

<p style="text-align: center;">Update December 2018 Taking biometric data as part of a D visa application</p>

Introduction of the visa application in person

From 1 December 2018 onwards, Belgian diplomatic and consular posts will take fingerprints (10 fingers) and a digital photo of third-country nationals, aged 6 and over, who apply for a visa for a long stay in Belgium, unless it is physically impossible to take fingerprints.

NB: If the physical impossibility is temporary, the diplomatic post will ask for details on the reasons for this temporary impossibility. On the other hand, if it is possible to collect a number of prints less than 10, the diplomatic post will record all available fingerprints.

Why take biometric data?

Taking your biometric data can identify you with certainty as the sole holder of the visa. It protects you from falsification or misuse of identity, especially in case of theft or loss of your passport, and facilitates your passage to the external borders of the Schengen area.

A respectful procedure

Taking your biometric data takes only a few minutes. This operation takes place in accordance with the guarantees provided by the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Retention of biometric data

Your biometric data is kept for 10 years. You will therefore no longer need to give them if you apply for a new D visa within 10 years of registration, unless the diplomatic post has a doubt about your identity, or you are no longer exempt from this new application.

Protection of biometric data

Your biometric data are processed in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24/07/2016 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the freedom to circulation of data.

Official information from the website of the Immigration Office, <https://dofi.ibz.be>.

For more information on obtaining a D visa, please consult the website of the Consulate General of Belgium in your country of origin.