

PIO/OCI CARD

PERSON OF INDIAN ORIGIN (PIO) CARD

A Person of Indian Origin (PIO) means a foreign citizen (except a national of Pakistan, Afghanistan Bangladesh, China, Iran, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal)

- who at any time held an Indian passport
Or
- who or either of their parents/ grand parents/ great grand parents was born and permanently resident in India as defined in Government of India Act, 1935 and other territories that became part of India thereafter provided neither was at any time a citizen of any of the aforesaid countries (as referred above);
Or
- Who is a spouse of a citizen of India or a PIO

Benefits of a PIO card:-

- (i) PIO card holders do not require a visa to visit India for a period of 15 years from the date of issue of the PIO card.
- (ii) They are exempted from registration at FRRO/FRO if their stay does not exceeds 180 days, In case if the stay exceeds 180 days, they shall have to register with FRRO/ FRO within the next 30 days.
- (iii) They enjoy parity with NRIs in economic, financial and educational benefits like:-
 - Acquisition, holding, transfer and disposal of immovable properties in India, except agricultural/ plantation properties
 - Admission of children to educational institutions in India under general category quota for NRIs, including medical and engineering college, IITs, IIMs etc
 - Availing Various housing schemes of LIC of India, State Government and Central Government agencies

All future benefits that would be exempted to NRIs would also be available to the PIO card holders.

However, PIOs do not enjoy employment rights in Government of India services nor can they hold any constitutional office in the Government of India. They need prior permission for undertaking mountaineering, missionary activities, research work and to visit restricted areas in India.

Instruction to the PIO card applicants

Completed application and relevant documents can be submitted in-person at the High Commission between 0930 hrs and 1200 hrs on any working day.

Documents required:-

The following documents are to be submitted along with a filled-in PIO application form.

1. Existing / Expired Indian passport in original.

Or

2. Any two or more of following documents:-

- (i) Photocopy of expired Indian passport
- (ii) Original / Photocopies of Indian passport of parents or grand parents of the applicant.
- (iii) Birth Certificate of the applicant **and** of the parents / grand parents of the applicant.
- (iv) Nationality certificate of the applicant **and** of the parents/grand parents of the applicant.
- (v) School / College leaving certificates of the applicant or parents / grand parents of the applicant.

An applicant who is a spouse of a PIO should submit:-

- (i) Indian passport / PIO card in original of the spouse
- (ii) The original marriage certificate
- (iii) Four passport size photographs of the applicant
- (iii) A fee of US \$ 388 (US \$ 180 for children below 18 years) to be paid in cash at the High Commission.

Link 4 (b) OVERSEAS CITIZEN OF INDIA (OCI) CARD

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 is eligible for registration as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI). Minor children of such person 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.

Benefits:

OCIs are entitled to a multipurpose, multiple entry, lifelong visa allowing them to visit India at any time, for any length of time and for any purpose. They are exempted from police reporting for any length of stay in the country. They have also been granted all rights in the economic, financial and education fields in parity with NRIs except, the right to acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.

Processing of Applications:

The applicant has to submit the Part 'A' of the application form online at http://mha.nic.in/uniquepage.asp?Id_Pk=553

Part 'B' is to be submitted in-person with 4 latest photographs (Size 35mm x 35mm, light colour background but not white) at the High Commission along with the relevant documents.

The documents are proof of eligibility like previous Indian passport and Birth Certificate, valid foreign and presently held passport and local residence proof. If the applicant is applying on the basis of parent's Indian citizenship then proof of relationship should be submitted.

In case the applicant does not have the old Indian Passport, he/she may provide other documents issued from India like birth certificate, nativity certificate etc., which will be sent to India for confirmation before accepting the application form.

All the above documents are to be produced in original for verification and photocopies of the same are to be attached in duplicate with the application.

A fee US\$ 275.00 is to be paid in cash at the High Commission.

Link 4 (c) COMPARISON BETWEEN PIO CARD AND OCI CARD

Subject	PIO card	OCI card
Fees	US\$ 388	US\$ 275 US\$ 25 for holder of PIO cards US\$ 25 for miscellaneous services due to change of passport etc.
Validity of Visa	15 yrs from the date of Issue.	Life long after date of issue
Registration at FFRO/	After 180 days, within	Not required

FRO	next 30 days.	
Obtaining of Indian Citizenship	One can apply after regularly residing in India for a minimum of seven years.	After 5 yrs of issue of OCI, one can apply after residing in India for a minimum of one year.
Visit to restricted Area	Prior permission required	Permission not required

Common benefits:-

1. Separate lines at immigration counters.
2. No visa required for studies.
3. At-par treatment with NRIs in matters regarding to property acquisition, holding & disposal, except agricultural and plantation properties.