



INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION PROGRAMME (IOP) 2026

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Accra, Ghana | iopconnects.com | Version: 1 July 2026

1. Introduction

The International Orientation Programme (IOP) 2026 is a professional and cultural residency initiative bringing together up to 150 African participants for a period of study, mentorship, and practical engagement in Brazil, running from 7 September to 29 November 2026, across eight specialisation tracks. This document sets out the eligibility criteria that all applicants must meet in order to be considered for participation in IOP 2026, and the process by which applications will be assessed.

2. General Eligibility Requirements

All applicants must meet the following baseline requirements to be considered for IOP 2026:

- Be at least 18 years of age at the time of travel. Applicants between 16 and 17 years of age may be considered for select tracks (e.g. Creative Arts, dance and performance disciplines) with written parental or guardian consent and an accompanying chaperone.
- Hold African nationality, with priority consideration given to Ghanaian applicants, consistent with the origin and coordination base of the programme.
- Hold a valid passport with a minimum of six (6) months' validity beyond the anticipated end date of the programme.
- Be in good general health and physically able to participate in the practical and, where applicable, physically demanding activities associated with their chosen track.
- Be available for the full duration of the assigned programme phase, including any pre-departure orientation sessions in Ghana.

3. Track-Specific Qualification Criteria

In addition to the general eligibility requirements above, applicants must demonstrate suitability for their chosen specialisation track, as follows:

Track	Minimum Qualification Criteria
Creative Arts	Demonstrated experience as a performer, musician, dancer, or visual artist, supported by a portfolio, performance reel, or professional references.

Film Production	Prior training, apprenticeship, or professional experience in film or television production, or enrolment/graduation from a recognised film school; a showreel or sample work is required.
Production Design	Background or training in set design, scenic design, costume, or art direction, supported by a portfolio of design work or production credits.
Bio-Sustainable Housing	Academic or vocational background in architecture, construction, environmental design, or a related field, or demonstrable hands-on experience in sustainable building practices.
Cultural Entrepreneurship	A concept note or business plan for a cultural or creative enterprise, or evidence of prior entrepreneurial activity in the creative sector.
Digital Innovation & Leadership	Academic background or working experience in digital media, technology, or organisational leadership; a statement outlining relevant skills or project experience.
Brazilian Culture & Integration	Genuine interest in Afro-Brazilian cultural history and cross-cultural exchange; no formal prerequisite, though prior international travel or exchange experience is an advantage.
Professional Ethics & Compliance	Relevant background in administration, law, compliance, or programme coordination is an advantage; open to participants across other tracks as a complementary module.

4. Character and Conduct Requirements

- A valid police clearance certificate or certificate of good conduct, issued within twelve (12) months of application.
- Two (2) written references from a previous employer, mentor, tutor, or recognised community/cultural leader.
- Willingness to read, sign, and abide by the IOP Code of Conduct, given that participants will be representing Ghana and partner institutions abroad.
- No history of visa refusal or immigration violation in Brazil or related host countries, or a satisfactory explanation where this applies.

5. Financial and Logistical Readiness

- Ability to meet any personal costs not covered by IOP sponsorship or partner funding, where applicable.
- Willingness and ability to comply with all Brazilian visa requirements, including provision of accurate and complete documentation.
- Confirmed availability for the full duration of the relevant programme phase, without conflicting work, academic, or family commitments.

6. Required Application Documents

- Completed IOP 2026 application form.
- Passport bio-data page (copy).
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) / résumé.
- Portfolio, showreel, or work samples relevant to the chosen track (where applicable).
- Two (2) reference letters.
- Police clearance certificate / certificate of good conduct.
- One (1) recent passport-sized photograph.
- A short statement of purpose (300–500 words) outlining the applicant's motivation and goals for participating in IOP 2026.

7. Selection Process

1. Document Review – Completed applications are reviewed for completeness and baseline eligibility.
2. Shortlisting – Eligible applicants are shortlisted based on track-specific qualification criteria.
3. Interview – Shortlisted applicants attend an interview (in-person or virtual) with the relevant track coordinator to assess fit, motivation, and readiness.
4. Final Approval – Successful applicants are confirmed by the Head of Tuition, in consultation with relevant track coordinators and partner institutions.
5. Offer and Onboarding – Confirmed participants receive a formal offer letter and are enrolled in pre-departure orientation.

8. Additional Notes

The IOP administration reserves the right to reserve a limited number of places for participants nominated through partner organisations, and other affiliated cultural bodies, subject to those nominees meeting the eligibility criteria set out above.

These criteria may be reviewed and updated by the IOP administration from time to time. For the most current version of this document, applicants should refer to www.iopconnects.com or contact the IOP administration directly.

Contact

International Orientation Programme (IOP) 2026

Accra, Ghana

Email: admin@iopconnects.com | Web: www.iopconnects.com