



Northern Ireland Overseas Engagement Programme

2026

GUIDELINES

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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Background & Context Setting

One of the key priorities of Tourism Ireland (TI) is to strategically collaborate with industry partners to deliver its vision to:

“Increase the value of overseas tourism to the island of Ireland, sustainably supporting economies, communities and the environment by inspiring visitors and strengthening strategic partnerships”.

Tourism Ireland, together with Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI), has built strong relationships with industry partners throughout Northern Ireland (NI) and currently offers a range of platforms and events in overseas markets – fairs, workshops, shows and sales missions – to assist NI industry to promote their products/services directly to both consumers and the travel trade overseas.

TI recognises the skills and expertise of NI industry partners but is also aware that they may not have the financial resources to avail of the opportunities provided by this range of events.

This programme aims to address that by:

- a. Enabling NI industry to fully engage with Tourism Ireland’s overseas marketing programme.
- b. Facilitating opportunities for NI tourism activity and experience providers to engage with Tourism Ireland led platforms overseas on a transparent and equitable basis.

1.2 Programme Objectives

The objectives of the **Programme** are:

- To support the development of Northern Ireland tourism businesses by enabling greater access to key overseas markets.
- To facilitate suitably qualified Northern Ireland industry to undertake pro-active sales-focused activity overseas. (For more detailed information please see Criteria for Eligibility, section 3 on page 5).
- To enable industry to augment Tourism Ireland’s marketing activities in target markets with sales activity that is focussed on retaining and/or closing the sale for Northern Ireland.
- To make it easier for overseas trade partners and consumers to access and buy Northern Ireland product as broadly and widely as possible.
- To fulfil the primary objective for the sector, which is to maximise revenue from overseas tourism, through Northern Ireland achieving its full potential as a destination for inbound visitors.
- To ensure that Northern Ireland’s industry has sufficient marketing support to gain competitive standout in what will be an increasingly competitive global market.

2. Programme Parameters

2.1. Key Programme Information

- a. This programme supports the attendance of one representative per Northern Ireland tourism business at Tourism Ireland led overseas in-person events, where the industry partner is recruited via Tourism NI.
- b. Up to 50% of total approved costs will be reimbursed by Tourism Ireland (TI) i.e., industry will be required to pay 50% of eligible costs.
- c. Minimum amount of funding per application is £300 i.e., TI will not fund any activity that costs less than £600 with TI paying 50% = £300.
- d. Maximum amount of funding by TI per application is £3,000 i.e., TI will refund 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum of £3,000.
- e. Suitably qualified businesses may apply from **Monday 16th February 2026**, subject to funds remaining.
- f. Approved activities may take place from **Monday 16th February 2026** and should be fully completed by **Monday 30th November 2026**.
- g. Up to three fully completed applications may be considered per business per calendar year.
- h. One event per application is eligible for consideration. Application approval does not guarantee selection to attend the event and approval of recruitment must be confirmed by Tourism NI to qualify for support. If your business is not recruited to attend the preferred show/event and is selected for an alternative event, an updated application may be submitted for consideration.
- i. Applications must be approved in writing in advance of activity taking place; see 'Key Steps and Guidelines' for timelines. Fully completed applications should be received at least two weeks in advance of activity commencing.
- j. Activity undertaken prior to submission of application will not be considered eligible.
- k. One representative per business may be funded to undertake each activity plan. Two representatives cannot be funded to undertake the same activity; however, in exceptional circumstances, applications for a second representative may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- l. This programme is for the leisure market only and is not open for Business Events or MICE focused activities.
- m. Payments will be made retrospectively upon receipt of the completed Post Activity Claim Form and required back-up documentation, including receipts.
- n. All participation fees and expenses must be paid in full in advance of claim submission.
- o. Application funding approval will be made available on a first come, first served basis subject to all criteria being met, subject to funds remaining.

2.2. Eligible Programme Activities

Eligible programme activities include overseas in-person, leisure-focused B2B and/or consumer shows/events/sales missions led by Tourism Ireland, where there is an existing recruitment process in place with Tourism NI. To qualify for support, your business must be recruited to attend the event through Tourism NI. For a full list of this year's overseas in-person events , please visit our Tourism Ireland Industry Opportunities page by clicking [here](#).

This programme is for leisure tourism market activities and is not open to Business Events and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) activity.

All funded activities must be exclusively focused on the marketing/promotion of Northern Ireland and/or Ireland and must not include any other destination.

2.3. Eligible Programme Costs

Eligible activities/costs which may be included in the application.

