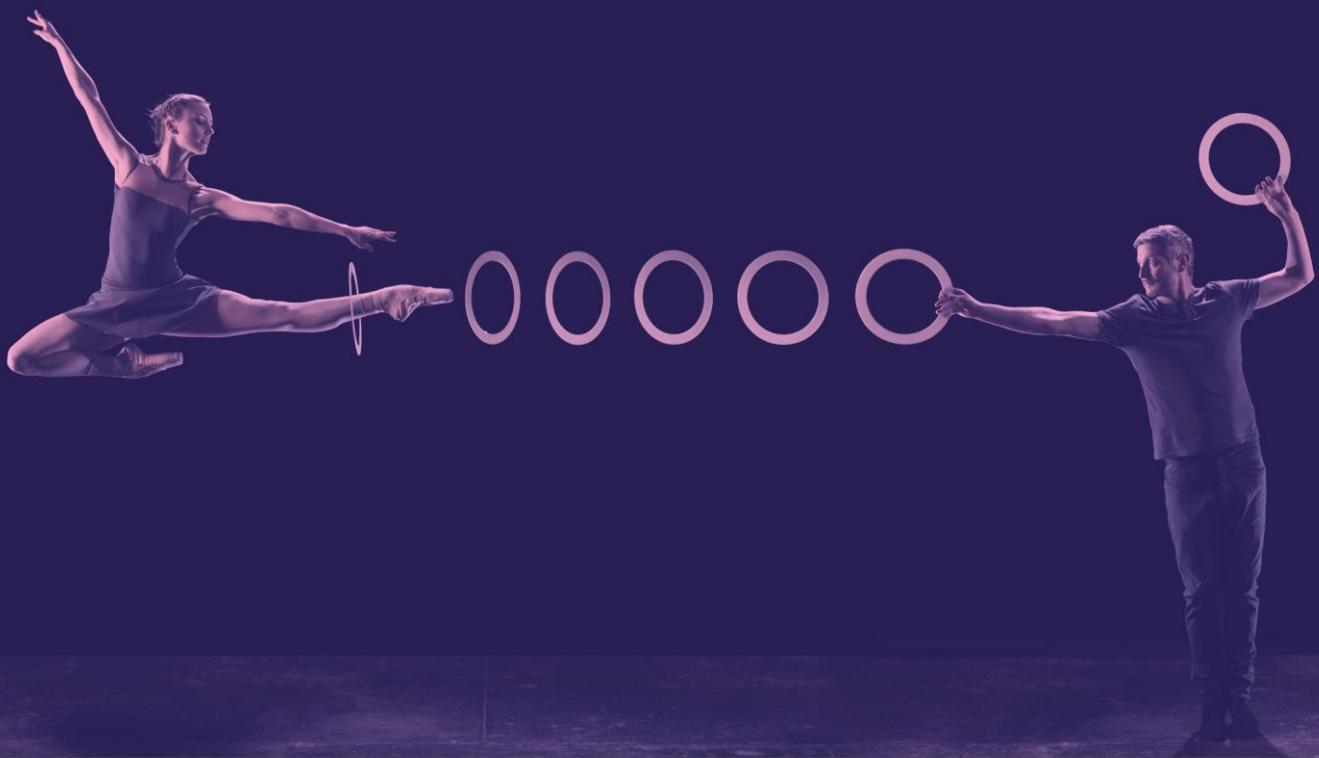


# Guide for Global Talent visa applicants – Arts and Culture

Version date 26 May 2023



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## **About this guide**

In this guide we will aim to provide more information about what we look for when making endorsement decisions however, before applying you should also read the latest [GOV.UK](#) guidance and [Immigration Rules](#).

This guide is subject to review and amendments. This version was last amended on **26 May 2023**. Previous versions are available on request.

## **Overview**

The Global Talent visa is available for professional artists and artistic practitioners to live and work in the UK, and benefit from and contribute to UK cultural life.

There are two routes available for people at different stages of their career:

- **Exceptional Talent** is for people who are recognised as leaders in their specialist area of practice (in areas within our remit)
- **Exceptional Promise** is for people recognised as showing the potential to become leaders in their specialist area of practice (in areas within our remit)

We expect Exceptional Talent applicants to be at a stage in their career where they have built up a substantial track record of working in **professional** artistic contexts. Exceptional Promise applicants should be at an early stage of a professional career and have a developing track record of working in **professional** artistic contexts.

The visa is designed for people working in specialist areas of practice that are within the remit of the Arts Council and its external assessors. It is therefore not for everybody. You should only apply if you work in the supported areas, you have the necessary physical evidence of your work **and** you are at an appropriate stage in your professional career. If we are not satisfied that you meet **all** these requirements, your application may be refused.

## **The application process**

Applying for the visa is a two-stage process:

- Stage 1 is where we assess your endorsement application against the published criteria and recommend to **UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)** whether you are endorsed or not. It can take **up to 8 weeks** to receive a Stage 1 decision

- Stage 2 is the application for the visa, that you can make if you receive our endorsement. It can take a further **8 weeks** to receive a Stage 2 decision

Stage 1 and Stage 2 applications are submitted to UKVI via the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website. UKVI send your Stage 1 application to us to assess. Following the assessment, our decision is sent back to UKVI, who will then tell you whether your application was successful or not. We are not involved in the Stage 2 application.

You do not need to send anything directly to us at any stage. You should contact UKVI if you have any queries about the progress of your application, or anything else related to the application process.

