

In the creative industry and need to travel in the UK?

Here are your options

The UK offers many different routes for those working in the creative industry, each with its own requirements and restrictions. It's important that the purpose of your trip is carefully considered to ensure that the right route is utilised.

1. Standard visitors

Under the visitor rules, individuals can enter the UK to carry out some work activities. However, it is important that organisations and individuals are aware of the limitations of these activities and ensure everyone involved is aware and understands the nature of the visits. For example, an artist, entertainer, or musician may give performances, take part in competitions or auditions, make personal appearances and take part in promotional activities, and take part in a listed 'permit free' festival.

Personal, technical staff and/or members of the production team may support the activities above provided they are attending the same event as the artist, entertainer or musician, and are employed to work for them outside of the UK.

Film crew employed by an overseas company may also visit the UK to take part in a location shoot for a film or programme or other media content that is produced and financed overseas.

However, unless expressly allowed in the visitor rules, visitors are not allowed to work in the UK and must also not receive payment from a UK source, with limited exceptions.

Non-visa nationals will need to have a valid ETA before travelling to the UK under this route.

2. Permitted Paid Engagements

For professionals looking to carry out a short term paid engagement, the Permitted Paid Engagement route under the visitor rules allows over 18 year olds to be invited to the UK to carry one or a short series of paid engagements relating to their profession for up to 30 days. It allows individuals to carry out an activity/activities in, or relating to, their profession for example, giving performances, judging panels, giving lectures, book signings, exhibiting and selling their works. They must be invited to the UK by a UK-based arts organisation, broadcaster, or agent.

Non-visa nationals will need to have a valid ETA before travelling to the UK under this route.



It is important that organisations and individuals are aware of the limitations of these activities and ensure everyone involved is aware and understands the nature of the visits.

3. Temporary Work – Creative Worker

For professionals looking to carry out paid, temporary work for up to 12 months, or coming to the UK for short-term contracts or engagements (such as actors or musicians on tour) there is the **Temporary Work – Creative Worker category**.

Creative Workers need to be issued with a Certificate of Sponsorship by a UK business which holds the appropriate sponsor licence. Creative Workers can extend their stay in the UK to up to 24 months with the same sponsor.

Non-visa nationals looking to benefit from the Creative Worker visa concession will need to have a valid ETA before travelling to the UK.

4. Global Talent

Those recognised as leaders or potential leaders in the field of the arts, and who wish to work in the UK, may consider making an application under the **Global Talent category**.

The Global Talent category is a non-sponsored route, permitting those with leave in the category to work in any employed or self-employed role (and switch between roles) provided that they work in the endorsed field. However, they must first meet the criteria for an endorsement by the relevant endorsing body, such as Arts Council or PACT.

5. Skilled Worker

Creative artists who intend to base themselves in the UK may also consider making an application under the **Skilled Worker route**.

This route is usually less appealing to creative artists for reasons such as the minimum skill and salary requirement, having to work primarily for one employer and the inability to seamlessly switch between multiple employers/roles.

To undertake a paid engagement involving an activity relating to the arts or entertainment professions for less than one month, you should consider applying as a visitor undertaking permitted paid engagements.

Get in touch

We always think laterally and explore other options where relevant.

Should you have any questions or would like to find out more about how our immigration team could help you, do get in touch.



Chetal Patel

Partner

T: 020 7551 7741

E: c.patel@bateswells.co.uk



Matthew James

Senior Associate

T: 020 7551 7659

E: m.james@bateswells.co.uk