

Global Talent Visa



What is the Global Talent Visa?

The Global Talent Visa is available for talented and promising individuals from the fields of science, engineering, medicine and humanities, digital technology **and arts and culture**, who wish to continue their professional career in the UK.

The visa allows you to live and work in the UK for up to five years, and you can extend the visa after this period, or apply for settlement.

Global Talent Visa Routes

There are two routes available for different experience levels. Choose the one most appropriate for your **current** career stage when you apply.

Exceptional Talent

For those with a substantial track record of working regularly as a professional in the last 5 years, and who are **widely** recognised as current leaders or experts.

Exceptional Promise

For those with a developing track record of working as a professional in the last 5 years, recognised as future leaders or experts in their field.

The Endorsement Process

You must receive an endorsement from an Endorsing Body.

Satisfy them that you are at an appropriate stage to be recognised as a leader or future leader; otherwise, your application may be refused.

The Endorsing Bodies

The Arts Council England



is the chosen endorsing body for arts and culture applications.

Other Specialist Areas

There are five other organisations designated as endorsing bodies by the Home Office to assess applications:

- **The Royal Society** – for natural and medical science
- **The Royal Academy of Engineering** – for engineering
- **The British Academy** – for humanities and social science
- **Tech Nation** – for digital technology
- **UK Research and Innovation** – for science and innovation

Who Can Apply?

Arts Council England Areas

Applications are assessed for professional artists and practitioners in:

- **Combined Arts**
- **Dance**
- **Literature**
- **Music**
- **Theatre**
- **Visual Arts**

Visit the Arts Council England Guide for more details.

Other Specialist Areas | Commercial

Assessed by designated industry bodies for the Global Talent Visa:

PACT

Film, TV, Animation, Post-production, VFX

British Fashion Council (BFC)

Fashion Designers

RIBA

Architects

Note: Arts Council does not specialize in these fields.

How to Apply

- 1. Application Submission:** All applications are submitted via [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) to UKVI, who then forward them to Arts Council England for assessment.
- 2. Decision Process:** Arts Council England sends their decision back to UKVI, who will notify you of the outcome.
- 3. Communication:** Always communicate directly with UKVI regarding your application; do not contact Arts Council England for status updates.

Prestigious Prize Winners: If you have won an Oscar, BAFTA, or Golden Globe, you do not need an endorsement. UKVI will verify the prize before issuing your visa.



- Arts Council England

Eligibility and Conditions

- To be eligible you must work in one of our supported areas of practice.
- If applications are received from people working in unsupported areas, they may be returned as ineligible without assessment.
- Once returned, UKVI can refund your application fee.

Not sure if your area is eligible?

Contact Arts Council England Customer Service for advice:

Telephone: 0161 934 4317 | **Email:** enquiries@artscouncil.org.uk

Track Record Requirements

You must be able to meet the following track record requirements

Core Requirements:

- Professionally engaged in producing work of outstanding quality within the last 5 years.
- Work published, performed, presented, distributed or exhibited internationally (excluding newspapers/magazines).
- Recent and regular professional activity in your field within the last 5 years.

For applying under:

Exceptional Talent:

Substantial professional track record and demand for your work in **more than one country**.

Exceptional Promise:

Early stage in your career with a developing professional track record and demand for work in **at least one country**.

Arts Council England expects Global Talent Visa applicants as leaders or future leaders in their field.

Supporting Evidence

All arts and culture applicants must upload: (Combined Arts, Dance, Literature, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts)

A Detailed Artistic CV or Résumé

3 Letters of Support

(Maximum 3 pages/sides of A4 each)

- **Letter 1:** From an established UK-based cultural organisation with recognized expertise in your specialist field.
- **Letter 2:** From an established UK or international cultural organisation with recognized expertise in your specialist field.
- **Letter 3:** From a third established cultural organisation or an eminent individual with recognized expertise.

10 Individual Pieces

of Supporting Evidence made up of:

- **Media recognition**
(At least two)
- **Awards**
(At least one, Exceptional Promise counts)
- **Proof of appearances**

Proof of Appearances

Exceptional Talent

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

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

Exceptional Promise

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

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

Every Applicant is Different

Option one	Option two	Option three
1 x CV	1 x CV	1 x CV
3 x Letters	3 x Letters	3 x Letters
2 x Media recognition	2 x Media recognition	2 x Proof of appearances
2 x Proof of appearances	1 x Awards	1 x Awards

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Criteria

Letter 1: From a well-established **UK cultural organisation** with expertise in your area.