If you **are not endorsed**, you have the following options:

- **Option 1:** You can submit an [Endorsement Review](#) within 28 calendar days of receiving our decision. This service is free. The Endorsement Review decision will take **up to 28 calendar days**
- **Option 2:** You can submit a new application with different evidence. You will have to pay the full application fee again
- **Option 3:** You can apply for entry [via a different visa route](#)

## **Prestigious Prizes route to the visa**

**Exceptional Talent** applicants who have **won** one of the 'Prestigious Prizes' included here - [Appendix Global Talent: Prestigious Prizes](#) can bypass the need for an endorsement. For further details please see [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) guidance.

## **Evidence you must provide with your application**

All applicants must provide **no more than three** letters of support, and **no more than 10** individual pieces of supporting evidence.

From **12 April 2023**, all arts and culture applicants (Combined Arts, Dance, Literature, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts) must also provide a detailed artistic CV or résumé.

## **Letters of support**

We cannot tell you before you apply what types of organisations will be acceptable or not, as it forms part of our assessment to check if the letters are suitable, and if they meet the criteria. It is therefore down to the applicant to submit letters of support that they feel meet criteria.

### **Letters of support - arts and culture, film and television and architecture applicants**

- The first letter **must** be from a **UK-based** cultural organisation that is well-established nationally and/or internationally and recognised as having expertise in your specialist area of practice within the fields of arts and culture, film and television or architecture that are within our (and our external assessors) remit.
- The second letter **must** be from **another** cultural organisation that is well-established nationally and/or internationally and recognised as having expertise in your specialist area of practice within the fields of arts and culture, film and television or architecture that are within our (and our external assessors) remit. This second organisation can be UK **or** overseas based.
- The third letter can be **either**; from a third cultural organisation (UK **or** overseas based), **or** an eminent individual with recognised expertise in your specialist area of practice within the fields of arts and culture, film and television or architecture that are within our (and our external assessors) remit.

All letters from organisations **must** be from **separate** organisations.

### **Letters of support - fashion design applicants**

- You **must** provide three letters of support from established organisations that have a national or international reputation, and recognised expertise in the fashion industry that work with many international designers and industry experts each year. If applying for Exceptional Talent at **least one** of these letters **must** be from a UK-based organisation, **but** for Exceptional Promise a UK letter is not required.

## **Letters of support requirements - all applicants**

The things we look at when assessing letters of support are set out below - **all 3 letters of support must include all this information**. If any information is missing from any of the letters, the letters of support category will fail to meet criteria and it will not be possible for endorsement to be recommended.

- letters from organisations **must** show the organisation logo and registered address, and be dated and signed by the author, who **must** be a senior member of the organisation that has authority to write on behalf of the organisation:
  - for **arts and culture and film and television** an example would be a **current** member of the senior management team or board, such as the Chief Executive, Artistic Director, Principal or Chair;
  - for **fashion design** an example would be somebody such as the **current** Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer, Creative Director, Buying Director, Fashion Director/Editor **or**, for Global Promise applicants only, the Head of a fashion related university course;
  - for **architecture** an example would be somebody such as the **current** President, Chair, Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer, Managing Director, Senior Partner or Editor.
- all letters **must** include the authors CV or biography to demonstrate their experience and expertise
- all letters **must** include full contact details for the author, including personal email address and direct telephone number
- all organisation letters **must** provide details of when the organisation was established, its management structure/how it is constituted, and where possible for UK organisations a Companies House registration number.
- all organisation letters **must** include a link to an accessible website for the organisation
- all letters for **arts and culture** applicants **must** provide details of a past or current working relationship in your specialist area of practice, between you and the organisation/s or eminent individual
- all letters for **Film/TV, fashion or architecture** applicants **must** provide specific details about how the person writing the letter knows you

- all letters **must** tell us about your past achievements in your specialist area of practice **and** how, in the opinion of the author, you are either:
  - a leader in your specialist area of practice (**Exceptional Talent**) **or** that you have the potential to be a leader in your specialist area of practice (**Exceptional Promise**)
- all letters **must** provide specific details about how you would benefit from living in the UK **and** the contribution you could make to cultural life here – i.e. what networks would you have access to in the UK that you would not have access to in your current country of residence, what specific skills would you share with UK artists and practitioners, groups, networks etc, how would the sector you work in benefit and would UK audiences benefit?
- **where possible** all letters should provide details of any of your future professional artistic engagements or projects in the UK that the authors are aware of.

Letters of support **must be written specifically for the purpose of supporting the Global Talent visa application** and must cover **all** the above points. General reference letters or testimonials are **not** acceptable.

We will only use the three letters of support listed on the application form in our assessment. Any letters of support received that exceed the three required letters will **not** be used.

If any letters are written in another language, they must be accompanied by a full translation to English from a certified translator.

Each letter should be **no more than three pages/sides of A4**.

We are unable to accept handwritten letters of support.

### **CV or résumé – arts and culture applicants**

To be eligible for endorsement you must be at an appropriate stage of a professional artistic career, in which you are recognised as a leader or future leader **and** have a sufficient track record of working professionally.

By adding a CV requirement, this will help us better understand what stage of career you are at, and whether this is appropriate for the Global Talent visa.

If a CV is not provided **or** if your CV does not satisfy us that you are at an appropriate stage of a professional career, then the endorsement application will be unsuccessful - **even if your supporting letters and evidence meet criteria.**

The CV must show details of your full professional artistic career and education (if applicable) to date. A CV should not be submitted in place of the 10 pieces of physical evidence, as those are still required.

A link or screenshot for an online CV, bio or profile is not acceptable.

If you do not already have an artistic CV you can find advice online about how to write one. There are even websites that have templates you can use to create a CV document – search ***how to write an artistic CV*** in your web browser/search engine.

