

A Short Primer on Artists' Mobility

Definition: *the temporary, individual cross-border mobility of artists and other cultural professionals.* Certain forms of mobility relate to the individual (e.g. networking, residencies etc); others are intrinsically connected to the mobility of works or performances in another country. Mobility flows will be influenced by work environments, general legal and political frameworks and specific measures.

Definition used for *Mobility Matters*, ERICArts study for the European Commission, 2008
www.mobility-matters.eu

Background reading: article on International Mobility for *ArtsProfessional* by Christoph Jankowski (European Information Officer, Visiting Arts), July 2010
<http://www.visitingarts.org.uk/content/international-mobility>

UK

Apart from information on artist **mobility opportunities** for artists to work and travel abroad, most UK resources on **incoming artist mobility** issues here relate to the **points-based visa system**, **certificates of sponsorship** and specialist information on **withholding tax**. Artists coming to the UK from outside the EU – whatever the arts discipline – are at present commonly referred to as **'foreign entertainers'** or **'entertainer visitors'** by the UK immigration and tax authorities.

a-n The Artists Information Company

Connects to opportunities, debate and other information resources on international mobility for visual artists in the UK. The Artists Talking section features blogs by artists working abroad.
<http://www.a-n.co.uk/>

Artquest – Artroute - Artatelier

Information resources to support the international mobility of UK-based visual artists and craftspeople. A growing selection of travel and work guides in Artroute covers various countries and provides in depth country guides and tips to working as an artist abroad. Artelier is an online social network for visual artists, anywhere in the world, and enables them to safely and securely negotiate studio and apartment exchanges online.
<http://www.artquest.org.uk/>

HM Revenue & Customs: Foreign Entertainers Unit

The Foreign Entertainers Unit (FEU) is a specialist unit within the HM Revenue & Customs. It manages the UK withholding tax system. This applies to anyone who makes payments to/ for non-resident entertainers and sportspersons

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/feu/feu.htm>

Manifesto Club

<http://www.manifestoclub.com/visitingartists>

The Manifesto Club initiated the Visiting Artists and Academics Campaign against Home Office restrictions on international artists and academics visiting the UK for talks, temporary exhibitions, concerts or artists' residencies. Actions include a petition (over 10,000 signatures), campaign groups, documenting case studies and [artists' testimonies](#), press and discussion events. Reports include:

UK Arts and Culture: Cancelled, by Order of the Home Office (June 2009)

<http://www.manifestoclub.com/cancelledartsreport>

Deported: Artists and Academics Barred from the UK (March 2010)

<http://www.manifestoclub.com/deporteddossier>

National Campaign for the Arts: Visas and Immigration

Information on the points-based immigration system, visas and work by the NCA to respond to consultation and the inquiry by the Home Affairs Select Committee.

http://www.artscampaign.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=62&Itemid=74

Points-based visa system and the cultural sector

Report published in March 2011 by GLA Intelligence on a survey by the Greater London Authority to find out how arts and culture organisations and higher education institutes in London experience the points-based immigration system in the UK and its impact on the cultural sector in London.

Launched at a roundtable hosted by ArtsAdmin and the Manifesto Club.

<http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/arts-visa-survey-results.pdf>

PRESS FILE – articles on the points-based visa system and barriers for artists coming to UK

Several articles have appeared in the press in 2011 on the subject:

Points-based visa system places unnecessary burden on artists making short visits to Britain

Open letter to the Home Secretary signed by 120 artists, authors and cultural leaders

The Daily Telegraph, June 27 2011

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/letters/8599757/Points-based-visa-system-places-unnecessary-burden-on-artists-making-short-visits-to-Britain.html>

World-class artists 'put off coming to Britain by intrusive' points-based immigration system

Heidi Blake, *The Daily Telegraph*, June 27 2011

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8599638/World-class-artists-put-off-coming-to-Britain-by-intrusive-points-based-immigration-system.html>

How Britain persecutes visiting artists

Kamila Shamsie, *The Guardian*, June 27 2011

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jun/27/britain-persecutes-visiting-artists-visa>

Overseas artists boycott Britain in protest at visa clampdown

Vanessa Thorpe, *The Observer*, Sunday 10 July 2011

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jul/10/visa-immigration-boycott-poet>

Bureaucracy is turning Britain into a cultural backwater

Ian Birrell, *The Observer*, Sunday 10 July 2011

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jul/10/musicians-immigration-britain-cultural-backwater>

UK Border Agency

Reference the section 'Entertainer visitors' and download publications listed below.

