01. Presentation

DOC.LAB Coimbra is a **project development laboratory** held in the city of Coimbra, Portugal, within the scope of DOC.Coimbra - International Documentary Festival. It is a space where filmmakers, producers, and screenwriters meet to increase the creative possibilities of their projects and prepare them for the international documentary market with the help of experienced tutors in the area of cinema and writing.

02. Categories

DOC.LAB Coimbra 2027 will be divided into two categories:

Project Presentation (*Doc Pitch LAB*): For projects in a slightly more advanced development stage, which already have a teaser (necessary for project submission) and which will focus on a pitch session on the last day of the lab for industry players that attend the festival.

Project Writing or Documentary Script Writing (*Doc Script LAB*): For projects in early development stage, with little visual material collected, and who want to work on the project's storyline and other texts, without participating in the pitch session, but with the possibility of scheduling meetings with the industry players that attend the festival.

03.Language

Both groups will be taught in English, but the texts worked on in the Project Writing Lab may be worked on in another language (Portuguese or Spanish) according to the needs of each project. Projects participating in the *Pitch Lab* must be presented and written in English.

04.Tutors and Coordination

Each category will be taught by two experienced tutors. The Pitch group will be led by Ralf Tambke (filmmaker and producer) and Jorge Pelicano (filmmaker). The Script group will be led by Catarina Alves Costa (filmmaker and professor) and Margarida Cardoso (filmmaker and professor). DOC.LAB Coimbra 2026 will be coordinated by curator and artist Inês Moura, with general direction by Jonas Amarante and Leandro Cordeiro.

05. Lab Structure

DOC PITCH LAB

Project Development and Presentation for Pitch

The lab will last for 5 days with two daily sessions (morning and afternoon).

Session times: 9:30-12:30 and 14:00-17:00 (6 hours daily)

Day 1 - Project Presentation and Feedback - 4 projects per shift - **20 minutes** (maximum time) per project plus 10 minutes of feedback.
Presentation and discussion of examples "the best of DOC.LAB Coimbra 2026".

Day 2 - Pitch development (working on texts and teasers).

Day 3 - Project Presentation and Feedback - 04 projects per shift - **10 minutes** (maximum time) per project plus 10 minutes of feedback. Afternoon: Pitch development (working on texts and teasers).

Day 4 - Morning: Pitch development (working on texts and teasers). Afternoon: Presentation / Pitch Rehearsal of **8 min** (maximum time). Final Feedback.

Day 5 - Pitch session and feedback from a panel of professionals. Meetings with audiovisual market agents.

DOC SCRIPT LAB

Project Writing

The lab will last for 5 days with two daily sessions (morning and afternoon).

Session times: 9:30-12:30 and 14:00-17:00 (6 hours daily)

Day 1 - Project Presentation and brainstorming (4 projects present per shift - 30 minutes for each project).

Day 2 - Examples of arguments, synopses, justifications, and project approaches from the tutors previous projects. Detailed description of what should be included in each item, using examples of projects from the group.

Day 3 - Text Production - individualized analysis (each tutor with one project for 1h30, two in the morning and two in the afternoon) on the texts of each project and time for participants to work on these texts.

Day 4 - Text Production - participants work on their texts with the tutors available for individual consultations.

Day 5 - Follow the pitch session from the other group. Meetings with audiovisual market agents.

06.Eligibility

Long-feature documentary projects in the development stage may apply to DOC.LAB Coimbra.

Projects from all countries are welcome.

Projects must be in Portuguese or English.

Content with an expected duration of 70 minutes or more is considered a feature film.

The lab will be held in person and the full participation of the filmmaker is mandatory if the project is selected.

A second person may participate with the main filmmaker, provided they act as a producer, screenwriter, or co-director.

07.Project Submission

Project submission for DOC.LAB 2027 can be done through the website www.doccoimbra.com/lab.

Projects must be presented in PDF (up to 15 pages), with or without design, provided they contain the following information in a single file:

- Project name, filmmaker, and country and city of origin.

- Short synopsis (up to 500 characters).
- Argument/Treatment (up to 5000 characters).
- Creative process (up to 3000 characters, note on how the project will be filmed and edited, citing the use of narration, interviews, archive images if applicable).
- Filmmaker's personal note (up to 3000 characters).
- Filmmaker's Bio (up to 500 characters).
- Link to teaser (for projects in the *Pitch* group).
- Filmmaker's Photo.
- Link to previous works by the Filmmaker.
- Reference photos for the project (horizontal).

The deadline for submission is December 20, 2026, 11:59 pm (UTC-1).

There is no limit to the number of projects submitted by each proposer.

The submission fee is €20 per project (on FilmFreeWay there is an additional fee charged by the platform).

08.Selection Process

The submitted projects will undergo a selection process, which will result in 8 participating projects in each category.

The project selection committee does not commit to justifying in writing the reasons why projects were or were not selected.

09.Confirmation of Participation

Candidates will be notified of the results by email and will have ten calendar days to confirm or reject participation.

Once the project is selected, the full participation of the filmmaker in the laboratory activities is mandatory. If this is not possible, the vacancy will be available to the first alternate project.

10.Participation Fee

Each selected project must pay a participation fee of €100 to join DOC.LAB Coimbra 2027. In return, they will have 5 days with experienced tutors working on their projects and the possibility of presenting their projects to audiovisual market agents who will attend the festival.

11.Benefits and Provisions on Selected Projects

Selected participants will have free access to all sessions of the DOC.Coimbra Festival, which will take place between March 16th and 21st, 2027, as well as tickets to the festival party and other social events of the festival.

DOC.LAB Coimbra does not cover participants' accommodation and food costs, however, selected participants will receive discounts on accommodation and food at partner hotels and restaurants.

DOC.LAB Coimbra does not cover the transportation costs (train, plane, or bus tickets) of the selected projects, but will provide all possible assistance for participants to find the best way to travel to Coimbra.

The selected projects commit to including a card with the mention "PROJETO DOC.LAB COIMBRA 2027" among the film credits.

12.Awards

Each category will compete for a trophy: the Golden Carnation for Best Pitch and the Golden Carnation for Best Argument/Treatment. The DOC.LAB awards will take place on March 20th during the DOC.Coimbra festival awards ceremony.The awarded projects will also be entitled to space in the festival's 2028 catalog to promote their projects.

There is no provision for cash prizes, but if there is financial viability for such, participants will be notified and everything will be disclosed through the festival's official channels.

13.DOC.LAB Coimbra 2027 Calendar

Activity	Date
Deadline for project submission	December 20, 2026, at 11:59 pm (UTC-1)
Announcement of selected projects	January 10, 2027
DOC.LAB COIMBRA (in-person)	Between March 15 and 19, 2027

14.Final Provisions

Application for the call implies full acceptance of these regulations.
Any situation not covered by these regulations will be resolved by the organization.
For inquiries please contact lab@doccoimbra.com.