

Frequently Asked Questions:

I heard there were plans to interview everyone applying for a passport is that true?

There are no plans at present to make it compulsory for every customer to attend an interview. However the Embassy/High Commission may use their discretion to interview any applicant on a case by case basis.

I would like more information on the interview process?

Once the British Embassy has received a fully completed application they will establish that the customer's identity exists and that they are entitled to a British passport. If a customer requires an interview he/she will be notified accordingly and given a date, time and location to attend.

How long is the interview?

The interview length is dependent on the type of application being made. On average it will take about 45 minutes and will be conducted in a professional manner. The type of question asked will vary for each case.

Will I be called for an interview if I am applying for a renewal of my existing passport?

In most cases the answer is no. However, if you are applying for a renewal with an old style blue passport or not held a passport for 10 years or more you may require an interview. You will also have to supply full documentation as if you were applying for the first time.

When will I receive my passport?

Following any required interview and once all the necessary background checks have been completed, we aim to process all applications and return new passports within 10 working days.

For further information see:
ukinromania.fco.gov.uk



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**Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office**

BRITISH EMBASSY

Bucharest

ROMANIA



PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY

From 2 February 2009 you may require an interview to obtain a British Passport.

This is to:

- ✓ *Protect your personal identity*
- ✓ *Reduce passport fraud and associated crime*
- ✓ *Prevent illegal entry into the UK*
- ✓ *Enhance the integrity of the UK Passport*

Passport Interviews

In 2007, the UK Identity and Passport Service (IPS) introduced compulsory passport interviews for all first time applicants aged 16 or over, as part of the application process. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), through all its Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates, also began the introduction of interviews.

From 2 February the British Embassy in Bucharest, Romania will be introducing compulsory interviews for some applicants who:

- ✓ Are applying for a British passport for the first time.
- ✓ Are applying for a replacement passport following the loss or theft of more than one passport over a short period;
- ✓ Have changed their name, except if that change follows marriage, civil partnership, divorce or dissolution;
- ✓ Have not held a valid British passport for more than 10 years;
- ✓ Are renewing an old style blue passport;
- ✓ Hold a British Overseas Territories passport (other than Gibraltar).

What do I need to do if one of these criteria applies to me?

Make sure you submit your passport application in plenty of time before you expect to travel.

Don't leave it until the last minute.

You may have a long journey to your nearest Consular Office. Please allow plenty of time to attend an interview.

Someone from the Consular Office will contact you to arrange an appointment.

They will also advise you what documents you need to bring with you to support your application. This information can also be found on the Post Website.

When arranging your interview, let us know if you have any particular needs, for example:

- If you have a severe incapacity which you believe will prevent you from attending or taking part in an interview.
- Will you need a translator or sign language interpreter?
- Will you need a carer or parent to be present during the interview?
- Will you require wheelchair access?

Why are interviews necessary?

Interviewing passport applicants has been established practice in many British Embassies and High Commissions worldwide for a number of years and has proven to be an effective deterrent against passport fraud and identity theft. To bring our current procedures into line with the IPS in the UK, all FCO Posts will adopt the same policy and approach to passport interviewing. This has become necessary to:

- Establish your eligibility and entitlement to a British passport;
- Prevent other people impersonating you and using your identity to commit fraud. Sadly, this is happening more frequently with distressing consequence for its victims.
- Reduce passport fraud and forgery; this sort of crime is becoming more sophisticated and more organised.
- To counter terrorist activity, making international travel safer and hassle-free;
- Prevent illegal entry into the UK and other countries.

Many UK banks, building societies and organisations now ask for photographic proof of identity prior to transacting business, with a valid passport increasingly being requested.

A misappropriated passport therefore can open the way to bank accounts, mortgages, benefits and many other services.

PLEASE NOTE: Customers should try not make any travel arrangements until their new passport is received. The Embassy cannot be held responsible for costs incurred as a result of disrupted travel plans.