

# Passport and Visa Photo Guide

Taking a photo for your passport or visa is as easy as taking a selfie, right? Think again. Our guide makes it simple.

# The Perfect Passport Photo

We've spent years helping travelers get this right. Use our experience to your advantage and turn your stress and questions about a photo into a government modeling gig that moves you from passport applicant to Customs superstar.

Make yours the same and you'll be on your way with the TSA



- ✓ Size 2 in x 2 in
- ✓ Including head and tops of shoulders
- ✓ Taken in the last 6 months
- ✓ Clear photo with realistic coloration
- ✓ Plain white background
- ✓ No shadows
- ✓ Only one person in the photo - no cropping out others!
- ✓ Natural smile - no teeth
- ✓ No obstruction to the face, including hair\*
- ✓ No glasses of any kind (yes, really!)
- ✓ No uniforms
- ✓ No big jewelry\*
- ✓ No hats, except for religious reasons (additional statement required)

\*Several nations' visa rules are even more stringent. To meet those requirements:

- Ensure that your hair is back and does not cover your ears
- Wear no jewelry
- Do not wear clothing with a logo visible

Here are some of the common mistakes we see. Don't try these at home.



Too close!



Too far away



Plain background, no shadow



Realistic color tone



Don't match the background



No hair in face



No glasses



No big jewelry



No hats



No sunglasses



Face the camera



Look forward, don't tilt

# Tips for taking, sizing, and printing your photo

**The easiest way to get this right is to have it done for you!** Some popular locations:

- Shipping Centers like FedEx and UPS
- Memberships such as Costco or AAA
- Pharmacies & Retail Stores such as CVS, Rite Aid, and Walgreens
- Professional Photography Studios
- U.S. Passport Offices
- Registered Passport Expeditors

A list of locations can be found [here](#):

*We recommend you read the rules carefully before you go. Don't depend on the person taking your photo to tell you if you are wearing the wrong thing, especially for visas!*

**With smartphones, you can take your photo at home!** Follow all of the rules carefully.

- Online services such as MyPassportPhotos.com can help you crop your photo perfectly, and even print them and mail them to you.
- For customers traveling with WorldStrides ISA Custom Programs, WorldStrides also prints *visa* photos for a nominal fee.

## Frequently asked passport photo questions

### **Can I smile in my photo?**

- Sorry! No cheesing. You must have a neutral facial expression, or a natural smile with no teeth. If you are unsure, don't smile at all.

### **Can I wear jewelry in my photo?**

- Costume or statement jewelry cannot be worn in a passport photo; Any jewelry that causes a reflection cannot be worn. Some visas say "no jewelry" so, as a rule of thumb, it's generally best to remove any jewelry in order to prevent rejection of your photo.

### **What kind of clothing should I wear?**

- Everyday clothing such as collard shirts and plain t-shirts are appropriate for passport photos. Avoid wearing tank tops, and no white.
- Uniforms cannot be worn in passport photos.
- Hats are only permitted if they are worn for religious reasons. This requires a signed statement to be submitted.
- Even if you wear glasses regularly, take them off.

**For more information on passports, visit the U.S. State Department Website:**  
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>