The CV does not have a size limit but please try to condense the document as much as possible, to save on file sizes.

This is applicable to any arts and culture applicants submitting applications from **12 April 2023**. The CV requirement is **not applicable to Film and Television, Fashion or Architecture applicants.**

### **Supporting evidence – arts and culture applicants**

Applicants must provide **no more than 10 individual pieces** of supporting evidence, across **at least two** of three categories; **media recognition, international awards, proof of appearances**. If we receive more than 10 individual pieces of evidence, we can return the application and ask you to resubmit with only the required amount of evidence. Each document must be **no more than two pages/sides of A4**.

Your evidence cannot include physical objects such as DVDs, CDs, books or publications and you should not send digital files, zip files or links to file sharing websites.



If you wish to use the content of a webpage, such as a review, event listing, video or a radio show/podcast you appeared on, as evidence, you **must** provide a full printed copy or screenshot of the page **and** the full link (URL) for the page. If the language in the video, radio show or podcast is not in English it must include a full translated transcript to English from a certified translator.

If any other pieces of evidence are in another language, they must include a full translation to English from a certified translator. The translation will not count towards the two sides of A4 limit.

We are unable to accept handwritten pieces of evidence.

The different evidential requirements for **Exceptional Talent** and **Exceptional Promise** are detailed below:

### **Exceptional Talent**

- **Media Recognition** – you must provide **at least two** examples of **significant** international media recognition for the quality of your work.

The evidence must be in the form of **detailed independent critiques, reviews or critical evaluations** of your individual work, from credible arts and culture critics in internationally recognised and well-established media outlets, in **at least two** countries. This can include outlets such as newspapers, magazines, television, radio or websites.

The media recognition must have been received within **the last five years** of the application date and must be for work that has taken place at the time of the article's publication. Articles or press releases that are promoting events that have not yet taken place at the time of the article's publication are not acceptable.

Interviews where you are answering questions about your work or life, or that are publicising upcoming events are **not** acceptable forms of evidence. If you do submit an interview as evidence, the interview **must**:

- be about your artistic practice,
- be with a recognised arts and culture critic, **and**

- include a **detailed** review, critique or critical evaluation of your work **in addition** to the interview questions and answers.

We will use our expertise to decide if the interview includes a sufficient review, critique or critical evaluation of your work in addition to the questions and answers.

Evidence from blogs and social media is **not** acceptable for Exceptional Talent.

If you have not received media recognition for your work as an individual, you can provide evidence related to the work of another individual or group that you **contributed to** instead. If so:

- you **must** include a supporting document from the individual named in the article, or from a senior person that has responsibility for the group
- the supporting document must detail **the significant contribution you made** to the featured work
- the document **must be separate to the three letters of support** for the application
- the article and the supporting document will count as one individual piece of evidence, but the supporting document will not count towards the two sides of A4 limit.

We will use our expertise to decide if the evidence sufficiently meets the published criteria. If necessary, we will use the internet for further verification of the media platforms and the critics or experts writing the articles.

- **International Awards** – you must provide evidence of **winning at least one** recognised arts and culture award of excellence **in any country**.

The award must have been received within **the last five years** of the application date. The award should provide significant recognition of your status as a leader in your specialist area of practice (in areas within our remit).

If you have not won an award as an individual, you can provide evidence of making a **significant contribution** to an award **won** by another individual or group you worked with instead. If so:

- along with the award evidence you **must** include a supporting document from the individual that won, or from a senior person that has responsibility for the group that won
- the supporting document must detail **the significant contribution you made** to the work that won the award, i.e how did your work significantly contribute to the work winning the award?
- the document **must be separate to the three letters of support** for the application
- the evidence of the award and the supporting document will count as one individual piece of evidence, but the supporting document will not count towards the two sides of A4 limit.

Degrees, masters and PhDs, or awards for student projects or only available for students are **not** acceptable. Grants, bursaries, fellowships or scholarships are also **not** acceptable for Exceptional Talent.

Evidence from blogs or social media is **not** acceptable for Exceptional Talent.

We will use our expertise to decide if the evidence sufficiently meets the published criteria. If necessary, we will use the internet for further verification of the awards.

- **Proof of appearances, publications, exhibitions or distribution of your work** – you must provide evidence of your participation in **professional** artistic programs of work in **at least two** countries.

The engagements must have taken place within **the last five years** of the date of application.

Your evidence can include programmes, adverts, posters, or listings for past events you took part in. It can also include screenshots of videos, or photographs of past events you took part in.

Or, if your work is not performance based, proof of appearances evidence can include distribution data related to your work. If you provide distribution data, this must include the breakdown of countries your work has been sold, played/streamed or downloaded in within the last five years, **and** the number of sales, plays/streams or downloads in each country.

As part of our assessment, we will use our expertise to decide whether the number of sales, plays/streams you have achieved is sufficient to prove a substantial track record and demand for your work, as a leader in your field.

At all times we must be able to see the date and country the engagement took place, and we must be able to see your name being credited and details of what your role was.

Evidence related to cancelled events, or appearances that have not taken place yet at the time of application is **not** acceptable.

CVs, letters of support or contracts are not acceptable to prove appearances, as they do not provide the physical proof of participation that we require.

Evidence of work created as part of academic programs, such as work that contributed to a degree, masters or PHD, graduate showcase or end of year show, or student projects is **not** acceptable for **Exceptional Talent**.

Participation in residencies, master classes, training or learning sessions or workshops would **not** be sufficient proof of appearances, as they do not demonstrate an independent professional booking. However, being employed to lead these **may** be allowed. We will use our expertise to decide if these types of engagements are sufficient or not.

