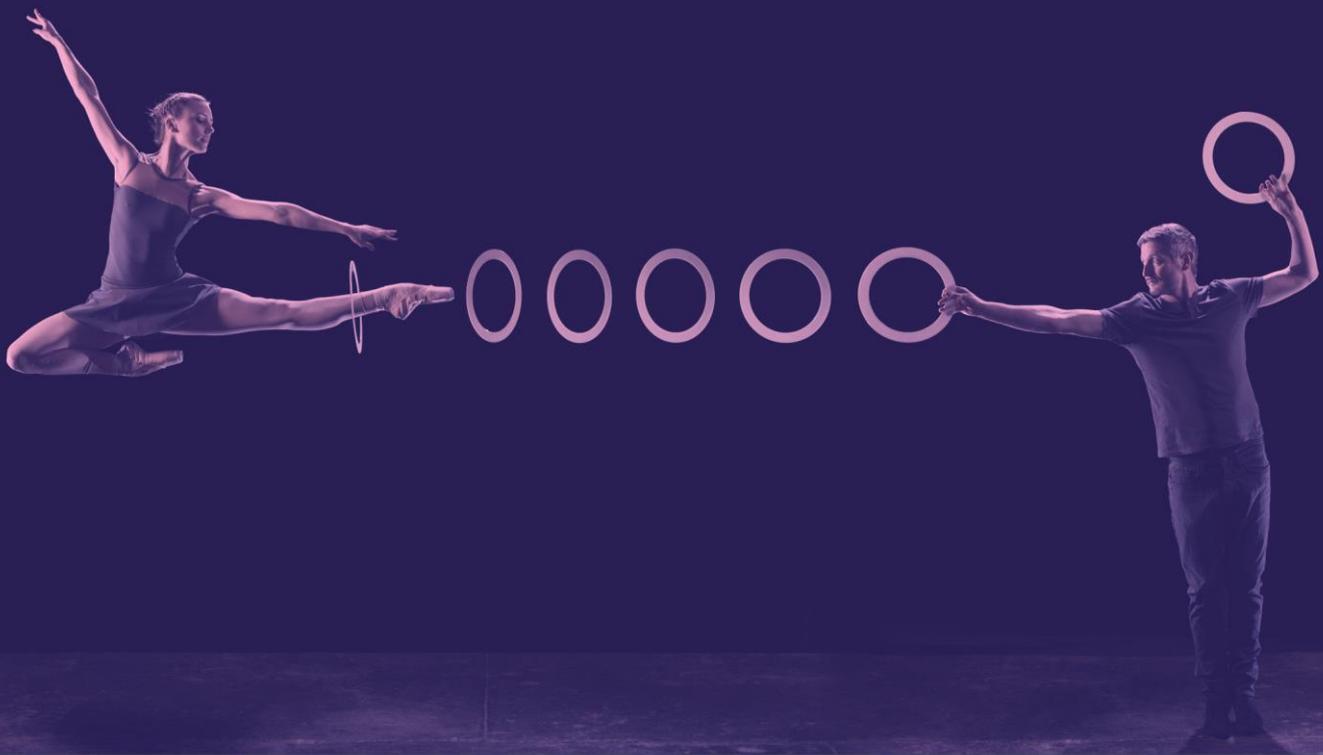


Guide for Global Talent visa applicants – Arts and Culture

Version date 19 October 2021



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About this guide

This guide is for arts and culture individuals applying for endorsement under the Global Talent visa route. In this guide we will aim to provide more information about the criteria we use when making decisions. Before applying you should also read the latest [GOV.UK](#) guidance and [Immigration Rules](#).

This guide is subject to review and was last updated on **19 October 2021**.

