Ireland
The Filming Location
Bord Scannán na hÉireann/the Irish Film Board (IfB) is the national development agency for the Irish film, television and animation industry, supporting and developing talent, creativity and enterprise. It provides development, production and distribution funding for writers, directors and production companies across these sectors.

The IfB supports Ireland as a dynamic and world-class location for international production by promoting Irish tax incentives, our excellent skilled crew base, and our well-established studio and technical infrastructure.

The IfB also supports the development of skills and training in live-action, animation, VFX and interactive content through Screen Training Ireland.
‘Dublin and its surrounds were the perfect location for our London-set Dickensian period piece. The range of settings, architecture and the ease of access to locations was in my experience unparalleled.’

Bharat Nulluri, Director
*The Man Who Invented Christmas*
Grand Canal Dock, Dublin
Ireland has a long-standing, diverse and exceptionally rich culture of bringing stories to the screen. It has long been associated with great filmmaking, from the feisty, passionate romance played by John Wayne and Maureen O’Hara in John Ford’s much-loved *The Quiet Man*, to David Lean’s epic drama *Ryan’s Daughter*. Over the years, our wealth of indigenous talent has brought such acclaimed films as *Michael Collins* and *Brooklyn* to the world stage.

Ireland’s film and television industry is built on its talent. Our producers, directors, writers, cast, crew, facilities and service providers have been central to Ireland’s success as a filmmaking nation. We are proud to work with them and to build on this legacy by nurturing new talent.

World-class film is produced in Ireland year after year. Recent completed projects include Rian Johnson’s *Star Wars: Episode VIII–The Last Jedi*, Farhad Safinia’s *The Professor and the Madman* and Nora Twomey’s animated feature film, *The Breadwinner*.

Ireland is also an established hub for television production and has achieved much positive growth in this area. Television drama made in Ireland includes *Vikings* for History Channel US and the second season of AMC’s *Into the Badlands*.

A good deal of these feature films and television drama series were post-produced here too, in several cases benefiting from Ireland’s growing VFX industry.

We hope this brochure provides a flavour of the many benefits of filming in Ireland. Nothing beats meeting face to face so do contact me to arrange a meeting.

**Steven Davenport**
IFB Inward Production Manager
steven.davenport@irishfilmboard.ie

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“*Ireland has become an important part of Star Wars history.*”
Candice Campos, Vice President, Physical Production, Lucasfilm
Ireland’s Tax Credit

What is ‘Section 481’?
‘Section 481’ is a tax credit, incentivising film and TV production made in Ireland, administered by Ireland’s Revenue Commissioners (Revenue).

What is the ‘Section 481’ benefit worth?
— The rate of tax credit is worth up to 32% of eligible Irish expenditure.

Eligible expenditure criteria
— The payable tax credit is based on the cost of all cast and crew working in Ireland, and all goods and services sourced in Ireland. This includes post production and/or VFX.

What types of projects qualify?
— The incentive applies to feature film, television drama (singles or series), animation (excluding computer games) and creative documentary. Projects must pass the Section 481 Cultural Test. For further information about the Cultural Test visit www.irishfilmboard.ie

Who is eligible to apply?
— The application to Revenue is made by the ‘Producer Company’.

A ‘Producer Company’ must:
— Be Irish resident or trading through a branch or agency
— Make film and television for cinema exhibition or broadcast or online
— Be trading for at least 12 months and have filed a corporation tax return with Revenue
— Not be connected to a broadcaster
— Hold 100% shareholding in a ‘Qualifying Company’

A ‘Qualifying Company’ must:
— Be Irish resident or trading through a branch or agency
— Exist as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to make one film

Is there a cap on the incentive?
— There is no annual cap or limit on the funding of the programme, meaning there is no limit to the value of the cumulative tax credits payable by Revenue. The tax credit has a ‘per project’ cap of up to 32% of the lower of:
1. All eligible expenditure
2. 80% of the total cost of production
3. €70 million

When is the rebate paid?
—
Option A – Single Instalment:
On delivery of the project and submission of a compliance report to Revenue, payment of 100% of the tax credit may be paid by Revenue within 30 days.

Option B – Two Instalments:
First instalment being 90% of the tax credit due, upon:
1. Financial Closing, including proof that 68% of eligible expenditure is lodged to the project’s production account;
2. Irish Film Board approval (IFB funded projects only);
or
3. Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) approval (BAI funded projects only); or
4. Where Revenue are provided with a guarantee, bond or similar banking instrument which secures the 90% payment of the tax credit, and

Second and final instalment being 10% balance on delivery of the project and submission of compliance report to Revenue.

