

# Questionnaire

*Updated for SMOFcon 40, December 2023*

## General

### **Name of Bid?**

Dublin 2029

### **What dates will your convention run?**

Early August 2029, exact dates to be confirmed by August 2024.

### **What is your proposed convention host city?**

**Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb? If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city center? How far is the site from the city center?**

We want to bring Worldcon back to Dublin, a vibrant European capital city. Although we have not finalised our venue(s), we are predominantly searching within the city centre, within a radius of under 1 mile/1.6km from O'Connell Street.

This means that attendees will have full access to Dublin's public transport system, as Dublin Bus, Dublin Area Rapid Transport (DART) commuter rail, and the Luas light rail all run through the city centre. This is in addition to the number of taxis and other private car services that are available.

### **What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?**

We have not yet finalised the facilities but we are looking at the Convention Centre Dublin and the neighbouring National College of Ireland, Mayor Square. The closest

hotel, the Spencer, is 260 metres from the front entrance of the CCD and approximately 200 metres from the entrance to NCI. All in all, these venues have at least 5 hotels within 500m and Dublin has over 22,000 hotel rooms available in all, plus other forms of accommodation available.

**Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee?**

Our co-chairs are Brian Nisbet and Marguerite Smith. We are currently building the team out further, but do not have any formal roles at time of writing.

**What experience do they have in general? What experience do they have in running (insert appropriate convention here, i.e. Worldcons/NASFiCs/Smofcons)?**

Both Marguerite and Brian have been involved in conrunning for multiple decades in Ireland, the US and elsewhere. This experience ranges from small local conventions to Worldcons. In the case of Worldcon they have both held senior positions at multiple cons. Currently Marguerite and Brian are Vice-Chair and DH of Logistics, respectively, for Glasgow 2024.

**If applicable, have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along-Funds? Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70%?**

Pass-along funds are an incredible way of facilitating the continuation and growth of Worldcon. We believe that they're important, and will absolutely plan to take part in passing forward at least the standard 50% share of our surplus to following Worldcons. It's too early to determine whether we'd be able to increase pass-along to 70%, especially as we'd like to ensure we retain some surplus funds to support our local fandom as well.

**What is the sponsoring organization? Is the sponsoring organization a 501(c)(3) or otherwise a non-profit? If not a 501(c)(3) but a non-profit, please explain. Is the sponsoring organization tax-exempt for local taxes, especially sales tax?**

There is no sponsoring organisation in the sense that it is commonly used for US Worldcons.

The bid for Dublin 2029 is run through a private not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Ireland. Only bodies set up for specific purposes and

registered with the Charities Regulator can use the “nonprofit” label, and a Worldcon does not qualify.

Therefore, Dublin 2029 is not tax-exempt.

### **What is your website and/or Facebook group?**

Our website is scheduled for launch to tie in with SMOFcon 40, and is located at <https://www.dublin2029.ie/>

### **Who should people contact for additional information or questions (email preferred)?**

You can reach Brian and Marguerite jointly on [bidchairs@dublin2029.ie](mailto:bidchairs@dublin2029.ie).

## **Travel**

### **What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Melbourne, etc.?**

mon airfares in the summertime. Estimates are taken for July / August 2024, to simulate arriving before the convention and staying for one week. These were found by using flight comparison websites. Flights were chosen by the fewest number of stops and then by cheapest within that.

	Stops	€	local currency
Boston	0	€ 1,034	1,093 USD
Brisbane	1	€ 1,380	2,293 AUD
Cairo	1	€ 332	10,847 EGP
Chengdu	1	€ 1,783	13,790 RMB
Chicago	0	€ 856	905 USD

Entebbe	1	€ 942	3,730,122 UGX
Glasgow	0	€ 49	43 GBP
Helsinki	0	€ 250	250 EUR
Lagos	1	€ 1,318	1,068,599 NGN
London	0	€ 56	49 GBP
Los Angeles	0	€1,110	1,174 USD
México City	1	€ 1,299	24,663 MXN
Montréal	0	€ 720	1,038 CAD
New York	0	€ 740	782 USD
Seattle	1	€ 637	674 USD
São Paulo	1	€ 935	4,968 BRL
Tel Aviv	1	€ 495	2,105 ILS
Tokyo	2	€ 1,127	178,409 JPY
Wellington	2	€ 1,543	2,768 NZD

**Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport? Which airlines?**

**If not, where is the closest international airport?**

**Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?**

Dublin is a major European hub and is serviced by airlines including, but not limited to: Aer Lingus, Ryanair, Air Canada, Air France, American Airlines, British Airways, Delta Air Lines, EgyptAir, El Al (began March 2023), Finnair, KLM, Lufthansa, SAS, and United Airlines.