Evidence from blogs or social media is **not** acceptable for Exceptional Talent.

If you have appeared in professional artistic programs as a member of a group, or with another individual, you can provide **evidence of the significant contribution you made** to their work instead. If so:

- along with the event evidence you **must** include a supporting document from the individual you worked with, or from a senior person that has responsibility for the group you worked with
- the supporting document must detail **the specific significant contribution you made** to the appearance

- the document must be **separate to the three letters of support** for the application
- the evidence of the appearance and the supporting document will count as one piece of evidence, but the supporting document will not count towards the two sides of A4 limit.

We will use our expertise to decide if the evidence sufficiently meets the published criteria. If necessary, we will use the internet for further verification of the engagements.

### **Exceptional Promise Criteria**

- **Media Recognition** – you must provide **at least two** examples of national **or** international media recognition for the quality of your work.

The evidence must be in the form of **detailed independent reviews, critiques or critical evaluations** of your individual work from credible critics in established media outlets in **at least one** country.

The evidence can be from media outlets such as newspapers, magazines, television, radio or websites. For **Exceptional Promise**, blogs can be acceptable, **but** they must be written by credible arts and culture critics and the blogs should be sufficiently well-established and have a significant number of reviews available.

The media recognition must have been received within **the last five years** of the application date and must be for work that has taken place at the time of the article. Articles or press releases that are promoting events that have not taken place at the time of the article are not acceptable.

Interviews where you are answering questions about your work or life, or that are publicising upcoming events are **not** acceptable forms of evidence. If you do submit an interview as evidence, the interview **must**:

- be about your artistic practice,
- be with a recognised critic, **and**
- include a **detailed** review, critique or critical evaluation of your work **in addition** to the interview questions and answers.

We will use our expertise to decide if the interview includes a sufficient review, critique or critical evaluation of your work in addition to the questions and answers.

Evidence from social media is **not** acceptable for Exceptional Promise.

If you have not received media recognition for your work as an individual, you can provide evidence related to the work of another individual or group that you **contributed to** instead. If so:

- you **must** include a supporting document from the individual named in the article, or from a senior person that has responsibility for the group
- the supporting document must confirm **the specific contribution you made** to the featured work
- the document **must be separate to the three letters of support** for the application
- the article and the supporting document will count as one individual piece of evidence, but the supporting document will not count towards the two sides of A4 limit.

We will use our expertise to decide if the evidence sufficiently meets the published criteria. If necessary, we will use the internet for further verification of the media platforms and the critics or experts writing the articles.

- **International Awards** – you must provide evidence of winning **or** being nominated for **at least one** arts and culture award of excellence **in any country**.

The win or nomination must have been received within **the last five years** of the application date. The award should show recognition of your status as a developing leader in your specialist area of practice (in areas within our remit).

If you have not won or been nominated for an award as an individual, you can provide evidence of **making a direct contribution** to a win or nomination for the work of another individual or group instead. If so:

- you **must** include a supporting letter from the individual who won or was nominated, or from a senior person that has responsibility for the group

- the supporting letter must detail **the specific contribution you made** to the win or nomination i.e. how did your work specifically contribute to the work winning or being nominated for the award?
- the letter **must be separate to the three letters of support** for the application
- the evidence of the award and the supporting document will count as one individual piece of evidence.

Degrees, masters and PhDs, or awards for student projects or that are exclusively for students are **not** acceptable. Grants or bursaries are also **not** acceptable.

**However**, full scholarships or fellowships can be acceptable for **Exceptional Promise**, such as a **full scholarship** to attend an artistic undergraduate or postgraduate course at a recognised university, conservatoire or art school. A scholarship **must** be in recognition of your artistic talent, and it will always be our expert decision as part of the assessment to allow scholarships or not. Scholarships for short courses are not acceptable.

We will use our expertise to decide if the evidence sufficiently meets the published criteria. If necessary, we will use the internet for further verification of the awards.

- **Proof of appearances, publications, exhibitions or distribution of your work** – you must provide evidence of your participation in professional artistic programs of work in **one or more** countries.

The engagements must have taken place within **the last five years** of the date of application.

Your evidence can include programmes, adverts, posters, or listings for events you took part in. It can also include screenshots of videos, or photographs of events you took part in.

Or, if your work is not performance based, proof of appearances evidence can include distribution data related to your work. If you provide distribution data, this must include the breakdown of countries your work has been sold, played/streamed or downloaded in within the last five years, **and** the number of sales, plays/streams or downloads in each country.

As part of our assessment, we will use our expertise to decide whether the number of sales, plays/streams you have achieved is sufficient to prove a developing track record and demand for your work, as a future leader in your field.

At all times we must be able to see the date and country the engagement took place, and we must be able to see your name being credited, **and** details of what your role was.

Evidence related to cancelled events, or appearances that have not taken place yet at the time of application is **not** acceptable.

CVs, letters of support or contracts are not acceptable to prove appearances, as they do not provide the physical proof of participation that we require.

Participation in residencies, master classes, training or learning sessions or workshops would **not** be sufficient proof of appearances, as they do not demonstrate an independent professional booking. However, being employed to lead these **may** be allowed. We will use our expertise to decide if these types of engagements are sufficient or not.

Evidence from social media is **not** acceptable for Exceptional Promise.

If you have appeared in professional artistic programs as a member of a group, or with another individual, you can provide **evidence of the contribution you made** to their work instead. If so:

- along with the event evidence you **must** include a supporting document from the individual you worked with, or from a senior person that has responsibility for the group you worked with
- the supporting document **must** confirm your participation in the featured appearance
- the document must be **separate to the three letters of support** for the application
- the evidence of the appearance and the supporting document will count as one piece of evidence, but the supporting document will not count towards the two sides of A4 limit.



