**Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme**

1. **Important information regarding OCI card:**

   Multiple entry lifelong visa for visiting India for persons of Indian origin.

   Special permission from MHA is required to undertake research work in India.

   Prior permission from MHA is required to undertake missionary, mountaineering and tabligh activities. Permission from External Publicity (XP) Division, MEA is required for undertaking journalistic activities.

   Protected Area Permit (PAP)/ Restricted Area Permit (RAP) from MHA is required to visit any place which falls within the Protected/ Restricted Area as notified by the Government of India.

   Issued to persons of Indian origin with lineage upto 4th generation. Only in case of Mauritius and Suriname the facility has been extended to 6th generation.

   Can be applied at Mission/Post abroad or at FRRO in India on the webpage [www.ociservices.gov.in](http://www.ociservices.gov.in)

   Must be re-issued each time a new passport is issued up to the age of 20 years and once after completing 50 years of age in view of biological changes in the face of the applicant.

   Re-issuance of the OCI Cardholder registration is not mandatory each time a new passport is issued between 21 and 50 years of age.

   In case of change of nationality of the OCI cardholder, he/ she can be permitted to enter/ exit on the strength of the OCI card and valid passport of the new nationality provided the new nationality is not that of Pakistan or Bangladesh.

   Children and spouse of foreign military/ police personnel either in service or retired and foreign nationals working in Private Security Agencies, Home Offices, Prisons, National Probation Service and companies or organisations associated with the Home Office or military institutions, i.e. those who are not directly employed in military or police, may be considered for registration as OCI cardholder.

   Adopted children, children born out of live-in relationship and children born out of IVF/ Surrogacy may be considered for registration as an OCI cardholder, provided fulfilling prescribed eligibility criteria.

2. **Categories not eligible for OCI card:**

   Persons of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin

   Foreign Military/ Police Personnel either serving or retired

3. **Procedure for granting registration as OCI cardholder:**
(a) **Normal category:** OCI card can be granted by the Indian Mission/ Post/ FRRO after MHA clearance. In case MHA clearance is not received, Mission/ Post may grant OCI card after 20 days from the date of acknowledgment of the application.

(b) **Foreign spouse category:** In the case of application submitted in respect of spouse of a person of Indian origin, Indian Mission/ Post/ FRRO can issue OCI card only after MHA clearance. Deemed MHA clearance after lapse of 20 days is not applicable.

4. **Following are the benefits available to OCI cardholders in parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRI):**

   - inter-country adoption of Indian children;
   - tariffs in air fares in domestic sectors in India;
   - admittance into national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, national monuments;
   - working as doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, advocates, architects, and chartered accountants;
   - appearing for All Indian Pre-Medical Test or such other tests to make them eligible for admission;
   - in economic, financial, and agricultural fields except in matters relating to the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties;
   - eligible for teaching faculty in IITs, NITs, IIMs, IISERs, IISc, Central Universities and in the new AIIMS set up under PradhanMantriSwasthyaSurakshaYojana (PMSSY).
   - exempted from registration with FRRO/FRO for any length of stay in India. OCI cards are treated as their identification for any services rendered to them.

5. **OCI cardholders are not entitled:**

   - to vote;
   - to hold the offices of President, Vice-President, Judge of Supreme Court and High Court, Member of LokSabha, RajyaSabha, Legislative Assembly or Council;
   - for appointment in Public Services (Government Service).

6. **Fee structure of OCI:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Service Rendered</th>
<th>Service Rendered</th>
<th>Fee Charged</th>
<th>Fee Charged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sr. No.</td>
<td>Service Rendered</td>
<td>Service Rendered</td>
<td>Missions/ Posts</td>
<td>FRROs/ FROs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New OCI Registration</td>
<td>Fresh Application</td>
<td>US $ 275</td>
<td>Rs 15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>OCI Registration</td>
<td>In lieu of Valid PIO card</td>
<td>US $ 100</td>
<td>Rs 5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>OCI Registration</td>
<td>In lieu of Lost PIO card</td>
<td>US $ 100</td>
<td>Rs 5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Re-issuance of OCI card</td>
<td>In case of issuance of new passport</td>
<td>US $ 25</td>
<td>Rs 1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Re-issuance of OCI card</td>
<td>In case of change of personal particulars</td>
<td>US $ 25</td>
<td>Rs 1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Issuance of Duplicate OCI Booklet</td>
<td>In case of mutilated/damaged OCI card</td>
<td>US $ 100</td>
<td>Rs 5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Issuance of Duplicate OCI Booklet</td>
<td>In case of loss of OCI card</td>
<td>US $ 100</td>
<td>Rs 5,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. FAQs on OCI are also available on MHA website: [www.ociservices.gov.in](http://www.ociservices.gov.in)