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OCI card may need to be reissued when OCI card holder’s passport is reissuedValidity criteria differ on the age of the cardholderIf the card does not need to be reissued, the old passport must be carried along with OCI card and current passport The article is updated on September 3, 2020, with information related to OCI Guidelines Relaxed Till December 2020 Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders will now have to renew their OCI cards each time their passport is renewed. In an announcement by the Indian consulate in New York, the OCI card will no longer be valid permanently. Read: Reissuing Of OCI Cards – Process Simplified By The Indian Government OCI cards must be re-issued each time the card holder acquires a new passport up to the age of 20 years and once after getting a new passport after the age of 50 years. These guidelines have been relaxed by the Government of India till 31st December 2020 in view of the current prohibition on international air travel. Once the prohibitions are removed and the OCI card status as a lifelong visa for travel to and from India is restored, OCI cardholders will be allowed to travel with OCI cards bearing the old passport numbers. This is subject to the condition that the cardholder must travel with the old and new passport as well as the OCI card. In light of the bilateral air travel arrangements being made between India and other countries, OCI cardholders can travel between India and a few countries like the USA, the UK, France and Germany. Eligible travelers include: OCI cardholdersMinor OCI cardholders with Indian nationals as parentsOCI cardholders wanting to visit India on account of family emergenciesMarried couples where at least one person is an OCI cardholderStudents who are OCI cardholders and have one or both parents as Indian nationals or OCI cardholdersForeign nationals married to OCI cardholdersForeign nationals who are parents to minor OCI cardholders India does not accept dual citizenship. Thus if an Indian is born abroad and chooses to take up citizenship of any other country or at any point of time later in life gives up Indian citizenship for foreign citizenship, he/ she can get the card. OCI was launched in 2005. To be eligible the individual must meet at least one of the below criteria. Country Indian Expats (in million) US4.1 UAE3.1 Malaysia 2.9 Saudi Arabia 2.8 Myanmar 2.0 UK1.8 Sri Lanka1.6 South Africa 1.5 Canada1.0 2014201520162017 220,858329,725410,150399,915 Data Source: MEA, media reports He/she must have been an Indian citizen on 26 January 1950 or at any time after thisHe/she must belong to a territory that became a part of India after independenceHe/she must have been eligible for Indian citizenship on 26 January 1950He/she must be the child/grandchild/great-grandchild of such a citizenHe/she must be a minor child of parents that meet one of the above criteriaHe/she must be a minor child with one of both parents being citizens of IndiaHe/she must be the registered spouse of an Indian citizen or Overseas Citizen of India for a period of at least 2 years Members of foreign military and those who are citizens (or children/grandchildren of citizens) of Pakistan or Bangladesh are ineligible for this card. According to the latest change in rules, the cardholders must check the validity of their cards before travelling to India according to the following criteria. For individuals below the age of 20 years, the OCI card must be reissued with every passport reissue.For individuals between the age of 21 and 50 years, the OCI card need not be reissued each time the passport is reissued but it must be carried along with the old passport on which the OCI Card was issued and the current passport. For individuals above the age of 50 years, the card must be reissued only once when the passport is renewed. It is also advisable to carry the expired passport on which the OCI Card was issued along with the current passport when traveling to India. Applicants can register for an OCI card online at . All supporting documents must be uploaded in PDF form with a maximum file size of 1 MB. You will need 2 copies of each document. Documents required while submitting the application are: Completed application formRecent photographs of the applicantProof of address: electricity bill or driving license which should be valid at least 6 months Copy of current OCI Self-attested copy of the latest passportPhotograph of applicant’s signatureYour last address outside India The photograph of the person and his/her signature should meet the following criteria: The photograph should have equal height and widthMinimum dimensions: 200 pixels x 200 pixels Maximum dimensions: 1500 pixels x 1500 pixelsHeight: width aspect ratio of the signature should be 1:3Minimum dimensions: 200 pixels x 67 pixels Maximum dimensions: 1500 pixels x 500 pixels If the applicant is married it would be useful to have the marriage certificate with you at the time of applying and also during Police verification. After registration is complete, a copy of the application should be printed. This along with 2 copies of all documents should be filed with the application at the Foreigners Regional Registration Offices or at Indian Missions abroad. An application fee of INR 1,400 (Demand Draft) or \$20 is also payable when submitting the application. When applying for an OCI card to be reissued, it is not necessary for the application to be submitted to the same