



TIPS FOR U.S. VISAS PHOTOGRAPH

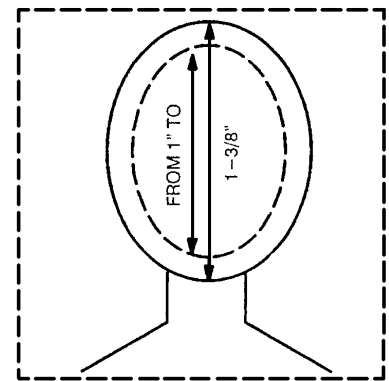
Nonimmigrant Visa Branch
AMERICAN EMBASSY
MANILA

INSTRUCTION FOR PHOTOGRAPHS TO BE USED FOR NONIMMIGRANT VISA

These instructions are strictly enforced. The quality of photos accepted in the Nonimmigrant Visa process must meet the standards set forth on this sheet. Machines used to capture photos require these specifications.

1. **SIZE.** 1 ½” x 1 ½” to 2” x 2” square.

The photograph of each visa applicant must be an unmounted full-face photograph, and should be glued to Form DS-156. The image from the bottom of the chin to the top of the head (including hair) shall not be less than 1 inch nor more than 1-1/4 inches. (See sample on the right side of this page.)



2. **QUALITY OF PHOTOGRAPHS.**

- ✓ Photographs must be in color or black and white against white background.
- ✓ It is particularly important that the photograph should be taken within the past six months and clearly in focus.
- ✓ Photographs shall be clear, front view, full face and shall be printed on thin, non-glossy paper.
- ✓ A “full face” photograph is one in which the applicant is facing the camera directly. The applicant should not be looking down or to either side.
- ✓ 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 hairline side-to-side. Ears must be exposed.
- ✓ Head coverings and hats are acceptable only due to religious beliefs, and even then they may not obscure any portion of the face of the applicant.

3. **NOT ACCEPTABLE PHOTOGRAPHS:**

- Photographs retouched to a point where the applicant’s appearance is changed;
- Photographs taken in front of busy, patterned, or dark backgrounds;
- Vending machine photograph prints;
- Photographs taken with a fog filter or those that are blurred or hazy;
- Sunglasses or other paraphernalia, which would detract from the face;
- Photographs depicting a person wearing a traditional facemask or veil that conceals portions of the face and does not permit adequate identification;
- Photographs of military, seafarer, airline or other personnel wearing hats.

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