For those flying from Dublin to the US, customs and immigration pre-clearance is available, which means that passengers will be treated as domestic arrivals on landing in the US.

A new runway was opened in August 2022, increasing the total capacity of the airport to 30 million air passengers annually.

More information can be found on the airport's website itself:

<https://www.dublinairport.com/flight-information>

<https://www.dublinairport.com/flight-information/travelling-to-usa/usa-preclearance/>

**How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the likely cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport, shared ride service (Lyft/Uber/etc.), and taxi from that airport/train station?**

Dublin Airport is approximately 15 kilometres (a bit under 10 miles) from O'Connell Street.

A taxi will cost approximately 25 euro and take about 25-30 minutes. Taxis are available 24 hours a day. FreeNow and Uber services are also available, and are regulated by the National Transit Authority alongside taxis and hackneys. Fares will be roughly comparable to a standard taxi booking.

An express bus (private companies) will cost approximately 7 euro (9-10 euro return) and take approximately 30 minutes. Companies that do this include Aircoach and Airport Express. These services run approximately 20 hours a day, between 4am and 12:30am.

Dublin Bus also run services to and from the airport, including some 24-hour routes and some across the city. This will cost you 2 euro with a Leap Card and will take about 30 minutes to the city centre.

**What is the visa situation for citizens of foreign countries to attend your convention? What countries are eligible for ESTAs (Electronic Travel Authorizations which are generally a formality)? What countries would require visas? How long does it normally take to get a visa, and what does it cost?**

The best place to find up-to-date summary about visas to Ireland will be the Citizens' Information website.

<https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/moving-country/visas-for-ireland/visa-requirements-for-entering-ireland/>

For an easier experience finding your own requirements, you can also walk through the questions on the official Immigration website. <https://www.irishimmigration.ie/>

Generally speaking, a single-entry short stay visa costs €60. You can apply for the visa no earlier than 3 months before your date of travel. However, visa application backlogs can be quite lengthy - the Dublin visa office is [currently processing applications](#) received at the start of September 2023. Other visa offices and consulates will have their own processing times.

Given this, we are looking at setting up a specific role to assist with issuing letters or other documentation required from us, with the aim of facilitating as many timeline applications as we can.

## Facilities

### **What hotel(s) are being used for the convention?**

The convention itself will not be held in hotel space, in the main. As Dublin 2019 did, we may have certain services or functions (e.g., childcare) in hotels if needed, but our preference will be to have as much in the main space(s) of the convention as we can.

Our recommended hotels, if we have them, will be announced much closer to the date.

### **How many rooms, what type, accessibility issues, etc.?**

It is too early to announce this. As mentioned above, Dublin itself has many thousand hotel rooms, with more completed each month. In general, Irish hotels are subject to the Disabilities Act 2005 and the Building Regulations Technical Guide M 2010, which set out the requirements on public spaces and services with regard to accessibility.

### **What are your hotel room rates? How firm are these rates?**

It is too early to announce this. We will be in a position to announce this much closer to the dates of the convention, and will start providing indicative rates as of Glasgow 2024.

### **Do these rates include breakfast? Do they include internet access in the room?**

In general, published hotel rates will include breakfast, internet access, and all relevant taxes (e.g. VAT).

### **What additional taxes and fees are there?**

There are currently no additional taxes or fees on top of VAT.

### **What does parking cost at your main hotel and/or convention center?**

Although we cannot strictly confirm the venue(s) at this point, example rates at the [privately-run parking lot closest to the CCD](#) are €30 per day or €18 overnight. The [NCI parking lot](#) has a lost ticket rate of €25 per day, but the strict day rates are €10 on weekdays or €7 on weekends, with evening and overnight rates available. All of these rates will be subject to availability.

