

BROCHURE

1. Eligibility criteria:

A foreign national, who was eligible to become citizen of India on 26.01.1950 or was a citizen of India on or at anytime after 26.01.1950 or belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15.08.1947 and his/her children and grand children, provided his/her country of citizenship allows dual citizenship in some form or other under the local laws, is eligible for registration as an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI). Minor children of such persons are also eligible for OCI. However, if the applicant had ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh, he/she will not be eligible for OCI.

2. Application Form and Procedure:

A family consisting of spouses and upto two minor children can apply in the same Form i.e. Form XIX. This form can be filed online or downloaded from our website www.mha.nic.in.

The following documents must be enclosed in each application:

1. Proof of present citizenship
2. Evidence of self or parents or grand parents,
 - (a) Being eligible to become a citizen of India at the time of commencement of the Constitution; or
 - (b) Belonging to a territory that became part of India after 15th August, 1947; or
 - (c) Being citizen of India on or after 26th January, 1950

These could be:

- (i) Copy of the passport :or
 - (ii) Copy of the domicile certificate issued by the Competent authority ;or
 - (iii) Any other proof .
3. Evidence of relationship as parent/grand parent, if their Indian origin is claimed as basis for grant of OCI.

4. Application fee by way of a Demand Draft (US \$ 275 for each applicant or equivalent in local currency; US \$ 25 or equivalent in local currency for each PIO card holder)
5. PIO card holder should submit a copy of his/her PIO card.

The application form, completed in all respects, along with enclosures should be submitted in duplicate to the Indian Mission/Post of the country of applicant's citizenship or where he/she is not in the country of citizenship, to the Indian Mission/Post of the country in which he/she is ordinarily a resident. If the applicant is in India, he/she can apply to the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata or Amritsar or Chief Immigration Officer (CHIO) Chennai or to the Under Secretary, OCI Cell, Citizenship Section, Foreigners Division, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Jaisalmer House, 26 Mansingh Road, New Delhi-110011.

3. Procedure for Granting Registration:

After preliminary scrutiny, if there is no adverse information available against the applicant, the Indian Mission/Post shall register a person as an OCI within 30 days of application and the case shall be referred to MHA for post verification of the antecedents of the applicant. If during the post verification, any adverse information comes to the knowledge of the MHA, the registration as an OCI already granted by the Indian Mission/Post shall be cancelled by an order under section 7 D of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

After preliminary scrutiny, if there is any adverse information against the applicant, prior approval of the MHA shall be required before grant of registration. The MHA may approve or reject the grant of registration within 120 days from the date of the receipt of the application. If the grant of registration as an OCI is approved by the MHA, the Indian Mission/Post shall register the person as an OCI.

If the application is filed in India, registration shall be granted by MHA by following the above procedure.

After grant of registration, a registration certificate in the form of a booklet will be issued and a multiple entry, multi-purpose life long OCI 'U' visa sticker will be pasted on the foreign passport of the applicant.

4. OCI for PIO Card Holders:

PIO card holders who are otherwise eligible for registration as an OCI may apply in the same Form i.e. Form XIX and they will be considered for grant of registration in the same manner as other applicants. PIO card holders have to pay a fee of US \$ 25 or equivalent in local currency instead of US \$ 275 as for a normal applicant. PIO card holder will have to surrender his/her PIO card after knowledge of acceptance of the application.

5. OCI for persons who have applied on the earlier prescribed application form:

All such applications will be considered for grant of an OCI on the same line as above, without seeking fresh application and fees.

6. Cancellation of OCI Registration:

If it has been found that the registration as an OCI was obtained by means of fraud, false representation or concealment of any material fact or the registered OCI has shown disaffection towards the Constitution of India or comes under any of the provisions of section 7D of the Citizenship Act, the registration of such person will not only be cancelled forthwith but he/she will also be blacklisted from visiting India.

7. Benefits to an OCI:

Following benefits will accrue to an OCI:

- (i) A multiple entry, multi-purpose life long visa for visiting India.
- (ii) Exemption from registration with local police authorities for any length of stay in India.
- (iii) Parity with Non-resident Indians (NRIs) in respect of economic, financial and educational fields except in relation to acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.

Any other benefits to an OCI will be notified by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) under Section 7B(1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

8. Benefits to which OCI is not entitled to:

The OCI is not entitled to vote, be a member of Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council or Parliament, cannot hold constitutional posts such as President, Vice President, Judge of Supreme Court or High Court etc. and he/she cannot normally hold employment in the Government.

9. Help Desk:

For any clarification/query on the scheme, please visit our website www.mha.nic.in or visit the website of the local Indian Mission/Post or contact the Indian Mission/Post or OCI Cell, Citizenship Section, Foreigners Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Jaisalmer House, 26, Mansingh Road, New Delhi-110011.