

Fannish Q&A Questionnaire for Dublin 2029 Worldcon Bid

City Country	Dublin Ireland	Year	2029	Type	Worldcon Bid
Dates	2nd August - 6th August 2029	Venue		Website	https://dublin2029.ie
Con Chair	Marguerite Smith & Brian Nisbet	Bid Chair (if different)	Marguerite Smith & Brian Nisbet		

Senior Concommittee	Meg McDonald, Catherine Sharpe, John "JC" Clarke, Ila Khan, Marc Morris, Declan Meenagh
Con Chair Experience Briefly, tell us about major roles and accomplishments the chair has with Worldcons, NASFiCs, and other conventions.	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.
Senior Committee Experience Briefly, summarize the convention background of the vice-chair(s), executive committee, and/or major division heads.	The bid team is being brought together at the moment. Those we've mentioned so far have a range of Worldcon and other convention experience across Finance, Promotions, Programme, Social Media and Logistics.
Leadership & Succession Will you have one or more vice-chairs? Do you have a succession plan if your chair is unable to attend or lead the convention? Do you have a governance or accountability process, as a last resort, to remove a seated chair if your membership or sponsoring organization decides the chair is not performing the job as expected?	The bid committee and organisation will be more formalised in 2025, before Worldcon.

Pass-Along Funds Will you participate in the tradition of passing along a post-con surplus to future Worldcons, and NASFiCS? To what percentage? Give any details or restrictions you will apply to these transfers?	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.
Airfares What are typical competitive airfares to your local airport(s) from major cities (e.g. New York, Boston, Washington/Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles, London, Tokyo, Sydney)?	Boston € 800 870 USD Beijing € 1,000 6,300 CNY Brisbane € 1,380 2,293 AUD Cairo € 332 10,847 EGP Chicago € 856 905 USD Entebbe € 942 3,813,122 UGX Glasgow €49 43 GBP Helsinki € 250 250 EUR Lagos € 1,318 1,068,599 NGN London € 56 49 GBP Los Angeles €1,110 1,174 USD Mexico City € 1,299 24,663 MXN Montréal € 720 1,038 CAD New York € 740 782 USD Seattle € 900 979 USD São Paulo € 935 4,968 BRL Tel Aviv € 495 2,105 ILS Tokyo € 1,127 178,409 JPY Wellington € 1,543 2,768 NZD
Is your main local airport a national or international hub? From how many cities do nonstop flights come to your airport(s) daily? Are direct flights to your airport available from all continental hubs?	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, Finnair, KLM, Lufthansa, SAS, and United Airlines. More information can be found here: https://www.dublinairport.com/flight-information/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.

Can you recommend, or not recommend, alternative airlines or airports that might be less expensive or more convenient for some travelers?	Dublin Airport is the most convenient and is likely to offer the most competitive fares, especially considering additional travel costs to get from Belfast, Cork or Shannon to Dublin.
What is the most practical and convenient way on public transit from your airport(s) to your main hotel? How many connections and fares are required? What is the expected travel time on public transit? Also tell us about taxi, shared-ride, or shuttle costs and times from the airport for travelers with heavy luggage and/or accessibility needs? What is the travel time for these rides?	Dublin Airport is approximately 15 kilometres (a bit under 10 miles) from O'Connell Street. The two Dublin mainline train terminuses are within easy reach of the convention venues and surrounding hotels by public transport or taxi. 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 (services run by 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 (city bus services) also run 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 minu

