

# Guide for Global Talent applicants

## Contents

### About this guide

#### Overview

#### The application process

#### Evidence you must provide with your application

- Letters of support – all applicants
- Supporting evidence – arts and culture applicants
- Supporting evidence – film, television, animation, post-production and visual effects applicants
- Supporting evidence – fashion design applicants
- Supporting evidence – architecture applicants

#### Unsuccessful Stage One applications

#### Supported disciplines

#### Contact

## About this guide

This is a guide for arts and culture applicants (including film and television, fashion design and architecture) and it should be reviewed alongside the [Global Talent Policy Guidance](#) and the [Immigration Rules](#) on the Gov.UK website before making an application. This guide aims to explain in more detail the requirements you must meet. This guide is subject to change – the last update to this guide was made on 30 November 2020.

## Overview

The Global Talent Visa is available for artists, creative practitioners and cultural workers to live and work in the UK and benefit from and contribute to UK cultural life.

There are two routes available, which cater for different levels of experience.

**Exceptional Talent** is for people who are **already established** as leaders in their field and **Exceptional Promise** is for people who have the potential to become leaders in their field.

To be considered under **Exceptional Talent** criteria you must be able to show that you have made a significant contribution as a leader in your field in **the last five years** (excluding film and television applicants). We expect you to show that within this time you have been delivering regular high-quality work in professional contexts in **at least two** countries. You would need to show that you have been recognised as a leading talent by established international media, that you have won significant awards of excellence in your field and have been booked to take part in internationally significant professional programmes of work, **or** can show evidence of widespread international distribution of your work if your work is not solely performance based.

If you are earlier in your career but can show us that you have a developing professional international presence and that you have the potential to become a leader in your field, you should apply under **Exceptional Promise** (excluding film and television applicants) criteria. We expect you to be able to show that within **the last five years** you have been delivering regular work of recognised quality in professional contexts in **one or more** countries. You would need to show that you have been recognised as being a developing talent by recognised media outlets nationally or internationally, that you have won **or** been nominated for established awards of excellence in your field and have been booked to take part in professional programmes of work, **or** can show evidence of international or national distribution of your work if your work is not solely performance based.

Evidence of media recognition, awards or appearances exclusively related to student productions or work created as part of, or that contributes to a degree, masters or PHD would not be enough to evidence the level of professional recognition and experience we need to see, unless the work was created while you were studying was in a professional context and is completely separate to course of study.

## **The application process**

Applying for a Global Talent Visa is a two-stage process.

**Stage 1** assesses your skills, abilities and achievements and enables us to decide whether you should be endorsed in order to progress your application. Your stage 1 application for endorsement is submitted online via the [Gov.UK website](#).

If you are granted an endorsement you must then apply for Global Talent *leave to enter or remain*. This is **stage 2** of the process, which is undertaken solely by the UKVI and assesses immigration matters only.

**Stage 1:  
Applying for Endorsement**

Read [Appendix W of the Immigration Rules](#) and the UKVI [Global Talent Policy Guidance](#) alongside this guide

If you feel that you meet the criteria, you can submit a stage 1 application via the [Gov.UK](#) website and pay the relevant fee to the UKVI

Once you have applied online, you can email your supporting evidence to UKVI

When your supporting evidence is received by UKVI they will send your application to us by email within **1 week**

Our assessors (or designated external experts for Film & TV, Fashion Design or Architecture applications) will review your application and all supporting evidence, returning a decision to UKVI within no more than **8 weeks**. UKVI will then advise you if we have recommended endorsement or not

**Stage 1 application endorsed?**

**Stage 2** application for the visa can be made via UKVI. This can take up to **8 weeks**. Arts Council England are **not** involved in this part of the process.