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visitingtheuk/businessandspecialvisitors/entertainervisitors/>

Response by the UKBA to media coverage on visits to the UK by artists and musicians:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/47artists-entertainers>

Entering the UK as an Entertainer or an Artist

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/visitingtheuk/entertainer-or-a-artist.pdf>

List of recognised festivals in the UK where entry under permit-based system is not required: 2011-2012 <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/visitingtheuk/list-permit-free>

Visiting Arts

Visiting Arts' purpose is to strengthen intercultural understanding through the arts. Visiting Arts is the official UK Cultural Contact Point for the European Commission's Culture Programme.

<http://www.visitingarts.org.uk/advice-downloads?l=cultural-contact-point>

Information resources from Visiting Arts supporting artists' mobility include:

Red Tape - Working in the UK - Certificates of Sponsorship

Getting international artists to the UK can be a complex, difficult process and is one of the main enquiries Visiting Arts gets. This article offers guidance to how to go about the process and what you need to know as a prospective employer, and also gives you direct links to relevant web sites, to try and help you through the routes you have available.

<http://www.visitingarts.org.uk/content/red-tape-working-uk-certificates-sponsorship>

Future Thinking

<http://www.visitingarts.org.uk/content/future-thinking-report-and-podcasts>

Report on a discussion event on sustainable international residencies, July 2010.

Wales Arts International

WAI facilitates international work in the arts through collaborations, projects, networks and communication. It provides advice and support to artists and arts organisations from Wales who work on an international level. It is also a contact point for international artists and arts organisations working in Wales. WAI is a partner in the PRACTICS EU-funded mobility information pilot project (2009-2011) and has developed a range of information resources available online, aimed at artists in Wales who want to work abroad, artistic companies in Wales who want to receive artists from abroad and artists abroad who want to work in Wales.

<http://www.wai.org.uk/engageeurope/practics>

Information and resources on artist mobility: <http://www.wai.org.uk/engageeurope/practics/1384>

European Union – policy, programmes and studies

The transnational mobility of artists and culture professionals has been a priority of the Culture programme since 2000. The current **EU Culture Programme (2007-2013)** supports the mobility of artists, culture professionals and artworks through grants for transnational cultural cooperation projects, as well as some support for European networks and festivals. Objectives of the Programme include **cross-border mobility** and **transnational circulation of artistic and cultural works**.

The European Commission has initiated **studies on mobility issues**, including on mobility programmes (Mobility Matters) and **mobility information** provision. A consultation process involving representatives from EU Member States, called the **Open Method of Coordination (OMC)**, over recent years has focused on thematic areas, including the **conditions of mobility** of artists and culture professionals and **mobility of collections**. A **Pilot Project for Artist Mobility** runs from 2008-2011 and has funded specific projects to support and test approaches to improving conditions for artistic and cultural mobility in Europe.

The main focus for the European Commission is now on improving mobility information provision for artists and culture professionals, since this is seen as one of the main ways of overcoming the many obstacles to mobility identified by cultural networks and practitioners in Europe. The Education, Youth and Culture Council of the European Union approved Conclusions on mobility information services in May 2011. The future of the EU Culture Programme is under discussion for the period 2014-2020 after the current programme ends in 2013.

European Commission Home Affairs – Visa Policy

Information on the common visa policy of the EU that applies to the Schengen area (i.e. all EU Member States (plus Switzerland, Norway and Iceland) BUT excluding the UK, Ireland, Romania, Bulgaria and Cyprus). http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/borders/borders_visa_en.htm

European Commission Home Affairs – Blue Card Directive

The EU Blue Card is a potential entry route for highly qualified migrant workers. The EU has put in place attractive conditions for non-EU workers considering taking up highly skilled employment in the EU states, creating a harmonised fast-track procedure and common criteria (a work contract, professional qualifications and a minimum salary level) for issuing a special residence and work permit called the "EU Blue Card". Note that salary levels are high in relation to most arts work. The Directive was published May 25 2009 and was due to be approved by Member States, and adapted according to the Directive conditions, to national policy. No specific information can be found on the Blue Card on the UK Borders Agency website (July 2011).

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/immigration/immigration_work_en.htm

EU Culture Programme (2007-2013)

The objectives focus on the mobility of artists, culture professionals and art works, as well as intercultural dialogue. See programme information for details on deadlines and the various strands to the programme.

