Quick Reference Advisory for Applicants

1. Who should apply under each OCI service

Service	Who should apply
Passport Updation *(Suffix-U26)*	OCI cardholders who: • Are **below 20 years of age** and have obtained a new passport. → OCI must be updated **each time** a new passport is issued until age 20. • Are **50 years or older** and have obtained a new passport after turning 50. → OCI must be **updated once** after the new passport issued after age 50. **Important (Age 20–50):** • If a new passport is issued after turning 20, the applicant must apply for **OCI re-issue once**. • After this re-issue, no further action is required until age 50, provided there is no change in personal particulars.
OCI Re-issue *(Suffix- M26)*	OCI cardholders who: • Have obtained a **new passport after turning 20** and have not completed the one-time re-issue. • Have **change in personal particulars**, such as: – Name – Nationality – Date of birth – Parent's name, etc. • Have a **lost, stolen, or damaged OCI card**.
Fresh/New OCI *(Suffix-N26)*	Foreign nationals applying for OCI **for the first time**, including: **Adults:** • Previously held Indian passport and acquired foreign citizenship. • Foreign citizens by birth claiming OCI through parents/grandparents. **Minors:** • Children of Indian citizens or OCI cardholders. **Foreign spouse applicants:** • Spouse of Indian citizen or OCI cardholder (subject to eligibility).

2. Key differences between services

Feature	Passport Updation	OCI Re-issue	Fresh OCI
Purpose	Update passport details in the OCI database	Issue new OCI card	First-time OCI
Application mode	Online only	Hybrid (Online + physical submission)	Hybrid (Online + physical submission)
Fee	No fee	Applicable	Applicable
Physical submission	Not required	Through VFS	Through VFS
Original OCI submission	Not required	Required (except cases where OCI is lost)	Not applicable
Processing time*	6–7 weeks	6–7 weeks	5–6 weeks

*Processing time counted from acknowledgment by the concerned Mission/Post.

3. Travel guidance

Passport updation cases

Travel to India is permitted **after the application is acknowledged**, using:

- Existing OCI card

- New passport

- Acknowledgment copy

- Old passport (if available)

OCI re-issue cases

In re-issue cases:

- The **original OCI card is submitted**.

If urgent travel is required while re-issue is under process:

- Applicants should obtain an **appropriate visa/e-visa**.

Processing time is normally **6–7 weeks**.

4. OCI application suffix reference

Suffix	Application type
U26	Passport Updation
M26	OCI Re-issue
N26	Fresh/New OCI
X26	PIO-to-OCI conversion

- Letter = type of application

- Number = year of application

5. Common reasons for delay

Most delays occur because:

- Applicants select the wrong service, or

- Submit incomplete documents.

Incomplete applications may be held by VFS for **up to 21 days**.
After this period, the application is returned.

6. Important advisory

Applicants are advised to:

- Carefully read the guidelines and checklists on the website of VFS Global

- Select the correct OCI service.

- Ensure complete documentation.

- Apply well in advance of travel plan