

Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)

The Constitution of India does not allow holding Indian citizenship and citizenship of a foreign country simultaneously. Based on the recommendation of the High Level committee on Indian Diaspora, the Government of India decided to grant Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) commonly known as 'dual citizenship'. Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) of certain category who migrated from India and acquired citizenship of a foreign country other than Pakistan and Bangladesh, are eligible for grant of OCI.

The OCI Scheme was operationalized on 2nd December 2005 and formally launched by the Prime Minister during the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas, 2006 at Hyderabad on 7th January, 2006. Under the said scheme, a Registration Certificate, like an Indian passport though in a different color will be issued to the applicant. A multi entry, multi-purpose OCI 'U' (Universal) visa sticker will be pasted on the applicant's foreign passport. These two documents will have the applicant's photograph, and all the necessary security features.

Eligibility criteria

A foreign national who

- was eligible to become a citizen of India on 26.01.1950, or
- was a citizen of India on or at any time after 26.01.1950, or
- belonged to a territory that became part of India after 15.08.1947

And his/her 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. However, if the applicant had ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh, he/she will not be eligible for OCI.

Minor children holding foreign passport where both the parents are Indian passport holders are not eligible for OCI Scheme.

Application form and procedure:

a) The OCI Application is in two parts, Part A and Part B. The forms can be downloaded from the Ministry of Home Affairs website at www.mha.nic.in . **Part A must be filled up and submitted online by the Applicants.** Each applicant has to fill in Part-A of the form. On submission of Part A, a Registration Number will be generated online. This will be a dummy number. However, applicants can retrieve information from this Reference Number. The applicants must take two printouts of Part A, affix one color photo (35mmx35mm) on each form and sign in the signature box. Persons who cannot sign must affix an impression of left thumb.

Part A is tamper proof, i.e. once Part A has been submitted online the applicant cannot make any changes in it. Please ensure that the important personal information like name, date/place of birth, passport number etc is filled in carefully and tallies with the information contained in the current passport.

b) Part B of the application is meant for all members of the family, not exceeding four including the applicant. Part B of the form has to be downloaded and should be filled either by hand in CAPITAL LETTERS or typed. Additional sheets can be used in case the space provided in the OCI application form is insufficient.

Part B cannot be filled in online

The following documents should be enclosed with each application

1. Proof of the foreign citizenship of each applicant
2. Evidence of self or parent(s) or grandparent(s)
 - (i) having been eligible to become a citizen of India at the time of commencement of The Constitution of India on 26th January, 1950, or
 - (ii) belonging to a territory that became part of India after 15th August, 1947 or
 - (iii) being a citizen of India on or after 26th January, 1950

As proof thereof, the following documents should be submitted:-

- (i) Original Indian passport and copy thereof (or)
- (ii) Any other proof like domicile certificate, citizenship certificate issued by First Class Magistrate in India etc., which is acceptable to the High Commission

If the applicant is claiming eligibility on the basis of the Indian citizenship of his/her parent(s)/grandparent(s), he/she will have to submit proof of his/her relationship with such a person.

3. Copy of resident permit
4. PIO card holders should submit a copy of their PIO card with their application, and also bring along the original for scrutiny at the time of submission of the application form.
5. The application form in duplicate, completed in all respects along with enclosures, should be submitted to the High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam
6. **Payment of the fee of TSh.350,000/- (Tanzanian Shilling Three hundred and fifty thousand only) for each applicant (TSh.32000/- for each PIO card holder).**

When the applicant is not a resident in Tanzania, the application form should be submitted to the Indian Mission/Post in the country in which he/she is ordinarily resident.

If the applicant is in India, he/she can apply to the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata or Amritsar or Chief Immigration Officer (CHIO) Chennai or to the Under Secretary, Citizenship Section, Foreigner Division, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Jaisalmer House, 26 Mansingh Road, New Delhi-110011.