



Going to the UK for more than six months?

If you're going to the UK for more than six months - regardless of your nationality - you need a visa. And from 11 December 2007, you'll be asked to provide fingerprint scans and a digital photo as part of the visa application process.

This is only for new applications received on and after 11 December, and only affects those staying in the UK for more than six months. That's around 12,000 people annually, or 4% of the total number of New Zealand residents who visit the UK each year.

When you apply for your visa and pay online at www.britain.org.nz, you'll be asked to book an appointment to see us. From 11 December, this will be at the British High Commission in Wellington. We are also looking to open facilities in Auckland and Christchurch in January 2008.

Biometric information is now the global norm for protecting against identity fraud. The UK Government is introducing biometric visas for all applicants, regardless of their nationality. It takes only a few minutes to have your fingerprints scanned and a digital photo taken.

The system is already operating for UK visa applications in more than a hundred countries around the world, and has been successful in identifying more than 6000 confirmed matches.

Your data is sent securely straight to the UK. The information then allows UK immigration to validate your identity when you arrive.

Your biometric information will be held for ten years, and is protected by the UK's Data Protection Act 1998, which operates just like New Zealand's Privacy Act 1993.

To find out more, check out our video on YouTube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHam3ybcr-k>

Or visit us at:
www.britain.org.nz