

PART ONE: VISA ADVICE FOR ARTISTS

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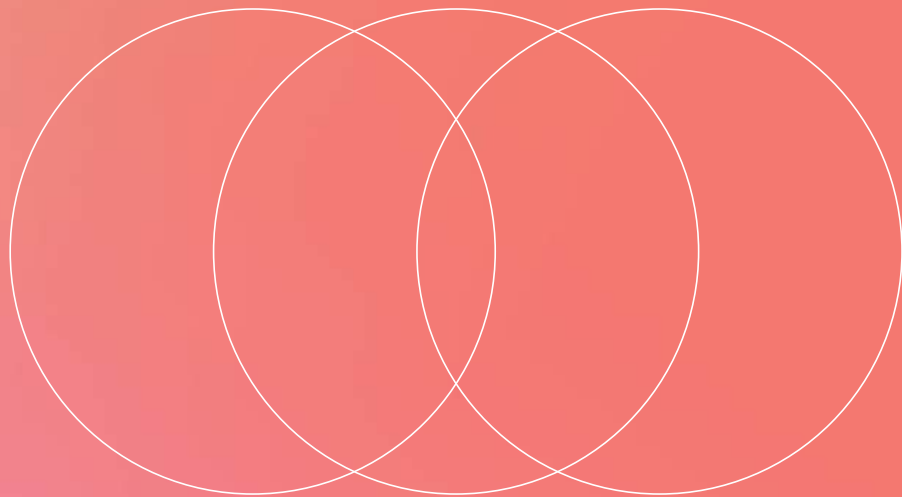
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INTRODUCTION

What will be discussed

Overall general information

01

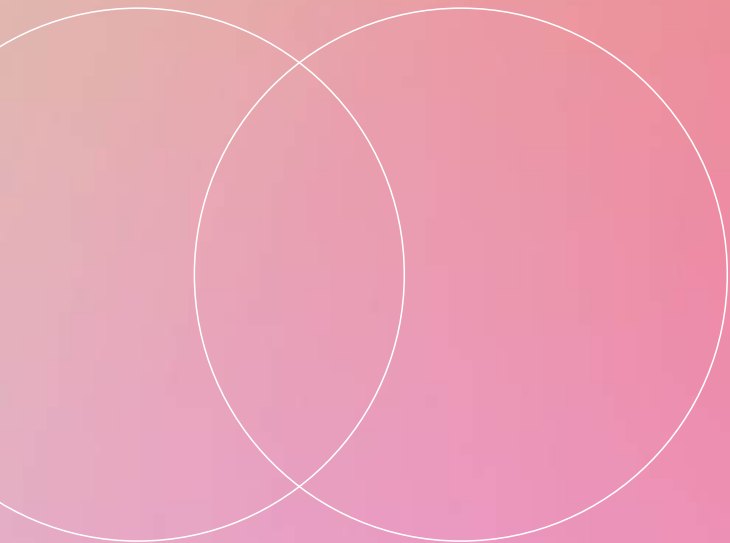
Visa routes and restrictions

02

Clear guidance on application process

03

Long and short-term staying and routes to support



What will not be discussed

Limited to certain visa routes
(Tier 5 and 1)

01

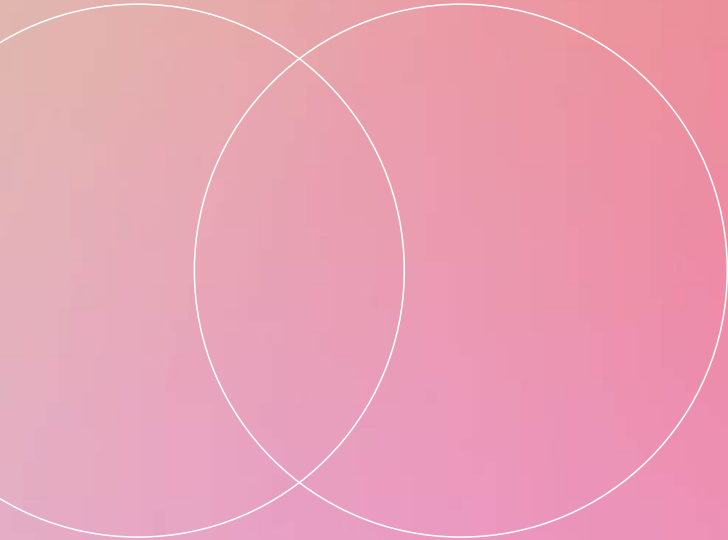
Specific routes from other countries
(although differences will be highlighted)

02

Individual cases or situations

03

Other visa routes i.e. Tier 4 Student visas, Graduate visas or spouse visas



Ground Rules

Questions are welcome during and after the session.
Contact details provided at the end of the presentation. Slides provided!

01

Do not ask questions that include any personal information

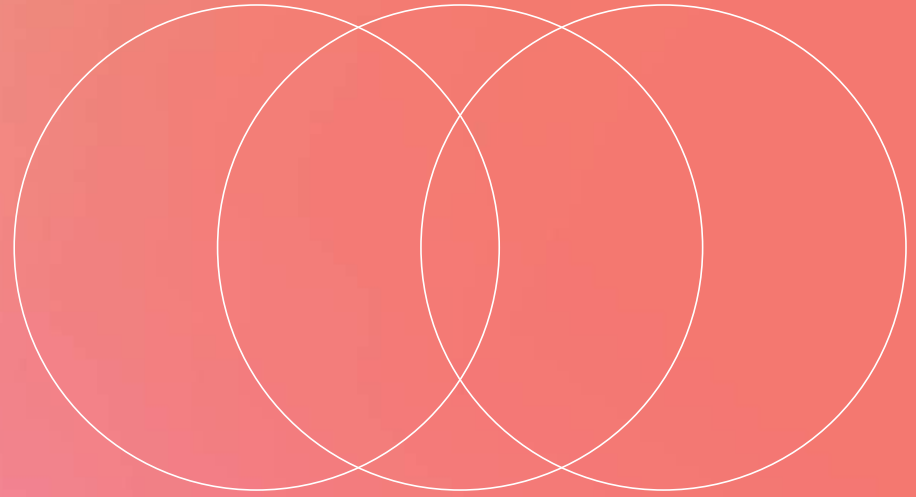
02

All are encouraged to take part in all parts of the programme to better understand all sides

03

Networking actively encouraged to amongst artists and organisations!

02



VISA BASICS



ELIGIBILITY

Prerequisites and requirements that are needed to obtain the visa with physical proof provided as part of the application.

FEES

The price of the visa with additional fees for the national health service, biometrics, administration and any addition priority services

ROUTES INTO

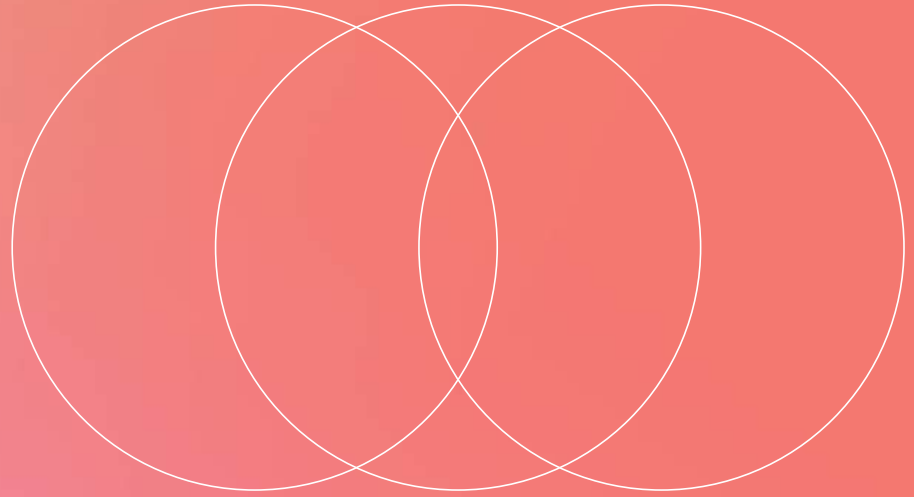
Only certain visas can switch to certain visas and some require the applicant to apply from outside the UK or from their home country (dependent)

RESTRICTIONS

Rules that must be adhered to by the applicant and the sponsor (if relevant) during their stay on that visa. If not followed could incur serious penalties.