How is payment made by Revenue?
— Payment of the relief may be claimed against the producer company’s corporation tax (CT) liabilities. In the event the relief due is greater than any tax due by the producer company, then a payment of the excess will be made by Revenue.

Is there a minimum spend level?
— Projects are excluded from the incentive if their ‘eligible expenditure’ is less than €125,000, or the total cost of production is less than €250,000.

When are applications made to Ireland’s Revenue?
— An application for a certificate entitling the applicant to the tax credit can be submitted at any time up to, but prior to, the completion of the project.

Irish Revenue Commissioners
— Ireland’s film and television tax credit is administered by Revenue. For contact details and further information visit www.revenue.ie
‘They brought us a ton of images of various places—as location managers do—and there were incredible options but nothing that touched what Skellig Michael offered.’

JJ Abrams, Director, *Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens*
Ireland and International Co-Production

Ireland’s competitive tax incentive, experienced talent base, and distinctive yet adaptable landscapes have all contributed to making the country a unique and valuable co-production partner. Ireland has co-produced with almost every European territory, as well as Canada, Australia, and South Africa. It has a wealth of experienced co-producers across all forms of film, television and animation.

What co-production agreements are Ireland party to?
— Ireland is a party to the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production which includes members of the EU and some EEA states. Ireland also has bilateral co-production treaties with Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Luxembourg.

What type of projects do the co-production agreements cover?
— The European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production covers feature films (both live-action and animation) and documentary which is intended for a theatrical release. Ireland’s bilateral treaties cover feature film, television production and other forms of digital production.

Are there any limits on financial or creative contributions?
— If the official Irish co-production is bilateral, the minimum contribution of a territory is 20%, with the maximum being 80%. If the project is a co-production with Canada, the minimum contribution may be 15% with a maximum of 85%. If it is a multilateral co-production under the European Convention, then the minimum contribution must be 10%, with the maximum being 70%.

What are the benefits of certifying as an official co-production?
— If a project is certified as an official co-production, it confers national status of all the co-production territories to the relevant production. The production can then avail of other local territory benefits such as broadcast licence fees, access to tax incentives, regional subsidies and the local distribution market.

Ireland is also a member of Eurimages, the European co-production fund, which has an annual budget of over €20 million available.

How do I find information on Irish co-producers?
— Contact the IFB (www.irishfilmboard.ie) and Screen Producers Ireland (www.screenproducersireland.com).

What recent productions involved Ireland as a co-production partner?
— Farhad Safinia’s The Professor and the Madman was structured as an Irish, French, Icelandic co-production while Haifaa Al-Monsour’s Mary Shelley is a co-production between Ireland, UK and Luxembourg. Nora Twomey’s The Breadwinner is a co-production between Ireland, Canada and Luxembourg.

‘With an excellent reputation internationally, Irish producers have a wealth of co-production experience and offer outstanding creativity and local knowledge combined with a savvy business approach.’

Elaine Geraghty, CEO, Screen Producers Ireland
Ireland is home to many excellent and established production companies, experienced in producing top-quality film and television. If you're considering making a film or television project in Ireland it is best to work with a local production company.

When accessing the Irish tax credit (Section 481), the application can only be made by a ‘producer company’ complying with the requirements of Section 481. The ‘producer company’ needs to be tax resident in Ireland. It must have been trading as a screen content production company for at least twelve months and subsequently filed an Irish corporation tax return within the following nine months. Only after that total period of 21 months can the ‘producer company’ apply for the tax credit.

The Irish production company can advise you about other sources of finance in Ireland including Irish Film Board funding, broadcaster funding and other forms of support for inward investment into Ireland.
Ireland’s dramatic and unique landscape is admired all over the world. From the wild storm-lashed coastlines of the Atlantic, to the peaceful rolling hills of the midlands, to the renowned, otherworldly region known as The Burren in Co Clare, Ireland’s landscapes are a joy to discover.

Ireland’s cities boast stunning Victorian and Georgian architecture along with contemporary buildings. 30,000 castles and castle ruins are dotted throughout the Irish landscape and there is an abundance of historic sites featuring prehistoric tombs, stone circles and hill forts.

The country has an excellent infrastructure and national transport network with motorways linking all major cities. There are four international airports with daily direct flights to the USA and Canada.

Irish films including *Brooklyn*, *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*, *My Left Foot* and *The Quiet Man* have all brought this natural beauty to worldwide audiences. But other stories have been told here too.