### **Do you have a signed (contingent) contract or letter of intent specifying the above?**

We are in final talks with our venue(s) but do not have signed contracts at this point.

### **What is the distance from the nearest door of your main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site?**

The closest hotel, the Spencer, is 260 metres from the front entrance of the CCD and approximately 200 metres from the entrance to NCI.

### **What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?**

It is too early to specify which hotels will be used and how bookings will be handled. We will be planning to contract with mobile rental companies and to arrange accessibility bookings in hotels near to our venue(s), but we cannot currently state anything concretely.

### **Where will your large events be held?**

It is too early to state this definitively, as we do not have formal agreements with either hotel(s) or venue(s). We will aim to have updated information by the time of Glasgow 2024.

**Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.**

Dublin's city centre has a thriving restaurant scene, ranging from traditional pub grub to Michelin-starred restaurants. Irish restaurants will generally list 14 common allergens in dishes, along with whether the dish is (or can be) vegetarian, vegan, and/or gluten-free.

**What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?**

It is too early to state this with certainty, as we do not have formal agreements with either hotel(s) or venue(s). We are taking prior experience into account and will aim to have updated information by the time of Glasgow 2024.

**Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention center, and city.**

Irish law prohibits smoking fully in the general workplace, enclosed public places, restaurants, bars, education facilities, healthcare facilities and public transport. Smoking rooms are permitted in hotels.

We will have more specific information available as we narrow down our venue(s) and main hotel(s).

## **Miscellaneous**

**What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the average temperature during that time of year?**

The month of August is characterised by daily highs around 64°F (18°C), rarely exceeding 71°F (22°C) or dropping below 59°F (15°C). It is mostly cloudy and many days there will be a light or moderate rainfall. Humidity is between 65 - 90% (although this top end is very unusual).

**What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?**

Dublin is famous for its hospitality as well as celebrating a rich literary and cultural history.



Some famous sites include:

### **The Guinness Brewery and Storehouse**

This is Dublin's most popular tourist attraction. Visitors can tour the brewery, learn about the history of Guinness, and sample some of the wares.

### **Jameson Distillery, Teeling Distillery, Roe & Co Distillery, Pearse & Lyons Distillery**

There has been a resurgence of distilling within the city limits, and now multiple distilleries offer the chance to learn about the process and maybe sample a drop or two along the way.

### **Trinity College and National Library of Ireland**

This houses the Book of Kells and The Long Room was the inspiration for the library in Star Wars Episode 3. It is also possible to stay in Halls at Trinity.

### **National Museum of Ireland**

Three different venues in Dublin explore Natural History, Archeology and Decorative Arts.

### **National Gallery of Ireland**

Art included in the collection includes Yeats, Titian, Michelangelo and Picasso.

### **Temple Bar area**

This is a popular area just south of the River Liffey, full of bars, places to eat and entertainment. It is also surrounded by a more eclectic shopping area which includes independent and secondhand bookshops, comic shops and alternative clothing stores.

### **1916 Easter Rising Coach Tour / The Dublin Ghost Bus / City Sightseeing - Dublin**

Several bus rides tour the town, which has also been used for location filming of series such as Penny Dreadful and Ripper Street.

### **Dublin Zoo / The President's Residence**

Phoenix Park is a walled park to the North of the River Liffey housing the zoo, the President's residence, the largest obelisk in Europe and a number of decorative gardens.

### **Kilmainham Gaol**

Kilmainham is one of the largest unoccupied prisons still standing in the world, and looms large in Irish history – many revolutionaries were held here, and sometimes executed here, before it was decommissioned by the Irish Free State in 1924. The tour also explores the city's relationship with conflict and crime throughout the centuries.

### **Various Cathedrals and Churches**

Until recently, Ireland was a profoundly religious country, and this is reflected in the diverse religious buildings that dot the city. You can visit St Valentine's heart in Whitechapel Street Church or even shake hands with a Mummy in St Michans!

