

Conversion of PIO card to OCI card

Procedure for submission of application by erstwhile PIO cardholders (1) As on date, all Person of Indian Origin (PIO) cardholders with valid PIO cards as on 9.1.2015 are deemed to be Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders in terms of the notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 9.1.2015.

(2) However, all persons having valid PIO cards as on 9th January, 2015 are advised to apply for registration as OCI cardholder in view of the following advantages in possessing an OCI card:-

(a) OCI card is a smart card

(b) Possession of an OCI card will facilitate quicker immigration clearance at the Immigration Check Posts

(c) It will help in obtaining various Consular Services from the Indian Missions

(d) For those who are resident in India, it will facilitate in availing various services in India.

(3) The date for submission of applications for registration as OCI cardholder in lieu of the PIO card online has been extended till 31 December, 2024. This cutoff date will be only for submission of the applications online by the applicants. A separate online application form for submission of application for registration as OCI cardholder in lieu of PIO card is available in the website <https://ociservices.gov.in>

(4) The erstwhile PIO cardholder with a valid PIO card as on 9.1.2015 will have to upload only the following documents with his/ her application:-

(a) Copy of the valid Passport

(b) Copy of the PIO card

(5) The applicants can submit the applications online from anywhere. The grant of OCI card in lieu of the PIO card will be against a fee of USD100.

(6) The OCI card shall be issued by the concerned Indian Mission/ Post abroad or by FRRO concerned in India as per the jurisdiction of the applicant's place of residence. The applicant will have to approach the Indian Mission/ Post/ FRRO concerned only for collecting the OCI Card by surrendering the PIO card.

PIO Card Validity Extended up to December 31, 2024

1. Indian Immigration will accept all Person of Indian Origin (PIO) cards (including handwritten ones) along with valid foreign passport, as valid travel document till December 31, 2024, instead of earlier deadline of December 31, 2023.

2. Indian Immigration Check Post(s) will continue to consider all PIO cards (which were valid as on January 9, 2015) valid for exit from/entry into India till December 31, 2024. This extension of timeline is subject to the condition that if in the meantime, any deadline is notified by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) thereby making handwritten PIO cards invalid, then PIO cardholders may have to obtain appropriate visa from Indian Missions/Posts.
3. All PIO cardholders (handwritten and machine-readable) are meanwhile advised to convert their PIO card to OCI card before this deadline.
4. All the applicants under the Consular Jurisdiction of the Embassy of India, Nouakchott may visit the Embassy for further guidance from Monday to Friday, 0900 to 1730 hours MST.

In case of any other specific queries related to PIO to OCI conversion, please email cons.nouakchott@mea.gov.in
