

CONNECTING STORIES

INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

Connecting Stories is a yearlong programme for documentary filmmakers developing their first or second feature film, from Africa, Asia and the Middle East (eligible countries listed at the end of this document).

It combines seminars exploring various aspects of the industry, including the development and the production of feature films, individual mentorship sessions, and masterclasses with international key players in the current documentary landscape.

Connecting Stories is run by Scottish Documentary Institute (SDI) with the support of British Council and in collaboration with [In-Docs](#).

Having delivered our [Stories](#) workshops over 10 years, working with over 180 participants, from 10 countries, we have developed ***Connecting Stories*** as an opportunity to help Stories alumni and others to take their documentary practice to a new level. In the process we will establish and host a peer-network of participants and our international speakers and mentors, bringing documentary filmmakers from across the world, with diverse experience, to share and learn from each other.

Up to 12 participants will be selected to take part in various online activities (group seminars, individual mentorship, industry events) designed to help them grow their knowledge of the industry, their confidence to navigate the international scene, to work with co-producers and to put together the right material to pitch their projects and apply for funding.

In addition, a filmmaker's grant of £1,000 will be offered to each selected participant.

We are looking for documentary filmmakers who have already directed one or two short films, which screened in festivals or had a broadcast on TV. Alumni of **Stories** workshops or other international labs are encouraged to apply.

Applicants are expected to be in development, production, or early post-production of their first or second feature length documentary, to have already engaged with their characters and to have some early footage showing their access to the story.

Connecting Stories aims to support under-represented creative voices.

Programme structure

Connecting Stories is a year-long programme taking place from June 2022 – May 2023. Over this time period each participant will get access to:

- 6 hours of mentoring support from a highly experienced documentary professional;
- A series of up to 10 online seminars with international industry professionals, experts, and award-winning filmmakers. These sessions will explore the following topics and more, based on the projects selected:
 - Research and feature development;
 - Storytelling and narrative in feature length documentary;
 - Grants and funding applications writing;
 - Pitching and trailer editing;
 - International pitching forums, marketplaces and labs;
 - Co-productions and the international documentary landscape;
- Access to online masterclasses with international speakers;
- Access to the Edinburgh Pitch Online (June 2022);

Matching mentors and filmmakers on the programme

Selected filmmakers will be matched with mentors based on the needs outlined in the application and how those needs match mentors' areas of expertise. Please note that mentors are not responsible for finding their mentee a job, or work experience.

Timings

- Applications close: Tuesday 17 May 2022
- Successful applicants will be informed early June 2022
- Programme runs from June 2022 to May 2023 with monthly seminars and mentoring sessions

Commitment

It is important that applicants can commit to the programme in order to make the most of it. Successful applicants will have to attend the programme various seminars and the individual meetings with their mentor.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply to Connecting Stories, you must:

- Be in development, production or post-production of your first or second feature length documentary (60 minutes or over);
- Have a trailer or some visual material;
- Have directed at least two short documentaries shown at film festivals nationally and internationally or broadcast on television;
- Have an intermediate or proficient level of English;
- Be a citizen of one of the following countries:

Afghanistan	Ghana	Nigeria
Algeria	Guinea	Pakistan
Angola	Guinea-Bissau	Philippines
Armenia	India	Rwanda
Azerbaijan	Indonesia	Sao Tome and Principe
Bangladesh	Iran	Senegal
Benin	Iraq	Sierra Leone
Bhutan	Jordan	Somalia
Botswana	Kazakhstan	South Africa

Burkina Faso	Kenya	South Sudan
Burundi	Kyrgyzstan	Sri Lanka
Cabo Verde	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Sudan
Cambodia	Lesotho	Syrian Arab Republic
Cameroon	Lebanon	Tajikistan
Central African Republic	Liberia	Tanzania
Chad	Libya	Thailand
China (People's Republic of)	Madagascar	Timor-Leste
Comoros	Malawi	Togo
Congo	Malaysia	Tunisia
Côte d'Ivoire	Maldives	Turkey
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Mali	Turkmenistan
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mauritania	Uganda
Djibouti	Mauritius	Uzbekistan
Egypt	Mongolia	Viet Nam
Equatorial Guinea	Morocco	West Bank and Gaza Strip
Eritrea	Mozambique	Yemen
Eswatini	Myanmar	Zambia
Ethiopia	Namibia	Zimbabwe
Gabon	Nepal	
Gambia	Niger	

Applicants shall not be discriminated against because of race, religion, sex, national origin, ethnicity, age, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, colour, marital status or medical condition.

Cost

Application and participation to Connecting Stories are free.

How to apply

Applications are done [online](#)

Contact stories@scotdoc.com with any questions you may have!

Scottish Documentary Institute is committed to offering clear and accessible application processes open to everyone. On request this information is available in alternative formats. We offer access support to disabled applicants, tailored to individual requests and our team can offer advice to new applicants and support them to make an application.

About Stories

Stories is an intensive residential filmmaking laboratory supported by and in collaboration with British Council, during which emerging filmmakers are empowered with the creative and practical tools to examine their sense of identity and nationality through film.

To date we have run Stories in Indonesia, Benghazi, Tripoli, Rabat, Dhaka, Karachi, Ramallah, Jordan, Syria, and Vietnam. The films produced offer surprising and nuanced insights into these cities through strong, character-led stories.

storiesproject.co.uk

British Council

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. British Council Film celebrates the innovation, diversity, creativity, and excellence of UK film around the world, offering international opportunities to UK film professionals, and brokering creative relationships between UK filmmakers and their international counterparts. britishcouncil.org/film

Scottish Documentary Institute (SDI)

Established to nurture documentary filmmakers and audiences in Scotland and beyond, SDI specialises in documentary training, production and distribution, supporting filmmakers through its diverse programme of international activities and high-quality training programmes. A non-profit organisation with charitable status, SDI is committed to supporting authored films driven by content and emotional experience and to bridging art and industry. www.scottishdocinstitute.com

In-Docs

In-Docs believes in the power of documentary films to spark conversations, to touch people's hearts, to open minds, and to enable change. That is why we strive to build an ecosystem where great documentaries can be made and shared to the widest audience possible. in-docs.org