ALL VISAS HAVE...

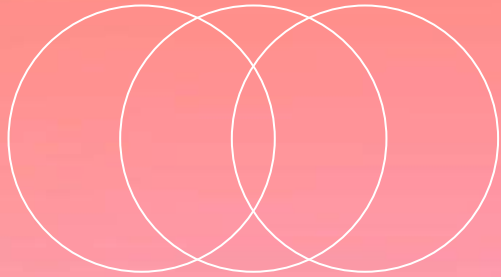
03



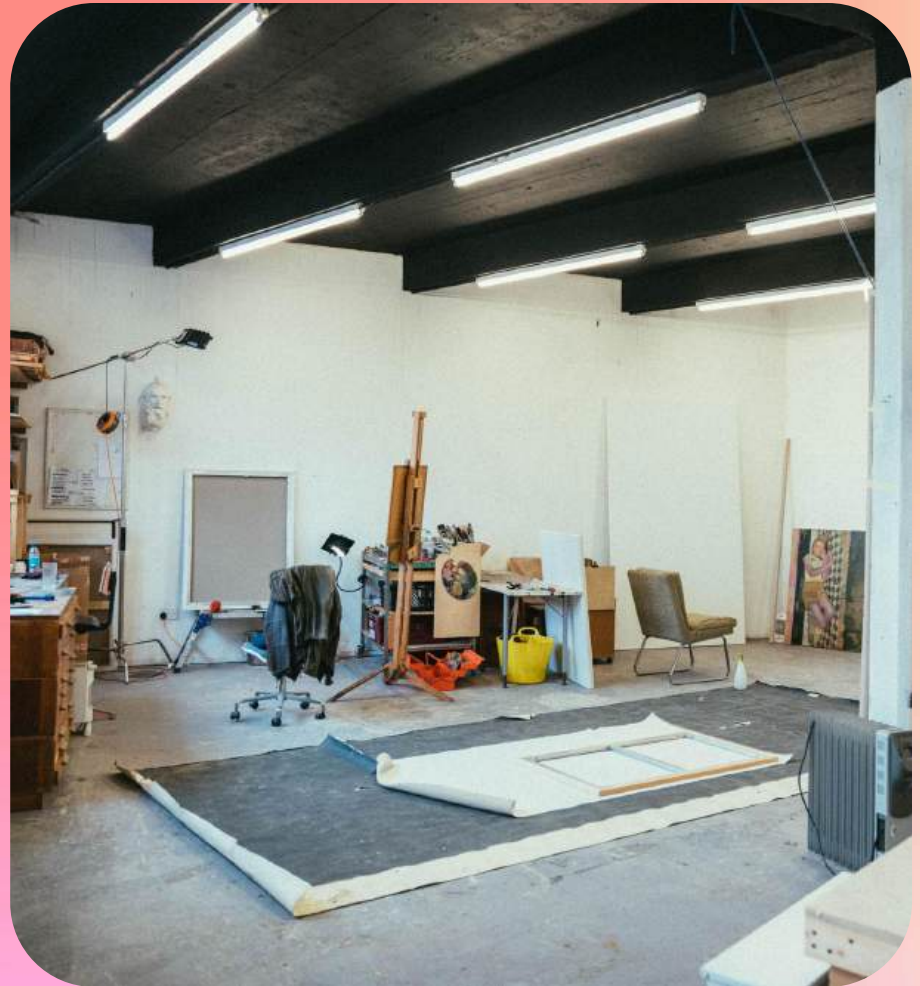
**TIER 5 -
CREATIVE WORKER**

For artists and creative professionals coming to the UK for temporary paid work include:

- Exhibitions/Performances
- Residencies
- Festival
- Productions
- Commissions
- Research Project



CREATIVE WORKER VISA (temp work)





1

Have a UK-based sponsor licensed by the Home Office

2

Issued a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS)

3

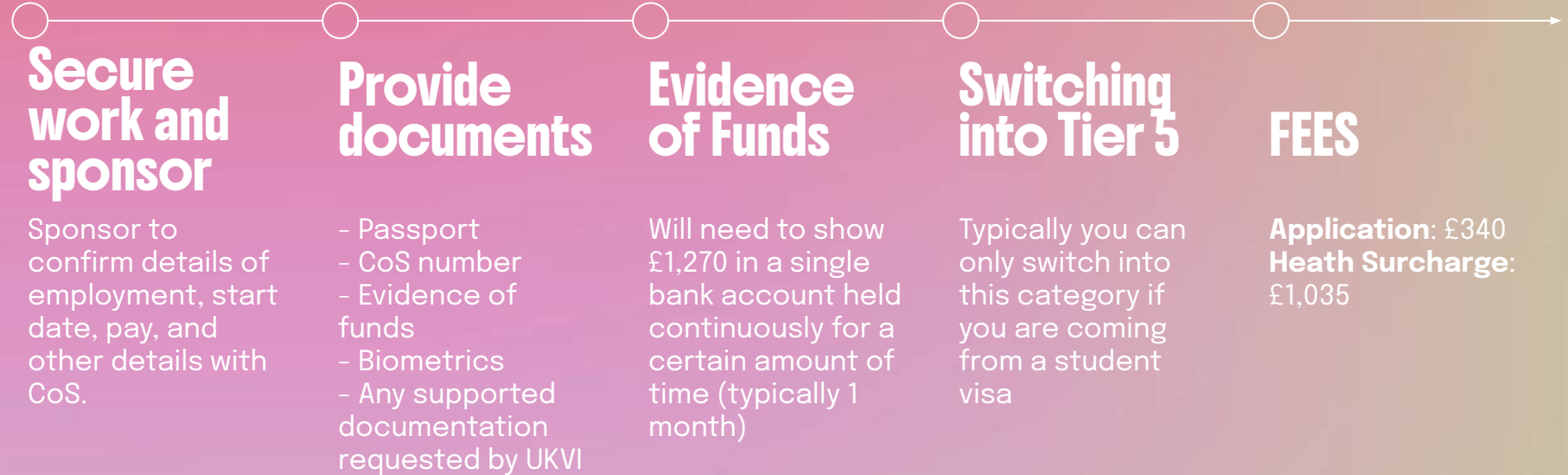
Proof of genuine creative work being undertaken

4

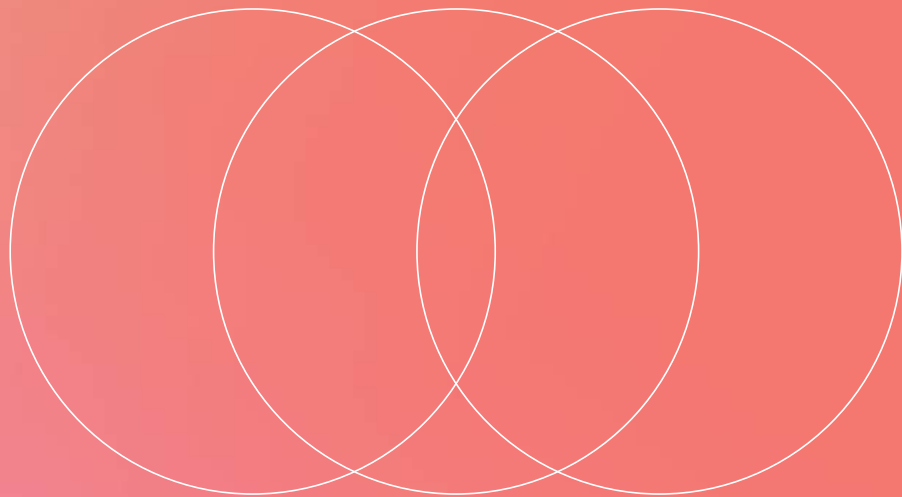
Meet maintenance requirements (or can be certified by sponsor)