Letter 2: From **another** cultural organisation (UK or overseas).

Letter 3: From a **third cultural organisation** or an **eminent individual**.

Note: Organizations must be within Arts Council's remit. Suitability determined during assessment.

Elements in the Letter

Past: Share past projects and experiences working with the artist.

Present: Explaining why this artist would be so valuable for the UK community.

Future: Acknowledgment of intent to work in the future or support on their journey.

Ideal References

- **Director / Head Curator** of a Well Known organization
- **Board Member** of Well Known Organization
- **Artistic Collaboration:** Would Qualify for Exceptional Talent)

Submission Rules

- Submit **three** letters of support.
- Max **three pages/sides** of A4 per letter.
- Non-English require **certified translations**.
- **No multiple letters** from the same organisation.
- *Remember to include their CVs.*

Items Qualifying for Supporting Evidence

Media Recognition

Content: Must be detailed independent critiques, reviews, or critical evaluations.

Timeframe: Within the last five years; professional work only.

Authorship: Article writer's name must be visible to verify expertise, and has to be establish.

Interviews: Accepted only if very detailed review/critique. Not just an Appearance

Group Work: Include a document detailing your specific contribution.

Proof of Appearances

Valid Evidence: Exhibitions, Events, Programmes can be presented through adverts, posters, listings, or screenshots.

Details Required: Date, country, named credit, and your role must be clear.

Distribution Data: Allowed for recorded work with country breakdown.

Exclusions: No cancelled/future events. No workshops or conferences.

Group Work: Include staff confirmation of your contribution.

Awards

Timeframe: Win or nomination must be within the last five years.

Professional Status: Professional work only. Student awards not accepted.

Group Awards: Requires document detailing your specific contribution.

Verification: Credibility verified by Arts Council expertise and internet.

Global Talent Visa Overview

You can apply for a Global Talent visa if you are at least 18 and a leader or potential leader in academia/research, arts/culture, or digital technology.

Application Process

- **Direct Application:** Available if you have won an eligible prestigious prize.
- **Endorsement Route:** Required if you have not won an eligible prize. Must prove standing in field.
- **Other Options:** Consider alternatives like Skilled Worker visa (Tier 5) if ineligible.

Duration and Settlement

- Visas are granted for up to 5 years per application.
- Extensions (1–5 years) available with no total limit on stay.
- ILR qualification after 3 or 5 years, depending on field/type.

Applying

- Apply online. Process varies by location and status (outside UK, extension, or switching).
- **Decision Timeline:** 3 weeks (outside UK) or 8 weeks (inside UK). Faster processing available for a fee.

BUT KEEP IN MIND EVERY APPLICATION IS DIFFERENT

Fees

- **Total Visa Fee:** £766
£561 for Stage 1 (endorsement)
£205 for Stage 2 (Visa Itself)
- **Dependents:** £766 per person.
- **Healthcare Surcharge:**
Usually £1,035 per year, per person.

STAGE 2 & RENEWAL

Stage 2 Application

You generally must apply from your home country.
Exceptions apply for students in the UK who completed their course or PhD (24+ months).

Required Documentation:

- Valid passport or identity document
- Tuberculosis test results (if applicable)
- Written sponsor permission (if funded in last year)
- Certified translations for non-English/Welsh docs

Note: Prize winners' evidence is typically verified via public sources by the Home Office.

Global Talent Visa Renewal

Extend your stay if your endorsement remains valid.
Must provide evidence of field earnings
(e.g., payslips, Tax Documents, invest in an accountant).

Process: Apply before expiry. Partners/children apply separately.

Duration: Up to 5 years per extension; no limit on renewals.

Settlement: Qualify for ILR (Settlement) after 3 or 5 years depending on route.

Cost: £766.

KEEP IN MIND



RULES CHANGE OVER TIME

- **The Government:** Changes to the visa rules usually happen yearly. But it can be caught by surprise.
- **Stay Informed:** Keep yourself updated on the Updated Visa Guidances and Current Events.

TAKE YOUR TIME

This should not be rushed.
Developing these applications can
take 4 - 6 months to prepare.

Lastly, Be Kind to Yourself.

Remember, Be Kind to yourself



YOU GOT THIS!