

OVERSEAS CITIZEN OF INDIA (OCI) CARDHOLDER SCHEME

OCI-General Information:

Any eligible person can submit an application for registration at <https://ociservices.gov.in>. The applicants are also advised to visit <https://ociservices.gov.in> website for latest regulation and information promulgated from time to time or any clarification.

Benefits.

(a) OCI is multiple entry lifelong visa for visiting India for any purpose.

(Please note that OCI Cardholders are not entitled to undertake any Research, Missionary, Tabligi, Mountaineering or Journalistic activities or undertake internship in any foreign diplomatic mission or foreign government organisations in India or take up employment in any diplomatic missions in India without special permission or permit from the Government of India. OCI cardholder shall also require Protected Area Permit (PAP)/Restricted Area Permit (RAP) to visit any place which falls within the Protected/Restricted Area notified by the Government.)

(b) Exemption from registration with the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) or Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) for any length of stay in India. ***Provided that the OCI cardholders who are normally resident in India shall intimate the jurisdictional FRRO or FRO by email whenever there is a change in permanent residential address and in their occupation.***

(c) Parity with Indian nationals in the matter of tariffs in airfares in domestic sectors in India and entry fees for visiting national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, national monuments, historical sites and museums in India.

(d) Parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in the matter of inter-country adoption of Indian children, subject to the compliance of the procedure as laid down by the competent authority for such adoption; appearing for all Indian entrance tests such as National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, Joint Entrance Examination (Mains), Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced) or such other tests to make them eligible for admission only against any NRI seat or any supernumerary seat, but not against seats reserved exclusively for Indian citizens; purchase or sale of immovable properties other than agricultural land or farm house or plantation property; and pursuing the following professions in India, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the applicable relevant Statutes or Acts, namely :

- (i) Doctors, dentists, nurses and pharmacists ;
- (ii) Advocates ;
- (iii) Architects ;
- (iv) Chartered Accountants

(e) In respect of all other economic, financial and educational fields not specified above or rights and privileges not covered by the notifications made by the Reserve Bank of India under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1992 (42 of 1999), the OCI cardholder shall have the same rights and privileges as a foreigner.

Eligibility.

a) Citizen of another country but was citizen/eligible to become citizen of India on or after 26.1.1950;

OR Minor child of above person.

- b) Citizen of another country but belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15.08.1947 OR
- c) who is a child/grandchild/great grandchild of above person ; OR
- d) Minor child whose both/one of the parents are/is a citizen of India ; OR
- e) Spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India/OCI cardholder and whose marriage has been registered and subsisted for a continuous period of not less than 2 years immediately preceding the presentation of the application.

Document Requirements.

List of supporting documents required to be submitted (along with the original for verification) with the application are as follows:-

1. Proof of present citizenship– Copy of present valid passport (applicable in all cases), with validity of minimum 6 months at the time of submission of application.
2. Evidence of Self OR parents OR grandparents OR great grandparents-
 - a) Being a citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after the commencement of the Constitution i.e. 26.01.1950; or
 - b) Being eligible to become a citizen of India at the time of commencement of the Constitution i.e. 26.01.1950; or
 - c) Belonging to a territory that became part of India after 15th August, 1947. These could be:
 - i) Copy of the Indian Passport; OR
 - ii) Copy of the Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority; OR
 - iii) Copy of Nativity Certificate from the competent authority; OR
 - iv) OCI Card/ PIO card of parents/ spouse along with the base papers/ documents upon which the OCI/PIO card was issued; OR
 - v) Any other proof substantiating the request. Usually applicants are able to submit a certificate of residence or place of birth of self/parents/grandparents from First Class Magistrate/District Magistrate (DM) of the concerned place
3. Evidence of relationship as Parent/Grandparent/ Great grandparent, if their Indian origin is claimed as basis for registration as OCI Cardholder:

The document of relationship could be “Birth Certificate” issued from competent authority mentioning both parent’s name. In case the birth certificate is issued by a foreign authority, it is to be attested or endorsed by the concerned Indian Mission abroad.

NO PERSON WHO OR EITHER OF WHOSE PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS/GREAT GRAND PARENTS IS OR HAD BEEN A CITIZEN OF PAKISTAN OR BANGLADESH SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION AS AN OCI CARDHOLDER.

FOREIGN MILITARY OR POLICE PERSONNEL EITHER SERVING/RETIRED WILL NOT BE REGISTERED AS OCI CARDHOLDER.

Documents required to be submitted along with application:

(Please note that if the documents are in a foreign language, translation in English language by an authorized translator would be required. Documents issued in Djibouti require to be first attested by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Djibouti.)

In cases where applicant was holding Indian passport and has obtained foreign nationality

- a) Copy of foreign Passport with validity of 6 months.
- b) Copy of certificate of registration of foreign citizenship.
- c) Cancelled/surrendered Indian Passport with Certificate of Renunciation of Indian citizenship. For information on Citizenship Renunciation/Surrender of Indian Passport and downloading of form Renunciation of citizenship form please click here <https://indiancitizenshiponline.nic.in/Renounce>
- d) **Address Proof**: State issued ID Cards or Copy of Driving License or Lease License or electricity bill/telephone bill.

In cases where OCI is being sought on basis of parents/grandparents/great grandparents being Indian citizens or foreigners of Indian origin

- a) Copy of Indian Passport(s) / PIO (valid till 31st December 2022) or OCI Card(s) / Domicile/Nativity Certificate(s) / certificate(s) of residence/place of birth issued by a Magistrate/DM.
- b) Birth Certificate mentioning names of both parents.
- c) Marriage certificate of parents. If parents are divorced, court order of dissolution of marriage, which specifically mentions that the legal custody of the child is with the parent who is applying for the OCI card. If the court order is in any foreign language, translation in English by an authorized translator is to be enclosed.