ELIGIBILITY

Application Process and Fees



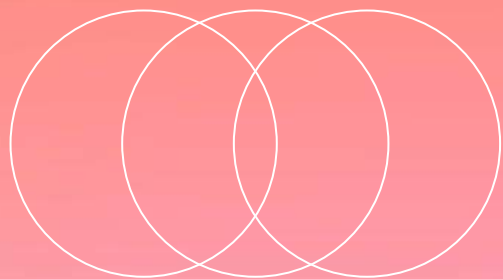
04



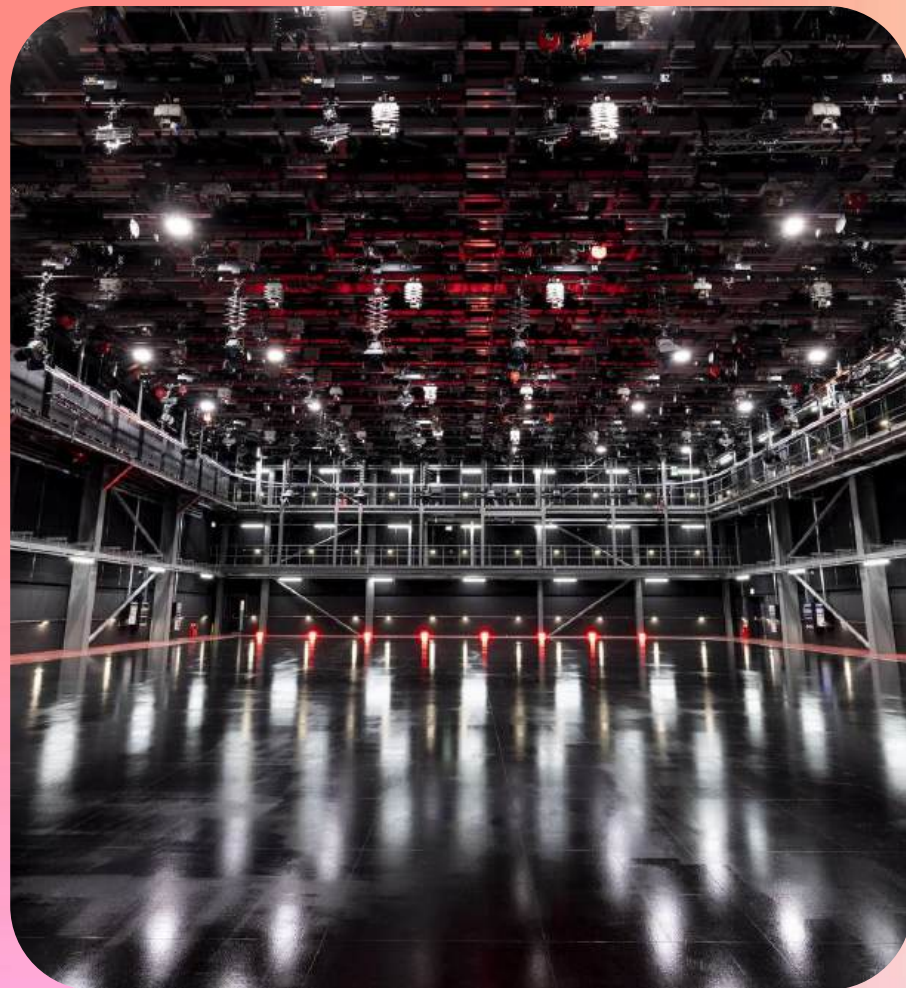
**TIER 1-
GLOBAL TALENT**

For artists who are recognised as leaders or emerging leaders in their field.

Exceptional Promise – specifically for emerging artists showing strong future potential



GLOBAL TALENT (Exceptional Promise)





1

CV

2

Artist Statement

3

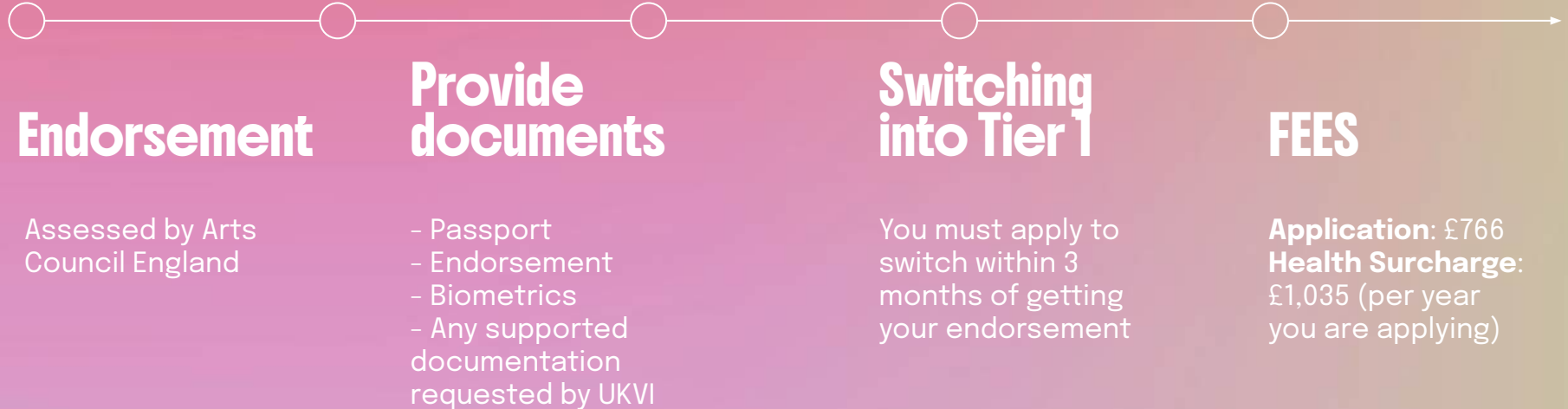
Letters of
recommendation

4

Media coverage and
evidence of exhibitions,
performances,
publications,
commissions, awards,
etc.

ENDORSEMENT

Application Process and Fees





**Be self-employed/
freelance/start a
business**

**Be employed in
other work or
non-artistic work
or study**

Bring dependants

**Work across
multiple projects**

RESTRICTIONS – things you can do



**Access to public
funds**

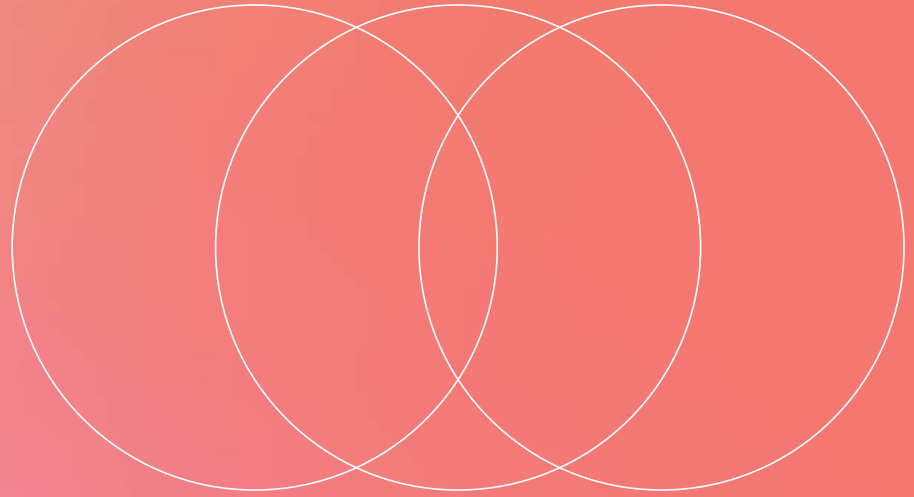
**I.E Universal Credit,
Government
Benefits**

**Rely on
endorsement
evidence that is
false or misleading**

***Must continue to
demonstrate
activity within their
endorsed field if
looking to apply for
settlement
(typically after 5
years)**