- **Event participation fees** for attendance at Tourism Ireland led overseas shows/events/sales missions where the industry partner has been recruited to attend by Tourism NI.
- **International travel costs** necessary to travel from the island of Ireland to the market (basic economy class fare only) (See Appendix II). Trains/ coaches that are a substantial part of the journey and are required to travel to the event destination may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- **Per diem** – a fixed daily per diem rate will be allowed per complete 24 hours in market, to cover the cost of food and accommodation while in market. If the event fee includes accommodation, then there is no per diem in place. See Appendix I for per diem rates for eligible markets. All other approved costs must be substantiated with third-party receipts.

(For the full list of ineligible costs please see Appendix II on page 11)

2.4. Eligibility Criteria

- A. This opportunity is open to Northern Ireland activity and experience tourism businesses. Priority consideration will be given to participants in the Embrace a Giant Spirit Experience portfolio who also meet the additional criteria as detailed. The initiative is primarily designed to support small, privately-owned tourism businesses attend Tourism Ireland led overseas events in 2026.
- B. Applicant businesses must offer bookable/saleable experiences that are available online to book directly. Applicant businesses must be equipped to contract with tour operators and able to offer net/commissionable trade rates, with sufficient capacity to facilitate groups or FIT visitors.
- C. Applicants should also be focused on international markets with appropriate development/marketing plans in place.
- D. This opportunity is not open to hotels or hotel groups, accommodation providers, or resorts.
- E. The programme is not open to representative/cluster groups, members of the ITOA, destination management organisations, local authorities, and/or other publicly funded agencies/authorities/enterprises and business.

If you are unsure whether your business qualifies or not, please email eventsupport@tourismireland.com prior to applying.

3. Application and Claim Process Information

3.1. Key Application Information

- All applications must meet business and activity eligibility criteria outlined above and applicants are advised **not to submit** their applications until they have carefully read and understood the relevant guidelines.
- Fully completed applications which qualify as eligible will be approved on a first come first served basis, subject to funding being available. Applicants are therefore strongly advised to complete and submit their applications promptly.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered eligible. Applicants will be advised if their application is incomplete and may submit a new/updated, fully complete application; however, fully complete and eligible applications will be given priority for approval.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all costs included in their application are correct and based on market costs.
- If the programme fund is not fully utilised, all qualifying applications will be funded.
- Industry may submit one application for one show/event/sales mission.
- Activity undertaken prior to submission of application will not be considered eligible.
- All expected costs must be included in the application form. Expenses submitted which were not included in the application may not be considered eligible.
- The participation fee must be paid in full in advance of the event taking place.
- Funding for this programme is made available under the **Market Economy Operator Principle** and is strictly based on a co-operative partnership whereby the applicant is contributing their time, resources and expertise in addition to a proportion of the costs incurred of the activity.

3.2 Post Activity Claims

Upon completion of your approved activity and to draw down your payments, you will be required to complete and submit a **Post Activity Claim Form** and **Required Back-Up Documentation**. This PAC Form will be emailed directly to you on approval of your application and must be returned within two weeks of the conclusion of your activity. The PAC should be accompanied by corresponding receipts and confirmation of payment where required.

3.3 Key Steps and Timelines

Applications:

- a) Suitably qualified businesses may apply from **Monday 16th February 2026**, subject to funds remaining.
- b) Approved activities may take place from **Monday 16th February 2026** and should be fully completed by **Monday 30th November 2026**.

- c) Businesses which meet the eligibility criteria set out above should complete the application form.
- d) Please check your application carefully against all the eligibility criteria set out in these guidelines before submitting it. See Appendix II for examples of eligible/ineligible costs.
- e) Submit your completed application to eventsupport@tourismireland.com.
- f) Fully completed applications will be treated strictly on a first come, first served basis and must meet the eligibility criteria.
- g) Tourism Ireland will respond to your application within 14 days of receipt.
- h) To allow sufficient time for processing, completed applications must be submitted no later than two weeks prior to the intended activity taking place.

Approval:

- i) If the application is approved, you will receive confirmation in writing, together with a copy of the Post Activity Claim Form.
- j) Once written approval is received from Tourism Ireland, applicants may proceed with activities. Applicants are encouraged to book their flights in a timely manner once approval is confirmed, to secure the best rates.

Ineligible/Incomplete Applications

- k) If your application is found by Tourism Ireland to be ineligible or incomplete, you will be informed in writing and may submit a new/updated application, which may be approved subject to meeting eligibility criteria and funds remaining.

Amendments and Cancellations

- l) Any change to an approved activity plan arising from unforeseen circumstances must be notified to Tourism Ireland in writing in advance of the scheduled activity and an updated application form submitted to eventsupport@tourismireland.com for approval, together with an explanation for the change.
- m) Tourism Ireland reserves the right to approve amendments and changes to activity based on funding available.
- n) Applicants must have received prior written approval from Tourism Ireland in advance of making any new bookings.
- o) In the event of cancellation and where alternative activity has not been identified, applicants are asked to notify the team in writing to eventsupport@tourismireland.com that the approved activity will not proceed.
- p) Amended and approved activity must be completed by the activity deadline of 1st December 2026.