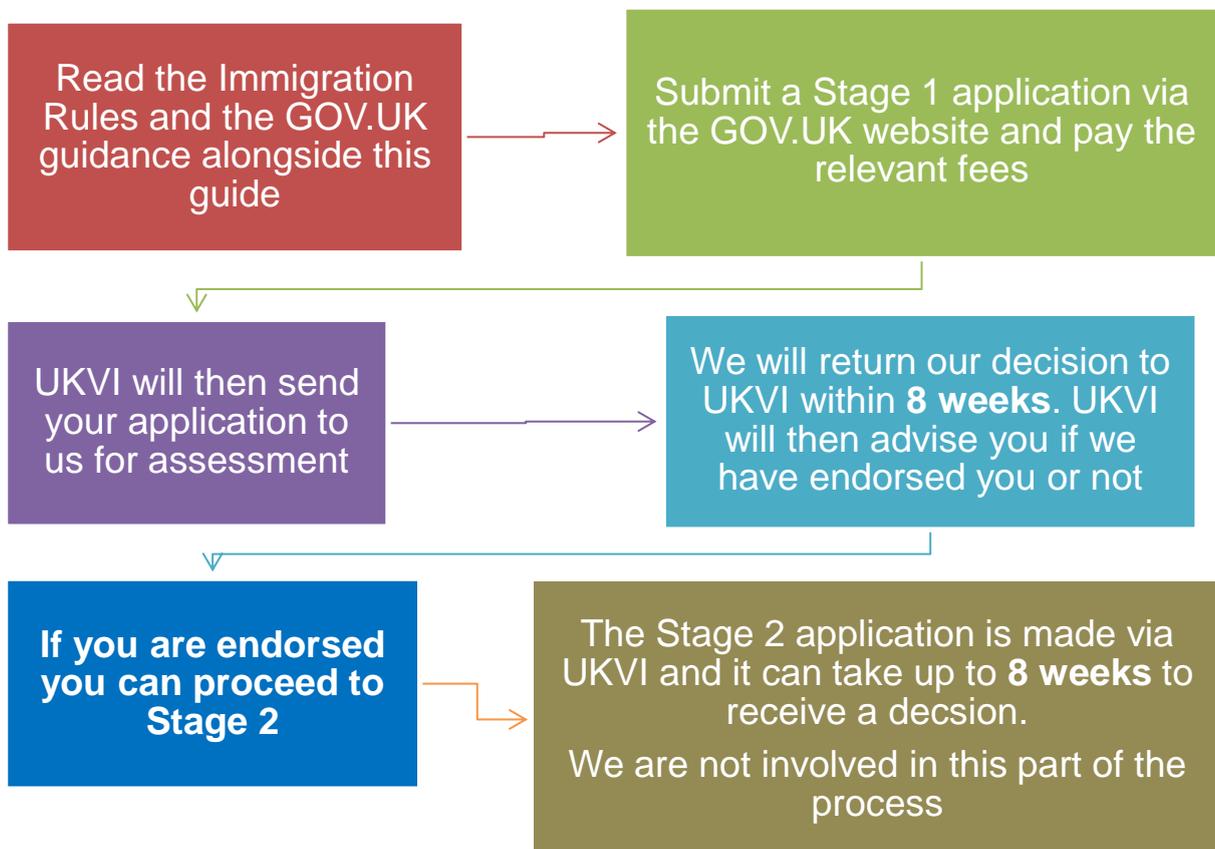
Overview

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

There are two routes available - **Exceptional Talent** is for people considered as leaders in their field and **Exceptional Promise** is for people with the potential to become leaders in their field. All applicants must be able to show a track record within the last five years of working in professional contexts and provide evidence of being recognised for the quality of their work, through awards and/or media recognition.

The application process

Applying for the visa is a two-stage process. **Stage 1** assesses your evidence against the published criteria and enables us to recommend to **UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)** whether you should be endorsed. If you receive an endorsement you can submit a **Stage 2** application via the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website to receive 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](#) 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.

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 established nationally and/or internationally and recognised as having expertise in your field of arts and culture, film and television or architecture.
- The second letter must be from **another** cultural organisation that is established nationally and/or internationally and recognised as having expertise in your field of arts and culture, film and television or architecture. 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 field of arts and culture, film and television or architecture.

At least **one** of the three letters must be from a UK based cultural organisation and **only one** of the three letters can be from an eminent individual. The 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. **At least one** of these letters must be from a **UK based** organisation.