Dublin also provides easy access to the nearby countryside, and the Irish countryside is renowned for its beauty. Local attractions include the Boyne Valley, site of the Battle of the Boyne and home to a number of Celtic tombs and cairns, including Newgrange, which is older than the Egyptian pyramids. However, day trips and short excursions to the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, the Ring of Kerry, Yeats Country in County Sligo, and more are all possible, not to mention city breaks in Belfast, Cork, Galway, and Limerick. Themed holidays are also well-supported; Fáilte (the Irish word for 'welcome' and also the name of our tourist board) even has an entire section for [Knitting Tours](#).

The Skellig Isles were used in the climactic scene at the end of *The Force Awakens*, and several parts of *Game of Thrones* have been filmed across the island. Ireland is well known for its beautiful, evocative countryside and has featured in many science fiction and fantasy movies and TV series.

**Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain demographic groups, such as historically marginalized groups, young adults, seniors, or military?**

Yes. It is too early to say specifically what demographic or socioeconomic discounts will be available, but we are currently planning to offer them.

**How do you plan to recruit staff? Will there be a discount membership rate for staff? Do you plan crash space for staff? Etc.**

We will recruit staff across several methods following best practices as set out by recent successful conventions:

- Rather than defining roles as they have been in the past, we will look at discrete tasks and skill sets. We will also create jobs based on the skills and time our volunteers have, and split roles between people as required.
- Writing job descriptions and posting them publicly, asking for people to apply.
- Speaking to the existing volunteer pool, i.e., those who volunteer without a particular role in mind, once it's in place.
- Approaching existing con-runners across our wider networks.
- Approaching various organisations (e.g., universities, local writers' networking groups) for potential con-runners who might not have taken part previously.

The rest is too early to say. Some, such as con-organised staff crash space, are not common among Irish conventions. Nevertheless, we will be looking at several methods and models.

### **What is your vision for your convention?**

Ireland has a reputation for being a crossroads. It is on the edge of Europe, but as a gateway, not a periphery. Most literally, crossroads dances were events where communities came together to celebrate, and to exchange information and ideas.

More than this, Ireland is a place where Neolithic tombs and warnings around the Sídhé still hold sway alongside cutting-edge technologies and pharmaceutical research. It's where some of the oldest vernacular literature in the world has led to Swift and Stoker and Barlow and O'Brien (Fitz-John or Flann, take your pick), through pros-also-fans Bob Shaw and James White, and onward to today's writers like Connolly, Long, Murphy, Zebedee, Ó Guilín, Rees Brennan, Griffin, Fennell, and more.

Similarly, we want the next Dublin Worldcon to embrace its function as a meeting-place. It's where everyone is a fan, even the pros. It's a holiday and a networking event and a safer space to be yourself, or so we work toward. It's where we have hundreds, if not thousands, of programme items to discuss what we love – and sometimes to argue about it, too. We contextualise history and highlight the good while acknowledging where we could have – and should have – done better, and can do better now. It's also where we celebrate the up-and-comers in their fields and hear from new voices alongside established ones.

We also celebrate speculative fiction in all of its forms. Different genres in the form of science fiction, fantasy, and horror, sure, but also different media – 2D and 3D art, fan fiction and original fiction, music, anime, films, comic books and graphic novels, academic research and queue-based silliness.

### **How do you plan to make it happen?**

We will be doing our best to make this happen by planning it in from the start. We have enough experience to be thinking about multiple forms of accessibility as we are negotiating our initial indicative contracts, for example, and are implementing certain ideas within Glasgow 2024 to see how they do and whether we can bring them into 2029.

## **What is a notable aspect of your local fan culture and how do you plan to incorporate it into your convention?**

Irish conventions are well known for being welcoming and relaxing, a place where you could find yourself sitting across the table from a world-famous pro just as easily as across from a new fan at their first con. The fandom has managed to balance this informality with a proven record of running large events, and that feeling will be at the heart of our proposed Worldcon.

Fan zines, and zines more generally, have long held a particular place of joy within Irish fandom. Examples of these include the zines from author Sarah Maria Griffin, the bilingual zine *Zín Dátheangach*, plus Hugo Award winners *Journey Planet & Slant*, among others. That fan reaction to other media is something we'd like to highlight, whether it's printed zines, recorded podcasts, or any of the other forms fan criticism and fan love can take.

