

**High Commission of India
Canberra**

PRESS RELEASE

A decision has been taken by Government of India to make it a mandatory requirement for all applicants for an Indian Visa to apply on line. This system of on line application is being rolled out in a phased manner in all Indian Embassies and Consulates around the world. It will be introduced in Australia with effect from 1st August 2011, simultaneously at High Commission of India, Canberra, Consulate General of India, Sydney and Consulate General of India, Melbourne.

We seek your patience and understanding for any inconvenience that may be caused.

How to Apply for a Visa .

1. Please visit www.vfs-in-au.net and select the type of visa you wish to apply. Click on Apply Online. You will be redirected to the Government of India Visa Online Application Website after reviewing and agreeing to the terms and conditions of application. Each Applicant must apply individually.
2. Please carefully note down the Temporary Application ID number (15 characters) consisting of numbers and alphabets, which will be displayed immediately on the Government of India Visa Online application form. This can be saved to retrieve your application and continue in case you wish to complete part of the application later.
3. Complete the application online. You will receive a Web Reference Confirmation Number and the website will prompt you to continue with making payment online and necessary next steps. The completed Government of India Visa Application form will open up in PDF format at this stage. Save the form and print out the same for submission to the VFS Office in your area.
4. You will now be redirected back to VFS Confirmation Page to complete your mode of submission and delivery of your application, and a few other related details that enable you to calculate the fee. This will now present you with the fee you need to pay.

5. The next step is to download the additional forms and checklist and complete submission of your application with payment. You may choose to make payment online (recommended). The other option is to pay through money order/postal order, which can be submitted alongwith the application in the VFS Centre. Clicking this link is extremely important as the checklist is your guide to all supporting documents required for your application. Complete the checklist carefully and ensure you have all supporting documents ready. In case you are not redirected back from the Government of India website to VFS website, simply visit www.vfs-in-au.net and download the checklists from the Checklist and Additional Forms Page.
6. Please submit a printed copy of visa application, duly signed, alongwith photo and related documents and proof of payment to VFS Office. Alternatively you can simply post/courier your completed application to the nearest VFS Office in your area.
7. Remember to note processing times and plan your trip accordingly.

Photo Specifications:

It is a also a mandatory requirement to ensure your Photo is 2x2 inch in size as this is a strict requirement as the Government of India now follows the ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organisation] standards. Photos which do not meet these specifications will not be accepted.

All VFS centres in Australia also have a Photo Booth facility meeting these standards for applicants choosing to submit their application in person.

Canberra
25 July 2011