

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
FOREIGNERS DIVISION
F. No. – 26011/Misc./47/2019 – OCI

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OVERSEAS CITIZENSHIP OF INDIA (OCI) CARDHOLDER
COMPARATIVE CHART ON NRI/PERSON OF INDIAN
ORIGIN /OCI CARDHOLDER

	NRI	Person of Indian Origin	OCI Cardholder
1. Who?	An Indian citizen who is ordinarily residing outside India and holds an Indian Passport	A person who or whose any of ancestors was an Indian national and who is presently holding another country's citizenship/ nationality i.e. he/she is holding foreign passport	A person registered as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholder under section 7A of The Citizenship Act, 1955
2. Who is eligible?	-	-	Following categories of foreign nationals are eligible for registration as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholder:- (1) Who was a citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after the commencement of the Constitution i.e. 26.01.1950; or (2) who was eligible to become a citizen of India on 26.01.1950; or

			<p>(3) who belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15.08.1947; or</p> <p>(4) who is a child or a grandchild or a great grandchild of such a citizen (mentioned in (1) to (3) above) ; or</p> <p>(5) who is a minor child of such persons mentioned above; or</p> <p>(6) who is a minor child and whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India; or</p> <p>(7) spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India or spouse of foreign origin of an Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder registered under section 7A of The Citizenship Act, 1955 and whose marriage has been registered and subsisted for a continuous period of not less than two years immediately preceding the presentation of the application. Such spouse shall be subjected to prior security clearance by a competent authority in India.</p> <p>Note : No person, who or either of whose parents or grandparents or great grandparents 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 Cardholder.</p> 
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3. How can one get?	-	-	Eligible persons to apply online. For this purpose, please log on to https://ociservices.gov.in .
4. Where to apply?	-	-	<p>The applicants have to submit the application form online and upload all the requisite documents (self attested), photograph and signature (in the case of minors who cannot sign, left hand thumb impression) along with the application. After submission of the complete application online including documents, photograph and signature, the original of the supporting documents have to be submitted to the Indian Mission/ Post/ FRRO concerned for prior verification. They are not required to bring hard copies/ printouts of the application or the photocopies of the uploaded documents.</p> <p>Details of offices where the applicants have to submit the original supporting documents for prior verification are as follows:-</p> <p><u>Applicants outside India</u></p> <p>(1) The Indian Mission /Post having jurisdiction over the country of which applicant is a citizen; or</p> <p>(2) If he/she is not living in the country of his/her citizenship, to the Indian Mission /Post having jurisdiction over the country of which the applicant is ordinarily resident.</p> 

			<p><u>Applicants in India</u></p> <p>If the applicant is residing in India, to the Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs) according to their jurisdictional control. To know the jurisdiction of FRROs, please see "Addresses of offices to submit OCI applications" in the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs – www.mha.gov.in.</p> <p>Note: For the above purpose, 'ordinarily resident' will mean a person staying in a particular country or in India for a continuous period of 6 months.</p>
5. Fees?	-	-	<p>(a) in case of application submitted in Indian Mission/ Post abroad - US \$ 275 or equivalent in local currency.</p> <p>(b) in case of application submitted in India - Rs.15,000/-</p>
6. Which nationals are ineligible?	-	-	No person, who or either of whose parents or grandparents or great grandparents 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 Cardholder.
7. What benefits one is entitled to?	All benefits as available to Indian citizens subject to notifications	No specific benefits	(1) multiple entry lifelong visa for visiting India for any purpose:



