

Stage	Date
Early Bird deadline	Friday 13 November 2026
Regular deadline	Friday 4 December 2026
Late deadline	Sunday 20 December 2026
Notification	Monday 11 January 2027

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

Submission Fees

Entry period	Fee
Early Bird	NZ\$150
Regular	NZ\$175
Late	NZ\$250

Selected projects pay no additional Pitch participation fee. If selected, the submission fee includes two full Doc Edge Industry accreditations for two nominated members of the project team.

What Your Submission Fee Opens Up

Doc Edge Pitch is designed as a pathway into the market, not simply a fee to have your project assessed. If your project is selected, your submission fee includes participation in the Pitch and two full Doc Edge Industry accreditations for your nominated team members. There is no additional Pitch participation fee or accreditation charge for those two team members.

If your project is selected

- **Two full Doc Edge Industry accreditations.** Two members of your nominated core project team can attend Doc Edge Industry events and activities without an additional accreditation cost.
- **Access to the Doc Edge Pitch programme.** Your project becomes part of a curated programme designed to put strong factual work in front of people who can help it progress.
- **Pitch preparation, training and mentoring.** We help you sharpen the story, clarify what you are seeking, strengthen your presentation and prepare to advocate for the project in the room and beyond.
- **Networking with local and international decision-makers.** Meet commissioners, broadcasters, platforms, funders, sales agents, distributors, festivals, producers and other potential partners through the wider Industry environment.
- **A 25% Industry discount for the following 12 months.** Selected teams also receive a 25% discount on other Doc Edge Industry programmes for 12 months, helping you stay connected as the project continues to develop.

For many projects, the most valuable outcome is not only the public pitch. It may begin in a conversation, an introduction or a meeting that develops into a financing relationship, creative partnership, market invitation, sales opportunity or future collaboration.

At standard Industry rates, the value of the two included accreditations alone exceeds the Pitch submission fee.

If your project is not selected

We still want your submission to provide a pathway into the Doc Edge community. Unsuccessful applicants receive a 25% discount on other Doc Edge Industry programmes for 12 months, giving you another way to attend sessions, meet industry guests, build relationships and stay connected to the market.

Why we structure it this way

Many documentary markets charge an application fee and then a separate participation or accreditation fee once a project is selected. Doc Edge takes a different approach: one entry fee, no additional Pitch

participation charge for selected projects, and two Industry accreditations included. We want selected teams to focus on making the most of the opportunity, not on a second invoice.

Where Pitch Can Lead

The purpose of Doc Edge Pitch is not simply the minutes on stage. It is to create momentum. Every year, selected projects leave with stronger pitches, new relationships and, for some, direct invitations into international markets and labs.

Recent outcomes from Doc Edge Pitch 2026 included:

- **THE FIXER** - winner of the AIDC Award, receiving two All Access passes to AIDC 2027 and a fee waiver to apply to THE FACTory. Also attending TCCF Pitching 2026 in Taiwan.
- **THE ETERNAL CITY** - winner of the CNEX Award and invited directly to pitch at CCDF 2026 in Taiwan.
- **SUPER OLD - GETTING STRONGER WITH AGE** - invited to attend TCCF Pitching 2026 in Taiwan.
- **SAVING TUVALU** – attending TCCF Pitching 2026 in Taiwan.
- **VANISHING FREEDOM** - attending TCCF Pitching 2026 in Taiwan.
- **TOUCH THE COLOUR** - invited to apply to the CNEX Editing Lab 2026 and attending TCCF Pitching 2026 in Taiwan.
- **LAYERS OF BLACK** – invited to attend CNEX Producers Pathway in Taiwan.
- **MADAM, SEE U TOMORROW** - attending CNEX Producers Pathway in Taiwan.
- **WHO WILL LOVE ME WHEN YOU DIE** - invited to attend CNEX Producers Pathway in Taiwan.
- **YOUR ENEMY, MY LOVER** – attending CNEX Short Docs Pathway in Taiwan.
- **PRABHA** – received the Dok Leipzig Awards.
- **THE PLASTIC PICKERS OF PARADISE** – received the Dok Leipzig Awards
- **ALMOST THE END OF THE WORLD** -winner of the Park Road Post Best New Zealand Pitch Award. Invited to pitch at Dhaka Doc Lab