Claims

- q) On completion of the approved activity plan, you should fill in the Post Activity Claim Form in full and attach the required back-up information (including copies of clear and eligible receipts for approved costs incurred) and submit to eventsupport@tourismireland.com. N.B. only receipted costs will be considered.

- r) Claims must be completed in full and submitted on the approved Post Activity Claim (PAC) form. Incomplete or incorrect claims will be returned to the participant, to amend and clarify any errors or omissions.
- s) The Post Activity Claim form must be submitted within 14 days of completion of your approved activities.
- t) Only cost items which were approved in the application may be claimed on the Post Activity Claim Form.
- u) The PAC form should be accompanied by corresponding receipts and confirmation of payment where required.
- v) Tourism Ireland will reimburse approved costs within 30 days of receiving your fully completed PAC form.
- w) Only expense claims which were included in the approved application should be included in the PAC form.
- x) Any item being claimed for in a currency other than that of the claim should be converted into the claim currency at the average daily rate prevailing on the date the expense was incurred. Rates are available at www.OANDA.com.
- y) Tourism Ireland reserves the right to request bank receipts to verify the actual amount of costs incurred in FX transactions.

4 Tourism Ireland Contacts

For all further information or if you have questions regarding activities, eligibility or any other aspects of the programme, please email eventsupport@tourismireland.com.

5 Data Protection

Suitably qualified industry selected under this programme shall (and shall procure that any member of its group shall) collect any necessary permission, provide any necessary notice and do all such other things as are required under the Data Protection Legislation** in order for it to disclose Personal Data** to Tourism Ireland for the purposes described.

**** See Appendix III for definitions**

6 Terms and Conditions

- a) Applicants must:
 1. Explicitly agree to all terms and conditions outlined in this document.
 2. Confirm that none of the activities outlined in the application for funding are being funded by other sources of public money e.g., Tourism Northern Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland market office, local authorities or other publicly funded agencies/authorities.
 3. Agree that no funding received will be used to offset capital or human resource costs.
 4. Agree to submit post-activity reports and participate in any review process introduced by Tourism Ireland.
- b) Suitably qualified industry selected under this programme shall be considered to be the Data Controller** in respect of Personal Data it processes as a result of engaging

in funded activities under this scheme and shall comply with its obligations as a Data Controller** under the Data Protection Legislation**.

- c) Funded activity must focus on Northern Ireland/island of Ireland business retention or new business.
- d) Applicants must directly offer saleable experiences to be eligible for the programme.
- e) Activity must be undertaken by the industry partner and cannot be undertaken by General Sales Agents/cluster groups or other representative companies.
- f) The onus is on applicants to demonstrate that their activity and costs meet the criteria and objectives of the fund through the application process. Applicants should ensure that any costs included in their application are realistic, based on market costs.
- g) Prior to any activity taking place, applications must be:
 - 1. completed diligently and in full.
 - 2. signed by an authorised officer of the business applying.
 - 3. approved in writing by Tourism Ireland
- h) All information received by Tourism Ireland in applications and throughout the programme will be treated in confidence with regard to public disclosure; however, Tourism Ireland reserves the right to share information with Tourism Northern Ireland and/or Fáilte Ireland to ensure no activities are double funded.
- i) Tourism Ireland shall process the Personal Data** it receives as part of this engagement, as reasonably required to meet its legal or regulatory obligations or for its other reasonable business purposes (including quality control and administration) and may disclose Personal Data to any third parties including its subcontractors, regulators and any party based in any jurisdiction including a jurisdiction outside the European Economic Area, provided that such disclosure is reasonably required in connection with such purposes and is at all times in compliance with applicable Data Protection Legislation**.
- j) For more information on how Tourism Ireland handles your personal data, please see our privacy policy; <https://www.tourismirelandindustryopportunities.com/privacy-policy>.
- k) ** See Appendix III for definitions relating to data protection.
- l) Any potential change to approved activity MUST be agreed in writing with Tourism Ireland prior to the amended activity being confirmed.
- m) Activities are approved subject to any travel restrictions which apply at the date of the activity being fully complied with.
- n) In the event of an approved activity being cancelled, funding is not transferrable to another activity without the prior written consent of Tourism Ireland.
- o) Applicants are advised to ensure they have the requisite travel insurance cover in place, as in the event of cancellation, costs of cancelled travel are not considered eligible.
- p) Applications received after the deadline will not be considered eligible.
- q) Where an activity is approved for support, all payments by Tourism Ireland will be made after the activity has taken place and upon submission of receipts and support documents as set out in the **Post Activity Claim Form**, which will be emailed directly to you on approval of your application.
- r) All expense costs must be detailed and approved in the application and be supported by third-party invoices/receipts. Tourism Ireland will not refund costs which were not approved at the application stage.
- s) Any item being claimed for in a currency other than that of the claim, should be converted into the claim currency at the average daily rate prevailing on the date the expense was incurred. Rates are available at www.OANDA.com.

