

AFTER THE BREXIT: WORK PERMITS NEEDED FOR ARTISTS AND SPORTSPERSONS?

The UK has left the EU per 1 January 2021. They have reached an agreement, which approves visa free travel for up to 6 months, but does not specify anything about work permits. What is needed for artists and sportspersons from both sides?

UK artists and sportspersons in the Netherlands and EU

The EU has a general requirement for a work permit for non-EU workers, also for short visits of artists and sportspersons.

But the Netherlands has an exemption for work permits for visits up to 6 weeks in 13 weeks from non-EU artists and sportspersons. See [website of Dutch Culture](#) for an explanation.

Also other EU states have such unilateral exemptions. An overview can be found on the [website of the International Society of Musicians \(ISM\)](#). But some states still follow the EU rules for these work permits, such as Hungary, Portugal and Spain.

Dutch and EU artists and sportspersons in the UK

The UK has introduced a new system of work permits for EU citizens (and from other states), also for short visits of artists and sportspersons. They need to apply for a [Permitted Paid Engagement \(PPE\)](#), which can be done at the border, where the contract for the performance(s) needs to be shown. Artists and sportspersons from visa countries need to apply in advance for a PPE visa, at the cost of £ 95 each person, but this is not for artists and sportspersons from the Netherlands and other EU countries.

An exemption for some festivals and promoters has been announced, but without specific names yet.

Conclusions

There are obstacles in the UK and some EU states. Preferrably, these should be taken away, especially when considering the broad unilateral exemption in the Netherlands.

SHORT-TERM WORK PERMITS FOR ARTISTS AND SPORTSPERSONS (NON-EU/EEA)

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

(Amongst EU/EEA Member States no work permit is needed)

Alphabetical order (32)

- Austria No permit needed for up to 30 days
- Belgium For artists of international renown, no permit needed for up to 90 days
- Bulgaria Application of Freelance Activity Permit prior to arrival
- Croatia Work registration certificate is required for 30 days per year
- Cyprus Work Permit is required prior to arrival
- Czech Republic No permit needed for up to 7 consecutive days or 30 days in 12 months
- Denmark Work permit is required for up to 90 days, unless if 'paramount importance to a significant artistic event'
- Estonia Registration for long-term visa for short-term employment is required prior to arrival. Once registered, no permit needed for up to 90 days.
- Finland No permit needed for up to 90 days
- France No permit needed for up to 90 days
- Germany Arrangements under review. UK nationals may fall under [visa-free] ETIAS program.
- Greece Apply for residence/work permit after arrival.
- Hungary Apply for a residence permit to pursue paid self-employed work.
- Iceland No permit needed for up to 90 days
- Ireland Will continue to fall under Common Travel Area and allows UK nationals to work
- Italy Short-term work permit for up to 90 days is required
- Latvia No permit when performance does not exceed 14 days
- Lithuania Visa for work purposes must be obtained before entry
- Liechtenstein Short-term work permit is needed for up to 12 months
- Luxembourg No permit needed for up to 90 days
- Malta An 'employment license' is required
- Netherlands No permit needed for up to 45 days (6 weeks)
- Norway No permit needed for up to 14 days
- Poland No permit needed for up to 30 days
- Portugal Temporary stay visa is required
- Romania Work permit is needed for short-term employment
- Slovakia No permit needed for up to 30 days
- Slovenia No permit needed for up to 90 days
- Spain British citizens need visa for artistic activities
- Sweden No permit needed for up to 14 days
- Switzerland No permit needed for up to 90 days

- United Kingdom Work permit required: Permitted Paid Engagement

Sources: International Society for Musicians (ISM) + ECOVIS + own research

SHORT-TERM WORK PERMITS FOR ARTISTS AND SPORTSPERSONS (NON-EU/EEA)

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

(Amongst EU/EEA Member States no work permit is needed)

No work permit (18)

- Austria No permit needed for up to 30 days
- Belgium For artists of international renown, no permit needed for up to 90 days
- Czech Republic No permit needed for up to 7 consecutive days or 30 days in 12 months
- Denmark Work permit is required for up to 90 days, unless if 'paramount importance to a significant artistic event'
- Finland No permit needed for up to 90 days
- France No permit needed for up to 90 days
- Germany Arrangements under review. UK nationals may fall under [visa-free] ETIAS program.
- Iceland No permit needed for up to 90 days
- Ireland Continue to fall under Common Travel Area and allows UK nationals to work
- Latvia No permit needed for up to 14 days
- Luxembourg No permit needed for up to 90 days
- Netherlands No permit needed for up to 45 days (6 weeks)
- Norway No permit needed for up to 14 days
- Poland No permit needed for up to 30 days
- Slovakia No permit needed for up to 30 days
- Slovenia No permit needed for up to 90 days
- Sweden No permit needed for up to 14 days
- Switzerland No permit needed for up to 90 days

Work permit required (17, incl. 3 overlap)

- Belgium For artists of international renown, no permit needed for up to 90 days
- Bulgaria Application of Freelance Activity Permit prior to arrival
- Croatia Work registration certificate is required for 30 days per year
- Cyprus Work Permit is required prior to arrival
- Denmark Special Individual Qualification application is required for up to 90 days, unless if 'paramount importance to a significant artistic event'
- Estonia Registration for long-term visa for short-term employment is required prior to arrival. Once registered, no permit needed for up to 90 days.
- Germany Arrangements under review. UK nationals may fall under [visa-free] ETIAS program.
- Greece Apply for residence/work permit after arrival.
- Hungary Apply for a residence permit to pursue paid self-employed work.
- Italy Short-term work permit for up to 90 days is required
- Lithuania Visa for work purposes must be obtained before entry
- Liechtenstein Short-term work permit is needed for up to 12 months
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