**Stage 1 application not endorsed?**

**Option 1:** You can submit an **Endorsement Review** via UKVI. 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 **3 weeks**

**Option 2:** You can re-apply via UKVI. This will allow you to apply with new evidence. **Please note:** you will have to pay the full application fee again

**Option 3:** You can apply for entry via another route.

You must select if you are applying under **Exceptional Talent** or **Exceptional Promise** criteria so that we can assess your evidence against the relevant eligibility criteria for the route you applied under. **However**, for arts and culture and architecture applicants (not including fashion or film and television applicants) if you apply for **Exceptional Talent** and we find that the criteria has not been satisfied, we will assess your application against the criteria for **Exceptional Promise** instead and then recommend endorsement or rejection accordingly under this route. If your application is assessed under a different route to the one you applied for this will show on the endorsement form that is returned to you by UKVI, along with any reasoning behind this decision.

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

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

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

- your letters of support must show the organisation logo and registered address if they are written on behalf of organisations, and be dated and signed by the author, who must be a senior member of the organisation:
  - for **arts and culture and film and television** this would be a 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 Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer, Creative Director, Buying Director, Fashion Director/Editor **or**, for Global Promise applicants the Head of a fashion related university course;
  - for **architecture** this would be somebody such as the President, Chair, Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer, Managing Director, Senior Partner or Editor.
- the letters must also include details of the author's credentials (for example, a CV/resume or biography) and how they know you (personal relationship or reputation);
- they must tell us about your achievements in your specialist field and how, in the opinion of the author, you have either:
  - demonstrated that you are a leader in your field (**Exceptional Talent**); **or**
  - demonstrated that you have the potential to become a leader in your field (**Exceptional Promise**).

- all three letters must describe how you would benefit from living in the UK and the contribution you could make to cultural life here. They should also provide details of any of your future professional engagements in the UK that the author is aware of; **and**
- they must include full contact details for the author, including personal email address and direct telephone number.

Letters of endorsement must reference your application for Global Talent, must be written specifically for this purpose and must include all the information detailed above. A general reference letter is not acceptable, and we are unable to accept handwritten letters of support.

All letters of support must be written in English. If any letters are written in another language they must be accompanied by a full translation from a certified translator, that can be independently verified if required.

The type of letters you must provide will differ dependent on your discipline:

### **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 and acknowledged as having expertise in your specialist field.
- The second letter must be from another cultural organisation that is well-established nationally and/or internationally recognised and acknowledged as having expertise in your specialist field. This second organisation can be **UK or** overseas based.
- The third letter may be **either**; from a third cultural organisation (**UK or** overseas based) that is recognised and acknowledged as having expertise in your specialist field; **or** from an eminent individual with recognised and acknowledged expertise in your specialist field.

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

## **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**.

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

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

- Media Recognition
- International Awards
- Proof of appearances, publications, exhibitions or distribution of your work

Your evidence cannot include objects such as DVDs, CDs, digital files, books or publications or documents that only show web links. If you wish to use the content of a webpage as one of your pieces of evidence, you must provide a printed copy of the page which clearly shows the uniform resource locator (URL) for the page.

All supporting evidence must be written in English. If any pieces of evidence are written in another language they must be accompanied by a full translation from a certified translator, that can be independently verified if required.

The requirements you must meet in these areas are slightly different depending on whether you are applying under **Exceptional Talent** or **Promise** criteria:

## **Exceptional Talent Criteria**

- **Media Recognition** – you must provide **two or more** examples of significant international media recognition for the quality of your work as an individual that are dated within the last **five** years of the date of application. The evidence must come from established national publications, broadcasting companies or media outlets that are widely recognised as possessing arts and culture expertise and must be from **at least two** countries.

Examples of media recognition includes detailed profiles, reviews, evaluations or critiques of your work from credible critics in recognised newspapers or magazines, on international cultural websites (not including blogs or social media) or on television or radio. Interviews, event listings or advertisements that merely publicise your work would not be acceptable because we expect the evidence to provide an evaluation of your work by culturally significant media experts.