	<p>issued by the Government from time to time</p>		<p>Provided that for undertaking the following activities, the OCI Cardholder shall be required to obtain a special permission or a Special Permit, as the case may be, from the competent authority or the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer or the Indian Mission concerned, namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to undertake research; (ii) to undertake any Missionary or Tabligh or Mountaineering or Journalistic activities; (iii) to undertake internship in any foreign Diplomatic Missions or foreign Government organisations in India or to take up employment in any foreign Diplomatic Missions in India; (iv) to visit any place which falls within the Protected or Restricted or prohibited areas as notified by the Central Government or competent authority; <p>Note: For requisite special permission, OCI Cardholder may visit: https://ociservices.gov.in .</p> <p>(2) exemption from registration with the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer or Foreigners Registration Officer for any length of stay in India:</p>
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			<p>Provided that the OCI Cardholders who are normally resident in India shall intimate the jurisdictional Foreigners Regional Registration Officer or the Foreigners Registration Officer by email whenever there is a change in permanent residential address and in their occupation;</p> <p>(3) parity with Indian nationals in the matter of,-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) tariffs in air fares in domestic sectors in India; and (ii) entry fees to be charged for visiting national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, the national monuments, historical sites and museums in India; <p>(4) parity with Non-Resident Indians in the matter of,-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) inter-country adoption of Indian children subject to the compliance of the procedure as laid down by the competent authority for such adoption; (ii) appearing for the all India entrance tests such as National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, Joint
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			<p>Entrance Examination (Mains), Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced) or such other tests to make them eligible for admission only against any Non-Resident Indian seat or any supernumerary seat:</p> <p>Provided that the OCI Cardholder shall not be eligible for admission against any seat reserved exclusively for Indian citizens;</p> <p>(iii) purchase or sale of immovable properties other than agricultural land or farm house or plantation property; and</p> <p>(iv) pursuing the following professions in India as per the provisions contained in the applicable relevant statutes or Acts as the case may be, namely:-</p> <p>(a) doctors, dentists, nurses and pharmacists;</p> <p>(b) advocates;</p> <p>(c) architects;</p> <p>(d) chartered accountants;</p> <p>(5) in respect of all other economic, financial and educational fields not specified in this notification or the rights and privileges not covered by the notifications made by the Reserve Bank of</p>
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			<p>India under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999), the OCI Cardholder shall have the same rights and privileges as a foreigner.</p> <p>(6) Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders are eligible for appointment as teaching faculty in IITs, NITs, IIMs, IISERs, IISc, Central Universities and in the new AIIMS set up under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).</p> <p>Explanation.—</p> <p>(1) The OCI Cardholder (including a PIO Cardholder) is a foreign national holding passport of a foreign country and is not a citizen of India.</p> <p>(2) “Non-Resident Indian” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in the Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property in India) Regulations, 2018 made by the Reserve Bank of India under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999) and who</p>
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			<p>fulfils the "Non-Resident Indian" status as per the Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961).</p> <p>Any other benefits to an OCI Cardholder may be notified by the Central Government under section 7B(1) of The Citizenship Act, 1955.</p> <p>Note: - (1) State Governments should ensure that the OCI Cardholder registration booklets of OCI Cardholders are treated as their identification for any services rendered to them.</p> <p>(2) A person registered as an OCI Cardholder is eligible to apply for grant of Indian citizenship under section 5(1) (g) of The Citizenship Act, 1955 if he/she has attained full age (18 year) and if he/she is registered as OCI Cardholder for five years and is ordinarily resident in India for twelve months before making an application for registration. Central Government, if it is satisfied that special circumstances exist, may after recording the circumstances in writing, relax the period of twelve months, up to a maximum of thirty days which may be in different breaks.</p>
8. Does he/she require visa for visiting India.	No	Yes	OCI Card is itself a multiple entry lifelong visa for visiting India for any purpose. However, for undertaking certain activities, OCI Cardholders will require prior

			permission as mentioned against Sl. No. 7 above.
9. Is he/she required to register with the local police authorities in India?	No	Yes if the period of stay is for more than 180 days	No
10. What activities can be undertaken in India?	All activities	Activity as per the type of visa obtained	All activities except certain activities for which prior permission/special permit is required as mentioned against Sl. No.7 above.
11. How can one acquire Indian citizenship?	He/she is an Indian citizen	As per section 5(1)(a) & 5(1)(c) of The Citizenship Act, 1955, he/she has to be ordinarily resident in India for a period of 7 years before making an application for registration.	As per section 5(1)(g) of The Citizenship Act,1955, a person registered as an OCI Cardholder for 5 years and who is ordinarily resident in India for twelve months before making an application for registration is eligible for grant of Indian citizenship. Central Government, if it is satisfied that special circumstances exist, may after recording the circumstances in writing, relax the period of twelve months, up to a maximum of thirty days which may be in different breaks.