*Star Wars* fans witnessed the extraordinary setting of Skellig Michael in Co Kerry in the final dramatic scenes of *Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens*. The forthcoming Episode VIII was shot in several locations along the Wild Atlantic Way.

The Normandy landings, so memorably rendered in *Saving Private Ryan*, were recreated on Ireland’s sandy east-coast beaches. The epic battles in *Braveheart* were not shot in Stirling or York, but in Ireland. *Laws of Attraction*, *The Honeymooners* and Jim Sheridan’s *In America* were all set in New York but shot in Dublin.

The period streets of Dublin have made it an ideal location to recreate Victorian London on several occasions, most recently for the television series *Penny Dreadful* and *Ripper Street*, as well as feature films *The Professor and the Madman* and *The Man Who Invented Christmas*. 

*Clara Bog, Co. Offaly*
**Film Studios**

Ireland is home to several world-class film studios, boasting state-of-the-art production and post-production facilities and various support infrastructures.

### Ardmore Studios

**Facilities**
Seven sound stages, extensive production and post-production facilities within a single complex.

**Support infrastructure**
Includes production offices, workshops, costume, hair and makeup and props space, dressing rooms, restaurant and backlot.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Size (sq ft/sq m)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Stage</td>
<td>8,000 sq ft/743.22 sq m</td>
<td>Includes underground water tank, camerapit, timber floor and cyclorama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Stage</td>
<td>8,000 sq ft/743.22 sq m</td>
<td>Includes wooden floor and cyclorama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Stage</td>
<td>3,000 sq ft/278.70 sq m</td>
<td>Includes wooden floor and cyclorama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Stage</td>
<td>15,000 sq ft/1,396.79 sq m</td>
<td>Includes concrete floor and canvas cyclorama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Stage</td>
<td>6,300 sq ft/585.28 sq m</td>
<td>Includes sheeted concrete floor (chipboard) and cyclorama.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Location**
Just 14 miles from Dublin city centre, five miles from the stunning Wicklow countryside and 30 minutes from Dublin airport, within easy reach of both urban and rural film locations.

**Contact**
film@ardmore.ie
www.ardmore.ie

### Film Factory

**Facilities**
Over 5,000 sq ft of workshop space, 11,000 sq ft of multi-purpose office, workshop and studio space (distributed over two floors).

**Location**
Bray, County Wicklow, just five minutes from Ardmore Studios’ primary location on Herbert Road. Ardmore Film Factory serves as both an extension to the Herbert Road location, and as a standalone facility offering clients increased availability of studio and office space.

**Spec**
25,000 sq ft studio area.

**Contact**
film@ardmore.ie
www.ardmore.ie

### Ashford Studios

**Facilities**
Three sound stages on 500 acres of pristine rural backlot.

**Location**
26 miles from Dublin city centre and 50 minutes from Dublin airport.

**Gasworks Stage**
30,000 sq ft/2,787 sq m

**Box Stage**
14,500 sq ft/1,347 sq m

**Christmas Tree Stage**
12,500 sq ft/1,161 sq m

**Contact**
info@ashfordstudios.com
www.ashfordstudios.com

### Troy Studios

**Facilities**
350,000 sq ft under one roof. 70,000 sq ft of sound stages with a 55 ft working height.

**Support infrastructure**
Includes workshop space, props and costume space, production offices, hair and makeup rooms, dressing rooms, parking, a large restaurant and a five-acre backlot.

**Location**
Ireland’s west coast in the city of Limerick

**Gasworks Stage**
30,000 sq ft/2,787 sq m

**Box Stage**
14,500 sq ft/1,347 sq m

**Christmas Tree Stage**
12,500 sq ft/1,161 sq m

**Contact**
info@troystudios.ie
www.troystudios.ie

### Stiúideo Telegael

**Facilities**
Over 24,000 sq ft of floor space, including two sound stages.

**Support infrastructure**
Production offices, workshops, plus an eight-bedroom manor house.

**Location**
Galway, on Ireland’s west coast.

**Studio A**
6359 sq ft/591 sq m

**Studio B**
7402 sq ft/688 sq m

**Contact**
info@telegael.com
www.telegael.com

### Alternative Sites

Filmspace is a company that specialises in sourcing and managing pop-up studio spaces, production offices and representing some key locations around Ireland.

**Website**
www.filmspace.ie

**Contact**
cjocarroll@filmspace.ie
dermot@filmspace.ie

As Ireland’s film industry continues to grow and evolve, new locations and facilities become available. Contact us directly regarding the latest information and availability of studio space.

locations@irishfilmboard.ie
Vikings Seasons 1 – 5 filmed on location at Ashford Studios, Wicklow
Post-production has become a leading area of expertise in the Irish film industry, with talent being recognised at home and on the global stage. Irish post-production houses continue to produce work to the highest quality and standards.