It is not possible for us to provide a full list of acceptable media sources. If you feel that your evidence is internationally culturally significant and sufficiently meets the criteria you can submit it with your application. As part of our assessment we will use our expertise to make a judgment on whether the evidence provides an appropriate level of recognition for the quality of your work.

- **International Awards** – you must provide evidence of **winning at least one** recognised award of excellence **in any country** within the last **five** years of the date of application. The award should provide recognition for the quality of your individual work from credible experts in your area. Examples of significant awards of excellence include Grammy Awards, Tony Awards, Booker Prize, Hugo Boss Prize, Artes Mundi, Future Generation Art Prize, Venice Biennale Golden Lion, MOBOs, International Classical Music Awards, Pulitzer Prize or the Prix Benois de la Danse. However, these awards are used as examples only because it is not possible for us to provide a full list of acceptable awards. If you feel that an award you have won shows significant recognition for the quality of your

work and sufficiently meets the criteria you can submit it with your application and as part of our assessment we will use our expertise to decide if the award provides appropriate recognition.

If you have not won an award as an individual, but you have worked in a group, or with another individual that has won an award then you can provide evidence of making a **significant contribution to winning** an award instead. For example, if you were the stage manager on a production that won an award you may not be named on this however, your work will still have contributed to the win. If so, then along with the evidence that shows the award you can provide us with a supporting letter from a senior member of the production team, such as the director or producer. This supporting letter will need to detail the significant contribution that you made to the work that won the award. The letter and the evidence of the award will count as one piece of evidence.

We cannot accept evidence of awards such as grants, bursaries or scholarships for **Exceptional Talent** and, educational awards such as Degrees, Masters or PHDs are not acceptable.

- **Proof of appearances, publications, exhibitions or distribution of your work** – you must provide evidence that shows you have received a number of professional engagements within the last **five** years of the date of application, in **at least two** countries.

Depending on the area you work in 'engagements' could include live appearances or performances, exhibitions or international distribution, sales or commissions of your work.

The evidence must show that you have an **established international presence** and **a demand for your work**, by proving that you have been regularly and actively booked as part of professional programmes.

You can submit evidence such as programmes, adverts or posters, screenshots of videos (the full URL must be included and clearly visible), features of your work in publications (for example, poems or other writing being featured in literary magazines) or distribution lists showing the number of countries your work has been sold in, or statistics related to numbers of plays, sales or downloads on different platforms and outlets. We must be able to see evidence of your participation in the activity and the date and country it took place.

It is not possible for us to provide a full list of acceptable professional contexts. If you feel that your evidence is internationally significant and sufficiently meets the criteria you can submit it with your application and as part of our assessment, we will use our expertise to make a judgment.

You can submit a CV or Resume as part of your evidence, but this would not meet the required level of criteria if you rely on this being the sole piece of evidence to demonstrate multiple appearances.

As we expect to see that you have been appearing in professional programmes, student productions are not acceptable.

## **Exceptional Promise Criteria**

- **Media Recognition** – you must provide **two or more** examples of UK or international media recognition for the quality of your work as an individual that are dated within the last **five** years of the date of application. The evidence must come from established national publications, broadcasting companies or media outlets in **one or more countries**. Unlike the criteria for **Exceptional Talent** the media sources for **Exceptional Promise** do not necessarily have to be recognised as possessing expertise in your specialist field. The important thing to remember is that like for **Exceptional Talent** the evidence must provide a detailed critique, review or evaluation of your work.

Examples of media recognition can include reviews or profiles of your work in newspapers and magazines, on television or radio, on international websites or from established prominent arts and culture blogs, or critiques of your work by credible critics. Interviews, event listings or advertisements that merely publicise your work would not be acceptable because we would expect the evidence to provide an evaluation of the quality of your work.

It is not possible for us to provide a full list of acceptable media sources. If you feel that your evidence meets the general criteria above, you can submit it with your application and as part of our assessment we will use our expertise to make a judgment on whether the evidence provides an appropriate level of recognition for the quality of your work.

