too close

too far away

✔

blurred

ink marked/creased

✔

looking away

unnatural skin tones

✔

too dark

too light

✔

washed out colour

pixelated

✔

Photograph quality

The photographs must be:

-
- 35–40mm in width
- close up of head and top of shoulders so that face takes up 70–80% of the photograph
- in sharp focus and clear
- of high quality with no marks

The photographs must:

- show looking directly at the camera
- show skin tones naturally
- have appropriate brightness and contrast at high resolution

Photographs to be taken with a digital camera must be high quality colour

hair across eyes

eyes closed

portrait style

eyes tilted

busy background

not centred

flash reflection on skin

redeye

shadows behind head

shadows across face

Style and lighting

The photographs must:

- be colour neutral
- show the eyes open and clearly visible—no hair across the eyes
- show facing square on to the camera, not looking over one shoulder (portrait style) or tilted, and showing both edges of the face clearly
- be taken with a plain light-coloured background
- be taken with uniform lighting and not show shadows or flash reflections on the face and no red eye
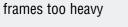
dark tinted lenses

flash reflection on lenses

frames too heavy

frames covering eyes

wearing a hat

wearing a cap

face covered

shadows across face

shows another person

mouth open and toy too close to face

Glasses and head covers

If wearing glasses:

- the photograph must show the eyes clearly with no flash reflection off the glasses, and no tinted lenses (if possible, avoid heavy frames— lighter framed glasses to be worn)

- make sure that the frames do not cover any part of the eyes.

Head coverings:

- are not permitted except for religious reasons, but the facial features from bottom of chin to top of forehead and both edges of the face must be clearly shown.

Expression and frame

The photographs must:

- show alone (no chair backs, toys or other people visible), looking at the camera with a neutral expression and the mouth closed.