Foreigners Regional Registration Offices or Indian Missions abroad from where the first OCI card was issued. Barring complications, the OCI card should be issued within 30 days of receiving an acknowledgement for the application. You must have one set of all application forms and required documents and two copies of the document checklist. All photocopies must be self-attested with the statement, “This is a true copy of the original” and your signature. If applying as a family, please ensure that Part A of each application is put together followed by a common Part B. After which, all the relevant documents must be organised in the same sequence as Part A of the form for each applicant. Please do not staple or attach your documents using paper clips.Complete Online Registration Form, Part A and Part B and print it. Do not leave any answers blank. One photograph needs to be pasted in Part A. You may need to submit additional photographs.The specific criteria of the image needs to be square (1:1 aspect ratio) with a min size of 200×200 px and a max size of 900×900 px. There is a photo upload option on the Government of India website (while filling out the application form). Uploading the photo is optional. In any case, one physical photo is still required. Photocopies of the following pages from your foreign passport: Document containing basic information and picture of the passport Endorsement/amendment pages.Please note- the applicants do not have to send their original non-Indian passport along with the application. Applicants have to wait to be notified by the consulate for the same. You must send your original valid foreign passport along with the application. You will need 2 courier services - one for returning the passport back after verification; the other for sending the OCI card. Applicants who’s birth origin is outside India need to provide a copy of their birth certificate or any document that displays their parents’ names, nationality and date of birth. If you are applying through your parents, and one parent was born outside India, submit copies of the birth certificate and passport of the parent born outside India. If the birth certificate or any of the documents are in any language other than English, the document must be translated into English and must be notarized. Copy of naturalization certificate, as appropriate. Copy of marriage certificate Notarized Joint Statement signed by couple statingthey were married 2 years prior to the submission of the OCI application.in case of dissolution of marriage or deceased spouse, he/she must notify and return the OCI card to the consulate. Copy of passportCopy of the information page that contains the picture and basic details of the passport.Copy of the endorsement / amendment pages. Proof of Renunciation of Indian Citizenship:Applicants need to provide a surrender certificate and proof Renunciation of Indian Citizenship PIO card holders: Legal status:If you are non-UK citizens, provide a copy of the following:Both sides of BRPPage showing your Visa to live in the UK. Non-UK citizens who are applying for their minor children must also provide their UK legal status.Do not send as original document as VFS can’t be held responsible for loss or damage to original documents. Parental authorization form, signed and notarized for both parents. If any of the parents are non-UK citizens, proof of their legal status in the UK, as described above. Copies of parents Foreign passports or OCI cards:Foreign passports of parents:Copy of the information page that contains the picture and basic details of the passport.Copy of the endorsement/amendment pages.OCI Cards: If parents have OCI cards, copies of both information pages on the OCI card. Copies of parents proof of Renunciation:In case the applicants parents are naturalized citizens, proof for the same must be provided. A cancelled passport or a certificate of renunciation issued by the embassy must be submitted. If either parents needs to obtain a renunciation certificate, they need do obtain it prior to submitting the application for the child. When applying as an individual and not as part of the family:Copy of parents’ marriage certificate: The marriage certificate issued by the marriage registrar is accepted only Two copies of the completed checklist. Ensure to arrange the documents as per the checklist. Otherwise, the application will be returned unprocessed to applicant(s). The consulate will not take any responsibility for any loss of documents. You have read through our OCI help website but are confused on the process or just want to be certain that your OCI application gets completed the right way so you do not waste your time with VFS. Why not let us complete your OCI for you? We offer a comprehensive OCI help service where we will take care of everything for you in our store in Paddington (Reload OCI) or why not save the trip and use our Nationwide OCI Service that covers the UK, where we complete everything via our remote OCI help service. Click to find our more information below. CLICK TO FIND OUT MORE ON OUR OCI HELP SERVICE 1. Introduction to OCI Application Form2. What is the OCI Application Form?3. How to Fill Out the OCI Application Form4. Documents Required for OCI Application Form5. Submitting the OCI Application Form6. Tracking Your OCI Application Form Status7. FAQsIntroduction to OCI Application FormThe OCI application form is a crucial part of the OCI registration process. This form is where you provide all the necessary