Unlike the **Exceptional Talent** criteria, if you have not received media recognition for your work as an individual, but you have received recognition for your work as part of a group, or for the work of another individual that you were involved in, then you can provide **evidence of the contribution that you made** instead. For example, if you are a second violin in an orchestra it may be unlikely that you have been named in a review. It can be difficult for artists such as orchestra members when reviews of performances focus on the overall work of the orchestra. However, your work is equally as important as anybody who may be named in the piece. Therefore, along with the review you can provide us with a supporting letter from someone who was named in the review, or a senior member of the orchestra such as a director. This supporting letter will need to detail the specific contribution that you made to the performance. The letter and the review will count as one piece of evidence.

- **International Awards** – you must provide evidence of winning **or** being nominated for **at least one** award of excellence in any country within the last **five** years of the date of application. Awards of excellence for **Exceptional Promise** should show recognition of your status as a developing leader in your specialist field.

Although a lot of arts awards do feature cash prizes, we cannot accept evidence of awards such as grants or bursaries. Educational awards such as Degrees, Masters or PHDs are also not accepted. However, unlike for **Exceptional Talent** criteria you can submit evidence of an award such as an arts scholarship (for example to attend a conservatoire or an art school) for **Exceptional Promise**. If you do, we will use our judgment and expertise to decide if this demonstrates appropriate acknowledgment of your potential to become a leader in your field.

It is not possible for us to provide a full list of acceptable awards therefore if you feel that an award you have won or been nominated for shows recognition for the quality of your work in the arts, you can submit it with your application and as part of our assessment we will use our expertise to decide if the award provides appropriate recognition.

If you have not won or been nominated for an award as an individual, but you have worked in a group, or with another individual that has, then you can provide evidence of **making a direct contribution** to the win or nomination instead. For example, if you were the drummer in a rock band that was nominated for an award you may not be named if the nomination is for the band as a whole however, your work will still have contributed to the nomination. If so, then as part of the same piece of evidence you are submitting that shows the award you can provide us with a supporting letter, such as from a manager, agent or record label. This supporting letter will need to detail the direct contribution that you made to the win or nomination. The letter and the evidence of the award will count as one piece of evidence.

- **Proof of appearances, publications, exhibitions or distribution of your work** – you must provide separate pieces of evidence that show you have received a number of professional engagements within the last **five** years of the date of application in **one or more** countries.

Depending on the discipline you work in 'engagements' could be live appearances, performances, exhibitions or international distribution or sales of your work.

The evidence must show that you have a developing international presence and demand for your work, by proving that you have been regularly booked as part of professional artistic programmes.

You can submit evidence such as programmes, adverts or posters, listings, screenshots of videos (the full URL must be included), features of your work in publications (for example, poems or other writing being featured in literary magazines) or distribution lists showing the number of countries your work has been sold in, or statistics related to numbers of plays, sales or downloads on different platforms and outlets. We must be able to see evidence of your participation in the activity and the date and country it took place.

It is not possible for us to provide a full list of acceptable professional contexts. If you feel that your evidence meets the general criteria above, you can submit it with your application and as part of our assessment we will use our expertise to make a judgment.

You can submit a CV or Resume as part of your evidence, but this would not meet the required level of criteria if you rely on this being the sole piece of evidence to demonstrate multiple appearances.

As we expect to see that you have been appearing in professional programmes, evidence of work in student productions is not acceptable.

Unlike the **Exceptional Talent** criteria, if you have not appeared in a professional programme as an individual but you have worked in a group, or with another individual then you can provide **evidence of the contribution you made** instead.

For example, if you are a ballet dancer as part of a large company you might not be named on a poster or listing for a performance, as it may only feature the director or company's details. However, you can submit the poster or listing as evidence, along with a supporting letter from a senior member of the production team such as the director. This supporting letter

will need to detail the contribution that you made to the performance. The evidence and the letter will count as one piece of evidence.