From Pitch to Screen

Pitch is also part of a longer journey. Projects that first came through Doc Edge Pitch have gone on to be completed, reach audiences and continue through the international festival circuit. They include:

- **TICKLED** - won the Best NZ Pitch 2015 and had its world premiere at Sundance 2016.
- **GIRL OF WIND** – A Doc Edge Pitch project, it had its world premiere at Doc Edge and won the best International Short Award, and received Oscar consideration of the Academy Awards 2024®.
- **MARIMARI** (formerly Sanguma - Islands of Fear) - Best New Zealand Pitch 2021; completed as a feature documentary and world premiered at the New Zealand International Film Festival in 2024 before continuing internationally.
- **DEVI** - a Doc Edge Pitch alumnus that world premiered at Doc Edge 2024 and went on to screen to international audiences and festivals.
- **CHINATOWN CHA-CHA** - Best International Pitch 2021; completed in 2024 and subsequently screened at festivals internationally, including Doc Edge.
- **LOIMATA, THE SWEETEST TEARS** - developed with the assistance of Doc Edge Pitch and completed as a feature documentary, premiering at the New Zealand International Film Festival in 2020.
- **UNLIKELY KIN** – a Doc Edge Pitch project which premiered at Doc Edge 2026.
- **THE LIFE WE LEAVE** – a Doc Edge Pitch project that had its world premiere at SXSW 2026 followed by its Asia Pacific premiere at Doc Edge 2026
- **REPLICA** – a Doc Edge Pitch that had its world premiere at Thessaloniki Documentary Festival 2026 followed by its New Zealand premiere at Doc Edge 2026.

- **REDLIGHT TO LIMELIGHT** – a Doc Edge Pitch which had its world premiere at Sheffield Docs 2026 and its New Zealand premiere at Doc Edge 2026.
- **CONCRETE LAND** – a Doc Edge Pitch project, this has now been completed and had its world premiere at Locarno Film Festival 2026

These pathways are not guaranteed. They are examples of what can happen when a strong project meets the right people at the right time. Our job is to help create that room.

1. What We Are Looking For

Doc Edge Pitch welcomes documentary and factual projects that have a strong creative proposition, a clear reason to exist and the potential to connect with audiences and industry partners. We accept:

- Feature documentaries / one-off factual projects
- Documentary series

Project criteria

- Applications are open to Aotearoa New Zealand and international projects.
- Projects must be documentary or factual.
- Feature documentaries and one-off factual projects must be longer than 40 minutes. Short-form documentary projects are not eligible for Doc Edge Pitch.
- Documentary series are eligible.
- Hybrid documentary forms are welcome, including docudrama elements, animation and reenactments.
- Projects may be in development, production or eligible rough-cut stage.
- Rough-cut projects must be in post-production and must not be expected to complete before 31 May 2027.
- Only one project may be entered on each submission form. A separate application is required for each additional project.

You will receive an automatic acknowledgement when your submission has been successfully received. If it does not arrive, please contact info@docedge.nz.

2. Applicant Eligibility

- Open to filmmakers from Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally.
- Projects are deemed New Zealand projects if either the director and/or producer holds either New Zealand citizenship or residence.
- Temporary visa holders, including student and work visa holders, must submit their projects as international projects.
- Individuals, creative teams and companies may apply.
- Applicants must hold, or be authorised to exercise, the rights necessary to submit and develop the project.
- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.
- An application fee applies unless the project has been invited through, or is a qualifying prize-winner from, one of Doc Edge's partner markets.

3. Selection

A selection committee will shortlist projects for the New Zealand and International Pitch streams. We are looking at the project as a whole: the story, the team, the opportunity and what Doc Edge Pitch can meaningfully help unlock.

Selection will take into account:

- Originality, clarity and strength of the concept
- Creative ambition and anticipated impact
- Audience, market and commercial potential
- International potential and relevance where appropriate
- Strength, readiness and track record of the creative team
- Financing secured to date and the project's pathway forward

Selection decisions are final. Because of the volume and competitive nature of the process, Doc Edge is unable to provide individual assessment feedback to unsuccessful applicants. A project may not be selected for many reasons, including its stage of development, its readiness for the market, or the particular mix of projects being curated for that year. Not being selected does not mean the journey ends. We encourage applicants to join Doc Edge Industry, continue developing their projects, build relationships and return when the project is stronger and ready for its next opportunity.