- t) Tourism Ireland reserves the right to request bank receipts to verify the actual amount of costs incurred in FX transactions.
- u) All final claim submissions and accompanying receipts for all activities must be submitted in full within two weeks of the completion date of the activity, unless explicitly agreed in writing with Tourism Ireland.
- v) All claim expenses must be paid in full in advance of the claim submission.
- w) Industry partners will not be eligible for refund where there are outstanding participation fees or invoices to Tourism Ireland.
- x) Where an overpayment occurs, Tourism Ireland will issue an invoice to individual members with a 30-day remittance term.
- y) For audit purposes only, participants will be required to supply securely the list of contacts met with on sales calls, including name and email address and/or contact phone number.
- z) All decisions are final and Tourism Ireland reserves the right to terminate the programme or amend terms and conditions at any time.

7 Appendices

Appendix I – Per Diem Table

The following per diem rates apply per complete period of 24 hours spent out of Northern Ireland/Ireland, to cover the cost of accommodation and meals on an unreceipted basis, necessary to carry out your approved activity. Where the participation fee includes accommodation costs, or where no accommodation costs are incurred, per diems are not eligible for refund.

By submitting your PAC Claim form, you are confirming that you have spent at least the amount per day outlined below in the table. Tourism Ireland reserves the right to request receipts to demonstrate that the full time required and amount has been spent in market. Participants found to have claimed for more than spent, and/or for time not actually spent away, lose the right to any reimbursement of the per diem amounts.

Location	Rate (Euros)	Rate (GBPs)
Great Britain/Australia/New Zealand	250.00	215.00
Switzerland	290.00	250.00
Canada	200.00	170.00
US/Germany/France/Spain/Italy/Netherlands/Belgium/Nordic s/Austria	240.00	205.00

Appendix II – Eligible and Ineligible Activities/Costs

Eligible activities/costs which may be included in your application.

- Event participation fees for attendance at Tourism Ireland led overseas shows/events/sales missions where the industry partner has been recruited to attend by Tourism NI.
- International travel costs necessary to travel from the island of Ireland to the market (basic economy class fare only) (See Appendix II). Trains/ coaches that are a substantial part of the journey and are required to travel to/at the event destination may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Per diem – fixed rates which cover accommodation and meals per complete 24-hour period in market.

Examples of ineligible activities/costs

- Attendance at virtual trade shows and virtual sales calls and webinars.
- Taxi costs, parking fees and any other ad hoc travel-related costs.
- Travel and related costs within the island of Ireland (e.g., airport transfers, parking, mileage etc.)
- Production and transport of print and promotional materials e.g., brochures, pop-ups, flyers, cards etc.

- Where hotel stays are included in the event fee, or accommodation is not incurred, subsistence (per diems) are not an eligible cost.
- PR activities, event hosting, catering, entertainment and hospitality costs.
- Show/event stand build and maintenance costs.
- Costs for a second representative to attend shows/events/sales calls.
- Capital costs.
- Business Tourism events and MICE focussed activities.
- License fees e.g., software and website hosting.
- Office supplies and stationery.
- Accountancy and internal audit fees.
- Taxes.
- Business or travel insurance.
- Visas.
- Medical or vaccination costs.
- Office rental costs, including voice and data roaming costs.
- Office utilities (i.e., broadband, electricity, gas, telephone, and water).
- Business or trade association membership fees.
- Any need for professional advisory support (e.g., HR, Legal etc.) to obtain specialist knowledge to aid business recovery and transformation.
- Fees for General Sales Agents/consultants (activity must be undertaken by the industry partner and not contracted to GSAs or other representative companies).
- Day-to-day administrative expenses or salary costs.
- Gifts and prizes.
- Incidental hotel charges.
- Charges and penalties for cancelled or missed activity and/or costs of activity which has not taken place.

If you are unsure whether your activity qualifies or not, please email: eventsupport@tourismireland.com prior to submitting your application.

Appendix III - Data Protection Definitions

Data Controller: has the meaning given to such term in Data Protection Legislation.

Data Protection Legislation: means the Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018, GDPR and any other applicable law or regulation relating to the Processing of Personal Data and to privacy including the E-Privacy Directive 2002/58/EC and the European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Privacy and Electronic Communications) Regulations 2011 (“E-Privacy Regulations”), as such legislation shall be supplemented, amended, revised or replaced from time to time.

GDPR: General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Personal Data: has the meaning set out in Data Protection Legislation

Processing: has the meaning given to such term in Data Protection Legislation; and **Process** and **Processed** shall be interpreted accordingly.