RESTRICTIONS – things you can't do

05



**ROUTES to
SETTLEMENT**



Continuous Stay

5 or 10 years dependent

English Language

Tested Level 2 unless graduated from UK University or other proof

Life in the UK Test

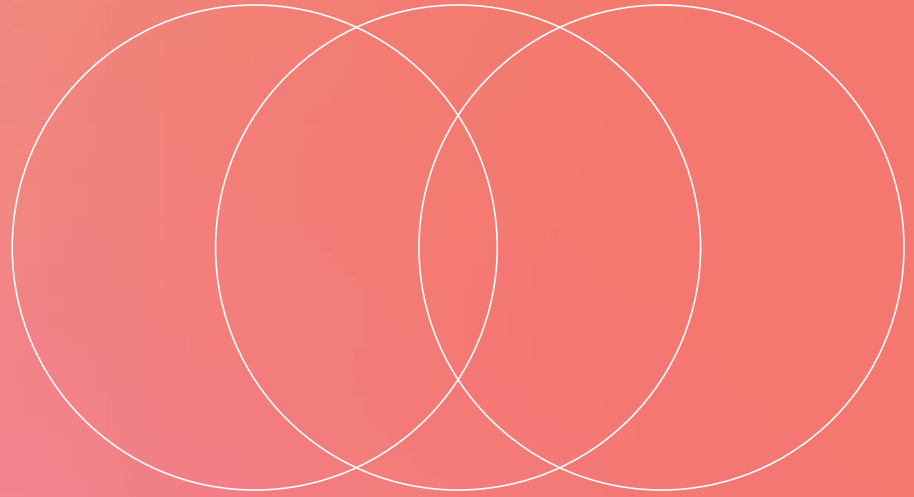
Test of British Culture and History

Good Character

Be of good character without outstanding convictions, fines or debts

INDEFINITE LEAVE TO REMAIN

06

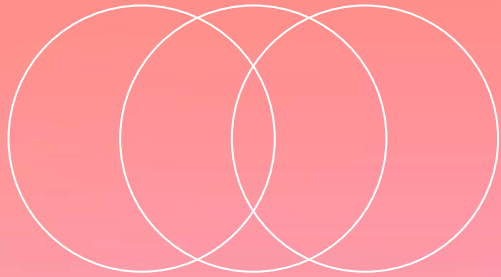


RULE CHANGES

Rule changes typically happen and are part of the ever-changing political atmosphere. It's hard to predict when things will change or how often.

It is always good to check any and all rules around a month before you plan to apply for any route.

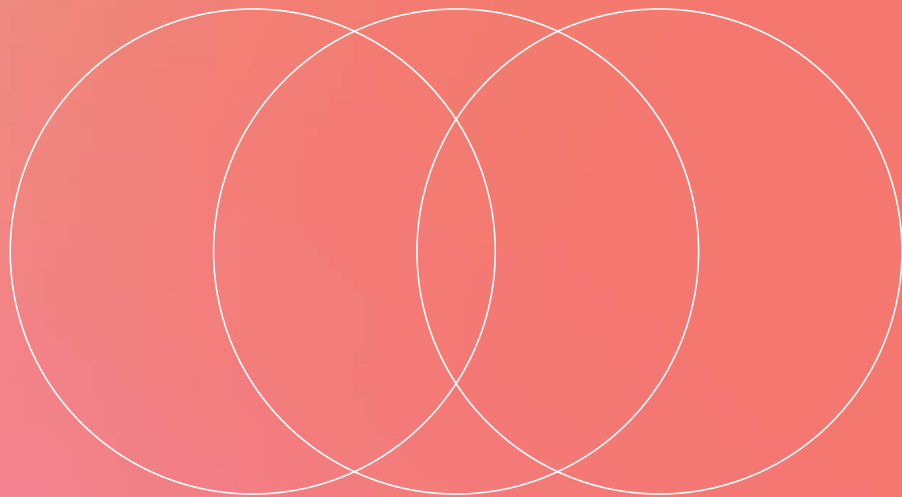
Reaching out for help before any application can also flag up any changes.



**PLAN AHEAD
(but not too far ahead)**



07



NEXT STEPS

Strategise and Organise

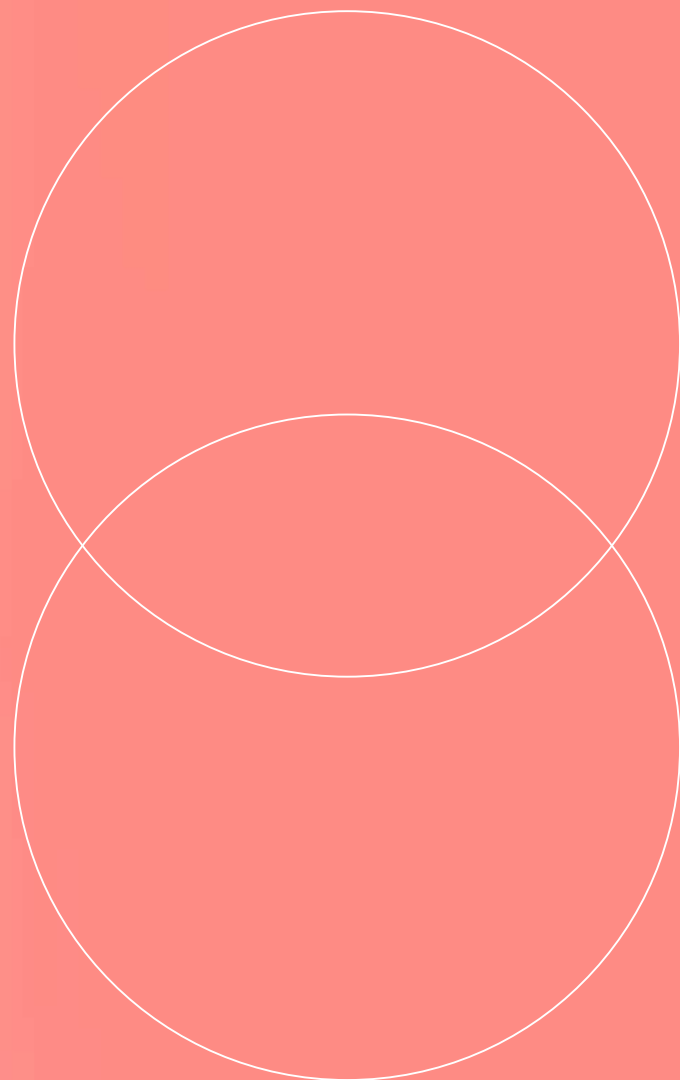
Assess what you want

Whether you're looking to stay a little bit longer or a lot longer there will be different visa routes that will suit.

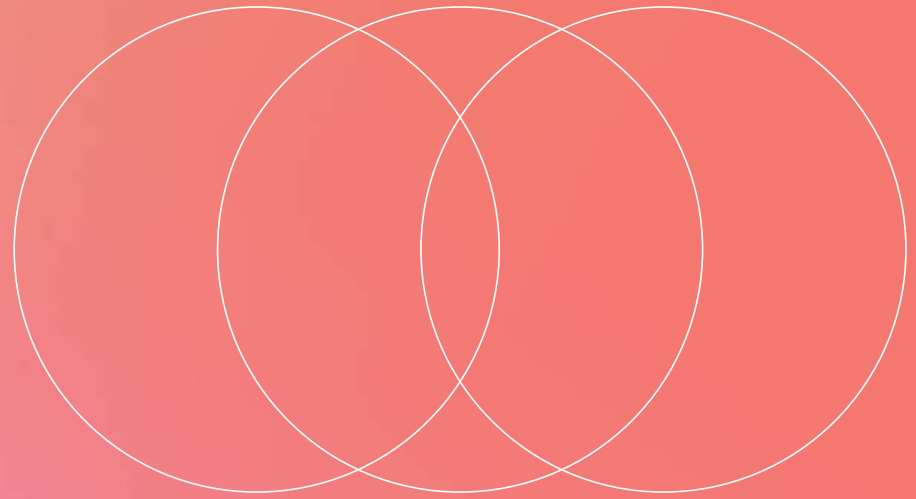
Figure this out as soon as you can to be ready.

Find the route that suits you

Once decided on a route maintain any and all relevant paperwork, work towards any maintenance fees, keep a good network, ask for support and always keep the name of a lawyer handy.

