

U.S. State Department rules on passport photos

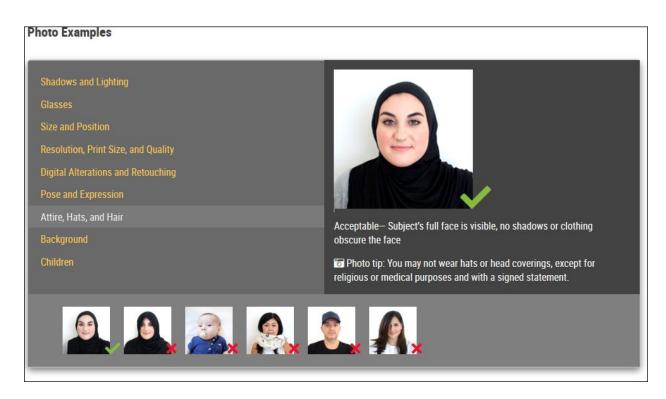
Generally, you cannot wear a hat, head covering, eyeglasses or otherwise cover any part of your face in a U.S. passport photo. However, you can request a religious accommodation that allows you to wear a hijab or kufi in your photo.

Here is what the State Department says about religious headwear, https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/how-apply/photos.html:

Can I wear a hat or head covering in my photo?

You may wear a hat or head covering, but you must submit a signed statement that verifies that the hat or head covering is part of recognized, traditional religious attire that is customarily or required to be worn continuously in public [or doctor's letter if medical reasons].

Your full face must be visible and your hat or head covering cannot obscure your hairline or cast shadows on your face



See a sample request for a religious accommodation on the next page.

Here is a sample letter to bring with you when you get your passport photo taken <u>and</u> to include with your passport renewal application. Make any needed changes to fit your situation.

[Date]
If you live in CA, FL, IL, MN, NY or TX, use this address: National Passport Processing Center P.O. Box 640155 Irving, TX 75064-0155
If you live in any other state or Canada, use this address: National Passport Processing Center P.O. Box 90155 Philadelphia, PA 19190-0155
RE: Passport renewal – notice of religious head covering for passport photo
To whom it may concern:
This letter is to advise you that I wear a religious head covering while in public on a daily basis as part of my sincerely-held religious beliefs. I am a Muslim and, in accordance with Muslim beliefs and practices, I cover my hair [and neck] on a daily basis with a [hijab/kufi].
Sincerely,
[your signature] [name printed or typed] [address] [email address]
[your signature] [name printed or typed] [address]

[Last updated March 2022]