

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

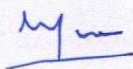
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**OVERSEAS CITIZENSHIP OF INDIA (OCI) CARDHOLDER
COMPARATIVE CHART ON NRI/PERSON OF INDIAN
ORIGIN /OCI CARDHOLDER**

	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

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			<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.</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>
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?	-	-	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.**

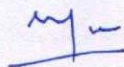
Details of offices where the applicants have to submit the original supporting documents for prior verification are as follows:-

Applicants outside India

- (1) The Indian Mission /Post having jurisdiction over the country of which applicant is a citizen; or
- (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**.

Applicants in India

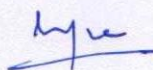
If the applicant is residing in India, to the Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs) according to their jurisdictional control. To know the jurisdiction of FRROs, please see "Addresses of offices to submit OCI applications" in the website of the Ministry of



			Home Affairs – www.mha.gov.in . 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.
5. Fees?	-	-	(a) in case of application submitted in Indian Mission/ Post abroad - US \$ 275 or equivalent in local currency. (b) in case of application submitted in India - Rs.15,000/- .
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 issued by the Government from time to time	No specific benefits	(i) Multiple entry lifelong visa for visiting India for any purpose. However, OCI Cardholders will require a special permission to undertake research work in India for which they may submit the application to the Indian Mission/ Post/ FRRO concerned. OCI cardholders are also not entitled to undertake Missionary, Mountaineering, journalism & tabligh activities without prior permission of the Government of India. For undertaking missionary,

		<p>mountaineering & tabligh activities, OCI cardholder may seek prior permission from the Indian Mission/ Post/ FRRO concerned. For undertaking journalistic activities, requisite permission may be sought from the External Publicity (XP) Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.</p> <p>OCI cardholder shall also require Protected Area Permit (PAP)/ Restricted Area Permit (RAP) to visit any place which falls within the Protected/ Restricted Area notified by the Government as in the case of any other foreigner.</p> <p>(ii) Exemption from registration with Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) or Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) for any length of stay in India.</p> <p>(iii) Parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) 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.</p> <p>(iv) Registered Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder shall be treated at par with Non-Resident-Indians in the matter of inter-country adoption of Indian children.</p> <p>(v) Registered Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder shall be treated at par with resident Indian nationals in the</p>
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			<p>matter of tariffs in air fares in domestic sectors in India.</p> <p>(vi) Registered Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder shall be charged the same entry fee as domestic Indian visitors to visit national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in India.</p> <p>(vii) Parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRI) in respect of:-</p> <p>(A) entry fees to be charged for visiting the national monuments, historical sites and museums in India;</p> <p>(B) pursuing the following professions in India, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the relevant Acts, namely:-</p> <p>(a) doctors, dentists, nurses and pharmacists;</p> <p>(b) advocates;</p> <p>(c) architects;</p> <p>(d) chartered accountants;</p> <p>(C) 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.</p> <p>(viii) State Governments should ensure that the OCI Cardholder</p>
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			<p>registration booklets of OCI Cardholders are treated as their identification for any services rendered to them. In case proof of residence is required, Overseas Citizens of India Cardholder 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.</p> <p>(ix) 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>Any other benefits to an OCI Cardholder will be notified by the Central Government under section 7B(1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.</p>
8. Does he/she require visa for visiting India	No	Yes	Can visit India without visa for life long. However, for undertaking certain activities, OCI cardholders will require prior permission as mentioned against S.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	All activities	Activity as per the type of visa	All activities except research, missionary, mountaineering,

be undertaken in India?		obtained	journalism, tabligh activities and visit to any place which falls within the protected/Restricted Area notified by the Government for which special permission is required as mentioned against S.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.

