

# BIOMETRICS

Biometrics is mandatory for Business and Tourist Visa applicant who may require Multiple Entries OR Longer Validity Visa. You will be required to schedule an appointment for your visa application and your biometric enrolment. Please E-mail to [Visa.wellington@mea.gov.in](mailto:Visa.wellington@mea.gov.in) to schedule an appointment.

Biometric data consists of 10 finger prints collected via a 4+4+2 scanner and photo captured by special facial cameras. As per the approved scheme, Biometrics traits (Fingerprints and facial) of the visa applicants (exempted persons of age below 12 years or above 70 years) will be captured at the time of submission of visa application

## Biometric data collection

Biometrics will be collected using a quick, discreet and non-intrusive process that captures a facial image with a digital camera and a 10-digit fingerprint scan with a digital finger scanner.

Your face must be clearly visible for a photograph to be taken. This means that you cannot:

- Have hair that covers the eyes
- Wear a hat or scarf or any other item that obscures the face, hair or neck (with the exception of religious head coverings detailed below:

If you wear a head or neck covering for religious reasons you must ensure your face is clearly visible, from the bottom of your chin to above your eyebrows including both cheeks. If possible both ears should also be displayed. You may also need to remove your glasses when the photograph is taken.

If you have cut or damaged your fingertips, you should try to apply for your visa once the injury has healed.

Henna/Mehndi on fingertips may also mean we are unable to get a clear scanned image; hence this should be removed or allowed to fade before you apply. .

If you refuse to submit your biometrics and you are not subject to any exception according to GOI regulation (being under 12 years of age, being Head of State, etc.), your visa application will not be accepted.

Applicants who are under 12 years of age, and above 70 years of Age, persons incapable of providing consent, or those physically unable to provide a fingerprint scan, will only need to provide a facial photograph.

## Frequently asked questions – biometrics enrolment program

- What is biometrics enrolment for Visa?

This is a simple and discreet procedure completed and submitted along with your application form.

- Why must I give my biometrics as part of my application?

Providing biometrics helps to protect the identities of genuine applicants. It is easier for individuals to prove their identity and their travel status. It helps the Government of India to tackle immigration abuse and identity fraud just to name a few.

- What happens when I enrol my biometrics information?

Enrolling your biometric information is a quick and clean process. We use the photograph submitted to us on the application for a facial scan, capture the facial image and then you put your fingers on a glass screen to be scanned - there is no ink or mess. We are aware of the need to protect the dignity, privacy and modesty of applicants, and there will be special arrangements for applicants where needed.

- What happens if I refuse to give my biometrics?

If an applicant fails to make arrangements to provide their biometrics their application will not be accepted.