4. Programme Format

- Pitch preparation workshops and mentoring are delivered online ahead of the Festival.
- Pitch finals take place in person during Doc Edge Festival 2027.
- New Zealand finalists must pitch in person.
- International finalists are strongly encouraged to attend in person. Where this is genuinely not possible, a live online or pre-recorded presentation may be approved by Doc Edge.

5. Pitch Finals Format

New Zealand & International Pitch

Each selected project receives 15 minutes in the final:

- **7 minutes** for the project presentation, including video material
- **Up to 8 minutes** for discussion with the decision-makers

Prizes are awarded separately for New Zealand and International finalists.

Rough Cuts Showcase

The Rough Cuts Showcase is for advanced projects seeking to close financing and secure sales, distribution, commissioning or festival opportunities. It gives decision-makers a focused look at the work itself as well as the team's current needs.

Each selected rough-cut project receives:

- 15 minutes total, approximately 5 minutes verbal presentation plus up to 10 minutes of footage
- A further 5 minutes for discussion with decision-makers

6. Before You Start Your Submission

A little preparation will make the online form much easier. Please have the following information and materials ready before you begin.

Submitter details

- First and last name
- Email
- Phone
- Organisation

- Position

The submitter will be Doc Edge's sole point of contact for the application.

Demographic information

We collect the following information for funder reporting. It is reported in aggregate and anonymised:

- Age
- Gender
- Industry experience
- Ethnicity

What you are seeking

Tell us clearly what would help move the project forward. This may include finance, commissioning, co-production, sales, distribution, festival, platform or other partners. Please also identify any confirmed support, finance or rights already sold.

Project information

Please observe the word limits shown in the form. We encourage you to carefully edit this material, as it may be used in the Pitch Catalogue if your project is selected as a finalist:

- Title
- Type
- Duration
- Stage
- Logline - maximum 30 words
- Short synopsis - maximum 100 words
- Synopsis - maximum 250 words
- Budget in USD
- Confirmed financial support, including source and USD amount
- Consents and releases - narrative overview

Team details

You may provide details for up to four team members:

- Name
- Email
- Mobile
- Role
- Previous credits
- Bio - maximum 150 words
- LinkedIn
- Citizenship
- Country of residence

Supporting material

All links and materials must be accessible and downloadable. Please do not provide view-only links.

- Hero image
- Team headshots
- Video teaser or trailer - URL and password if required. While video material may be supplied later, providing a strong teaser or trailer at the time of submission can significantly help the selection panel understand the tone, characters, visual approach and potential of your project.
- Project website and social media links, where available

7. Minimum Technical Specifications

Hero image

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

Team headshots

- Portrait or square
- Minimum 1080 x 1080 px
- 300 dpi
- JPG, PNG or WebP
- No text overlays or PDFs

Video

- .mov or .mp4, H.264
- Minimum 1080p
- Maximum duration 5 minutes
- English subtitles are required where dialogue is not in English, either hardcoded or supplied as an .srt file

Video material may be supplied after the initial submission, but it must reach Doc Edge no later than 20 December 2026 unless otherwise agreed. We strongly encourage applicants to provide video material for the selection process wherever possible. Selected projects may subsequently provide updated or replacement material for the Doc Edge Pitch Finals.

8. Credits, Premiere Status & Submission Terms

By submitting a project to Doc Edge Pitch, you confirm and agree that:

- a) If the project is completed, its credits will acknowledge Doc Edge Pitch using the supplied logo and will include the names Dan Shanan and Alex Lee.
- b) Doc Edge will be offered the New Zealand premiere of the completed project, unless otherwise agreed in writing.
- c) You have the authority to submit the project and to bind the applicant team to these rules and conditions.
- d) Information specifically identified by Doc Edge as confidential must be treated as confidential and must not be shared with third parties without Doc Edge's prior permission.

Projects invited from international partner pitching events may also appear in the programme. All selection decisions remain at the discretion of Doc Edge and are final.

We look forward to discovering what you are making.

Questions? Contact info@docedge.nz

Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu - Adorn the bird with feathers so it may fly.