

Global Ink 2026 Delegate Selection Criteria

Global Ink 2026 will bring together festival leaders from around the world. The following criteria outlines the experience and qualities we seek in participating delegates.

1. Leadership and Scale

Delegates should hold:

- A Director, CEO, or senior decision-making position in a recognised book, multi-arts or ideas festival based outside the U.K, with demonstrable regional influence.

Organisations should have:

- An annual or biennial programme of significant scale
- A team or structure capable of sustaining international collaboration
- A willingness to collaborate with other major festivals in a global forum, share best practice and engage in a mutual exchange of ideas

2. Alignment with EIBF Priorities

The organisation's work or approach aligns with one or more of EIBF's strategic priorities, including but not limited to:

Priority	Delegate Expectation
1. International Collaboration	Proven track record of cross-border partnerships; capacity and intent to host Scottish writers.
2. Community Engagement	Interest in community outreach or social impact through arts initiatives.
3. Schools & Learning	Active engagement in education or young readers' programming/youth-led programming.
4. Cross-sector Engagement	Experience connecting literature with other creative or civic sectors.
5. Digital Technologies	Thoughtful use of digital innovation, including AI where appropriate, to deepen audience insight and strengthen programme delivery.
6. Sustainability, Access & Inclusion	Demonstrable commitment to widening access, and evidence of sustainable working practices (e.g. sustainable travel, measuring of carbon impact).
7. Sustainable Sponsorship & Funding	Experience with ethical funding models or cultural diplomacy.

8. Value-led Programming	Alignment with social justice, climate literacy, or freedom of expression.
9. Audience Development	Evidence of innovative approaches to growing and diversifying audiences.
10. Bookselling & Publishing	Understanding of publishing ecosystems and collaboration with booksellers.

3. Capacity for Collaboration and Breadth of Engagement

Delegates should demonstrate both the capacity and intent to collaborate meaningfully in one or more of the following ways:

- **Artistic collaboration:** Co-commissioning, co-curating, or co-presenting events involving Scottish writers. Delegates should commit to aiming to include at least one Scottish author in their programme by 2028.
- **Professional exchange:** Hosting Scottish writers, or receiving Scottish writers for short-term placements to assist on programme development.
- **Sector development:** Sharing expertise in areas of mutual interest (e.g. climate action, accessibility, digital innovation).
- **Language and Communication:** Proficiency communicating in English, as all Global Ink activities will be conducted in English. Unfortunately, the Festival is unable to provide interpretation or translation services.

4. Financial Sustainability and Commitment

To ensure that participation leads to meaningful outcomes, delegates (or their organisations) should have:

- The scope to contribute to future collaborative project costs (e.g. artist travel, production costs, or staff time) or the means to support fundraising efforts to do so
- Demonstratable experience in professional or artistic exchange as part of their organisational strategy.
- The capacity to cover personal expenses during Global Ink 2026. Delegates should be able to self-fund travel and accommodation costs or secure partial support through cultural agencies or sponsors. Most Global Ink events will be catered; further hospitality is available in our Author Hospitality lounge.

5. Representation and Reach

- Represents an organisation with demonstrable community, cultural, or literary impact.
- Particularly encouraged: festivals or organisations that support underrepresented voices or audiences.
- To support existing partnerships, priority may be given to applicants from regions currently engaged in active exchange with the Edinburgh International Book Festival ([see list](#)), though please note that we welcome applications from all regions.