### **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 criteria for **Exceptional Talent**. **Exceptional Promise** is **not** available if you work in these areas. [The Producers Alliance for Film and Television \(PACT\)](#) assess Global Talent applications for people working in these areas on our behalf.

Your application will be sent to us to log as normal by UKVI, but we will forward the application to PACT for assessment. Once PACT have completed their assessment, we will forward their recommendation 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:
  - international distribution sales and recognition, **and** having achieved one of the following:
    - won a **minimum of two**,
    - **won** one, **and**, within the last six years before the date of application, have been **nominated for one** other,
    - within the last six years before the date of application, have been **nominated for a minimum of three**, or
    - within the last three years before the date of application, **made a significant and direct contribution to winning two**, or being **nominated for a minimum of three** of the awards in the Notable Industry Recognition Awards list published at:  
[www.pact.co.uk/services/legal-business-affairs/tier-1-notable-awards-list.html](http://www.pact.co.uk/services/legal-business-affairs/tier-1-notable-awards-list.html)

To show that you meet the requirements you must provide:

- 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.

### **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 will be sent to us to log as normal by UKVI, but we will forward the application to BFC for assessment. Once BFC have completed their assessment, we will forward their recommendation to UKVI.

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

Exceptional Talent	Exceptional Promise
<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 of having, within the last five years from the year of application:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• won; <b>or</b>,</li> <li>• received a nomination or been nominated for; <b>or</b></li> <li>• having made a significant and direct contribution to winning or being nominated for <b>an international award for excellence</b>.</li> </ul> <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 merit</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>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><b>2) Proof of having received, within the last five years from the year of application support and sponsorship</b> through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the British Fashion Council’s support schemes; <b>or</b>;</li> <li>• the Fashion East support scheme; <b>or</b></li> <li>• the Sarabande Foundation; <b>or</b></li> <li>• support by Centre for Fashion Enterprise; <b>or</b></li> <li>• similar support from an international counterpart to the British Fashion Council.</li> </ul> <p><b>3) Evidence of one or more orders placed by UK or international luxury retailers and boutiques in the last five years.</b></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</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>Fashion Week - of an exceptional graduating collection.</p>
--	--

Evidence submitted must be paper based and cannot include other objects such as digital versatile discs (DVDs), compact discs (CDs), digital files or documents that only show web links. If you wish to use the content of a webpage as one of your pieces of evidence, you must provide a printed copy of the page which clearly shows the uniform resource locator (URL) for the page.

All evidence must be written in English. If any pieces of evidence are written in another language they must be accompanied by a full translation from a certified translator, that can be independently verified if required.

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;
  - 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. The British Fashion Council 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 will be sent to us to log as normal by UKVI but, we will forward the application to RIBA for assessment. Once RIBA have completed their assessment, we will forward their recommendation to UKVI.

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

<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>2) Proof of having</b>, within the last <b>five</b> years from the date of application;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• won; <b>or</b></li> </ul>	<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</b>, within the last <b>five</b> years from the date of application;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• won; <b>or</b></li> <li>• been nominated or shortlisted; <b>or</b></li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• made a significant and direct contribution to winning;</li> </ul> <p><b>at least one</b> international award for excellence.</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 merit, rather than monetary awards such as grants and bursaries.</p> <p><b>3) Proof of having 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.</p> <p>Proof must come from <b>at least one</b> country <b>other</b> than your country of residence and must demonstrate a <b>minimum of two</b> publications or exhibitions of your work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• having made a significant and direct contribution to winning, being nominated or being shortlisted for</li> </ul> <p><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 awards of merit, rather than monetary awards such as grants and bursaries.</p> <p><b>3) Proof of having 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.</p> <p>Proof must come from <b>one or more</b> countries, which <b>can include</b> your country of residence and must demonstrate a <b>minimum of two</b> publications or exhibitions of your work.</p>
---	--

Evidence submitted must be paper based and cannot include other objects such as digital versatile discs (DVDs), compact discs (CDs), digital files or documents that only show web links. If you wish to use the content of a webpage as one of your pieces of evidence, you must provide a printed copy of the page which clearly shows the uniform resource locator (URL) for the page.