We will use our expertise to decide if the evidence sufficiently meets the published criteria. If necessary, we will use the internet for further verification of the engagements.

### **Supporting evidence – film, television, animation, post-production and visual effects applicants**

If you plan to work **exclusively** in any of these areas in the UK, you can apply under the criteria for **Exceptional Talent** only. **Exceptional Promise** is **not** available if you work in these areas.

[The Producers Alliance for Film and Television \(Pact\)](#) assess Exceptional Talent applications for people working in these areas on our behalf.

Your application is submitted to us via [GOV.UK](#) website, but we will forward the application to Pact for assessment. Once Pact have completed their assessment, we will send their decision back to UKVI.

In addition to the three letters of support you must provide evidence for **one** of the following:

- Proof that you have **won** at any time, **or** in the last 10 years from the date of application, have received **a nomination** for **one** of the following awards:
  - an Academy Award,
  - a British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) (Film, Television and Television Craft, Cymru, Scotland and Games **only**) award,
  - a Golden Globe,
  - or an Emmy award

**or**

- have, within the last 10 years from the year of application, **made a significant and direct contribution** to **winning** or **being nominated** for one of the awards mentioned above:

**or**

- have within the last 15 years achieved **a minimum of two nominations** for one of the awards mentioned above

**or**

- demonstrate **notable industry recognition** by providing evidence of:
  1. international distribution sales and recognition; **and**
  2. having achieved one of the following:
    - at any time, **won a minimum of two** Notable Industry Recognition Awards for **at least two different** productions. Where the production(s) are films, the films must have had a theatrical release;
    - at any time **won one, and**, within the last six years before the date of application, have been **nominated for one** other Notable Industry Recognition Awards for **at least two different productions**. Where the production(s) are films, the films must have had a theatrical release;
    - within the last six years before the date of application, have been **nominated for a minimum of three** Notable Industry Recognition Awards for **at least two different productions**. Where the production(s) are films, the films must have had a theatrical release; **or**
    - within the last three years before the date of application, **made a significant and direct contribution to winning or being nominated for three** Notable Industry Recognition Awards for **at least two different productions**. Where the production(s) are films, the films must have had a theatrical release

The list of Pact's Notable Industry Recognition awards can be found [here](#).

To show that you meet the requirements you must provide the following details, **in no more than 10 documents**:

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

- if you are claiming credit for an award where you made a significant and direct contribution, evidence of your direct and significant contribution to the win or nomination.

For further information about the evidential requirements, please see the **FAQs** section on the Pact website [here](#).

## **Supporting evidence – fashion design industry applicants**

If you plan to work as a fashion designer in the UK, you can apply under **Exceptional Talent** or **Exceptional Promise** criteria. [The British Fashion Council \(BFC\)](#) assess applications for people working in these areas on our behalf.

Your application is submitted to us via [GOV.UK](#) website, but we will forward the application to BFC for assessment. Once BFC have completed their assessment, we will send their decision back to UKVI.

In addition to the three letters of support you must provide **no more than 10 individual** pieces of evidence in **at least two** of the categories in the following table:

<b>Exceptional Talent</b>	<b>Exceptional Promise</b>
<p><b>1) Two or more</b> examples of recent (in the last <b>five</b> years) evidence of <b>significant international media recognition</b>, online or in print, such as features, articles and/or reviews from national publications or broadcasting companies, in <b>at least one</b> country <b>other</b> than your country of residence. Event listings or advertisements are <b>not</b> acceptable.</p> <p><b>2) Proof</b> of having, within the last <b>five</b> years from the year of application: won, received a nomination or been nominated for, <b>or</b> made a significant and</p>	<p><b>1) Two or more</b> examples of recent (in the last <b>five</b> years) evidence of <b>UK or international media recognition</b>, online or in print such as features, articles and/or reviews from national publications or broadcasting companies, <b>or</b> on social media of your collections in <b>one or more</b> countries (which <b>can</b> include your country of residence). These must be from independent sources, and social media articles <b>must</b> be from prominent bloggers or key opinion leaders. Event listings or advertisements are <b>not</b> acceptable.</p>

<p>direct contribution to winning or being nominated for <b>an international award for excellence</b>.</p> <p>For example, The Fashion Awards, Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) Fashion Awards, Elle Style Award, GQ Award, LVMH Prize, ANDAM Prize, Hyères Prize or another relevant major award or nomination.</p> <p>Awards must be <b>awards of excellence</b>, rather than monetary awards such as grants and bursaries.</p> <p><b>3) Proof of catwalk shows, presentations and/or exhibitions</b> in the last <b>five</b> years in contexts which are recognised as internationally significant in your field, <b>or</b> evidence of extensive international distribution and sales of your collections.</p> <p><b>4) Proof of international distribution and sales</b> in the last <b>five</b> years through internationally renowned retailers and boutiques, <b>or</b> through your own physical retail outlets or ecommerce platform.</p>	<p><b>2) Proof of having received, within the last five years from the year of application support and sponsorship</b> through:</p> <p>the British Fashion Council's support schemes; <b>or</b>;</p> <p>the Fashion East support scheme; <b>or</b></p> <p>the Sarabande Foundation; <b>or</b></p> <p>support by Centre for Fashion Enterprise; <b>or</b></p> <p>similar support from an international counterpart to the British Fashion Council.</p> <p><b>3) Evidence of one or more orders</b> placed by <b>UK or international</b> luxury retailers and boutiques in the last <b>five</b> years.</p> <p><b>4) Evidence of recognition by leading industry players</b> (within the last <b>five</b> years) – for example internationally renowned fashion designers, fashion media, retailers, brands, Graduate Fashion Week - of an exceptional graduating collection.</p>
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Your evidence cannot include physical objects such as DVDs, CDs, books or publications and you should not send digital files or downloads.

