

Fresh/New OCI Applications

A. What is a Fresh OCI Application?

Question	Answer
What is a Fresh OCI application?	Application submitted by a foreign national applying for OCI for the first time.
Who can apply?	Former Indian passport holders, foreign citizens by birth (through parents/grandparents), foreign spouses of Indian citizens/OCI cardholders.

B. Application Suffix

Suffix	Meaning
N26	Fresh OCI application
N	New application
26	Year of application

Example: Application ending with N26 indicates a fresh OCI application submitted in 2026.

C. General Procedure

Step	Details
Step 1: Online application	Fill form online, upload documents, print application.
Step 2: Prepare physical packet	Include form, photo/signature, passport copy, proof of Indian origin/relationship documents.
Step 3: Submit through VFS	Submit physically, pay fees, VFS forwards to Mission/Post.

VFS Service Page: <https://services.vfsglobal.com/usa/en/ind/apply-oci-services>

D. Processing Time

Normally 5–6 weeks from acknowledgment at the Indian Embassy/Consulate. The decision on Foreign Spouse Applications is taken by competent authorities in India and hence, the processing time of these applications may vary on case to case basis.

E. Major Categories and Checklists

Category	Link for list of required documents (check-list)
Adult – previously held Indian passport	https://services.vfsglobal.com/one-pager/india/united-states-of-america/oci-services/pdf/Adult-Foreign-national-previously-Indian-passport-holder-(adult)-2025.pdf
Adult – foreign citizen by birth	https://services.vfsglobal.com/one-pager/india/united-states-of-america/oci-services/pdf/Adult-foreign-national-by-birth-

	and-never-held-Indian-passport-adult-Sep-25.pdf
Minor – previously held Indian passport	https://services.vfsglobal.com/one-pager/india/united-states-of-america/oci-services/pdf/Minor-Document-Checklist-for-Foreign-national-previously-Indian-passport-holder-minor-Oct-2025.pdf
Minor – foreign citizen by birth	https://services.vfsglobal.com/one-pager/india/united-states-of-america/oci-services/pdf/Minor-New-Foreign-national-by-birth-and-never-held-Indian-passport-minor-new.pdf
Foreign spouse applicant	https://services.vfsglobal.com/one-pager/india/united-states-of-america/oci-services/pdf/New-Foreign-spouse-applicant.pdf

F. Special Requirements for Foreign Spouse Applicants

Requirement	Details
Marriage certificate	Must be apostilled or attested by Indian Mission/Post (No exception).
Birth certificates	May be required for applicant/parents/grandparents; must be apostilled or attested (No exception).

G. Key Reasons for Delay

Reason	Explanation
Checklist not followed	Applicants do not review checklist properly.
Incomplete documents	VFS may hold for 21 days, after which application is returned.

H. Advisory to Applicants

- Select the correct category
- Follow the checklist carefully
- Apply well in advance

OCI Application Suffixes – Quick Reference

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