

PHOTOGRAPHY

BELFAST PHOTO FESTIVAL 2027 OPEN SUBMISSION

DEADLINE

05 FEB 2027

73 DAYS LEFT

POSTED	ENTRY FEE	ONLINE
24 Nov 2026	£22 PER ENTRY UNTIL 11 DECEMBER...	VISIT ORGANIZER

DETAILS / KEEP FOR REFERENCE

SOURCE: GRAPHIC COMPETITIONS

The Belfast Photo Festival 2027 Open Submission invites photographers and lens-based artists worldwide to submit work for consideration for the festival's exhibitions across Belfast in June. There is no set theme, with submissions welcome across documentary, conceptual and experimental photography, including projects that combine photographic images with performance, film, sculpture or other art forms.

Photographers can submit between 1 and 15 images from a single series or body of work, while photobook entries require a PDF proof and a cover image. Projects still in development are welcome, as are works that have previously been exhibited, published or awarded. Installation photographs can also be included within the 15-image limit, and entrants may submit multiple projects separately.

Each eligible submission is independently scored by an international jury featuring professionals from Tate Modern, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), Centre Pompidou, PhotoVogue, The New York Times and the International Photography Festivals Association. The judges consider originality, quality of image-making, strength of concept and suitability for public exhibition. The highest-scoring projects are then discussed by the jury before the final selection, with entrants expected to receive their results by email in late March or early April 2027.

Entry fee: £22 per entry until 11 December 2026 (11:59pm GMT), increasing to £26 per entry until 5 February 2027 (11:59pm GMT). Each fee covers one photographic project of up to 15 images or one photobook submission. Multiple entries are permitted, with a separate fee for each.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to photographers, artists, curators, archives and collectives worldwide aged 16 or over, with parental or guardian consent required for entrants aged 16–17; submissions must be photographic or lens-based, entrants must hold the necessary rights, any generative AI used to create or substantially alter images must be declared, and festival staff, trustees, jurors and their immediate families are excluded.

PRIZE

Between 10 and 15 artists will be selected for exhibition across Belfast during the festival, from 3 to 27 June 2027. Selected photographic work will be produced as large-format prints by Belfast Photo Festival at no cost to the artists. Selected photobooks must be supplied as professionally printed and bound copies by 1 May 2027, with shipping and insurance costs covered by the entrant. Selected artists also receive a dedicated page and gallery on the festival website, inclusion in the printed festival programme, press and social media promotion, a guaranteed place in the festival's Instagram residency scheme and a report on their exhibition's audience reach. Further opportunities include a partner exhibition with Photo Schweiz in Switzerland, while contributions towards travel to the festival opening are subject to the organiser's discretion and available budget. One outstanding selected artist will receive the £2,000 Spotlight Award, together with a public interview involving a jury member and the festival team. Additional award opportunities include one year's membership of the Royal Photographic Society and three individual mentoring sessions with the festival's curatorial team. Every eligible entrant receives an international jury review, a chance to be featured through the festival's Instagram residency scheme while submissions are open, and a discount on the 2027 International Portfolio Review.