If you wish to use the content of a webpage as evidence, you **must** provide a printed copy or screenshot of the page **and** the full link (URL) for the page.

If any pieces of evidence are written in another language, they must include a full translation to English from a certified translator.

To demonstrate you meet the requirements in the table above:

- if you are providing evidence of having won or being nominated for an international award for excellence, this must include:
  - full details of the nomination or award, including category and year of nomination or award
  - evidence of your involvement if the nomination or award was as part of a group, **and**
  - evidence of the credit you received for the nomination or award.
- if you are claiming you made a significant and direct contribution to winning or being nominated for international awards for excellence, evidence is required from the named person on the award(s) or nomination(s) which demonstrates that you significantly influenced or directly resulted in the award or nomination to the named person;
- if you are providing evidence of having been given support or sponsorship, this evidence must include full details of the support or sponsorship including:
  - the name and details of the scheme
  - the dates the support or sponsorship were received, **and**
  - the organisation that awarded it.
- if you are providing evidence of a catwalk, presentation or exhibition, evidence of participation in one or more reputable UK-based or international trade show or commercial showroom must be cited. BFC will judge whether a particular trade show or commercial showroom provides appropriate evidence of recognition in the applicant's field
- if you are providing evidence of international distribution and sales, evidence must be provided regarding:
  - the current number of outlets or stockists of the business's products,
  - the top five stockists and when these sales were achieved, **and**

- where you have sold through your own retail channels, a breakdown of sales and when these sales were achieved.
- if you are providing evidence of orders placed by UK or international luxury retailers, evidence must be provided naming the buyer or stockist and stating when the order was placed.

## **Supporting evidence – architecture applicants**

If you plan to work as an architect in the UK, you can apply under **Exceptional Talent** or **Exceptional Promise** criteria. [The Royal Institute of British Architects \(RIBA\)](#) assess applications for people working in this area on our behalf.

Your application is submitted to us via [GOV.UK](#) website, but we will forward the application to RIBA for assessment. Once RIBA have completed their assessment, we will send their decision back to UKVI.

In addition to the three letters of support you must provide **no more than 10 individual** pieces of evidence in **at least two** of the categories in the following table:

<b>Exceptional Talent</b>	<b>Exceptional Promise</b>
<p><b>1) Two or more</b> examples of recent (in the last <b>five</b> years) evidence of <b>significant international media recognition</b>, online or in print, such as features, articles and/or reviews from national publications or broadcasting companies or international architectural periodicals or journals, in <b>at least one</b> country <b>other</b> than your country of residence. Event listings or advertisements are not acceptable.</p>	<p><b>1) Two or more</b> examples of recent (in the last <b>five</b> years) evidence of <b>UK or international media recognition</b>, online or in print, such as features, articles and/or reviews from national/international publications or broadcasting companies, in <b>one or more</b> countries, which <b>can include</b> your country of residence. Event listings or advertisements are not acceptable.</p> <p><b>2) Proof of having, within the last five</b> years from the date of application;</p>

<p><b>2) Proof of having, within the last <b>five</b> years from the date of application; won; <b>or</b> made a significant and direct contribution to winning <b>at least one</b> international award for excellence in architecture.</b></p> <p>For example, Aga Khan Award for Architecture, RIBA International Prize, Pritzker Prize, Venice Biennale of Architecture Award, World Architecture Festival Award or another relevant major award.</p> <p>Awards must be <b>awards of excellence</b>, rather than monetary awards such as grants and bursaries.</p> <p><b>3) Proof of having <b>work published or exhibited</b> in the last <b>five</b> years from the year of application, in contexts which are recognised as <b>internationally significant</b> in the field of architecture. For example, monographs published by recognised international publishing houses, exhibitions at international exhibitions/festivals such as the Venice Biennale of Architecture and World Festival of Architecture, or in international galleries with curated architecture exhibitions, such as the RIBA Gallery, Canadian Centre for Architecture.</b></p> <p>Proof must come from <b>at least one</b> country <b>other</b> than your country of residence and must demonstrate a</p>	<p>won, been nominated or shortlisted, <b>or</b> made a direct contribution to winning, being nominated or being shortlisted for <b>at least one</b> international <b>or</b> national award for excellence in architecture.</p> <p>For example, Aga Khan Award for Architecture, RIBA International Prize, Pritzker Prize, Venice Biennale of Architecture Award, World Architecture Festival Award, RIBA Silver or Bronze Medals (international student awards), AIA Young Architects Awards.</p> <p>Awards must be <b>awards of excellence</b>, rather than monetary awards such as grants and bursaries.</p> <p><b>3) Proof of having <b>work published or exhibited</b> in the last <b>three</b> years in contexts which are recognised as <b>internationally significant</b> in the field of architecture. For example, monographs published by recognised international publishing houses, exhibitions at international exhibitions/festivals such as the Venice Biennale of Architecture and World Festival of Architecture, or in international galleries with curated architecture exhibitions, such as the RIBA Gallery, Canadian Centre for Architecture.</b></p> <p>Proof must come from <b>one or more</b> countries, which <b>can include</b> your country of residence and must</p>
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minimum of <b>two</b> publications or exhibitions of your work.	demonstrate a <b>minimum of two</b> publications or exhibitions of your work.
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Your evidence cannot include physical objects such as DVDs, CDs, books or publications and you should not send digital files or downloads.

