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# Biometrics

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# When to give your biometrics – Temporary resident applicants

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## If you haven't given your biometrics before

You must give your biometrics when you apply for your visitor visa, study or work permit, [unless you're exempt](#).

[Find out how to give your biometrics](#).

## If you've given your biometrics before

Your biometrics are valid for 10 years. If you gave your biometrics within the last 10 years

- they'll be automatically attached to your new visitor visa, work or study permit, or extension
- you don't need to give them every time you apply for temporary residence

However, we can't issue your visa or permit beyond the **expiry date of your biometrics**. If you want a visa or permit for a longer period of time, you can extend the validity of your biometrics by giving them again when you apply, even if they're still valid.

## Check the status of your biometrics

Find out if your biometrics are still valid and when they expire using the [Check status tool](#).

## How to extend the validity of your biometrics

Even if your biometrics are still valid, you can choose to give them again so your visa or permit is valid for a longer period of time.

Follow these steps when you apply for your visa or permit:

1. Pay the biometrics fee when you apply, unless you're exempt.
2. Wait for your biometric instruction letter (BIL). **You must use the BIL that was issued for this application.**

3. Follow the instructions on your new BIL to book an appointment to give your biometrics again.

- You must give your biometrics at an official biometric collection location either inside or outside Canada.

## **If your visa or permit has been issued for a shorter period of time because of your biometrics validity**

We can't issue a visa or permit **more than 10 years from the last time you gave your biometrics.**

Once your visa or permit has been issued, you can't give your biometrics again to extend the validity of your document.

If you want to have a visa or permit with a longer validity, you must

- apply for a new visa or apply to extend your stay as a visitor, worker or student
- pay the associated fees (including the biometrics fee)
- give your biometrics again

# If your application was refused because you didn't give biometrics

If your application has been refused, **don't try to give your biometrics**.

Give your biometrics **only** if you

- reapply
- pay the associated fees, including the biometrics fee
- receive a new BIL

If you use your old BIL, there may be delays in your application processing, or your application may be refused.

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