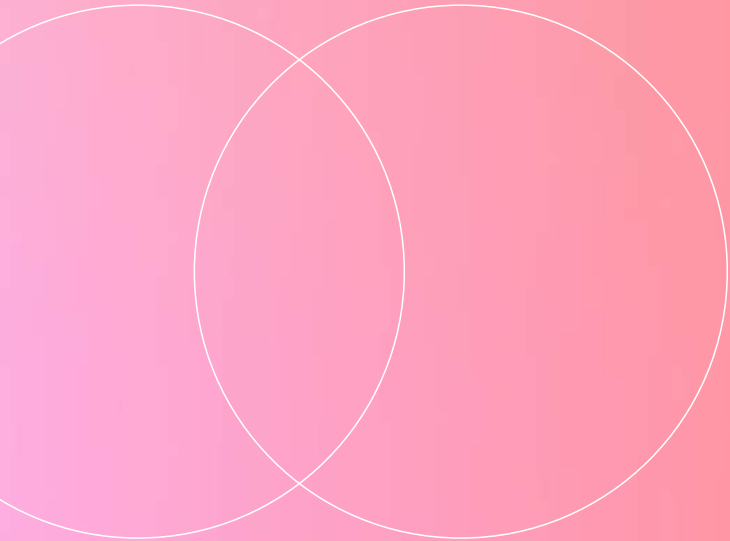


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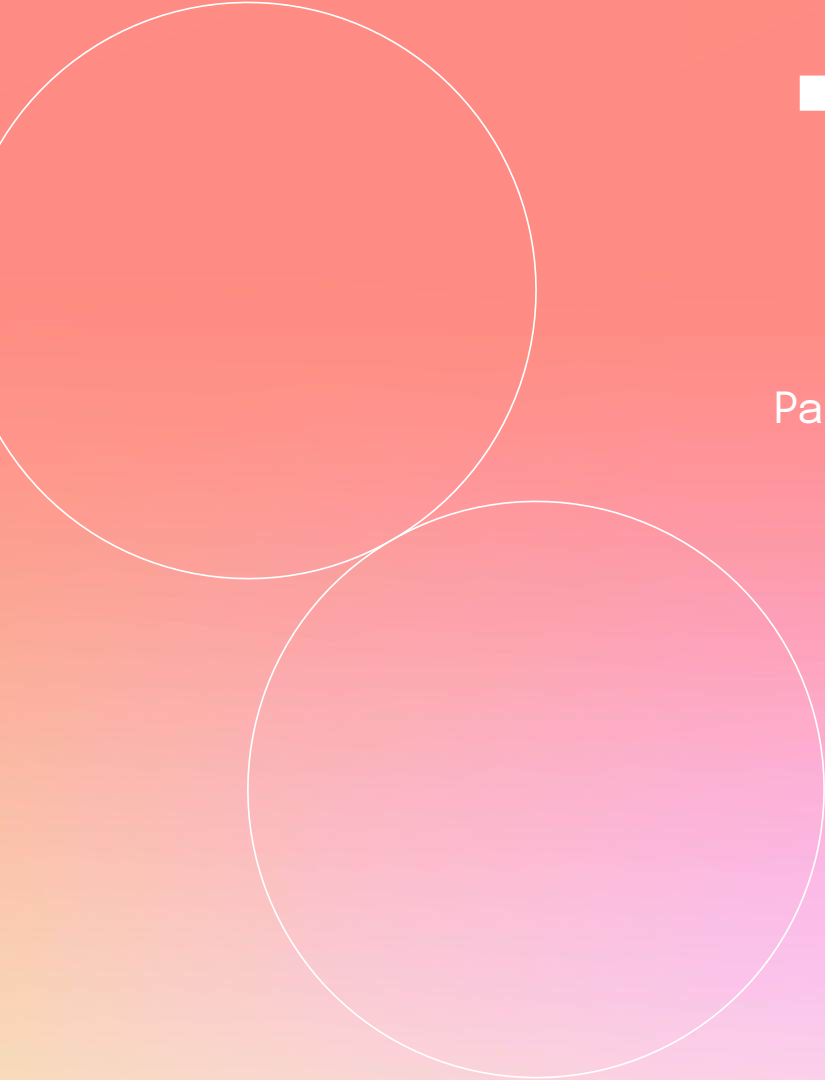


TAKEAWAYS

NOT ALL VISA JOURNEYS ARE THE SAME!



- Changes in rules make it hard to compare and get specific, clear or detailed advice
- It is not an easy process - be kind to yourself!
- Rules and visas change but these changes take time to action
- Every visa situation, timing or decision is unique
- Finding advice where you can but don't let it overwhelm you



THANK YOU

Part 2: SPONSORSHIP ADVICE FOR ARTS ORGANISATIONS

PART TWO: SPONSORSHIP ADVICE FOR ARTS ORGANISATIONS

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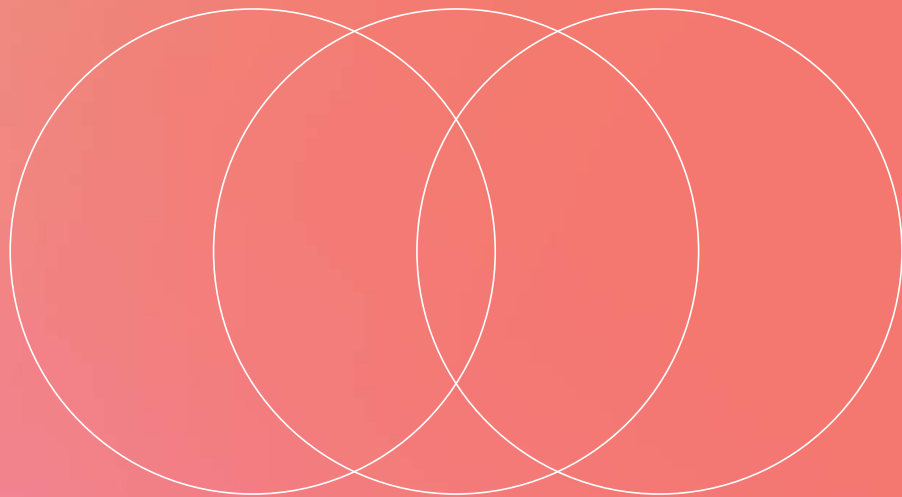
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01



INTRODUCTION

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Overall general information

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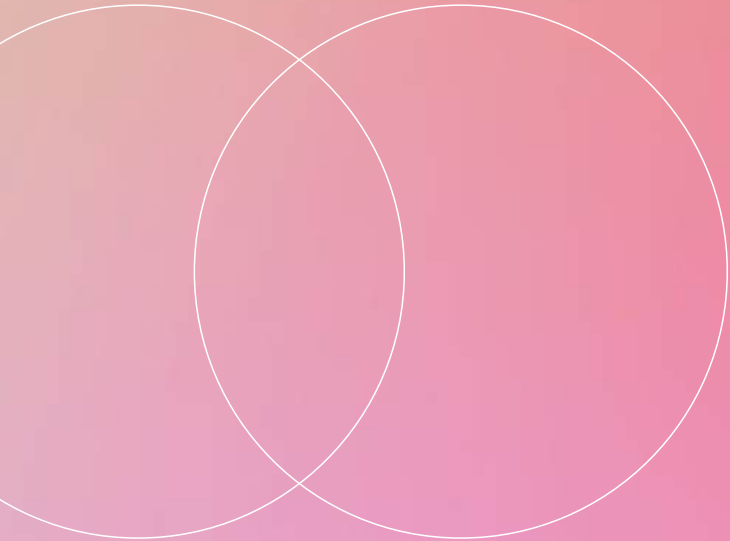
Sponsorship system

02

Clear guidance on application processes

03

Long and short-term support for artists with call to action to work with other organisations