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc411_en.htm

The outcomes of the public consultation on the future EU Culture Programme are published here:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/doc2805_en.htm

In July 2011 EU Commissioner Vassiliou announced a new programme for the cultural and creative sector worth €1.6 billion ('Creative Europe') for the period 2014-2020.

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/vassiliou/headlines/news/2011/07/20110701_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news3311_en.htm

European Parliament Resolution

On 12 May 2011 the European Parliament approved a Resolution of the cultural dimensions of the EU's external actions, including a call for a Cultural Visa for artists and culture professionals from third countries.

<http://on-the-move.org/library/article/14300/european-parliament-resolution-on-the-cultural/>

European Voluntary Service

A Youth in Action programme for 18-30 year olds which offers 2-12 month volunteer placements around the EU, covering various expenses for participants including language training, travel costs, board and lodging and an allowance. Organisations (including arts and culture bodies) can register to receive EVS volunteers and benefit from the scheme. Many arts organisations across Europe participate in the programme. 2011 is designated European Year of Volunteering – other programmes for other age groups may also be available.

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc82_en.htm

<http://europa.eu/volunteering/en/home2>

Council Conclusions on mobility information services for artists and culture professionals

These Conclusions were approved by EU Culture Ministers at the Education, Youth and Culture Council of the European Union, Budapest, 19-20 May 2011. They call on the Member States and the Commission to facilitate the provision by mobility information services of comprehensive and accurate information to artists and culture professionals seeking to be mobile within the EU.

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news3308_en.htm

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st09/st09058.en11.pdf>

Mobility Matters - Programmes and Schemes to Support the Mobility of Artists and Other Cultural Professionals

An extensive study carried out ERICarts Institute for the European Commission in 2008. It includes several useful appendices with information on artists' mobility schemes and policy across Europe.

<http://www.mobility-matters.eu>

The Mobility of Works of Art in Europe

Study by Dorota Ilczuk, Magdalena Kulikowska and Aleksandra Litorowicz (Pro Cultura Foundation, Warsaw, Poland) published by the European Parliament in April 2009. It focuses on the mobility of visual arts outside the public museum sector (private galleries, individual artists etc.) and references European networks active in the field of mobility of works of art.

<http://on-the-move.org/library/article/13875/the-mobility-of-works-of-art-in-europe/?category=57>

Europe – projects, networks, mobility information resources

Artists Moving & Learning

A European comparative research project (2008-2010) that analysed artistic mobility in Europe from an educational and lifelong learning perspective. The study includes ten national country reports. Published February 2011.

<http://www.encatc.org/moving-and-learning/>

Changing Room - Mobility of Non-Artistic Cultural Professionals in Europe

A project and study with an in-depth investigation into the possibilities for, and barriers to, mobility within the European independent cultural sector. Its outcomes include key learning points and concrete recommendations on how to develop mobility practices for non-artistic staff members in the future. This study emerged from the 2-year EU-funded mobility pilot project 'Changing Room' led by the TEH network of independent art centres in Europe. The pilot project focused on staff exchanges of non-artistic culture professionals from the arts centres.

http://changingroom.teh.net/wiki/index.php/The_Changing_Room_project_Study

Culture Action Europe

The political platform for the Arts and Culture in Europe, CAE is an advocacy and lobby organisation working on behalf of its members representing over 50,000 arts and culture professionals across Europe and beyond. CAE has worked on various themes, including artists' mobility (see thematic areas under 'Think' on website).

<http://www.cultureactioneurope.org>

European Council of Artists

The ECA works for the interests of the professional artists in Europe – artists, writers and performers – and for cooperation between them. The ECA has focused on mobility at several member meetings.

<http://www.eca.dk>

Freemuse – World Forum on Music and Censorship

Freemuse – the World Forum on Music and Censorship – has been active on visa issues and the mobility of artists into Europe (particularly musicians from countries outside the EU) and has published useful documents and advocacy actions:

Visas - the discordant note

The study was published in 2009 in collaboration with the European Council of Artists and other partners in the music field and presented to the European Parliament and European Commission. Freemuse website has an expanding collection of visa campaigns and other initiatives on artistic mobility from around the world. <http://www.freemuse.org/sw30346.asp>

Freemuse Quick Guide: Artist Visa Applications – Arguments for Success

When you deal with visa issuing offices and embassies it may sometimes be useful to refer to various points set out in international conventions and recommendations. Check this quick guide for references to key international conventions. Published October 2010.

http://freemuse.synkron.com/graphics/Publications/PDF/Visa-arguments_Freemuse.pdf

IAA – International Association of Art Europe

A network of about 40 national member organisations, within Europe, representing professional visual artists, IAA cooperates with UNESCO and issues the Certificate for the Customs Authorities (so-called IAA Carnet), which refers to the UNESCO's 'Florence Agreement'. This agreement allows artists in principle to import their works into any signatory states without restriction.