Letters of support requirements - all applicants

- 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** this 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** this 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** this 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, resume or biography and must detail how they know you, i.e. through personal relationship or reputation
- they must tell us about your achievements in your specialist field and how, in the opinion of the author, you are either:

- a leader in your field (**Exceptional Talent**) or that you have the potential to be a leader in your field (**Exceptional Promise**)
- they must describe how you would benefit from living in the UK **and** the contribution you could make to cultural life here
- they must include full contact details for the author, including personal email address and direct telephone number, **and**
- where possible they should provide details of any of your future professional engagements in the UK that the author is 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 from a certified translator.

We are unable to accept handwritten letters of support.

Supporting evidence – arts and culture applicants

Applicants must provide **no more than 10 individual pieces** of supporting evidence, in **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 sides of A4**.

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 full printed copy or screenshot of the page **and** the full link (URL) for the page.

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

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 **two or more** examples of **significant** international media recognition for the quality of your work.

The media recognition must have been received within **no more than five** years of the application date.

The evidence must be in the form of **detailed independent reviews, critiques, evaluations, or profiles** of your **individual** work, from critics in established media outlets in **at least two** countries. This can include outlets such as newspapers, magazines, television, radio or websites.

Interviews where you are answering questions about your 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 art critic, **and**
- include a **detailed** review, critique, evaluation or profile 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, evaluation or profile of your work to meet criteria.

Blogs and social media are **not** acceptable media outlets.

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 letter from the individual, or from a senior person that has responsibility for the group
- the supporting letter must detail **the direct significant contribution you made** to the work being reviewed
- the letter **must be separate to the three letters of support** for the application
- the review and the supporting document will count as one individual piece of evidence.

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 documents you submit.

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

The award must have been received within **no more than five** years of the application date.

The award should provide significant recognition for the quality of your work.

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 letter from the individual that won, or from a senior person that has responsibility for the group that won
- the supporting letter must detail **the significant contribution you made** to the work that won the award
- the letter **must be separate to the three letters of support** for the application
- the evidence of the award and the supporting letter will count as one individual piece of evidence.

Degrees, masters and PHDs, or awards for student projects are **not** acceptable.
Grants, bursaries, fellowships or scholarships are also **not** acceptable.

Evidence from blogs or social media is **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 documents you submit.

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

The engagements must be from within **no more than five** years of the date of application.

The evidence must show that you have an established international presence and demand for your work as a professional.

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 just performance based, your evidence can include distribution lists that show 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.

At all times we must be able to see the date and country the engagement took place.

A CV or Resume is **not** acceptable to prove appearances so should not be submitted as evidence. If you do submit a CV or Resume this will **not** be used in our assessment.

Evidence of work created as part of academic programmes such as degrees, masters or PHDs, or graduate showcases or end of year shows is **not** acceptable for **Exceptional Talent**.

Participation in master classes, learning sessions or workshops would **not** be sufficient proof of professional appearances, although leading these sessions **may** be allowed.

Evidence from blogs or social media is **not** acceptable.

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

If you have not appeared in professional programmes as an individual, you can provide **evidence of the contribution you made** to the work of another individual or group instead. If so:

- along with the event evidence you **must** include a supporting letter from the individual you worked with, or from a senior person that has responsibility for the group you worked with
- the supporting letter must detail **the specific significant contribution you made to the appearance**
- the letter must be **separate to the three letters of support** for the application
- the evidence of the appearance and the supporting letter will count as one piece of evidence.

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 documents you submit.

Exceptional Promise Criteria

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

The media recognition must have been received within **no more than five** years of the application date.

The evidence must be in the form of **detailed independent reviews, critiques, evaluations or profiles of your individual work** from credible critics in established media outlets in **at least one** country. This can include outlets such as newspapers,

magazines, television, radio or websites, or **for Exceptional Promise only** prominent blogs by credible critics that have established readerships and many reviews available.

Interviews where you are answering questions about your 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, evaluation or profile 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, evaluation or profile of your work to meet criteria.

Evidence from social media is **not** acceptable.