What will not be discussed

Limited to sponsorship of Tier 5
Creative Worker Visa

01

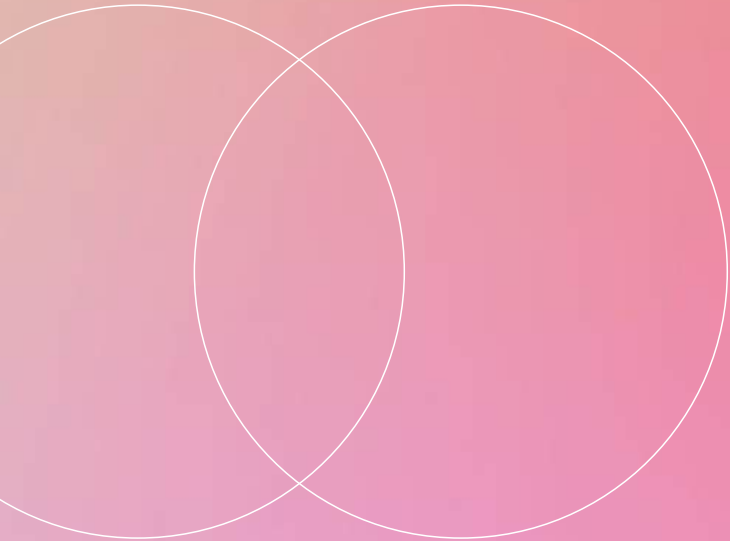
Specific cases

02

Individual cases or situations of one organisation

03

Tier 2 Employment Sponsorship



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01

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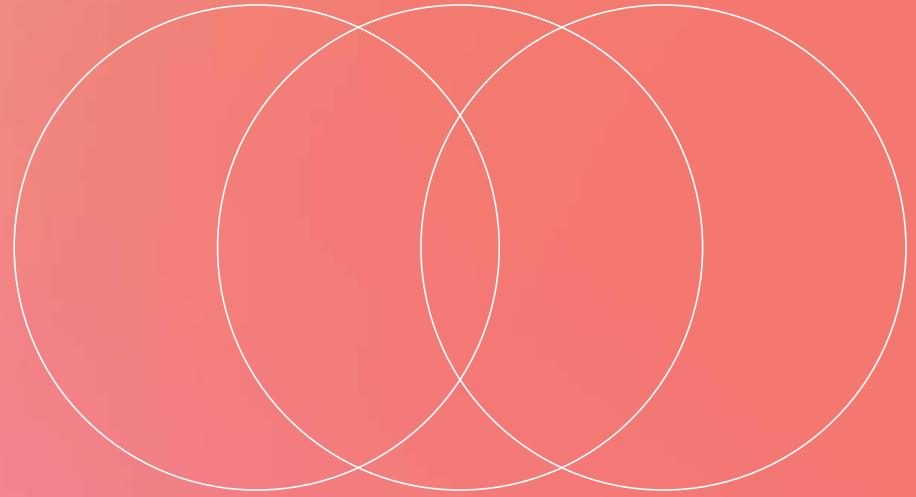
02

All are encouraged to take part in all parts of the programme to better understand all sides

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Networking actively encouraged to amongst artists and organisations!

02



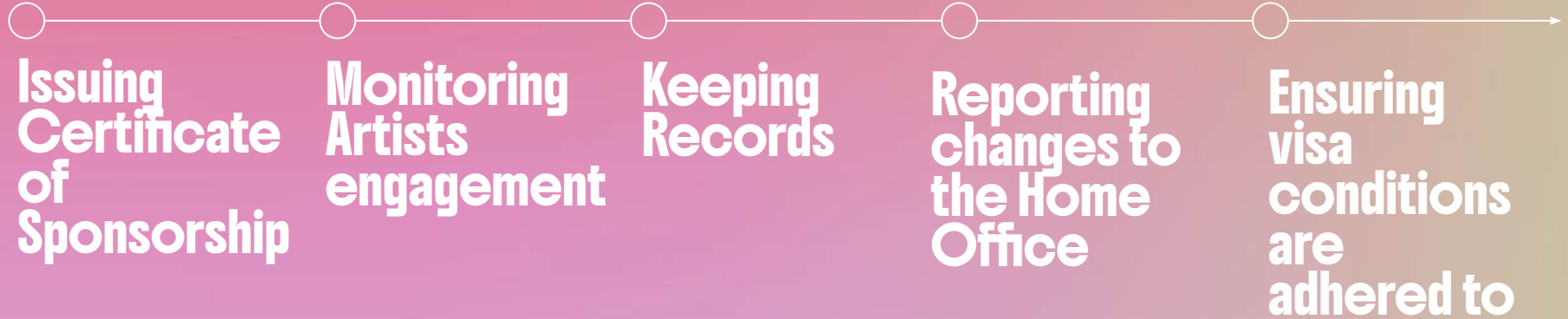
**WHY BECOME A
SPONSOR**

BENEFITS FOR ARTS ORGANISATIONS

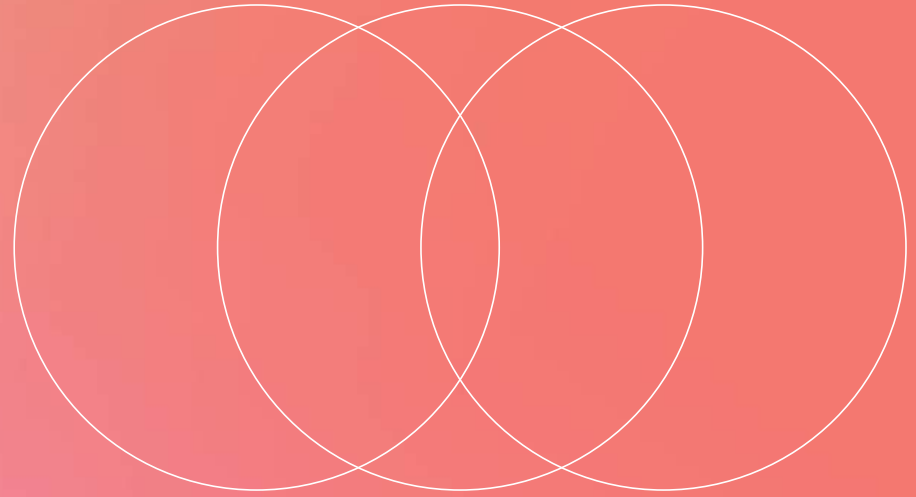


WHAT SPONSORSHIP MEANS

Sponsorship is not just writing an invitation letter.
A sponsor is legally responsible for:



03

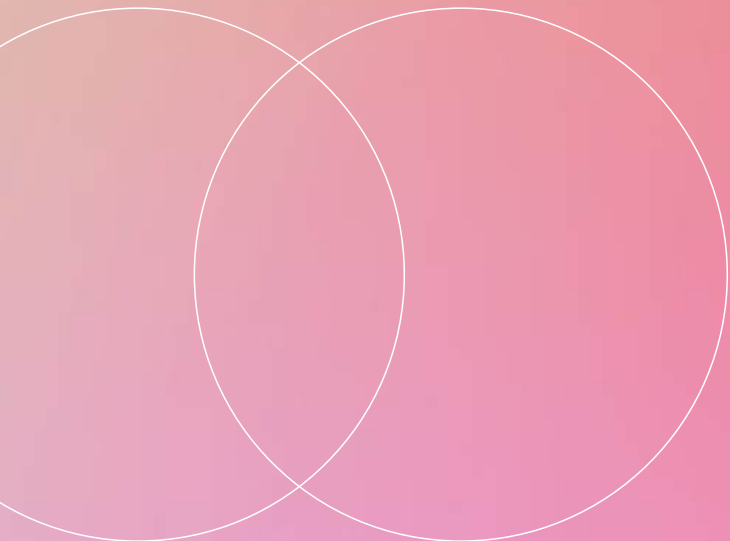


**HOW TO BECOME
A SPONSOR**

STEP ONE: Apply for a Sponsorship Licence

Apply through the Home Office sponsor licence system.

Requirements include:



01

To be a UK-based organisation

02

Appropriate governance and record-keeping systems

03

Named staff responsible for sponsorship

04

Supporting organisational documents

05

Payment of sponsorship fee
(£611 with each CoS at £55)

STEP TWO: Receive Sponsorship Licence

Once approved:

01

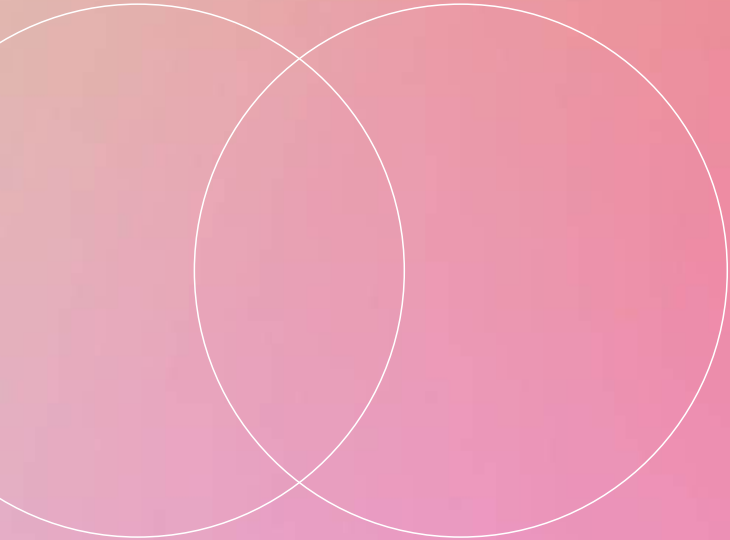
Get access to Sponsorship Management System (SMS)

