

# Visas and entry routes to the UK

# Check if you or a member of your team needs a visa?

- Factors to consider – nationality, where you are coming from, what you plan to do, the amount of time you'll spend in the UK and whether you'll be paid by UK company.
- Visa nationals will need to get a visa no matter the reason for coming to the UK.
- Non-visa nationals do not need a visa for tourism, business and some temporary work activities (including performances/entertainment). A visa will be required if want to come to the UK for longer than 6 months.

# Determining the type of visa and entry route to use to come to the UK.

- Dependent on what you plan to do whilst in the UK.
- Dependent on whether you will be paid for the activity you are doing in the UK.
- The entry routes used by artists when planning to visit or come to the UK for creative work purposes are either to come as a

STANDARD VISITOR

CREATIVE WORKER (TEMPORARY WORK)

## STANDARD VISITOR

Up to 6 months

An artist, entertainer or musician may

- a) Attend conferences, meetings and interviews
- b) Give performances
- c) Carry out site visits
- d) Personal or tech support staff attending same event.
- e) Take part in an event listed on Permit Free Festival List (PFF).
- f) Do certain Permitted Paid Engagements (PPE) in the first month as an expert in your profession including performing.

No payment beyond expenses unless performing at PFF or for permitted paid engagements or event

## CREATIVE WORKER VISA (TEMPORARY WORK)

Up to 12 months

A creative worker, eg. an actor, dancer, musician who has been offered work in the creative industries and the work you do must relate to the work of your sponsor organisation.

- Requires a certificate of sponsorship from a Home Office sponsor licence.

- Creative worker concession is available to non-visa nationals coming in for less than 3 months.

Providing  
proof, you  
meet the  
eligibility  
requirements  
of the entry  
route chosen

- Providing the right paperwork at visa application centre
- Prepared to be questioned and asked to present documents to show the UK border officers on arrival to the UK.

## STANDARD VISITOR

- passport, valid for duration of stay.
- proof of onward travel and travel itinerary.
- accommodation confirmation
- proof of funds
- Electronic Travel Authorisation
- Welcome letter or confirmation from organisation, or activity you are planning to do in UK
- when doing a Permitted Paid Engagement (PPE), must declare what type of PPE they are doing and require an invitation letter from a UK organisation, outlining dates and how event relates to persons' expertise/ main job in home country. Also need to provide evidence of professional status in home country – publicity material, awards, recent performances, media coverage.

## CREATIVE WORKER VISA (TEMPORARY WORK)

- passport, valid for duration of work engagement.
- travel itinerary
- accommodation confirmation
- proof of funds
- Electronic Travel Authorisation
- UK employer's contract
- Certificate of Sponsorship
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# Your responsibilities in planning your trip to the UK

- Check whether you are a visa or non-visa national
- Be clear on the entry route you are using to come to the UK and provide the right paperwork to show you meet the eligibility requirements of the route.
- Check your passport's expiry date – must be valid for duration of stay.
- Check your schedule, and identify when and where you intend to apply
- Share with the organisation/festival your plans so they can provide the best advice