

Rules for Obtaining an Indian Visa

The instruction and information given here is general in nature. For specific information, you need to visit the [Mission Site](#)

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Passport valid for a minimum of six months beyond the date of intended departure from India should accompany visa applications.
2. Paste one photo and staple the other one on the form at specified place.
3. Foreigners holding other nationalities (other than the country where applying for visa), should submit proof of long-term (at least three years)/ permanent residence in the country (where applying). For citizens of other countries, a reference has to be made to their country of residence for which an additional fee is applicable and will involve extra processing time. Please refrain from making inquiries about the status of application during this time.
4. The following types of visas are available from the Indian missions abroad:

- **TOURIST**

Normally given for 6 months but is specifically dependent on the country of residence. The applicant is required to produce/submit documents in proof of his financial standing. Tourists traveling in groups of not less than four members under the auspices of a recognized travel agency may be considered for grant of collective tourist visa.

- **BUSINESS**

Valid for one or more year with multiple entries. A letter from sponsoring organization indicating nature of business, probable duration of stay, places and organizations to be visited incorporating there in a guarantee to meet maintenance expenses, etc. should accompany the application.

- **STUDENT**

Issued for the duration of the academic course of study or for a period of five years, on the basis of firm letters of admission from universities/recognized colleges or educational institutions in India. Change of purpose and institutions are not permissible.

- **TRANSIT**

Issued for a maximum period of 15-days with single/double entry facilities to confirmed transit passengers only.

- **MISSIONARY**

Valid for single entry and duration as permitted by Government of India. A letter in triplicate from the sponsoring organization indicating intended destination in India, probable length of stay, and nature of duties to be discharged should be submitted along with guarantee for applicant's maintenance while in India.

- **JOURNALIST**

Issued to professional journalists and photographers for visiting India. Upon arrival in New Delhi, the applicants are required to contact the External Publicity Division of the

Ministry of External Affairs. If arriving in to other locations, applicants are required to contact the Office of the Government of India's Press Information Bureaus.

- **CONFERENCE**

Issued for attending conferences/seminars/meetings in India. A letter of invitation from the organizer of the conference is to be submitted along with the visa application.

Delegates coming to attend conferences may combine tourism with attending conferences.

- **EMPLOYMENT**

Issued to skilled and qualified professionals or persons who are engaged or appointed by companies, organizations, economic undertakings as technicians, technical experts, senior executives etc. Applicants are required to submit proof of contract/employment/engagement of foreign nationals by the company or organization.

FEES:

The fee structure depends on the nationality of the passport holder and type/duration of visa application. The existing fee structure is:

- Transit visa **US \$5.00**
- Visas with validity up to six months **US \$30.00**
- Visas with validity up to one year **US \$50.00**
- Student visa **US\$50.00**
- Visas with validity between one to five years **US \$100.00**

Visa fees indicated in US\$ are payable in local currencies as well. Visa fees are not refundable except in cases where a visa already issued is cancelled thereafter.

PROCESSING DURATION:

This is dependent on the type of visa application.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

- The duration of stay in India, for each visit on a tourist visa or business visa, is only for a period of 6 months even though a valid visa may be for more than 6 months.
- Visas are given for a period for which the passport is valid. For example, if a passport is valid until April 30, 2003 and an applicant is applying for 5 years visa on December 31, 1999, the applicant will not be issued a 5 years visa as the passport expires before the 5 year visa.
- Validity of all visas is counted from the date of their issue.
- Tourist visa up to 5 years may be granted if the foreigner is connected with the tourism trade.
- If a visa is for more than 180 days, registration is compulsory within 14 days of first arrival in India.