If you wish to use the content of a webpage as evidence, you **must** provide a printed copy or screenshot of the page **and** the full link (URL) for the page.

If any pieces of evidence are written in another language, they must include a full translation to English from a certified translator.

To demonstrate you meet the requirements in the table above:

- if you are providing evidence of having won or being nominated for an international award for excellence, this must include:
  - full details of the nomination or award, including category and year of nomination or award,
  - evidence of your involvement if the nomination or award was as part of a practice or group, **and**
  - evidence of the credit you received for the nomination or award.
- if you are claiming you made a significant and direct contribution to winning or being nominated for international awards for excellence, evidence is required from the named person on the award(s) or nomination(s), or a senior member of the group that won or was nominated, which demonstrates that you significantly influenced the award or nomination to the named person or practice.

### **Unsuccessful Stage 1 applications**

If your application for endorsement is unsuccessful and you think that we have not followed our published processes and criteria, you can submit an **Endorsement Review**. This review cannot be used to submit additional information or evidence.

This service is free but the decision that follows will be final.

We will return our decision to UKVI within **28 calendar days**.



Full guidance on Endorsement Reviews can be found on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.

Alternatively, you can make a new application for Stage 1, or make an application under a different immigration route that you may be eligible for. Both options would require you to pay a new application fee.

## **Supported disciplines**

The following are examples of the areas we can support. These examples are not limited, as it is not possible for us to include every area of practice we do and do not support. Please [contact us](#) if you are unsure whether your area of practice is supported.

Based on our expertise it will always be our judgement to decide whether an individual's area of practice is within our remit or not.

## **Combined Arts**

People who work across different areas of arts practice, in one or more of our supported disciplines (dance, literature, music, theatre and visual arts), such as:

- interdisciplinary or arts practise and multi-disciplinary arts practise
- Combined Arts can also cover the following areas:
  - participatory and celebratory work
  - large scale events, festivals and carnival arts

We can also consider applications from individuals who contribute to the creation and delivery of Combined Arts work in the above areas, such as programmers/promoters/curators of festivals and multi-disciplinary events within our supported disciplines, directors and producers or lighting designers.

If you work across arts and culture **and** film and television, fashion design or architecture this is **not** considered as **Combined Arts**. We cannot share assessments between us, Pact, BFC or RIBA, as each area of practice has specific criteria to meet. You should therefore apply with a focus on **just one** area of your practice from the last five years, for the relevant body to assess the whole application. We may return your application if there is insufficient evidence for just one body to assess.

## **Dance**

Dancers, performers and practitioners working in areas such as:

- ballet
- contemporary dance
- aerial dance
- street dance
- folk, traditional and culturally specific dance
- social dance - Ceilidhs, barn dance, tea dance, line dancing, salsa, jive, Lindy Hop, ballroom (**excluding** competitive dancing or Dancesport)
- jazz and tap
- entertainment dance - dance styles associated with the mainstream entertainment industry such as musicals, jazz and tap dancing and dance spectacles such as 'Dancing on Ice' or 'Lord of the Dance'

We can also consider applications from individuals who contribute to the creation and delivery of Dance work in the above areas, such as choreographers, programmers/promoters/curators, directors and producers.

## **Literature**

Writers and literature practitioners working in areas such as:

- print, digital/recorded or live poetry
- print, digital/recorded or live prose fiction - including novels, novellas and short fiction
- graphic novels and comics
- writing and illustration for children and young people in the above areas
- independent publishing of any of the above
- live literature and storytelling
- translation of original poetry and prose fiction
- literature festivals and programming
- writer development

Those who use an innovative and creative approach to **non-fiction** work, that demonstrates strong literary merit (for example, where the work experiments creatively with form or genre such as biography, memoir or travel writing) can be considered. Areas such as journalism, investigative journalism, longform journalism,

general arts writing, academic writing about the arts, sports writing, historical writing or writing for lifestyle magazines are **not** supported.

Please [contact us](#) if you are unsure whether your area of practice is supported.

Screenwriting for film and television is **not** considered under Literature, as this comes under the Exceptional Talent remit of [The Producers Alliance for Film and Television \(Pact\)](#).

## **Music**

Musicians, performers and practitioners working in areas such as:

- classical and orchestral music
- baroque, chamber and early music
- brass or silver bands
- marching or concert bands
- opera
- contemporary music (such as pop, rock, indie and alternative, metal and punk, soul, country, funk, hip-hop, R&B, grime, urban, blues, electronic, experimental, DJ's and producers that create original music or remixes/edits, turntablists and singer-songwriters)
- folk, traditional and culturally specific music
- jazz
- choral or gospel
- youth music – **excluding** Music in Education
- grassroots music
- independent record labels

We can also consider applications from individuals who contribute to the creation and delivery of Music work in the above areas, such as producers or engineers for recorded work, curators of live music events who are involved directly with selection of artists or technical crew for live events. Songwriters, stage and concert composers (**excluding** composition for media and screen, which comes under the Exceptional Talent remit of [The Producers Alliance for Film and Television \(Pact\)](#)), conductors and musical directors can also be considered.

## **Theatre**

Actors and theatre practitioners working in areas such as:

- musical theatre
- physical theatre and mime
- plays or narrative drama - **excluding** for film and television
- experimental theatre
- comedy - such as comedy plays, radio comedy or touring stand-ups, but **excluding** work created for screen, film and television, which would come under Pact criteria
- variety and cabaret
- pantomime
- circus
- puppetry and visual theatre
- audience development
- youth theatre - **excluding** Drama in Education
- new writing

We can also consider applications from individuals who contribute to the creation and delivery of Theatre work in the above areas, such as producers and directors, playwrights, dramaturgs, design (e.g. lighting, set or costume design) or stage crew.

