

General Information on OCI

In response to persistent demands for "dual citizenship" particularly from the Diaspora in North America and other developed countries and keeping in view the Government's deep commitment towards fulfilling the aspirations and expectations of Overseas Indians, the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme was introduced by amending the Citizenship Act, 1955 in August 2005. The Scheme was launched during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention 2006 at Hyderabad. The Scheme provides for registration as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) of all Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who were citizens of India on 26th January, 1950 or there after or were eligible to become citizens of India on 26th January, 1950 except who is or had been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or such other country as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify.

2. OCI is not to be *misconstrued as 'dual citizenship'*. OCI does not confer political rights. The registered Overseas Citizens of India shall not be entitled to the rights conferred on a citizen of India under article 16 of the Constitution with regard to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment. Application for registration as OCI can be made Online. Before filling the application, Instructions may be perused so that there is no mistake in submission of application. Further, the details regarding Fee and Offices where applications have to be filed may also be perused. To apply for OCI Registration, please <https://ociservices.gov.in/welcome>

3. The OCI documents consist of OCI Registration Booklet and a Universal visa sticker. It is mandatory for registered OCIs to carry their Valid Passports with valid **OCI booklet** for entry into / exit from India. **Vide circular No. 26011/06/2015-OCI dated 29th January, 2015 of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has decided that all immigration authorities in India will not insist on production of the foreign passport containing the 'U' Visa Sticker in the case of OCI Cardholders while they enter/exit India and the immigration clearance will be granted based on production of the 'OCI CARD ONLY'.**

***Note on U Visa:**

Government of India has decided to dispense with the "U" Visa sticker on the foreign passport of OCI card holders with immediate effect. Accordingly, Immigration authorities shall not insist on production of foreign passport containing the "U" Visa sticker in the case of OCI card holders while they enter/exit India. OCI card holders shall now be given Immigration clearance on the strength of their valid foreign passport and OCI Card only (OCI booklet, popularly known as OCI card).

If the OCI card holder acquires nationality of a different country after obtaining the OCI card, except that of Pakistan and Bangladesh, he/she shall also be allowed to enter/exit India on the strength of his/her new passport of the recently acquired nationality and OCI card.

Entry on the Diplomatic/Official passport shall not be granted on the basis of OCI/PIO cards as OCI/PIO cards are not issued to the foreign diplomats and their family members. However, if he/she holds valid ordinary passport with valid OCI/PIO cards, entry can be allowed.

4. A registered Overseas Citizen of India is granted multiple entry, multi purpose, life-long visa for visiting India, he/she is exempted from registration with Foreign Regional Registration Officer or Foreign Registration Officer for any length of stay in India, and is entitled to general 'parity with Non-Resident Indians in respect of all facilities available to them in economic, financial and educational fields except in matters relating to the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties'. Specific benefits/parity is notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs from time to time.

The Ministry has issued notifications granting registered OCIs further benefits as under:
Parity with Non-Resident Indians in the matter of inter-country adoption of Indian children.
Parity with resident Indian nationals in matters of tariffs in domestic air fares.

Parity with domestic Indian visitors in respect of entry fee for visiting national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in India.

Parity with non-resident Indians in respect of Entry fees for visiting the national monuments, historical sites and museums in India.

Practicing the following professions in India, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the relevant Acts, namely:

- a. Doctors, dentists, nurses and pharmacists
- b. Advocates
- c. Architects and
- d. Chartered Accountants

Entitlement to appear for the All India Pre-Medical Test or such other tests to make them eligible for admission in pursuance of the provisions contained in the relevant Acts

5. **Registration of overseas citizens of India :** The Central Government may, subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed, on an application made in this behalf, register as an overseas citizen of India

Any person of full age and capacity

Who is citizen of another country, but was a citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after, the commencement of the Constitution

Who is citizen of another country, but was eligible to become a citizen of India at the time of the commencement of the Constitution

Who is citizen of another country, but belonged to a territory that become part of India after the 15th day of August, 1947

Who is a child or a grand-child of such a citizen

A person, who is a minor child of a person mentioned in clause (a): Provided that no person, who is or had been a citizen of Pakistan, Bangladesh or such other country as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, shall be eligible for registration as an overseas citizen of India.

6. **Conferment of rights on Overseas Citizens of India :**

Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, an overseas citizen of India shall be entitled to such rights other than the rights specified under sub-section(2) as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf.

An overseas citizen of India shall not be entitled to the rights conferred on a citizen of India. under article 16 of the Constitution with regard to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.

Under article 58 of the Constitution for election as President.

Under article 66 of the Constitution for election of Vice-President.

Under article 124 of the Constitution for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Under article 217 of the Constitution for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

Under section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950(43 of 1950) in regard to registration as a voter.

Under sections 3 and 4 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) with regard to the eligibility for being a member of the House of the People or of the Council of States, as the case may be.

Under section 5, 5A and 6 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) with regard to the eligibility for being a member of the Legislative Assembly or a Legislative Council, as the case may be, of a State.

For appointment to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of any State except for appointment in such services and posts as the Central Government may by special order in that behalf specify.

Every notification issued under sub-section shall be laid before each House of Parliament.

7. Renunciation of OCI

If any overseas citizen of India of full age and capacity makes in the prescribed manner a declaration renouncing his overseas citizenship of India, the declaration shall be registered by the Central Government, and; upon such registration, that person shall cease to be an overseas citizen of India.

Where a person ceases to be an overseas citizen of India under subsection (1), every minor child of that person registered as an overseas citizen of India, shall thereupon cease to be an overseas citizen of India.

8. Cancellation of registration as OCI

The Central Government may, by order, cancel the registration granted under sub-section(1) of section 7A if it is satisfied that

The registration as an overseas citizen of India was obtained by means of fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact.

The overseas citizen of India has shown disaffection towards the Constitution of India as by law established.

The overseas citizen of India has, during any war in which India may be engaged, unlawfully traded or communicated with an enemy or been engaged in, or associated with, any business or commercial activity that was to his knowledge carried on in such manner as to assist an enemy in that war.

The overseas citizen of India has, within five years after registration under sub-section(1) of section 7A has been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years.

It is necessary so to do in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of India, friendly relations of India with any foreign country, or in the interests of the general public.

For more details please visit : https://mha.gov.in/PDF_Other/BROCHURE_OCI_25042017.pdf

How to Apply for OCI

The applicant has to submit the OCI application form and upload related documents directly at the Government of India website (<https://ociservices.gov.in/welcome>).

There will also be no restriction of Consular Jurisdiction for OCI applicants. While submitting the application on the Government of India website, the applicant will need to select the location where he/she wants the OCI application to be processed.

The Procedure to be followed is:

The applicant visits the Government of India OCI website mentioned above to fill the form and upload picture, signature and other documents, as required.

Once completed form is submitted a New Web Reference number will be generated on the form.

Print the completed form and submit it to High Commission of India.

Payment is to be made at the High Commission only.

OCI Fee Details:

S.No.	Particular	Fee (in RWF)
1.	New Overseas Citizenship of India	357800
2.	OCI Registration in Lieu of Lost PIO Card and in lieu of valid PIO Card	130100
3.	Misc services on OCI including re-issue, in case of issuance of new passport or in case of change of personal particular	32600
4.	Issue of Duplicate OCI Booklet in case of mutilated damaged OCI card or in case of loss of OCI Card	130100