All evidence must be written in English. If any pieces of evidence are written in another language they must be accompanied by a full translation from a certified translator, that can be independently verified if required.

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;
  - 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 a mistake has been made, you can submit an Endorsement Review via UKVI. 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 website](#).

Alternatively, you can make a new application for Stage 1, or make an application under a different immigration route if you meet the relevant criteria for that route. Both options would require you to pay a new application fee.

## **Supported disciplines**

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

### **Combined Arts**

People whose work is made up different areas of arts practise that involves 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 areas such as commissioning, programming or curation, production, directing or developing work, touring networks and public engagement.

### **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 areas such as choreography or teaching, production, direction and curation.

## Literature

Writers and literature practitioners working in areas such as:

- print, digital or live poetry
- print, digital 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 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) can also be considered however, journalism, general arts writing, academic writing about the arts or writing for lifestyle magazines are **not** supported.

Screenwriting for film and television would **not** be considered as Literature, as this would come 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 and singer-songwriters)
- folk, traditional and culturally specific music
- jazz
- choral or gospel
- youth music
- grassroots music
- music created using digital technology

- Independent record labels

We can also consider applications from people working in areas such as song writing and composition, production, recording and engineering or conducting and musical direction.

Composers who work with orchestras (for example) to create music for live performance or recordings can apply as an arts and culture applicant for **Exceptional Talent** or **Exceptional Promise**, for assessment by Arts Council England. However, composers that create music for film and television **must** apply for **Exceptional Talent** for assessment by PACT and provide the necessary evidential requirements.

### Theatre

Actors and theatre practitioners working in areas such as:

- musical theatre
- physical theatre and mime
- plays or narrative drama (excluding Film & TV)
- experimental theatre
- comedy
- variety and cabaret
- pantomime
- circus
- puppetry and visual theatre
- audience development
- youth theatre
- new writing

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

Theatre and film and television are separate disciplines assessed by separate bodies. Theatre applications are therefore assessed by Arts Council England and film and television applications are transferred to PACT for assessment. It is not possible to divide an application between two assessing bodies so when you apply, even if you do work across both areas you will be asked to select **either** arts and culture **or** film and television as your area of practise. You would therefore have to submit the required evidence for the specific category you apply under, **not both**.

## Visual Arts

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

- drawing, painting or printmaking
- sculpture and installations
- artist-led animation (**excluding** work primarily intended for Film or TV, commercial games or mass-market media distribution)
- illustration (such as concept art, comic art, picture books, zines and other narrative or sequential illustration, but **does not** include areas such as technical, scientific, medical or fashion design and illustration)
- live and performance art
- mixed media art, digital or computer-generated art
- ceramics, pottery or crafts (such as woodworking or turning, silversmiths or metal work, jewellery, glass work or textiles)
- photography (**excluding** documentary photography such as fashion, music or journalistic)
- artists film and moving image (**excluding** for Film or TV)
- sound art (including site specific installations or sound installations, 'audioscapes', sound walks and sound mapping and performance art, or noise or sonic art)

We can also consider applications from people working in 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 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**

- [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.

**If you have any questions that are not covered in this guide, please contact our Customer Service team for assistance on 0161 934 4317 or email [enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk)**

**If you have access requirements, or if you have a query regarding submitting your application, please contact UKVI.**

### **From inside the UK:**

**Telephone:** 0300 123 2241

**Textphone:** 0800 389 8289

Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4.45pm

Friday, 9am to 4.30pm

### **From outside the UK:**

Telephone: 00 44 203 481 1736

Monday to Friday, 24 hours

[Email UK Visas and Immigration](#)