



Call for Applications — 2025/26

Siar agus Aniar | Siar agus an Ear | East and West Ambassador's Exchange

Overview

The Irish and Gaelic languages, and their attendant cultures, are strengthened through international exchange, fostering a broad and inclusive Gael identity.

The Office of Gaelic Affairs, Government of Nova Scotia, and Údarás na Gaeltachta are accepting applications for the Siar agus Aniar | Siar agus an Ear exchange program.

Two Nova Scotians will travel to Ireland and Scotland from May 19 to June 19, 2026, for language immersion, cultural visits, events and a community development workshop.

“This exchange program provides an excellent vehicle to enrich the perspectives, skills and links of candidates selected from Ireland and Nova Scotia while contributing significantly to the vibrancy of our respective communities.

The Irish and Gaelic languages, and their accompanying cultures, are closely connected and share similar origins. Focusing on what we share between our respective Gaelic cultural areas, i.e. Gàidhealtachdan strengthens our purpose to further a broadly inclusive Gael identity via affirming language and culturally based activities and skills learning and sharing.

The candidates selected through this exchange have been exceptional and have brought energy, insight and skills to their hosting region. I am confident that this run of the exchange will further support a shared Gael identity and via skills, learning and networking contribute tangibly to Gaelic and Irish development efforts on both sides of the Atlantic.”

- Lewis MacKinnon, Executive Director, Office of Gaelic Affairs

Applicant Requirements

Applicants must be:

- A Nova Scotia resident
- An advanced speakers of Scottish Gaelic or Irish
- At least 18 years old at the time of application
- Able to travel May 19–June 19, 2026 and meet passport/ETA requirements
- Able to demonstrate cultural knowledge and commitment to Gaelic in Nova Scotia or Irish in Nova Scotia, along with a commitment to learning and using Gaelic in Nova Scotia
- Able to provide an up-to-date criminal record check
- Able to provide a reference letter from a Gaelic or Irish community member or organization

How to Apply

Applicants must submit the following:

1. Cover letter explaining why you would like to participate and how you plan to use the knowledge and skills you will gain upon returning to Nova Scotia
2. CV or résumé
3. Letter of reference

Deadline: March 2, 2026

To submit your application or request more information, contact:
Iain MacLeod, Programs Officer — Iain.MacLeod3@novascotia.ca

Participant Reflection (Anonymous, 2025 Irish Participant)

"I really enjoyed every moment and meeting the Nova Scotian Gaels. I will cherish this trip and the memories along with the amazing people I met forever. Alba Nuadh will always have a place in my heart! I would highly recommend this exchange to anyone interested in learning more about the Nova Scotia Gaels, their culture and spending time with the community there. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity and one of the most amazing experiences of my life!"

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the dates of the exchange?

It is one month long: May 19–June 19, 2026.

When will a decision be made?

Applicants will be contacted in March 2026.

How structured is the learning?

Participants are enrolled in an Irish language international course (beginner, intermediate or advanced). The course is supplemented by cultural visits, events and the Scotland community development workshop.

What costs are covered?

Travel, accommodation, tuition and meals.

Who funds this exchange?

The Office of Gaelic Affairs and Údarás na Gaeltachta.