



Citizenship photo guidelines

Camera

- High-quality digital or film camera
- Camera-to-subject distance of **1.2 metres minimum**
- Camera at the person's eye-level

Lighting

- Even, shadowless lighting on the face
- Neutral or light grey background that contrasts with the subject
- No shadows on background
- No brighter or darker areas of the face caused by lighting or exposure
- Adequate lighting to ensure no red-eye

Jewellery and facial piercings

- Jewellery must not obscure any part of the face, especially the area around the eyes, mouth and nose
- Facial piercings, such as nose rings and studs, must not cause a reflection

Infants (under 3 years)

- Images should still be compliant
- Open mouth will be accepted
- No other person or object in photo



Editing

- Final image must be a true likeness of the subject
- No retouching of photographs permitted, including background removal
- Must not remove red-eye, moles, wrinkles or scars

No glasses

- Glasses must be removed unless you cannot remove them for medical reasons
- Frames must not obscure the eyes
- Lenses must be clear glass or transparent (tinted glasses not acceptable except for medical reasons)
- No reflections that obscure the eyes

Vision impairment alone is not an acceptable reason to wear glasses in a citizenship photo.

Subject (person)

- Eyes open and clearly visible
- Neutral expression - no smiling
- Mouth closed
- Person is centred and with shoulders facing square to the camera
- Whole face visible
- No hair or head covering across the face
- Religious coverings may be worn, however, the face must be clearly visible. Religious coverings must not cover any features of the face including the outer eye corner. Coverings must be plain material without any patterns.

Not acceptable types of images



Smiling is not permitted – must be a neutral expression.



Incorrect image exposure – images cannot be too light or too dark.



The face and background must be shadow-free.



The person must be facing forward, without any head angle.



Glasses frames or reflections from the lenses must not obscure the eyes.



Head-coverings or hair must not cover the face.



Head must not be tilted down or up.