

KLSICCI's Briefing on Overseas Citizen Of India (OCI) Card Application for Members.

WHAT is an OCI Card ?

The Central Government is granting Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) to people who have migrated from the country as well as to those whose ancestors belonged to India, with exemptions to Pakistan and Bangladesh.

WHO can apply OCI Card ?

Foreign nationals, who wish to register themselves as overseas citizens of India are eligible if they:

1. Were eligible to become a citizen of India on 6.01.1950, or
2. Were a citizen of India on or at any time after 26.01.1950, or
3. Belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15.08.1947
4. Person of Indian Origin (PIO) card holders are now deemed to be having OCI as of January 9, 2015. (The PIO card scheme has been now canceled)
5. Their children and grandchildren are eligible for registration as Overseas Citizens of India (OCI), provided his / her country of citizenship allows dual citizenship in some form or other under the local laws. The minor children of such persons are also eligible for OCI.
6. A person, who is a minor child, and whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India; or
7. Spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India or spouse of foreign origin of an Overseas Citizen of India card holder registered under section 7A 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 under this section: o Provided that for the eligibility for registration as Overseas Citizen of India card holder, such spouse shall be subjected to prior security clearance from a competent authority in India.

WHY OCI card ? – Benefits of holding an OCI Card.

1. Multiple entry, multi-purpose lifelong visa to visit India;
2. Exemption from reporting to Police authorities for any length of stay in India; and
3. Parity with NRIs in financial, economic and educational fields except in the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.
4. Registered Overseas Citizen of India shall be treated at par with Non Resident-Indian in the matter of inter-country adoption of Indian children.
5. Registered Overseas Citizens of India shall be treated at par with resident Indian nationals in the matter of tariffs in air fares in domestic sectors in India.
6. Registered Overseas Citizens of India shall be charged the same entry fee as domestic Indian visitors to visit national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in India
7. Parity with Non-Resident Indian in respect of entry fees to be charged for visiting the national monuments, historical sites and museums in India; Pursuing 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;
 - d. chartered accountants;
8. Parity with Non-Resident Indian 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
9. “State Governments should ensure that the OCI registration booklets of OCIs are treated as their identification for any services rendered to them. In case proof of residence is required, Overseas Citizens of India may give an affidavit attested by a notary public stating that a particular/specific address may be treated as their place of residence in India and may also in their affidavit give their overseas residential address as well as e-mail address, if any” 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.

WHERE to apply an OCI Card ?

Application should be made at <https://passport.gov.in/oci/> . Upon completing online application, applicant is required to print the form, with the supporting documents and requisite fee and submit to the India High Commission office.

all relevant enclosures and requisite fee may be submitted to the Indian Mission/Post/Office in whose jurisdiction the applicant is ordinarily residing irrespective of the fact whether the same Indian Mission/Post/Office has issued the original OCI documents or not.

WHAT are the accepted supporting documents ?

- Any documents issued by or under the authority of the Government of India or its predecessor Government evidence that the applicant himself or either of his parents or any of his grandparents, Where eligible to become a citizen of India at the time of commencement of the Constitution; or Belonged to a territory that became a part of India after 15th August, 1947; or was a citizen of India on or after 26th January, 1950

These could be:

- Copy of the passport ;or
- Copy of the domicile certificate issued by the Competent authority; or
- Any other proof (birth certificate, School Leaving Certificate, domicile certificate, Marriage Certificate, Bank Accounts, Title deeds of properties.

WHAT are the accepted secondary documents ?

- Passport of foreign country indicating the place of birth of the applicant in India. Any other documents satisfactorily proving the residence/nationality as an Indian.

HOW much is application fee ?

Application fee for each applicant is RM 1045. In case of conversion from PIO card to OCI, the fee is RM 95 for each PIO card holder and RM 551 in case of minor PIO card holder. The fee can be accepted by way of a Cash/Demand Draft/Postal order drawn in favour of High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur. There will be an additional charge of RM 8 for each applicant in addition to application fee/conversion fee. In case the fee is paid by way of Demand Draft/Postal order, a separate draft for additional charge of RM 8 needs to be submitted.