

Routes of entry to the UK for EU artists and entertainers

- There are currently 3 routes of entry for artists and entertainers who hold a full EU passport to undertake temporary paid work in the UK.
- All routes apply to support staff as well as performers.
- EU passport holders are classed as 'non-visa nationals'.

Temporary Workers - Tier 5 (creative and sporting)

- Valid for up to 12 months.
- Need a Certificate of Sponsorship (COS) issued by a UK sponsor. The fee is £21 for the whole group but is free to EU applicants at present.
- There can be no gaps in employment of more than 14 days so if you leave the UK, you will need to return within 14 days or the COS will lapse.
- This is the most secure route for professional artists and entertainers.
- This route can also be used for trips of between 3 and 12 months but will incur substantial extra costs. We recommend that you first consult a UK immigration adviser.

Visit (Permitted Paid Engagement)

- Valid for up to 1 month.
- Covers all performance and related activities.
- Formal invitation needed.
- Proof is needed that the activity relates to the applicant's full-time profession.
- No fee.
- Admission decided at point of entry at the discretion of the entry officer, so there is a risk of refusal.

Visit (Permit Free Festivals)

- Can be valid for up to 6 months but there must be no paid work at all apart from the Permit Free Festival appearance(s).
- No fee.
- The Festival list is currently limited to a list of qualifying festivals, who must issue an invitation to each member of the travelling party.