

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Dwaalgasten (Wanderers)

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

12-15 November

The Dutch Foundation for Literature is pleased to invite applications from Irish writers to visit **Meet Me At The Lighthouse festival**, taking place in Schiermonnikoog, the Netherlands, from 12 - 15 November 2026.

Produced by [Modern Culture](#) - the visit is part of a collaboration between [West Cork Music](#) and [Meet Me At The Lighthouse](#). Under the theme of Dwaalgasten (Wanderers), the visit will encourage responses to landscape, place, ecology and the unique settings in which the festivals are located.

As part of the project, two Dutch authors will be invited to West Cork Literary Festival for a reciprocal visit in July 2027.

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

Meet Me At The Lighthouse 2026:

Meet Me At The Lighthouse is a literature festival on the island of [Schiermonnikoog](#), at the northern tip of Friesland, in the Netherlands. The festival is deeply rooted in its community, and the festival programme is curated for and with the island.

Nature, sustainability, climate, tourism, and identity are themes that repeatedly run through the festival programme; themes which also resonate in West Cork. Meet Me At The Lighthouse occurs during the darkening days in the approach to winter, where the weather heightens the sense of place. A reciprocal visit by two Dutch authors to West Cork Literary Festival in July 2027, will take place at the opposite time of year, shaped by longer hours and bigger, brighter skies.

The 2026 festival theme of 'Dwaalgasten' (Wanderers) refers to those who wander, who get lost, but also to those whose unexpected presence changes a place, a story, or an encounter. 'Dwaalgasten' is an invitation to be surprised by voices from other worlds, with different ideas and thoughts, by stories that take us to places we never expected to go. 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 bringing two Irish writers to the festival in 2026, Meet Me At The Lighthouse will extend its welcome to international voices.

Travel and accommodation:

The project will cover return economy class travel from Ireland to the Netherlands, or travel for an Irish writer based outside of Ireland, up to the value of €500. In addition, the project offers a combined fee



and stipend of €1000, to cover a daily stipend for five days, fees for up to two festival events and a fee for a writing commission. This is broken down as stipend €300, event fees €400, commission fee €300, and will be paid as follows: stipend (€300) before the festival, and fees (€700) 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 Schiermonnikoog:

Schiermonnikoog is a serene island in the Wadden Sea, part of the province of Friesland, and home to a pristine National Park and wide, unspoiled beaches. Accessible only by a 45-minute passenger ferry from Lauwersoog, it features one picturesque village and has a permanent population of c. 950 residents. The island receives many visitors and tourists, who come to experience its calm beauty, and therefore makes an ideal place to welcome Dwaalgasten (Wanderers), to listen, read, discover and rejuvenate in the company of writers and stories. Schiermonnikoog and Meet Me At The Lighthouse festival have strong links with [Leeuwarden UNESCO City of Literature](#), close by in Friesland, which promotes literature in the Frisian language, translations of writers from Frisian and exchanges with other languages and cultures

Criteria:

Applications are welcome from Irish writers who write in the Irish or the English language. Irish writers are defined as writers who are originally from or normally resident on the island of Ireland.

The writers should have a minimum of one book published by a UK or Irish publisher in either the Irish or the English language.

Applications are welcome from Irish writers writing in any genre.

There will be two successful applicants for this project. Writers should apply on an individual basis.

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

Writers should be available for the entire duration of the visit (five nights in the Netherlands - arriving 11 November and departing 15 November).

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 'Dwaalgasten / Wanderers - Festival Exchange Project'.

Please include in the proposal document:

- an outline of why you would benefit from visiting [Meet Me At The Lighthouse festival](#) at this point in your career
- an outline of why you are interested in the themes of place and identity, landscape, and ecology in your writing



- an idea for a festival event, or workshop, or activity which responds to Schiermonnikoog as a location, and to the themes of the festival
- 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 Monday 27 July at 18.00 (Irish time / BST). We aim to notify the successful applicants by the beginning of August.

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 and poetry books, bringing the work of authors and translators to new audiences. Produced by Modern Culture, the campaign launched in 2019.