



Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent and Promise) visas – eligibility criteria

The Arts Council is a Designated Competent Body appointed by the Home Office, and is therefore able to assess applications from artists for Tier 1 visas and recommend whether an applicant merits a visa.

The Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) visa route covers applicants working in the fields of science, engineering, humanities and the arts.

An arts applicant for a visa under the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route must provide evidence to demonstrate to the satisfaction and understanding of the UK Competent Body that they are either:

- a world leader in their field (Exceptional Talent); or
- have the potential to become a world leader in their field (Exceptional Promise), except within the film, television, animation, post production and visual effects industry (see below)

The following criteria apply only to arts applicants who will be assessed by the Arts Council. These criteria will apply to all applicants making a Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) application in the current financial year, 2014-15. They are subject to annual review and as a result may change for applicants applying in future years.

Eligibility criteria

In order to enter the UK through the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route you must either be established as, or demonstrate potential to become, a world-leading artist and/or an internationally recognised expert in your field within the arts (encompassing dance, music, theatre, visual arts and literature), museums or galleries. The Exceptional Talent route is also open to the film or television, animation, post production and visual effects industry, but applications for Exceptional Promise are **not** accepted in these fields.

You must be able to demonstrate that you are professionally engaged in producing work of outstanding quality which has been published (other than exclusively in newspapers or magazines), performed, presented, distributed or exhibited internationally.

Successful applicants will be currently engaged professionally as practitioners in their field and able to evidence a substantial or developing track record at a high level in at least one country other than their country of residence. We expect applicants to demonstrate recent and regular activity.

How to provide evidence of exceptional talent or exceptional promise

Applicants to the scheme must provide the following documents to support their application:

1. Evidence of exceptional talent / promise in their field (see details below); and
2. Letters of endorsement (see details below)

To demonstrate Exceptional Talent / Promise within the fields of arts, museums or galleries; or Exceptional Talent within film and television you must meet the following criteria:

1. Provide evidence that your work is of exceptional quality and has national or international recognition as set out below:

This must consist of **no more than ten documents** in total to support **two or more** of the following areas of achievement. **[Please note:** a 'document' is defined as a single article, review, letter etc. If more than the permitted ten documents are submitted, only the first ten documents listed will be looked at; additional evidence in excess of the permitted ten documents will be disregarded.]

For film, television, animation, post production and visual effects industry evidence for this section please see Appendix 1.

Exceptional talent	Exceptional promise
<p>1) Examples of significant media recognition such as features, articles and/or reviews from national publications or broadcasting companies in at least one country other than your country of residence. Event listings or advertisements are not acceptable.</p>	<p>1) Two or more examples of media recognition such as articles and/or reviews from national publications or broadcasting companies in at least one country other than your country of residence. Event listings or advertisements are not acceptable.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Continued...</p>

<p>2) Proof of having won international awards for excellence e.g. The Booker Prize, Grammy Award; and/or domestic awards in another country e.g. Tony Award. It remains for the Arts Council to judge whether a particular award provides appropriate evidence of international recognition in your field.</p>	<p>2) Proof of having won or been nominated / shortlisted for international awards for excellence e.g. The Booker Prize, Grammy Award; and/or domestic awards in another country e.g. Tony Award. It remains for the Arts Council to judge whether a particular award provides appropriate evidence of recognition in your field.</p>
<p>3) Proof of appearances, performances, publications or exhibitions in the past five years in contexts which are recognised as internationally significant in your field and/or evidence of extensive international distribution and audiences for your work. It remains for the Arts Council to judge whether such appearances, performances, exhibitions or distribution provide appropriate evidence of international significance in your field.</p>	<p>3) Proof of appearances, performances, publications or exhibitions in the past three years in contexts which are internationally recognised in your field and/or evidence of international distribution and audiences for your work. It remains for the Arts Council to judge whether such appearances, performances, exhibitions or distribution provide appropriate evidence of international recognition in your field.</p>

2. Provide three letters of endorsement as set out below:

The applicant (**Exceptional talent & Exceptional promise**) must provide **3** letters of endorsement:

The **first letter** must be from a **UK based** arts or cultural organisation, institution or company which is well-established nationally and/or internationally and widely acknowledged as possessing expertise in its field.

The **second letter** must be from another arts or cultural organisation, institution or company which is well-established nationally and/or internationally and widely acknowledged as possessing expertise in its field. This second organisation may be UK or overseas based.

Continued...

The **third letter** may be **either** from a third arts or cultural organisation, institution or company (UK or overseas based) which is well-established nationally and/or internationally and widely acknowledged as possessing expertise in its field **or** from an eminent individual with internationally recognised expertise in the applicant's specialist field.

At least one of the three letters must be from a UK based organisation; of the other two letters, **only one** of these can be from an individual.

