



## **FAQ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **VISA APPLICATION CHINA - FINGERPRINTS**

**DATE: 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2019**

With effect from 9th December 2019, ALL visa applicants, regardless of the desired visa category, will have to capture fingerprints to the Chinese Visa Application Center in Vienna at least once every 5 years, with a few exceptions.

Additionally they will :

- capture a fingerprint of all fingers
- take a biometric picture
- detect the biometric passport data electronically

#### **IMPORTANT:**

If you need a visa for China please be aware that the procedure of the visa processing can take longer than previously experienced. Please consider more than one week.

#### **Cause of the new process**

All travelers from China applying for a visa to Austria have been required to give fingerprints to the Austrian Embassy in China for more than 10 years. After many bilateral negotiations, the Chinese Ministry has decided to take over the practice in Austria and other European countries as well.

#### **Summary of changes:**

- When applying for a visa after the 9th of December 2019, the personal appearance of the traveler at the consular provider in Vienna is necessary
- Fingerprints will be captured and a biometric picture will be taken
- **IMPORTANT:** The OEVKG will continue to support you with all services you require, both for the initial application, including the capture of fingerprints and follow-up visas. In the future, we will also be pleased to offer a Meet and Greet service to support the customer at the Visa Application Center in Vienna

#### **When does the regulation apply?**

As of Monday, 9th December 2019, visa applications will only be accepted in connection with capturing fingerprints and taking a biometric passport picture.

#### **Are there any exceptions?**

Exempted from this rule are:

1. Children under 14 years or adults at the age of 71 years
2. Holders of diplomatic passports or persons qualified for a Chinese diplomatic or courtesy visa



3. Persons who have been issued a Chinese biometric visa in the same passport over the past 5 years and whose fingerprints have already been collected by a Chinese Visa Application Center
4. People who have finger limitations or people who cannot capture fingerprints from all 10 fingers for other reasons

### **When do I have to give fingerprints?**

The fingerprints will be captured on the day the visa documents will be submitted at the Consular Provider (Visa Application Center)

- Fingerprints are valid for 5 years together with the submitted passport
- If you apply for a visa with another passport within these 5 years, fingerprints have to be captured again
- If you are invited to an interview at the Embassy and give fingerprints, it may be necessary to give fingerprints again to the consular service provider (Visa Application Center)
- Fingerprints captured at the border (airport, landborder,...) to China are not valid – the fingerprints have to be captured at a Visa Application Center

### **Where do I capture the fingerprints?**

The fingerprints have to be captured at the consular provider (Visa Application Center), where the visa documents are submitted.

For all Austrians, this is currently the only option where the fingerprints can be captured:

Schönbrunner Straße 108/Top 1.01  
1050 Vienna

### **How do I arrange an appointment for the fingerprints?**

You always need an appointment with the consular provider (Visa Application Center) to capture the fingerprints.

Please see some recommendations here:

- Be at the Visa Application center on time.
  - If you arrive earlier, depending on the frequency, the process may take place before the agreed time
  - If you miss the appointment, it may lead to a new appointment including the submission of new documents



**You can choose from the following appointment options (additional costs):**

**1) MEET&GREET: Appointment service and pre-check by OEVKG**

**Includes:**

- **PRE-CHECK** (additional charge – 19.90€ net / 23,88€ gross)
  - The OEVKG checks your documents for correctness and completeness - please forward the documents to us in advance in electronic form only
- **Meet&Greet-Servic** (additional charge – 39.90€ net / 47,88€ gross)
  - OEVKG organizes an appointment at the Visa Application center for you
  - You will meet an employee of OEVKG at the Visa Application center
  - Pick up of the issued visa and delivery to your preferred address
  - We will pay the consular and Visa Application Center fees for you
  - If documents are wrong or missing – we will bring the documents to the Visa Application Center without additional costs

**Additional costs total: 59.80€ net / 71.76€ gross**

**Your benefits:**

- Benefit from the advantages of processing the application using your own agency counter with shorter waiting times
- The pre-check will save you any delays in the processing or even a rejection of the documents
- Carefree through the application process at the Visa Application Center with the support of an OEVKG employee at the Visa Application Center
- The consular and Visa Application Center fees are paid by the OEVKG and charged to you in the usual way - so you avoid a large number of invoices



**2) APPOINTMENT by OEVKG – submission through applicant – pick up by OEVKG**

**Includes:**

- PRE-CHECK (additional charge – 19.90€ net / 23,88€ gross)
  - The OEVKG checks your documents for correctness and completeness - please forward the documents to us in advance in electronic form only
- Appointment service and pick up by the OEVKG – (additional charge – 19.90€ net / 23.88€ gross)
  - Preferred Appointment by the Visa Application Center in Vienna
  - Pick up of the issued visa at the Visa Application Center
    - Please send the pick up slips (original version), or
    - Bring the pick up slip to the OEVKG office

Additional costs total: 39.80€ net / 47.76€ gross

**Note:**

- The submission of the documents and the capture of fingerprints will be done by the applicant personally without an employee of the OEVKG at the Visa Application Center
- Consular and Visa Application Center fees have to be paid by you when submitting the documents (only by cash or by cash)
- The procedure may take up to 2 hours at the Visa Application Center

**How long are the fingerprints valid?**

The fingerprints and the biometric passport photo are valid for 5 years from the date of issue of the visa.

The fingerprints are linked to the passport with which the visa was applied for. As soon as a visa is applied for within the 5 years with another passport, new fingerprints will be taken.

We recommend to check the validity of your passport and if necessary to start the visa application with a new passport.

Please note:

- Under certain circumstances you may apply for 2 passports
- Your employer has to confirm that you are a frequent traveler
- Please keep your old passports – they might be important for upcoming visa applications

**Are the fingerprints accepted for all visa categories?**

Yes, the fingerprints have to be captured for ALL visa categories, regardless of whether it is a tourist or business trip.