In cases of minor children whose both or one of the parents is a citizen of India.

- a) Copy of Child's Birth Certificate.
- b) Marriage Certificate of parents. If parents are divorced, court order of dissolution of marriage, which specifically mentions that the legal custody of the child is with the parent who is applying for the OCI card. If the court order is in any foreign language, translation in English by an authorized translator is to be enclosed.
- c) Copy of Indian Passport of parents or one of the parents/Domicile Certificate/Nativity Certificate/any other proof substantiating the status of the parents or one of the parents as being Indian citizen(s).

In case of foreigner spouse of a citizen of India/OCI Cardholder.

- a) The application can be presented only after two years of registration of marriage and the marriage has subsisted for a continuous period of not less than 2 years.
- b) Registered Marriage Certificate, if marriage solemnized in India. If marriage is solemnized in foreign country, the certificate should be attested by the local Indian Mission. If the certificate is issued in Djibouti, it should be first attested by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Djibouti and thereafter attested by the Embassy.
- c) In case of foreign spouse of an Indian citizen, copy of Indian Passport of Spouse/Domicile Certificate/Nativity Certificate of the Indian spouse/any other proof of him/her being an Indian citizen.
- d) In case of foreign spouse of an OCI cardholder, copy of present valid Passport of spouse, copy of OCI card of spouse and documents based upon which OCI card was issued to Indian origin spouse.
- e) Declaration from Indian citizen/OCI cardholder spouse stating that in case of divorce/separation/death of foreign spouse, it is his/her responsibility to surrender the OCI card to the Govt. of India.

Revised Guidelines for Re-issuance of OCI Cards.

- a) An OCI cardholder is **required** to get OCI card re issued once when new passport is issued after completion of 20 years of age. For this purpose, the OCI cardholder should submit an application under OCI miscellaneous services with Fee.
- b) An OCI cardholder may upload a copy of the new passport containing the photo of the passport holder and the latest photo on the online portal each time a new passport is issued up to 20 years of age and once after completing 50 years of age. These documents may be uploaded by the OCI cardholder within 3 months of receipt of the new passport. This service is provided gratis.
- c) In the case of those who have been registered as OCI cardholder as spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India or an OCI card holder, the OCI card holder is **required** to upload a copy of the new passport containing the photo of the passport holder and also a latest photo on the online system under OCI miscellaneous services each time a new passport is issued. In such cases, the OCI cardholder and his/her Indian spouse or OCI cardholder spouse are required to give a declaration that their marriage is still subsisting. Copy of the Indian passport of the Indian spouse / passport and OCI card of the OCI cardholder spouse are required to be also uploaded in such cases. These documents may be uploaded by the OCI cardholder foreigner spouse within 3 months of receipt of his/her new passport. This service is provided **Gratis**.
- d) There will be no restriction on the OCI cardholder to travel to/from India during the period from the date of issue of new passport till the date of final acknowledgement of his/her documents in the online system.
- e) ***In case of change of nationality of the OCI cardholder, the same procedure as outlined above shall be followed provided the new nationality is not that of Pakistan and Bangladesh.***

OCI Misc services can also be availed by OCI cardholders for the following reasons:

- a) Change of personal particulars. (In case of change of nationality, he/she can be permitted to enter/exit on the strength of the OCI Card and valid passport of the new nationality provided the new nationality is not of that of Pakistan or Bangladesh)
- b) Loss/damage of OCI Card
- c) Filing of wrong personal particulars while submitting online application
- d) Change of address/occupation of the OCI cardholder

Procedure to be followed for filing application.

- a) Applicants should log on to <https://ociservices.gov.in>
- b) Applications under OCI Miscellaneous services should be submitted along with **documents, photograph** [not less than 51x51 mm with 80% coverage of face, light colour background (not white), without border, front view, minimum dimensions are 200 x 200 pixels and maximum dimensions are 900 pixels x 900 pixels] and **signature** [in case of minors who cannot sign, left hand thumb impression is required]. Photograph and signature must be in JPEG/JPG format with max size 200 KB.

Documents required to be uploaded:

a) ***In case of re-issuance of OCI Card on acquiring new passport (No FEE for ages up to 20 years and after 50 years):***

Copy each of (i) OCI Card, (ii) new foreign passport, and (iii) old foreign passport.

b) ***In case of re-issuance of OCI card after attaining the age of 20 years***

Copy each of (i) OCI card, and (b) newly issued foreign passport.

c) ***In case of re-issuance of OCI Card for foreign origin spouse on acquiring new passport (No FEE):***

i) Copy each of OCI Card, old passport and new passport of applicant.

ii) Copy of Indian spouse's current passport and OCI card and declaration by both the applicant and the Indian or Indian origin spouse that the marriage is still subsisting.

d) ***In case of change of personal particulars:***

Proof for each requested service like change of name, change of address and occupation. In case of change of address/occupation, new OCI document will not be issued. Upon submission of online application, the data will be captured and new address/occupation will be printed which may be kept in the OCI booklet for record purpose. This service is provided gratis.

e) ***In case of theft/loss of OCI Card***

(i) Copy of the complaint lodged with police authorities. If the report is in foreign language, authorized translation is required.

(ii) Copy of lost OCI card.

Note* The Mission reserves right to call any applicant for a personal interview at Embassy of India, at Djibouti prior processing the application.

Verification of supporting documents.

The applicant is required to submit originals of the supporting documents along with OCI applications and a fee of at Embassy Office, Djibouti. After verification of documents and the application, the applicant will be required to deposit the remaining fee as applicable. The application will be automatically acknowledged on the online system. An auto email will be sent to the applicant informing **"Application received and is under process"**.

[To facilitate the process of filling of Application a Document Checklist and FAQs are appended.](#)