

Guidelines IELTS Candidate Photographs 2009



The following guidelines are provided for centres to follow in the management of test day photos; the decision to accept the photographs submitted by a candidate is at the Administrator's discretion.

- Candidates provide two identical colour photographs that are not more than six months old
- Cross reference with passport photograph (if the same has been used check the date of issue of the passport)
- Black and white photographs must not be accepted
- The image must be clearly visible i.e. the photographs must not be stamped, signed / written on, marked, folded, stapled over or damaged in any way

SIZE

- Standard passport sized photograph
- Minimum 35 mm in width
- Minimum 45 mm in height

POSE

- A close-up of the head and top of shoulders (80%+ of the photo)
- Looking straight towards the camera with face square on
- Both ears showing or both edges of the face visible if hair covers the ears
- NOT personal portrait style (glamour shot)
- NOT looking over one shoulder
- Head not tilted or rotated

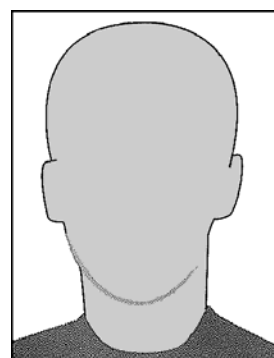


PHOTO QUALITY

- Print quality of professional standard
- High quality paper and colour image
- No ink or marks on the image

LIGHTING & FOCUS

- No shadows or glare on the image or background
- Good colour balance that shows skin tones naturally
- A plain, light coloured background (beige, white, blue background recommended, not red)
 - no objects in the background
 - no patterned background
- Appropriate brightness and contrast
- Uniform lighting/ sharp focus and clear
- No 'red eye'

EXPRESSION

- A neutral expression with mouth closed
 - no smiling, squinting, frowning or raised eyebrows
- Nothing covering the face
- Eyes open and clearly visible
 - no hair covering the eyes

GLASSES, HEADCOVERS, CLOTHING

- Nothing should hide the outlines of the eyes, nose or mouth
- No glasses (please advertise this requirement immediately but it will take effect January 2010)
- Head coverings worn for religious reasons are permitted
 - Facial features from bottom of chin to top of forehead and both edges of face must be clearly shown