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 letter from the individual, or from a senior person that has responsibility for the group
- the supporting letter must detail **the direct contribution you made** to the work being reviewed
- the letter **must be separate to the three letters of support** for the application
- the review and the supporting document will count as one individual piece of evidence.

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 documents you submit.

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

The win or nomination must have been received within **no more than five** years of the application date.

The award should show recognition of your status as a developing leader in your specialist field.

Degrees, masters and PHDs, or awards for student projects are **not** acceptable. Grants or bursaries are also **not** acceptable. **However**, scholarships or fellowships can be acceptable for **Exceptional Promise**, such as a scholarship to attend a creative course at a recognised university, conservatoire or art school. A scholarship **must** be in recognition of your talent.

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 that individual, or from a senior person that has responsibility for the group
- the supporting letter must detail **the direct contribution you made** to the win or nomination
- 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.

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 documents you submit.

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

The engagements must have taken place within **no more than five** years of the date of application.

The evidence must show that you have an established international presence and demand for your work.

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 just performance based, your evidence can include distribution lists that show 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.

At all times we must be able to see the date and country the engagement took place.

A CV or Resume is **not** acceptable to prove appearances so should not be submitted as evidence. If you do submit a CV or Resume this will **not** be used in our assessment.

For **Exceptional Promise** we can accept **some** evidence of appearances in academic programmes of work, **alongside** evidence of professional appearances, such as an appearance in a graduate showcase. Your evidence can therefore include a **mix** of professional **and** academic work.

Participation in master classes, learning sessions or workshops would **not** be sufficient proof of professional appearances, although leading these sessions **may** be allowed.

Evidence from social media is **not** acceptable.

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

If you have not appeared in professional programmes as an individual, you can provide **evidence of the contribution you made** to the work of another individual or group instead. If so:

- along with the event evidence you **must** include a supporting letter from the individual you worked with, or from a senior person that has responsibility for the group you worked with
- the supporting letter must detail **the specific contribution you made** to the appearance
- the letter must be **separate to the three letters of support** for the application
- the evidence of the appearance and the supporting letter will count as one piece of evidence.

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 documents you submit.

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 Crafts, 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:

Exceptional Talent	Exceptional Promise
<p>1) Two or more examples of recent (in the last five years) evidence of significant international media recognition, online or in print, 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>2) Proof of having, within the last five years from the year of application:</p> <p>won, received a nomination or been nominated for, or made a significant and direct contribution to winning or being nominated for an international award for excellence.</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 awards of excellence, rather than monetary awards such as grants and bursaries.</p> <p>3) Proof of catwalk shows, presentations and/or exhibitions in the last five years in contexts which are recognised as internationally significant in your field, or evidence of extensive</p>	<p>1) Two or more examples of recent (in the last five years) evidence of UK or international media recognition, online or in print such as features, articles and/or reviews from national publications or broadcasting companies, or on social media of your collections in one or more countries (which can include your country of residence). These must be from independent sources, and social media articles must be from prominent bloggers or key opinion leaders. Event listings or advertisements are not acceptable.</p> <p>2) Proof of having received, within the last five years from the year of application support and sponsorship through:</p> <p>the British Fashion Council's support schemes; or;</p> <p>the Fashion East support scheme; or</p> <p>the Sarabande Foundation; or</p> <p>support by Centre for Fashion Enterprise; or</p> <p>similar support from an international counterpart to the British Fashion Council.</p> <p>3) Evidence of one or more orders placed by UK or international luxury</p>

<p>international distribution and sales of your collections.</p> <p>4) Proof of international distribution and sales in the last five years through internationally renowned retailers and boutiques, or through your own physical retail outlets or ecommerce platform.</p>	<p>retailers and boutiques in the last five years.</p> <p>4) Evidence of recognition by leading industry players (within the last five 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 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:

Exceptional Talent	Exceptional Promise
<p>1) Two or more examples of recent (in the last five years) evidence of significant international media recognition, online or in print, such as features, articles and/or reviews from national publications or broadcasting companies or international architectural periodicals or journals, in at least one country other than your country of residence. Event listings or advertisements are not acceptable.</p> <p>2) Proof of having, within the last five years from the date of application; won; or made a significant and direct contribution to winning at least one international 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 or another relevant major award.</p> <p>Awards must be awards of excellence, rather than monetary awards such as grants and bursaries.</p>	<p>1) Two or more examples of recent (in the last five years) evidence of UK or international media recognition, online or in print, such as features, articles and/or reviews from national/international publications or broadcasting companies, in one or more countries, which can include your country of residence. Event listings or advertisements are not acceptable.</p> <p>2) Proof of having, within the last five years from the date of application; won, been nominated or shortlisted, or made a significant and direct contribution to winning, being nominated or being shortlisted for at least one international or 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 awards of excellence, rather than monetary awards such as grants and bursaries.</p>

<p>3) Proof of having work published or exhibited in the last five years from the year of application, in contexts which are recognised as internationally significant 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.</p> <p>Proof must come from at least one country other than your country of residence and must demonstrate a minimum of two publications or exhibitions of your work.</p>	<p>3) Proof of having work published or exhibited in the last three years in contexts which are recognised as internationally significant 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.</p> <p>Proof must come from one or more countries, which can include your country of residence and must demonstrate a minimum of two publications or exhibitions of your work.</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 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) which demonstrates that you significantly influenced or directly resulted in the award or nomination to the named person or practice;
- 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.

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 three weeks.

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 new application fees.

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 sub-discipline within these areas. Please [contact us](#) if you are unsure whether your area of practice is supported.

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 arts practise
- multi-disciplinary arts practise
- participatory and celebratory work
- festivals and carnival arts

We can also consider applications from people working in technical or non-creative roles, such as commissioning, programming or curation, production, directing or developing work, touring networks and public engagement.

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)

- 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 people working in technical or non-creative roles such as choreography or teaching, production, direction and curation.

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)
- writing and illustration for children and young people
- graphic novels and comics
- independent publishing (of any of the above)
- live literature and storytelling
- translation (of 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, 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 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
- grassroots music
- independent record labels

We can also consider applications from people working in technical or non-creative roles such as production, recording and engineering, and promoters/curators of music events. Songwriters, stage and concert composers (**excluding** composition for media and screen, which comes under Pact Exceptional Talent criteria **only**), 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 and Theatre in Education (**excluding** Drama in Education)
- new writing

We can also consider applications from people working in technical or non-creative roles such as production, directing, writing, dramaturgy, design (e.g. lighting, set or costume design) and stage management.

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 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 (such as research and development, design and production of prototypes where the work is shared publicly in exhibitions but **excluding** design or 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, therefore **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 (such as concept art, comic art, picture books, zines and other narrative or sequential illustration)
- live and performance art
- mixed media art, digital or computer-generated art
- ceramics, pottery or other handmade crafts (such as woodworking or turning, silversmithing or metal work, decorative jewellery, glass work, textiles or traditional heritage crafts)
- artistic photography (**excluding** areas such as editorial, fashion or journalism, or work created for marketing campaigns, advertising or branding)
- artists film and moving image (**excluding** narrative feature, short film, documentary, or animation work that falls under film and television criteria)
- 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 (when used for exhibitions and installations in galleries or museums, but **excluding** when created for gaming, branding, promotion, marketing or advertising, architecture, engineering, retail, healthcare, events and conferences, tourism or sports)

We can also consider applications from people working in technical or non-creative areas such as curating, production or directing.

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 practise 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 when an applicant's area of practice does not come under our remit, or the remits of Pact, BFC or RIBA. If we do not have the relevant expertise to carry out a fair assessment 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 include (but are not limited to):

- Hair styling
- Make up for fashion
- Fashion stylists
- Editorial and fashion photography
- Commercial photography
- Photography for marketing campaigns, advertising or branding
- Modelling
- Journalism - written and photographic
- Investigative journalism
- Historians

- 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
- Digital content creators such as YouTube channels and Instagram influencers/models
- Art dealers/collectors
- Art critics
- Instrument makers
- Tattoo artists
- Martial arts
- 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 \(UKVI\)](#).