<http://www.iaa-europe.eu/index.htm>

IGBK – the International Association of Art in Germany

IGBK organised an 'Expert Meeting on Mobility in the Visual Arts Sector in Europe' in 2009 to look at the specific problems and issues for mobility of visual artists and their art works. The meeting made recommendations for the visual arts sector mobility, in the report **Challenges for Mobility**:

<http://igbk.de/page.php?pgid=74&lang=en>

IGBK launched an a.RTISTS IN TRANSIT blog in 2010 to spotlight the everyday experiences of visual artists travelling and working abroad: <http://blog.igbk.de/>

The so-called IAA Carnet is used to facilitate the free movement of works of art across borders. Information on it (aimed at artists in Germany) can be found on the IGBK website, or via the IAA.

<http://igbk.de/page.php?pgid=32&lang=env>

Impediments to Mobility in the EU Live Performance Sector and Possible Solutions

This study was carried out during the European Year of Workers' Mobility 2006 as part of a wider project on mobility in the European Union's performing arts sector, called Mobile.Home, initiated by several European organisations and networks. It identifies the most important difficulties the EU live performance sector has to deal with when mobile inside the EU or when hosting live performance companies from other EU countries.

<http://on-the-move.org/library/article/13903/impediments-to-mobility-in-the-eu-live/?category=57>

On-the-Move

Mobility information online platform publishing a wide range of mobility opportunities and information resources. OTM was established to support mobility in the performing arts and has now expanded to other artforms. OTM has established a Cultural Mobility Information Network and further links to mobility information organisations can be found in the Partner section.

<http://on-the-move.org/>

PRACTICS

EU-funded mobility pilot project supporting Mobility Infopoints in Belgium, Wales, Spain and the Netherlands, as well as a range of other networking and training activities. The project runs 2009-2011 and involves a consortium of European networks and cultural organisations.

<http://www.practics.org>

Trans Artists

A Netherlands-based information resource on artists' residency opportunities worldwide, Trans Artists has been active in supporting policy, training and information for better artistic mobility.

<http://www.transartists.org/>

Other international resources on mobility of artists and artworks

ATA Carnet

International customs document for temporary importation of goods, commonly used to transport artworks for touring exhibitions abroad. The Carnet sets a time period by which the goods must be returned to the country of origin and if this is not respected, duties and taxes are payable, as if the goods had been exported and sold.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ATA_Carnet

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageImport_ShowContent&id=HMCE_CL_000202&propertyType=document

IFACCA – International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies

IFACCA members have had an interest in arts policy and programmes which support international mobility of artists and culture professionals for many years. IFACCA publishes a monthly ACORNS bulletin of news and arts policy from its members around the world.

Reports and themed news content related to artists' mobility from IFACCA:

Artists' International Mobility Programs (D'Art Research Report 17, Judith Staines, December 2004)

This report details programmes and policy motivations of arts councils and culture agencies to support international mobility for artists.

<http://www.ifacca.org/topic/artists-international-mobility-programs/>

International Arts Activity (D'Art Research Report 40, Judith Staines, March 2011)

Includes input from Arts Council England and Creative Scotland on their international arts policy and activity spectrum, alongside examples from around the world.

<http://www.ifacca.org/topic/international-arts-activity/>

International Visa and Taxation Guide

Presented in this Primer as a model of good practice, this guide is aimed at performing arts companies and artists in Australia and New Zealand. It provides practical information on the visa and tax requirements for touring abroad, focusing on the priority areas identified by the sector and was jointly commissioned by the Australia Council for the Arts and Creative New Zealand.

<http://culture360.org/publications/international-visa-and-taxation-guide/>

UNESCO – Florence Agreement

1950 Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials. Check the 'States parties' section for the countries that have signed up to this Agreement and where, in theory, Customs authorities should respect its provisions. See also IAA Europe for the Customs Certificate.

<http://www.unesco.org/en/creativity/florence-agreement/>

This ***Short Mobility Primer on Artists' Mobility*** was researched and written by freelance cultural consultant and mobility expert Judith Staines for the Artists' Mobility Lab which took place in Newcastle and Gateshead in May 2011. It was revised and published in July 2011.