



MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND COOPERATION

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SPAIN
MUMBAI (INDIA)

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW BIOMETRIC VISA INFORMATION SYSTEM (VIS) SCHENGEN VISA

From 01st November 2015, the global biometric Visa Information System (VIS) will come into effect in the Republic of India.

The **most important change will be to capture the biometric data of the visa applicant** (taking fingerprints of all 10 fingers and a digital photograph). The biometric data, along with the data facilitated in the visa application form, will be registered in a protected database. It is not necessary to take the biometric fingerprint data for minors below 12 years of age or for persons for whom it is physically impossible to record fingerprints. (In such cases, whichever ones are possible will be taken). Even higher authorities of the country and their delegations will be excluded from the same during official visits.

For this purposes, **the visa applicants must personally appear at the BLS visa application centres or the Consular office** (as applicable) in order to provide their biometric data. However, the fingerprint data can be reutilised during 5 years for all the future visa applications, except when a reasonable doubt arises with regards to the identity of the person. During these 5 years, the successive visa applications will not require, in principle, the personal presence of the applicant.