All letters of endorsement must:

- (a) if from an organisation, be written on headed paper, dated, and signed by the author who must be an authorised member of the organisation such as the Chief Executive, Artistic Director, Principal or Chair
- (b) include details of the author's credentials (for example, a CV/resume) and how they know the applicant (personal relationship or reputation)
- (c) detail the applicant's achievements in their specialist field and how in the opinion of the author they have either:
 - i) demonstrated that they are a world leader in their field (Exceptional Talent); or
 - ii) demonstrated that they have the potential to become a world leader in their field (Exceptional Promise)
- (d) describe how the applicant would benefit from living in the UK and the contribution they could make to cultural life here. Please provide details of any future professional engagements in the UK that you are aware of.
- (e) include full contact details of the author including personal email address and direct telephone number so that personal contact can be made

Letters of endorsement must be written specifically for this purpose and include all of the information detailed above. A general all-purpose reference letter is not acceptable.

Arts Council England
October 2014

Appendix 1:

Exceptional talent criteria for film, television, animation, post production and visual effects industry (Talent only, not Promise)

To demonstrate exceptional talent within the fields of film, television, animation, post production and visual effects industry the applicant must meet one the following criteria.

i. Major Award or Nomination

- a. Have received a nomination for an Academy Award, BAFTA, Golden Globe or Emmy Award within the last five years from the year of application. You are not eligible to apply outside the five-year time frame if you only received a nomination; or
- b. Have won an Academy Award, BAFTA, Golden Globe or Emmy Award. There is no time limitation to this criteria.

Please provide:

- full details of the production nominated / award including category and year of nomination / award
- evidence of your involvement if the nomination / award was as part of a group
- the credit you received for the nomination / award

ii. Significant and Direct Contribution

Have provided a significant and direct contribution to an award won or been nominated for one or more of the following; Academy Award, BAFTA, Golden Globe or Emmy Award

- The named person on the award(s) or nomination(s) must evidence the 'exceptional talent contribution', i.e. they will demonstrate that the applicant has significantly influenced or directly resulted in the award(s) or nomination(s) of the named person.

iii. Notable Industry Recognition

The applicant must demonstrate notable industry recognition by providing evidence of:

1. international distribution sales and recognition, and
2. having achieved one of the following combinations:
 - i. won a minimum of two,
 - ii. won one, and within the last five years before the date of application, have been nominated for one other, or
 - iii. within the last three years before the date of application, have been nominated for a minimum of three

of the following Notable Industry Recognition Awards:

Notable Industry Recognition Awards:

- Akil Koci Prize
- American Academy of Arts and Letters Gold Medal in Music
- Angers Premiers Plans
- ARIA Music Awards (Australian Recording Industry Association)
- ASCAP awards (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers)
- Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTS)
- Awit Awards (Philippine Association of the Record Industry)
- BAFTA Cymru
- BAFTA Games Awards
- BAFTA Interactive Awards
- BAFTA Scotland
- BAFTA Television Craft Awards
- Berlin International Film Festival
- BET Awards (Black Entertainment Television, United States)
- BFI London Film Festival
- Brit Awards
- British Composer Awards – For excellence in classical and jazz music
- Brooklyn International Film Festival
- Cannes International Film Festival / Festival de Cannes
- Chicago International Film Festival

Continued...

- Cinema Jove International Film Festival
- Classic Rock Roll of Honour Awards – An annual awards program bestowed by *Classic Rock*
- Comet (Viva, Germany)
- Cork International Film Festival
- Country Music Awards of Australia (Country Music Association of Australia)
- DICE Awards organised by the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences
- Directors Guild of America Award
- Distinguished Service to Music Medal (Kappa Kappa Psi) – For exceptional service to American bands and band music
- Echo (German Phonographic Academy)
- Edinburgh International Film Festival
- Ernst von Siemens Music Prize
- Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique or International Film Critics Award given by the International Federation of Film Critics
- GDC Awards
- George Peabody Medal (Peabody Institute)
- Gold Badge Awards – For outstanding contributions to the music and the entertainment industry of the United Kingdom
- Golden Melody Awards (Taiwan)
- Grammy Awards
- Grand Prix du Disque (France)
- Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition
- IGF Awards
- Independent Music Awards
- Independent Spirit Awards
- International Film Music Critics Association Awards
- Ivor Novello Awards
- Juno Awards (Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences)
- Latin Grammy Award (Latin Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences)
- Léonie Sonning Music Prize (Léonie Sonning Music Foundation)
- Locarno Film Festival
- Los Premios MTV Latinoamérica – Previously known as MTV Video Music Awards Latinoamérica (MTV)
- Melbourne International Film Festival
- Mercury Prize
- MTV Music Awards (MTV)
- Otaka Prize – An annual composition prize for Japanese composers

Continued...

- Polar Music Prize
- Praemium Imperiale
- Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik – For achievement in recorded music
- Prix de Rome
- Pulitzer Prize for Music
- Raindance Film Festival
- Rolf Schock Prize in Musical Arts
- Rotterdam International Film Festival
- Sanremo Music Festival (Italy)
- Sao Paulo International Film Festival
- Satellite Awards
- Saturn Awards
- Sibelius Prize
- South by Southwest Film Festival
- Stockholm International Film Festival
- Sundance Film Festival
- Suntory Music Award (Japan)
- Sydney Film Festival
- The Annime Awards
- Toronto International Film Festival
- Tribeca Film Festival
- Venice International Film Festival
- Visual Effects Society Awards
- Women in Film and Television Awards
- Writers Guild Awards of Great Britain
- Writers Guild of America Awards