

PHOTOGRAPH REQUIREMENTS FOR VISAS (MRV)

The photograph of each visa applicant must be an unmounted full-face photo, taken within the past six months. A “full-face” photo is one in which the applicant is facing the camera directly. The applicant should not be looking down or to either side, and the face should cover about 50 percent of the area of the photo. Although variations in hair styles and in head coverings make it difficult to rigorously define the term “face”, in general, the head of the applicant, including both face and hair, should be shown from crown of the head to tip of chin on top and bottom and from hair line side-to-side. It is preferable that ears be exposed. The key requirement is that the photographs clearly identify the applicant.

The photograph should measure from **2 inches (roughly 50mm square)** with the head centered in the frame. The head (measured from the top of the hair to the bottom of the chin) should measure between 1 inch to 1 3/8 inches (25 mm to 35 mm) with the eye level between 1 1/8 inch to 1 3/8/ inches (28mm and 35 mm) from the bottom of the photo. Photos should be in color against a white background. Photos should be printed without borders. Photos taken in front of busy patterned or dark backgrounds should not be accepted.

Head coverings and hats are only acceptable due to religious beliefs, and even then, may not obscure any portion of the face of the applicant. Sunglasses or other paraphernalia, which detracts from the face, as defined above are not acceptable unless required for medical reasons (an eye patch, for example). A photograph depicting a person wearing a traditional facemask or veil that does not permit adequate identification is not acceptable. Photos of military, airline or other personnel wearing hats are not acceptable. Photographs of applicants wearing tribal, national costumes or other headgear not specifically religious in nature are not acceptable.

Since a separate visa is issued to each qualified applicant, an individual photo is required in all cases. Group photos are not acceptable.