information for your OCI application. This guide will walk you through the OCI application form, step by step, with examples to help you understand better.What is the OCI Application Form?The OCI application form is the official document that you need to fill out when applying for an Overseas Citizenship of India card. This form requires you to provide personal information, details about your Indian origin, and your current citizenship status.Example: The OCI application form will ask for your full name, date of birth, place of birth, nationality, and details about your parents and grandparents. You will also need to provide information about your current citizenship, such as your passport number and the date and place of its issuance.How to Fill Out the OCI Application FormFilling out the OCI application form involves several steps:Personal Information: Provide your full name, date of birth, place of birth, and nationality.Parents’ Information: Provide information about your parents, including their full names, dates of birth, and places of birth.Grandparents’ Information: If applicable, provide information about your grandparents.Current Citizenship Status: Provide details about your current citizenship, such as your passport number and the date and place of its issuance.Example: If you’re filling out the OCI application form, you would start by providing your personal information. You would then provide information about your parents and, if applicable, your grandparents. Finally, you would provide details about your current citizenship.Documents Required for OCI Application FormWhen filling out the OCI application form, you will need to provide several documents:Proof of Indian Origin: This could be a copy of your Indian passport, your parents’ Indian passports, or your birth certificate if you were born in India.Proof of Current Citizenship: This could be a copy of your current passport.Photographs: You will need to provide recent passport-sized photographs.Example: If you’re applying for OCI, you would need to provide a copy of your current passport, a copy of your Indian birth certificate, and recent passport-sized photographs.Submitting the OCI Application FormOnce you’ve filled out the OCI application form and gathered all the necessary documents, you can submit your application. This can be done online through the official Indian government website.Example: After filling out the OCI application form and gathering your documents, you would go to the official Indian government website, upload your form and documents, and submit your application.Tracking Your OCI Application Form StatusAfter submitting your OCI application form, you can track its status online. You’ll need your application reference number to check the status. The status enquiry will let you know if your application is still being processed, if it’s been approved, or if there are any issues that need to be addressed.Example: After submitting your OCI application form, you can check the status of your application online using the reference number provided. This will let you know if your application is still being processed or if it has been approved.Filling out the OCI application form may seem complex, but with careful preparation and attention to detail, it can be a smooth and straightforward process. By following this guide, you’ll be well on your way to completing your OCI application form and enjoying the benefits of OCI.FAQSQ1: What is the OCI application form? The OCI application form is the official document that you need to fill out when applying for an Overseas Citizenship of India card.Q2: How do I fill out the OCI application form? You need to provide personal information, details about your Indian origin, and your current citizenship status on the OCI application form.Q3: What documents do I need for the OCI application form? You will need to provide proof of Indian origin, proof of current citizenship, and recent passport-sized photographs.Q4: How do I submit the OCI application form? You can submit the OCI application form online through the official Indian government website.Q5: How can I track my OCI application form status? You can track your OCI application form status online using your application reference number.Q6: What information is required on the OCI application form? The OCI application form requires personal information, details about your Indian origin, and your current citizenship status.Q7: Can I fill out the OCI application form online? Yes, the OCI application form can be filled out and submitted online.Q8: Do I need to provide photographs with the OCI application form? Yes, you will need to provide recent passport-sized photographs with the OCI application form.Q9: What happens after I submit the OCI application form? After submitting the OCI application form, you can track its status online to see if it’s being processed, if it’s been approved, or if there are any issues.Q10: Can I edit the OCI application form after submitting it? No, once the OCI application form is submitted, it cannot be edited. Make sure to review your information carefully before submitting.Tejas is an accomplished Chartered Accountant with a passion for finance. With a decade’s worth of extensive experience in the banking and credit domain, he has a deep understanding of the financial landscape across consulting and start-ups. In his time away from work, Tejas enjoys sharing his knowledge and helping others understand the intricacies of this complex domain.