We understand that some actors do work across theatre **and** film and television and may plan on continuing to do so when living in the UK. If you do receive a visa you **can** work in any of these areas while living in the UK, **but** when you come to extend the visa though you will need to prove that you have mainly worked professionally in the area of practice **that you were endorsed under**, otherwise your extension may not be granted.

If you do work across theatre **and** film and television, your evidence and letters of support **must** be related to your work in just **one** of these areas. The single area of practice you wish to be endorsed under (i.e. film and television **or** theatre, not both) must be shown on your application form.

We cannot share an application between us and [The Producers Alliance for Film and Television \(Pact\)](#), so we may return your application if there is insufficient evidence for just one body to assess.

## **Visual Arts**

Artists, arts practitioners or designer/makers working in areas such as:

- drawing, painting or printmaking
- sculpture and installations
- design - when it is created specifically for exhibition but **excluding** commercial design, or design and production of functional items intended for mass production. See **Ineligible disciplines** guidance for details of areas that are not supported
- graphic design - when it is created specifically for exhibition but **excluding** promotional or commercial design. See **Ineligible disciplines** guidance for details of areas that are not supported
- artist-led animation - **excluding** work primarily intended for film or television, commercial games or mass-market media distribution
- illustration for exhibition, or concept art, comic art, picture books, zines and other narrative or sequential illustration – **excluding** for design or marketing purposes. See **Ineligible disciplines** guidance for details of areas that are not supported
- live and performance art
- mixed media art, digital or computer-generated art for exhibition
- ceramics, pottery or other handmade crafts made for exhibition - such as woodworking or turning, silversmithing or metal work, decorative jewellery, glass work, textiles or traditional heritage crafts - **excluding** commercial craft makers, brands, textile manufacturing for clothing, furniture design/manufacturing, or design of wearable jewellery
- fine art photography - **excluding** areas such as commercial, editorial and fashion, photojournalism, or work created for marketing campaigns, advertising or branding
- artists film and moving image - **excluding** narrative feature films, short films and experimental film, documentary, music videos or animation work that falls under Film/TV criteria, or advertising or marketing videos, or promotional videos for brands
- sound art - such as site-specific installations or sound installations, 'audioscapes', sound walks and sound mapping and performance art, or noise or sonic art
- Virtual Reality or Augmented Reality for exhibitions and installations in galleries or museums - **excluding** when created for gaming, branding, promotion, marketing or advertising, architecture, engineering, retail, healthcare, events and conferences, corporate events, tourism or sports

We can also consider applications from curators of Visual Arts work in the above areas.

## **Museums and Galleries**

- We can consider applications from artists, arts practitioners and curators who deliver arts focused activity in museum or gallery settings. By ‘arts focused activity’ we mean activity that is related to our supported artforms (Combined Arts, Dance, Literature, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts).
- We **cannot** support applications from people whose area of practice involves museum focused activity such as preserving, conserving or archiving collections, archaeology and social history, anthropology and world cultures, natural history, military history, science, industry and technology or research.

## **Film and Television**

- [The Producers Alliance for Film and Television \(Pact\)](#) assess Global Talent applications from actors, artists and practitioners working in the film, television, animation, post-production or visual effects industries on our behalf. **Exceptional Promise is not available** for people working in these areas.

## **Fashion Design**

- [The British Fashion Council \(BFC\)](#) assess applications under **Exceptional Talent** and **Exceptional Promise** criteria from fashion designers on our behalf.

## **Architecture**

[The Royal Institute of British Architects \(RIBA\)](#) assess applications under **Exceptional Talent** and **Exceptional Promise** criteria from architects and architectural designers.

## **Ineligible disciplines**

The decision to return an application as ineligible is made by us based on the areas of practice and disciplines that are within our remit, and the remits of Pact, BFC or RIBA. If we do not have the relevant expertise to carry out a fair assessment because your area of practice is not within our remit, it is better that we return these

types of applications to UKVI as soon as possible, so that an application can be made through a more appropriate route.

Some examples of ineligible areas of practice and disciplines include **(but are not limited to)**:

- Hair styling
- Make up for fashion
- Fashion stylists
- Nail art
- Health and beauty
- Editorial and fashion photography
- Commercial photography
- Photography, videos, CGI, design and illustration for marketing campaigns, advertising or branding, or for corporate events
- Art and creative direction for marketing campaigns, advertising or branding
- Modelling
- Journalism - written and photographic
- Investigative journalism
- Long form journalism
- General writing about the arts
- Researchers
- Education – teachers and lecturers
- Music education or any other artistic education in higher or further education
- Conference programming
- Consultancy
- Marketing
- Historians
- Art historians
- Design and manufacturing of functional items such as textiles or furniture
- Working in museums and galleries in non-creative roles such as front of house or administration
- Design work that is not in a Visual Arts context, i.e. not created for exhibition purposes, such as – graphic design, product design, industrial design, promotional

work, advertising, commercial design, branding, visual identity, craft design, service design, typography

- Technical, scientific, medical, architectural or fashion illustration
- Factual podcasts
- Radio DJs
- Competitive dance / Dancesport
- Digital content creators such as YouTube channels and Instagram influencers/models
- Art dealers/collectors
- Art critics
- Instrument makers
- Toy makers
- Tattoo artists
- Professional wrestling

## **Contact Us**

If you have any questions that are not covered in this guide, please contact our Customer Service team via telephone on 0161 934 4317 or via email or web chat – [here](#)

If you have access requirements or have a query regarding applying, please contact [UK Visas and Immigration \(UKVI\)](#).