

BIOMETRIC DATA COLLECTION

From 12 October 2015 all applicants applying for a Schengen visa must submit biometric data - ten fingerprints and a photo. Biometric data will be stored in the Visa Information System (VIS), which is an IT system that allows the Schengen States to exchange visa data. The main purpose of the VIS is to facilitate the visa application procedures and control at external borders of the Schengen Area, as well as to improve safety.

In order to provide their biometric data, all applicants must come to Visa Application Centre of Norway (or mission) the first time they apply for a visa from 12 October 2015. Visa applicants will in principle only have to come to the Visa Application Centre (or mission) for the collection of fingerprints every 59 months. For subsequent applications, the fingerprints may be copied from the previous application file unless there is reasonable doubt regarding the identity of the applicant.

It is important to note that if for some reason fingerprints are not found in VIS, the applicant must appear in person to provide new fingerprints within the 59-month period.

First-time applicants who are a part of an ADS-group also need to come to the Visa Application Centre in person for biometric data collection, even though accredited travel agencies still may submit their applications on their behalf. For ADS-groups it is imperative that travel agent send an email to infopek.norcn@vfshelpline.com with simple information of the group size and preferred date and time of submission of biometrics, to book an appointment to submit group applications in advance.

Applicants can ask for their fingerprints to be taken every time they apply for a visa

- In order to avoid prolonging processing time of the application if fingerprints are not found in VIS for some reason.
- For security reasons - to confirm the identity of the applicant.
- If applicant does not remember when fingerprints were taken last time or is not sure if fingerprints have been taken before.

Biometric data is not collected from children under the age of 12, or for persons whom fingerprinting is physically impossible. Heads of State and members of the national government with members of the national government with members of their official delegation and spouses will also be exempted, if travelling for official purposes.

Visas applied before 12 October 2015 are valid through the period of validity without biometric data.