CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Wanderers (Dwaalgasten)

Exchange project between West Cork Literary Festival and Meet Me At The Lighthouse festival

West Cork Literary Festival: 9-16 July 2027

The Dutch Foundation for Literature is pleased to invite applications from Dutch writers to visit **West Cork Literary Festival**, taking place in Bantry, West Cork, Ireland from **9 - 16 July 2027**.

Produced by Modern Culture - the visit is part of a collaboration between West Cork Literary Festival and Meet Me At The Lighthouse. The Wanderers (Dwaalgasten) project will invite two Dutch authors to West Cork, and the visit will encourage responses to landscape, place, ecology and the unique setting in which the festival is located. As part of the project, two Irish authors, Bernadette Gallagher and Katie Goh, visited Meet Me At The Lighthouse festival, on the Frisian island of Schiermonnikoog, in November 2026.

At each festival, the writers are invited to take part in events, to explore the local landscape and ecology and to respond to a commission inspired by the festivals' setting and themes.

West Cork Literary Festival 2027:

West Cork Literary Festival, takes place in Bantry, in West Cork, and for almost 30 years, has become a cultural highlight for the region, and one of Ireland's foremost literary events. The festival welcomes major authors from around the world, yet retains deep connections to the local community and its artists. Like Meet Me At The Lighthouse, the festival programme responds to the area's heritage and natural landscape, including author talks at Bantry House, a festival swim and events on Whiddy Island.

West Cork Literary Festival takes place at the height of the summer tourist season, and nature, sustainability, tourism, identity and language are all themes which resonate in the programme. These themes reflect the ethos of Meet Me At The Lighthouse, which takes place at the opposite time of year, when the shortening days offer a different perspective on ecology, tourism and landscape.

The theme of Wanderers (Dwaalgasten) echoes the festival programme in Schiermonnikoog, and the visit there made by Bernadette Gallagher and Katie Goh. The figure of 'the wanderer' or uninvited guest, is also an archetypal figure in Irish literature, whose presence in a story embodies ideas of belonging and exile, identity and movement between literal and figurative borders. It is in the nature of literary festivals that writers arrive in a new place, share their stories and immerse themselves in the local culture.

In welcoming two Dutch writers in 2027, West Cork Literary Festival will extend its already well-established international programme.

Travel and accommodation:

The project will cover return economy class travel from the Netherlands to Ireland, or travel for a Dutch writer based outside of the Netherlands, up to the value of €500 - and four nights' accommodation in Bantry. In addition, the project offers a combined fee and stipend of €1000 per writer, to cover a daily stipend for four days, fees for two festival events and a fee for a writing commission. This is broken down as stipend €250, event fees (total) €450, commission fee €300, and will be paid as follows: stipend (€250) before the festival, and fees (€750) after the festival.

The travel and accommodation will be booked by Modern Culture, in consultation with the writers.

The participating writers should take out their own travel and health insurance for the period of their journey and stay.

About Bantry:

Bantry is located on the west coast of Ireland, overlooking the spectacular Bantry Bay, on the very edge of Europe. Flanked by the Beara Peninsula and Sheep's Head Peninsula, Bantry was formerly a hub for fishing and livestock fairs, and tourism has been a major part of the economy since the 19th century. Overlooking the town is Bantry House, a historic house with gardens built in the early 18th century. Alongside its Literary Festival, the town hosts major festivals for chamber music and traditional Irish music.

Criteria:

Applications are welcome from Dutch writers who write in the Dutch or Frisian languages. Dutch writers are defined as being based in the Netherlands and the Dutch Caribbean. This call is not open to writers based in Flanders.

The writers should have a minimum of one book published by a Dutch or international publisher in either the Dutch or Frisian language.

Applications are welcome from Dutch writers writing in any genre. There will be two successful applicants for this project. Writers should apply on an individual basis.

Travel to Bantry and the accommodation there will be fully accessible for writers with disabilities

Writers should be available for a four-night stay at West Cork Literary Festival, within the overall festival dates of 9-16 July.

We would welcome applications from writers from global majority backgrounds

If you are interested in this opportunity please send a proposal document (up to two sides of A4) to Martin Colthorpe at martin@modernculture.co.uk with the subject title '**Wanderers / Dwaalgasten - Festival Exchange Project**'.

Please include in the proposal document:

- an outline of why you would benefit from visiting West Cork Literary Festival at this point in your career

- an outline of why you are interested in the themes of place and identity, ecology and biodiversity, tourism and landscape in your writing
- an idea for a festival event, workshop or activity which responds to Bantry and Bantry Bay as a location, and to the theme of 'Wanderers / Dwaalgasten'
- details of your published writing (in print) to date, across all genres.

Please also send (as separate documents):
- a CV and short biographical statement

Applications will be assessed by a selection committee comprised of representatives of West Cork Literary festival, Meet Me At The Lighthouse festival and Modern Culture, and a representative of the Dutch Foundation for Literature.

The deadline for applications is Friday 15 January at 18.00 (Irish time / GMT / 19.00 CET). We aim to notify the two successful applicants by the beginning of February.

About the Dutch Foundation for Literature:

The Dutch Foundation For Literature supports writers and translators, and promotes Dutch literature abroad. It invests in Dutch literature through grants for writers, translators, publishers and festivals, and contributes to the production and distribution of Dutch and Frisian literature. It aims to promote a thriving literary climate, embedded in literary history and attuned to the latest developments in the publishing industry.

About Meet Me At The Lighthouse:

Meet Me at the Lighthouse is the literature festival on Schiermonnikoog that marks its fifth anniversary in 2026. It offers a broad programme that includes other art forms such as music and visual arts, while always placing literature and the printed word at the centre of its vision. The festival develops residencies, commissions and publications alongside a year-round programme of book clubs and educational projects.

About West Cork Literary Festival:

Situated in Bantry on the west coast of Ireland, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, West Cork Literary Festival has been established for almost 30 years, and features renowned and emerging international and Irish writers, masterclasses and events for all ages. The festival celebrates its local environment and makes the most of its beautiful location, offering site specific events at places including Whiddy Island, alongside events at Bantry House, a grand stately home from the early 18th century.



About New Dutch Writing:

New Dutch Writing is a high-profile promotional campaign by the Dutch Foundation for Literature, promoting Dutch writing in translation, nurturing the next generation of translators and promoting cultural exchange with the UK and Ireland. It includes fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, children's books and poetry, bringing the work of authors and translators to new audiences. Produced by Modern Culture, the campaign launched in 2019.