



2021-2022

# Digital Passport Photo Specifications

The Passport Program is running a pilot program and is requesting applicants to submit digital photos. Please provide these specifications to a commercial photographer.

Refer to our website for more information: [Canada.ca/digital-passport-photos](https://Canada.ca/digital-passport-photos)

## Photo requirements

All passport photos must be taken in person by a **professional photographer** no more than **6 months** before the date you submit your application with

- your face and shoulders **centered** and squared to the camera
- a neutral facial expression
  - **eyes open and clearly visible**
  - **mouth closed, no smiling**
- uniform lighting
  - **no shadows, glare or flash reflections**
  - clear, sharp and in focus
  - natural skin tones
- a plain white or light-coloured background with a clear difference between your face and the background.

## We accept photos with

- glasses worn if your eyes are clearly visible and there is no glare on the lenses
- hair down or up
- hats and head coverings worn daily for religious beliefs or medical reasons if your full face is **both** clearly visible **and** no shadows are cast on your face

## We don't accept photos with

- sunglasses or tinted eye glasses (even when the eyes are clearly visible)
- red-eye effect or red-eye alterations
- hats and head coverings not worn daily for religious beliefs or medical reasons

## Photo and photographer's details

When you upload your photo you must provide the following information

- the studio or photographer's name
- the studio or photographer's address
- the date the photo was taken

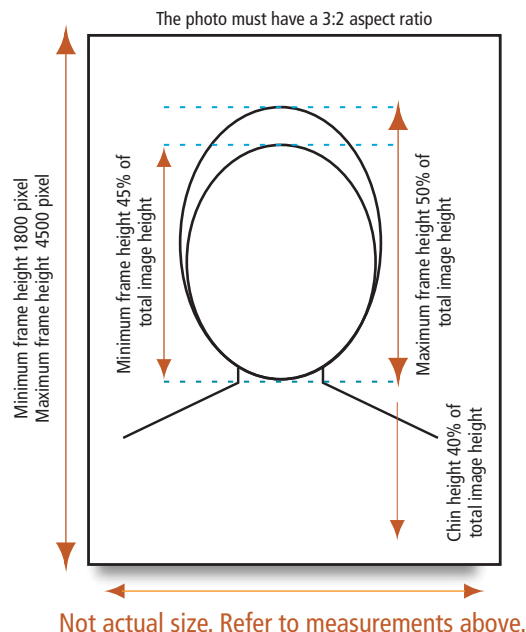
## Digital requirements

The requirements for a **digital photo** differ from those for a physical photo.

- Your photo must be provided in **.jpeg or .jpg** format in either colour or in black and white.
- The file must be **saved directly from the original file** captured by the camera and uploaded to an online file sharing service, saved on a USB flash drive or sent by email.
  - **Scanned** copies of a physical photo **will not be accepted**
  - No **altering** (editing, cropping or compression through repeated saves) of the file is allowed.

## The image must

- have a 3:2 aspect ratio with the camera oriented in portrait mode
- be at least 1800 pixels high by 1200 pixels wide
- be no larger than 4500 pixels high by 3000 pixels wide
- between 200 KB and 4 MB in size
- have a chin to crown (the top of your head) measurement between 45 to 50% of the photo's height.



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## Examples of unacceptable passport photos

These photos **don't** represent the actual size of a passport photo. Unacceptable photos show you what to look for before you submit your application.

Acceptable  
Good contrast



Unacceptable  
No contrast



Acceptable  
Good lighting



Unacceptable  
Shadows behind ears



Acceptable  
Non-Tinted Glasses



Unacceptable  
Tinted glasses



Acceptable  
Facial features are not covered



Unacceptable  
Facial features are covered



Acceptable  
Neutral expression



Unacceptable  
Smiling





## Tips for taking a good passport photo

[Video: passport photos of adults](#)

### If you're in a wheelchair

Passport photos must be taken against a plain white background. If your wheelchair has a headrest, a plain white covering should be placed over it. This makes your facial features and the edges of your face clear against the background.

### If you have headwear or nasal cannula

Your headwear or a nasal cannula may appear in a passport photo if worn for medical reasons. Your eyes **must** remain clearly visible. Include a signed explanation with your application. We may ask for a letter from your doctor.

### Why can't I smile in my passport photo?

The [International Civil Aviation Organization](#) recommends that passport photos be taken with a neutral expression. This lets us use facial recognition systems to help prevent fraud. They electronically verify identity based on each person's unique facial features.

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For information about other Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) publications, visit: [www.canada.ca/ircc-publications](http://www.canada.ca/ircc-publications).

Available in alternative formats upon request.

Également disponible en français sous le titre : 2021-2022 Directives relatives aux photos de passeport numériques

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