## **Do you have a code of conduct? If so, is it available online and if so, where?**

We are currently informally using a code of conduct based on the Geek Feminism Code of Conduct between us. As we build our online and in-person presence further, we will put up the formal CoC on our website and link to it in other spaces. The Code of Conduct we expect to put up will be similar to those adapted by various Worldcons, including Dublin 2019 and Glasgow 2024.

## **What do diversity and inclusion mean to you?**

There's an oft-quoted saying from Verna Myers that "diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance." That's a good start, but it's only a start. For us, diversity and inclusion also needs to incorporate different voices and needs from the start, both at a planning level (what we build) and a committee level (who's building and leading).

Ireland is still a rapidly changing society and we will be actively seeking to hear, include and involve those people and voices who have been historically oppressed, and whose oppression is sadly a new part of that society.

Importantly it means ensuring accessibility isn't an afterthought or bolt on, rather it is a consideration in every phase and every new idea or plan needs to be considered with accessibility in mind.

The ability to get involved in a Worldcon, whether physically or virtually, is based on so many factors and it seems that international travel, especially from anywhere that isn't North America, Europe, Australia or New Zealand, is only going to get harder. We

plan to learn from other conventions on how to improve what Worldcon can do to help the visa process, lower financial barriers and maximise the usefulness of our planned fan fund.

Finally, we will aim to find an online platform that makes as few assumptions as possible about available bandwidth or processing power to make it as usable as possible in those areas of the world where the infrastructure is unfortunately not at the same level as that of urban Europe.

**How are you working towards your goals in these areas?  
What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?**

Right now, our main work is to write down what we want and to watch and work with others and learn from them. We have both worked with people who have excellent experience and ideas in these areas and we hope they will work with or advise us.

Every Worldcon needs to build on the traditions from the past while acknowledging where they need changing and to productively question and suitably change The Way Things Are Done.

We want a Dublin 2029 Worldcon to be one where as many people as possible feel like they belong. We want the barriers to volunteering, to being on programming, to getting involved to be as low as possible. To extend the quote above from Verna Myers, where they get to choose the music. And we want as many people as possible to consider that choosing the music for a Worldcon is a thing worth doing.

And vitally we want joining and attending this Worldcon to be as free of hassles as the modern world allows, and for the team to have done everything they can to remove those hassles for everyone who wishes to attend.

**What are your plans, if any, regarding handling the COVID-19 pandemic?**

As mentioned above, we will always comply with national and local requirements, and may choose to have stricter requirements. However, this far out from 2029, it is too early to say exactly what kind of social distancing, masking, or other physical arrangements will be in place for the convention.

We have both been involved in expanding the Glasgow 2024 policy to a broader “disease mitigation” policy, not limited to COVID-19, and will do the same for Dublin 2029.

**Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?**

Although we are currently expecting to have an online aspect to our convention, it is far too early to commit to what that will look like.

**If applicable, are you prepared to run a site selection process should it be required?**

Yes. We are prepared to run any relevant site selection process that is required.

**If applicable, how do you plan to facilitate the Hugo Finalists input to your convention?**

We will, of course, have a dedicated Hugo Finalist Liaison, a position that we feel should be an absolute requirement for any Worldcon. Based on past experience, we hope that they will be allowed to observe certain areas of any 2029 finalists' community with the goal of hearing ideas and concerns early. In fact, we are already watching and listening to finalists' input for our current conventions and will absolutely be considering this when doing our own planning.

We will put all finalists on the programme who wish to take part, subject to the standard vetting and our CoC, of course! We will also keep a very close eye on emerging trends from Worldcons before 2029 to explore more ways of helping finalists attend the convention (visa assistance, bursaries, assistance with equipment for online participation, etc.) and to raise their profile at the event.

**Is there anything else you wish to add?**

We are aware that 2029 is several years away, but we feel that thoughtful, thorough planning is required to bring our hoped-for Worldcon to fruition. We will continue to build on past practice, to innovate around new technology, needs, or circumstance, and to listen to our communities while building our gathering.