02

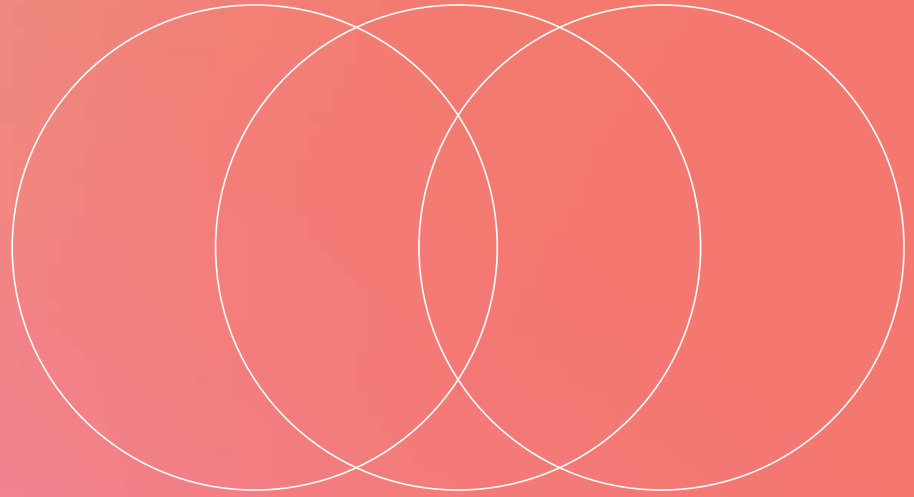
Receive permission to issue Certificates of Sponsorship

03

Become subject to Home Office compliance requirements



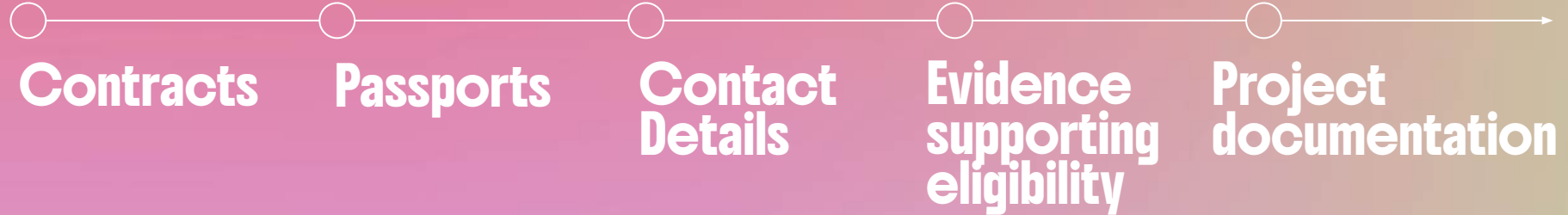
04



**MAINTAINING
SPONSORSHIP
STATUS**

SPONSORSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

You must keep and retain records as evidence such as:



The home office can request these records at any time.



**If an artist does not
arrive**

**A project ends
early**

**The engagement
changes
substantially**

**Sponsorship is
withdrawn**

REPORT CHANGES

CONDUCT AUDITS

**REQUEST
DOCUMENTS**

INSPECT SYSTEMS

THE HOME OFFICE MAY

**LICENCE
SUSPENSION**

**LICENCE
REVOCATION**

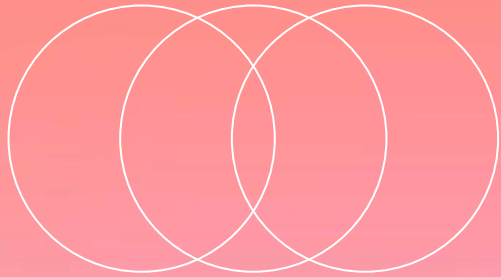
**INABILITY TO
SPONSOR FUTURE
ARTISTS**

**HEFTY FINES IF
FURTHER ILLEGAL
ACTIONS**

FAILURE CAN RESULT IN

Before issuing a CoS, ensure:

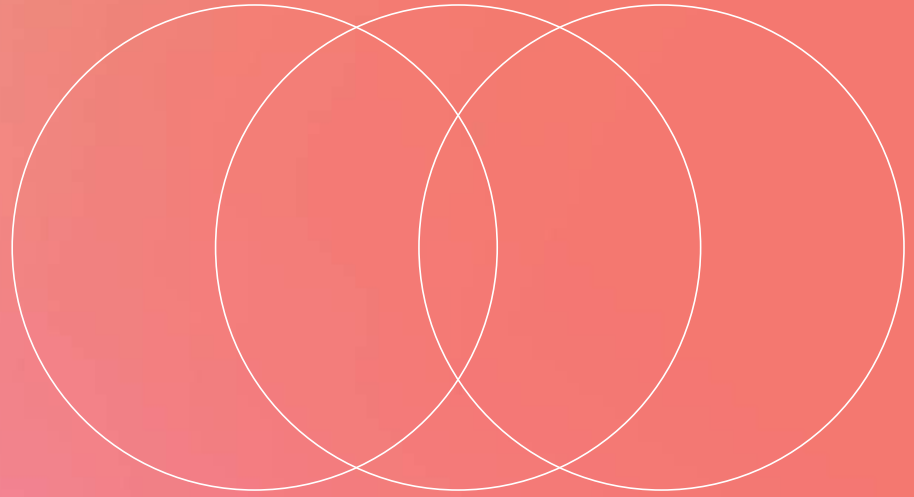
- The role is genuinely creative
- The artists is making a unique contribution
- The engagement complies with relevant creative sector rules
- Supporting evidence is retained



**Start as you mean to
go on**



05



SUPPORTING ARTISTS THROUGH THE VISA PROCESS

GOOD SPONSORS DO MORE THAN ISSUE PAPERWORK

To reduce risk for both parties, they provide:

BEFORE THE APPLICATION

Invitation letter, contract, project schedule, clear timeline, visa guidance

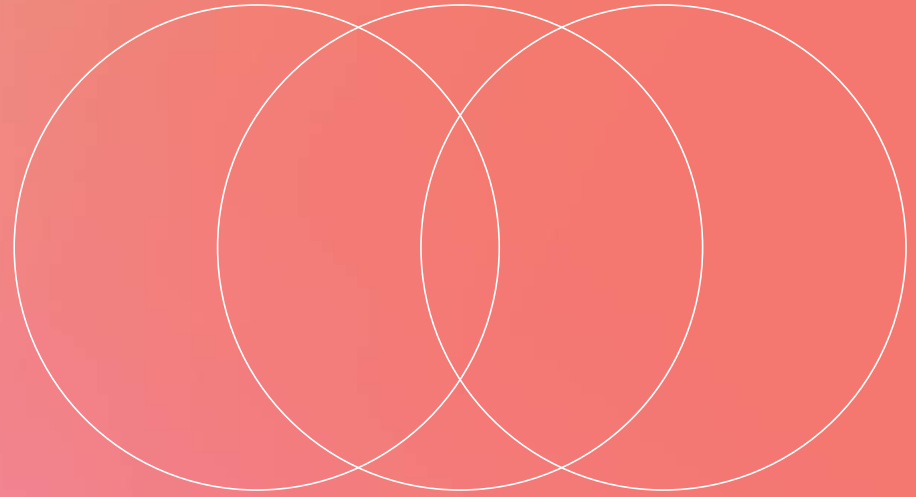
DURING THE APPLICATION

CoS, prompt responses to queries, evidence of accommodation or support where relevant

AFTER ARRIVAL

Orientation, contact person, workspace access/support, information about visa conditions