The post-production houses in Ireland offer the latest in picture editing, colour grading and sound mixing technology such as HD/2K/4K/5K dailies processing, 4K projection and monitoring, 5.1 Pro Tools HD sound design rooms, stage space approved for Dolby feature mixing and ADR recording, Flame Premium suites with Smoke and Lustre grading as well as dedicated Da Vinci and Nucoda systems.

Recent award-winning projects include Room (Element Pictures/Film 4/FilmNation Entertainment), Viva (Treasure Entertainment), and Ripper Street (Amazon Prime/BBC).

Post-production companies in Ireland can also offer direct access to the Section 481 tax credit and can deliver a cash benefit worth up to 32% of your expenditure on Irish Post-Production, CGI and VFX, with or without physical production taking place in Ireland. Previous productions that have accessed the tax credit without physical production taking place here include Oscar-nominated films Room and Brooklyn, and critically acclaimed films including Maudie and I Am Not A Serial Killer. Recent television series’ include Game of Thrones and Ripper Street, and the Netflix original The Siege of Jadotville.
Ireland has a significant VFX industry and with the ongoing support of the Section 481 tax incentive, Irish companies continue to grow their CGI and VFX capabilities. Robust VFX pipelines have been key to Ireland evolving as a VFX hub with fluid infrastructures, allowing both rapid scalability for large sole vendor projects and a solid framework for multi-vendor work.

Underpinning all efforts is the sheer quality of VFX being produced by Irish companies for notable international clients and studios. VFX teams offer a full suite of VFX services encompassing on-set supervision, character animation, complex effects and environments, along with photorealistic lighting and compositing. Ireland’s stability within Europe’s Single Market gives us a competitive advantage in the international marketplace and allows unrestricted access to highly skilled talent.

The recognition of Irish work at international award ceremonies including the VES Awards, Emmys and BAFTAs indicates the superb creative talent, production and expertise available here. Some recent work by our VFX companies include *Imaginary Mary* (Sony pilot), *Ghosthunters: On Icy Trails* (Warner Bros), *The Siege of Jadotville* (Parallel Films/Netflix), *The King’s Choice* (Newgrange/Paradox), *Game of Thrones* (HBO), *Black Sails* (Starz), *Ripper Street* (Amazon Prime/BBC) and *The Frankenstein Chronicles* (ITV/Rainmark Films).

Visit www.vfxai.com for more details.
King John’s Castle, Limerick
The Irish animation industry has long been a creative cornerstone of Ireland’s vibrant film industry, and has witnessed substantial growth in the last decade. It is an integral and important component of Ireland’s digital and creative economy, employing 1,600 full-time staff.

Irish animation studios are working with some of the biggest names in global broadcasting—including Disney, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network and the BBC—making animated series that are shown to millions of children all over the world every week. Award-winning features and shorts, animated programming for adults, apps and games are being made here by our dynamic, technically advanced—and entirely indigenous—2D and 3D studios.

Animation Ireland is the voice of the Irish animation sector whose core objective is to establish Ireland as a creative centre for content and technology by focusing on growth, developing an innovation culture and creating competitive advantage for members.

Recent successes include Oscar nominated Song of the Sea (Cartoon Saloon), BAFTA nominated Go Jetters (Boulder), box office sensation Two by Two (Moetion Films) as well as award winners Doc McStuffins (Brown Bag) and Roy (JAM Media). Forthcoming from the twice Oscar nominated Cartoon Saloon is Nora Twomey’s The Breadwinner, executive produced by Angelina Jolie-Pitt.

Visit www.animationireland.com for more details.
Scout and Recce Support

The IFB can offer scouting and recce support for incoming productions. We can create an online location brochure with potential locations for your production and we can also develop a bespoke look-book specifically for your project. For more information, please contact locations@irishfilmboard.ie

Film Locations Database

The newly updated IFB Locations Database offers online access to photographs from over 2,500 film locations across Ireland. It only takes a minute to register your project and get full access to this information resource. If you have an interesting international film or television drama in development and you can’t find what you need in our online locations library, we may be able to assign a location scout to you.

Film Dublin Partnership

The Film Dublin Partnership is a support network of 31 public and private sector stakeholders, coordinated by the IFB, to ensure that Ireland’s capital city remains an attractive base for local and international film and television production. The network provides an opportunity for consultation, coordination and communication on complex film and television projects that are in need of multiple agency assistance.

