



IDENTITY CARDS FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS

BIOMETRIC ENROLMENT PROCESS

This leaflet explains the UK Border Agency process for giving your biometric information and applying for an Identity Card for Foreign Nationals (ICFN). ICFNs are also known as Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs), and are a form of Biometric Immigration Document (BID).

What are biometrics?

Biometrics are the unique physical characteristics that can be used to identify you, such as facial images and fingerprints. We record a digital photograph for all applicants for an ICFN, and for applicants over 6 years old your 10 digit finger scans. This is called the biometric enrolment process.

Who needs to enrol their biometrics?

Foreign nationals from outside the European Economic Area making certain applications to the UK Border Agency have to enrol their biometrics and apply for an ICFN. This applies to both postal applications and applications made in person, known as premium applications.

The introduction of ICFNs is by immigration category and application type. If you need to apply for an ICFN as part of your application to the UK Border Agency, it will be clear from the form you complete. For up-to-date information on which types of applications are affected please log on to the UK Border Agency website at www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

Successful applicants receive an ICFN as evidence of their right to be here. Migrants applying successfully in categories which do not need to enrol biometrics will continue to receive a sticker (or vignette) in their passport.

Why do applicants over 6 years old have to give their fingerprints?

The law states that everyone over 6 years old must provide their fingerprints when applying for an ICFN.

Why do children under the age of 16 need a 'responsible adult' to accompany them?

It is a legal requirement to ensure the child understands the process and is reassured.

Who is a responsible adult?

This is a parent or guardian, or another person aged 18 years or over who takes responsibility for the child.

What happens when I give my biometrics?

You simply have a digital photograph taken and put your fingers on a glass screen, so there is no ink or mess. We are extremely aware of the need to protect the dignity, privacy and modesty of applicants, and there will be special arrangements for applicants where needed.

How long does it take to enrol biometrics?

The UK Border Agency biometric enrolment process takes 5-10 minutes. There may then be a short wait whilst data checks are made.

Why do I need to give my biometrics as part of my application?

Providing biometrics helps to protect the identities of genuine applicants. Identity cards make it easier for individuals to prove their identity, immigration status and entitlements in the UK. Individuals are locked into a single identity which helps the UK Border Agency tackle immigration abuse, child trafficking, illegal working and identity fraud.

What happens if I refuse to give my biometrics?

If a postal applicant fails to make arrangements to provide their biometrics, as notified in the biometric notification letter, their application will be rejected. If they fail to attend an appointment to enrol their biometrics or refuse to provide their biometrics then their application to the UK Border Agency may be refused.

If a premium applicant refuses to provide their biometrics then their application to the UK Border Agency may be refused.

Why do I need to be fingerprinted again when I gave my biometrics overseas as part of my visa/entry clearance application?

We need to verify that an individual making an application in the UK is the same person who applied for the visa overseas and who came through the UK border. ►

What will happen to my biometrics after they have been taken?

They will be held on the existing fingerprint database.

Will I be issued with an Identity Card?

If you are successful in your application then yes you will receive an identity card. However, the card is not issued on the day you give your biometrics. It will be sent to you in the post via secure delivery. If you have not received your card within ten working days of the date of your decision letter you should contact us on 0300 123 2412. You cannot enquire about undelivered cards in person at our offices or biometric enrolment centres. This applies to both premium and postal services.

Will I have to pay an additional fee to the UK Border Agency?

No, your fee remains the same.

Will I be interviewed?

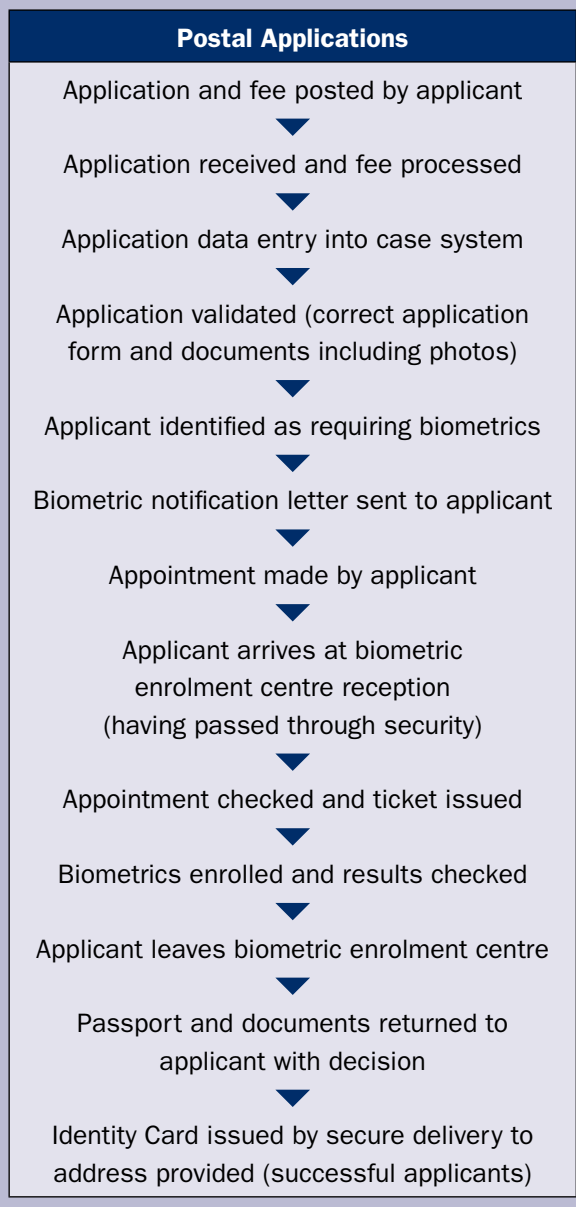
If the fingerprint check reveals any queries around your identity, these matters may be resolved through an interview. However, this will not routinely be required.

Where can I access more information?

For further information please log on to:
www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

Or call the Immigration Enquiry Bureau on 0870 606 7766.

OVERVIEW OF POSTAL APPLICATION PROCESS



OVERVIEW OF PREMIUM APPLICATION PROCESS