06



RISKS AND CHALLENGES

RISK 1

Artists starts undertaking work outside of sponsored activity

RISK 2

Organisation cannot provide records when requested

RISK 3

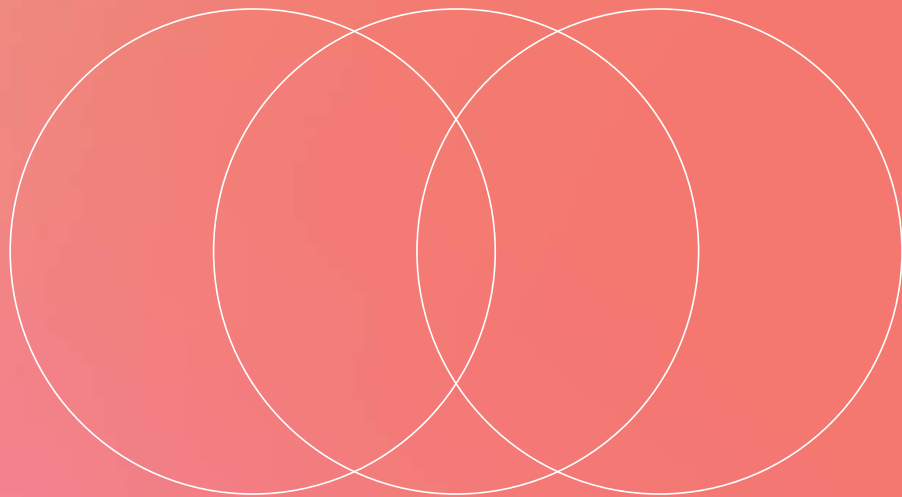
Project changes but sponsor fails to report it

RISK 4

Organisation treats sponsorship as merely administrative rather than an ongoing responsibility

**It is the responsibility of the artist
AND the organisation**

07



WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Model A - LEAD SPONSOR

One organisation sponsors and partners contribute to delivery on exhibitions, touring projects or festivals

Model B - RESIDENCY CONSORTIUM

One lead organisation sponsors and multiple partners host artists throughout the programme (like regional networks, exchange programmes, research residencies)

Model C - SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE

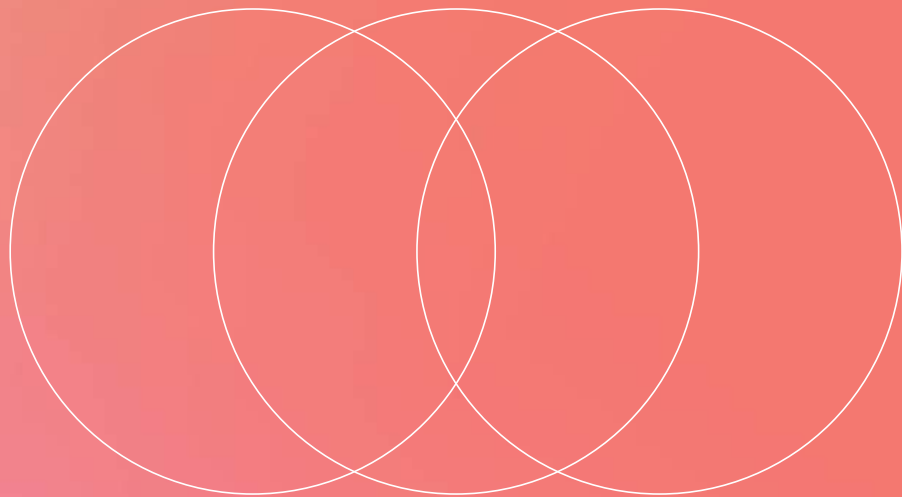
A larger organisation sponsors artists on behalf of smaller organisations. Useful for artist/volunteer-led organisations or those without capacity to support artists.

Model D - ??

What other models would work for Scotland?

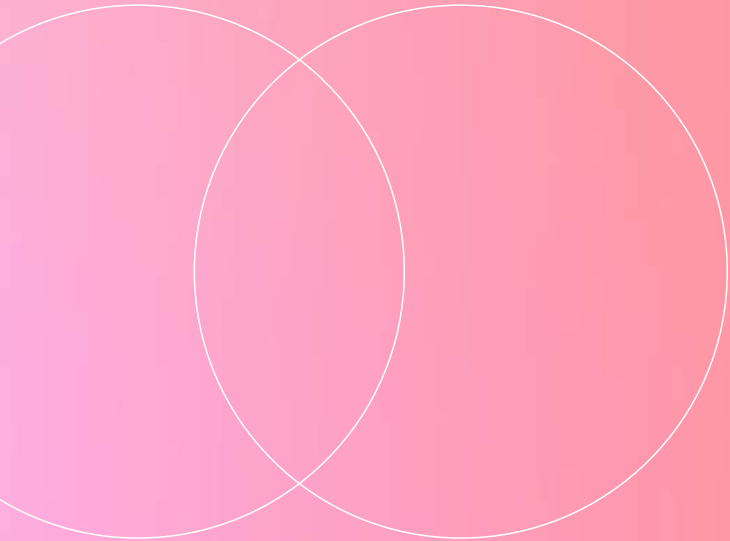
PARTNERSHIP MODELS

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TAKEAWAYS

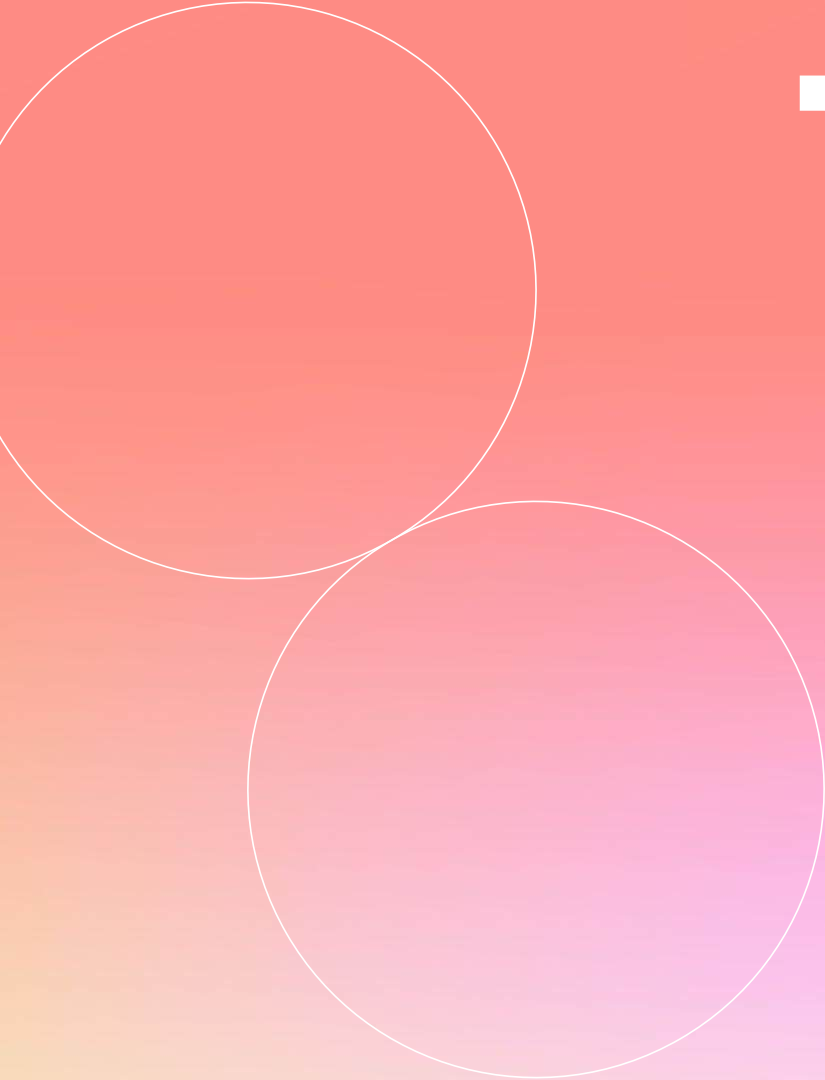
SPONSOR WELL, SUPPORT WELL



A Strong sponsor:

- Understands its legal responsibilities
- Plans international projects early
- Keeps excellent records
- Supports artists beyond paperwork
- Works collaboratively with partners
- Helps artists develop longer-term opportunities in the UK
- When a Tier 5 isn't enough - direct and guide them to Global Talent

Sponsorship is not just about compliance – it is part of creating an accessible and international connection!



THANK YOU