Network of Regional Film Offices

The Network of Regional Film Offices covers all of the Republic of Ireland, offering local knowledge and assistance. These public-sector bodies offer a free service providing information, advice and support to filmmakers.

‘Ireland’s regional film offices proved an invaluable resource throughout the Star Wars: Episode III – The Last Jedi shoot. From Donegal to Cork, we were offered crucial on-the-ground assistance with access and permits, along with essential local insight. We received an all-inclusive service, complete with discretion and absolute professionalism.’

Mally Chung
Location Manager, Star Wars: Episode 8 – The Last Jedi

Glenlough Bay, Co. Donegal

For more information on the Locations Database, Film Dublin Partnership and Network of Regional Film Offices, visit www.irishfilmboard.ie
Funding Sources

Irish Film Board
- Ireland’s national screen agency supports Irish filmmaking from script to screen. Visit the IFB website and explore the ‘Funding’ section, which details current production and development funding schemes.
  - www.irishfilmboard.ie

Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
- One of the BAI’s objectives is to stimulate the provision of high-quality, diverse and innovative programming. To this end, it allocates public funding through the Sound and Vision Fund.
  - www.bai.ie

Eurimages
- Ireland is a member of the Council of Europe’s production support fund, Eurimages. The fund supports feature films, documentaries and animated films that are intended for cinema release and are co-productions between at least two member states.
  - www.coe.int/eurimages

Irish Broadcasters
- Ireland’s public-service broadcasters are RTÉ and TG4. TV3 and UTV Ireland are Ireland’s commercial stations. Visit their respective websites for current funding guidelines.
  - www.rte.ie
  - www.tg4.ie
  - www.tv3.ie
  - www.utv.ie

Other Financial Incentives

Corporate Tax and Intellectual Property
- A tax rate of 12.5% applies to all corporate trading profits. A 25% tax credit can be claimed against research and development expenditure. Tax deductions are available for capital expenditure on the acquisition of qualifying intellectual property assets.

Value Added Tax (VAT)
- Incoming productions to Ireland are exempt from Value Added Tax (VAT) on a wide range of Irish goods and services. In addition, a reduced 9% VAT Rate applies to the Tourism/Hospitality Sector in Ireland.

IDA Ireland
- Ireland’s inward promotion agency partners with established companies, both large and small, working with them to achieve a smooth, fast and successful set-up of their operations in Ireland.
  - www.idaireland.com
Support Networks, Guilds and Associations

Animation Ireland
—
The trade association for Ireland’s leading animation companies.
—
www.animationireland.com

The Writers Guild of Ireland
—
The representative body in Ireland for writers for the stage, screen, radio and digital media.
—
www.script.ie

Screen Producers Ireland
—
The representative organisation for production companies in Ireland operating in the areas of broadcast, film and animation.
—
www.screenproducersireland.com

Screen Directors Guild of Ireland
—
The representative body for directors involved in the Irish and international audio-visual industry.
—
www.sdgi.ie

IDA
—
Ireland’s inward promotion agency partners with established companies, both large and small, working with them to achieve a smooth, fast and successful set-up of their operations in Ireland.
—
www.idaireland.com

Enterprise Ireland
—
The government organisation responsible for the development and growth of Irish enterprises in world markets, who work in partnership with Irish enterprises to help them start, grow, innovate and win export sales in global markets.
—
www.enterprise-ireland.com

The Locations Guild of Ireland
—
This guild represents location managers, assistant managers and assistants operating in Ireland.
—
www.locationsguildofireland.com

Production Manager/Line Producers Guild of Ireland
—
This guild represents all production managers and line managers in Ireland.
—
paginationguild@gmail.com

Green Film Making
—
Dedicated to assisting film and television productions to achieve higher standards of environmental sustainability.
—
www.screengreening.com

VFX Association Ireland
Promotes Ireland as a VFX centre of excellence.
—
www.vfxai.com

‘Though I would like to keep Ireland entirely secret as a shooting location I am afraid that the word is already out that it has the best crews, terrific locations, great infrastructure and an excellent film authority in the Irish Film Board.’

Whit Stillman, Writer / Director, Love & Friendship
Queensgate, 23 Dock Road, Galway, Ireland

+353 91 561 398
locations@irishfilmboard.ie
www.irishfilmboard.ie

Location photos courtesy of Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland.

Photo of Glenlough Bay, Co. Donegal courtesy of Iain Miller

Photo of Clara Bog, Co. Offaly courtesy of Paul Moore

Photo of King John's Castle, Limerick courtesy of Shannon Heritage