

Guidance for Passport Photos

Passport photos are a vital part of your application. If the photos you supply are not suitable, your passport will be delayed. Please follow the instructions below carefully so you can get it right first time.

The photos you send us with the application must:

- be the size of a standard passport photo taken in a photo booth or studio (i.e. 45 millimetres high x 35 millimetres wide)
- be taken against a plain cream or plain light grey background
- be identical (i.e. two copies of the same photo)
- be in colour, not black and white
- be printed to a high quality (i.e. photos printed by a booth or studio. Photographs printed at home are unlikely to be of a sufficient quality)
- be printed on plain white photographic paper
- not be torn, creased, or marked
- not be trimmed or cut down from a larger photo to the size of a standard passport photo)
- not have any writing on the front or back – except when one of the photos needs to be certified

Your picture in the photos must:

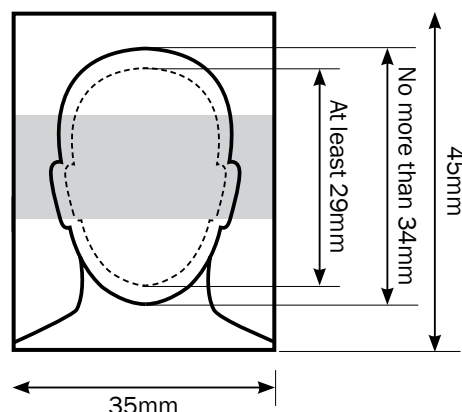
- be of you facing forward and looking straight at the camera
- be a close-up of your head and shoulders with a recommended head height (the distance between the bottom of your chin and the crown of your head) of between 29 and 34 millimetres
- be clear and in sharp focus, with a clear difference between your face and the background
- be taken within the last month
- show you with a neutral expression and your mouth closed (no grinning, frowning or raised eyebrows)

- be taken with your eyes open and clearly visible (no sunglasses or tinted glasses and no hair across your eyes)
- be free from reflection or glare on your glasses, and frames must not cover your eyes. We recommend that if possible, you remove glasses for your photo
- show your full head, without any head covering, unless you wear one for religious beliefs or medical reasons
- show you on your own (babies should not have toys or a dummy, and there shouldn't be other people in the photo)
- be free from shadows
- not have anything covering your face – you should make sure nothing covers the outline of your eyes, nose or mouth
- not show you with red-eye
- not be altered by using Photoshop or other software

Children

- Children aged five and under do not need to have a neutral expression or to look directly at the camera. Babies under one don't need to have their eyes open. If the baby's head needs to be supported, the supporting hand must not be seen. All other photograph standards must be met.

Tip: Place your photos in this guide to help check they are the correct size before sending



Correct Examples



Good



Good



Acceptable – where possible remove glasses

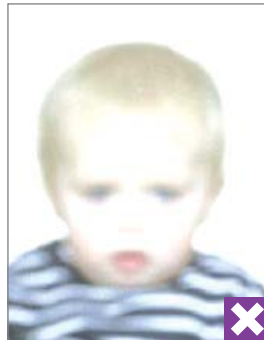


Head coverings for medical or religious reasons only

Incorrect Examples



Too far away



Too blurred to capture facial detail



The background is not light grey or cream



Smiling distorts the normal facial features



Too close



The photograph must feature one person



Glasses must not cover the eyes



The subject must be looking at the camera



Eyes must not be obscured



The face must not be obscured



The subject must not sit at an angle



The face must not be obscured by shadow or head covering

If photos don't meet with our standards, we will ask you for another set and this will delay your application.