Venue(s)/Facilities What is your main venue(s) for program and exhibit space? How many function rooms do you have (for panels, events, and other scheduled activities) and what is the total seating capacity? How much exhibit space do you have (for dealers, art show, fan tables, etc.)?	Our planned facilities are the Convention Centre, Dublin (CCD) and the National College of Ireland (NCI). The full floor plans and capacity charts for the CCD can be found here: https://www.theccd.ie/event-venue/explore/floor-plans/ In NCI we will be 3 lecture theatres (1 x 270, 2 x 165) and 7 classroom spaces (3 x 60, 2 x 40, 2 x 25) with an Atrium space and the potential to negotiate more. We will also look at function space in hotels between the CCD and NCI as may be suitable.
What are your main hotels? What are the room rates? How many max sleeping room nights have you contracted on the busiest night (Saturday)? Are you using other hotels, and if so, how far away are those and what are their rates? Please include taxes.	It is too early to announce any hotel information.
What is the distance between main hotel and main program or exhibits site, if any.	It is too early to announce any hotel information.
Are you in more than one building? Are the buildings connected or adjacent? If not, what transportation is available between sites for members with mobility issues?	The two main sites are 400m apart on a flat walking route. Both sites are located very close to a tram stop.
Where will your main events (Hugo Awards, Masquerade, etc.) be held? What is the seating capacity there?	The Auditorium in the CCD has a seating capacity of 2000.

Where can on-site socializing happen? Are arrangements required to permit serving food or alcohol?	It is too early to state this with certainty, as we do not have formal agreements with either hotel(s) or venue(s). A corkage waiver is planned, but serving duties will require CCD staff if the party is taking place there.
What are the rules and laws regarding smoking? Where is smoking permitted on site (and what can be smoked)?	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, but these are increasingly rare. Any convention space will be smoke-free by default.
What will your policies be regarding public health (masking, social distancing, etc.)? Will you policies accommodate members with respiratory or immunity issues?	
What area of the city (or suburb) is your convention site in your city: How far is the convention from the city center, airport, or intercity rail or bus	Although we cannot confirm prices 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.
What area of the city (or suburb) is your convention site in your city: How far is the convention from the city center, airport, or intercity rail or bus terminals, or important cultural/tourist/entertainment districts?	The convention will be held in Dublin city centre, close to multiple transport hubs and cultural/tourist/entertainment districts and venues.

Summarize nearby restaurants (five minutes walk, 400 meters, 440 yards) including fast food, fine dining, and anything in between.	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. https://www.fsai.ie/business-advice/starting-a-food-business/allergens At present there are a variety of convenience stores, supermarkets, sandwich delis and fast food restaurants in the area. There are also a number of mid-range restaurants in this range.
What is the typical weather in your area during your convention dates?	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).
Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain demographic groups, such as young adults, military, or seniors?	Yes, but the details of these discounts are to be worked out.

Does your convention have a theme or vision? How would you include these ideas into 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. 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 looking at how some of Glasgow 2024's ideas worked and whether we can bring them into 2029.
Are there any activities or features of your regional fannish culture that you can bring to 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? What is the URL? Does your Code of Conduct include an anti-discrimination policy?	The current version of the Dublin 2029 CoC can be found at https://dublin2029.ie/coc

What are your plans and policies about diversity, equity, and inclusion regarding members, staff, and volunteers?

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. 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.
Do you have plans for remote virtual participation by members and/or program participants? If so, are you familiar with budget, technical, and staffing issues regarding virtual programming?	

What is the human rights situation in your country or region? Specifically, can members who are LGBTQ+ or members of religious, ethnic, or racial minorities travel in safety to your convention?

Ireland is a generally progressive nation and we would fully expect that members who are LGBTQ+ or members of religious, ethnic, or racial minorities will be able to travel in safety to our convention. Ireland, similarly to many EU, European and "western" nations operates an immigration policy which is adversarial towards those from many African, South American and Asian countries. There are no laws banning entry into Ireland from any country, but visa processes can be difficult. In general Irish people are welcoming, but unfortunately there are historical and current biases towards Travellers & Roma. In addition to this there are biases towards non-white people similar to that found in other European countries. This is especially visible in regard to those who are considered to be part of large migrant groups.

For Worldcons: What are your plans for including Hugo finalists who attend the convention in your convention program?	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.
More Info Is there anything else you want to share with our members? Give us links to any pages you want to point people to. Optionally, you could also give a short statement here if there's anything important not covered in the questions above.	