

Frequently Asked Questions about the Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Card Scheme

1. What is Eligibility for getting the PIO Card?

Every person of Indian origin who is a citizen of another country, NOT being a citizen of any country that may be specified by the Government of India from time to time, will be eligible to apply for PIO Card if:

- (i) the person at any time held an Indian passport; or
- (ii) the person or either of his/her parents or grand parents or great grand parents was born in, and was permanently resident in India, provided further that neither was at any time a citizen of any of the aforesaid excluded countries; or
- (iii) the person is the spouse of a citizen of India or a person of Indian origin covered under (i) or (ii) above.

Presently, the specified countries whose nationals are ineligible for grant of PIO Card are Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Iran, China and Nepal. Further, if the applicant himself or either of his parents, grand parents or great grand parents held the nationality of these specified countries at any time, he will not be granted PIO Card.

Iranian nationals of Indian origin can be considered for grant of PIO card. The Missions or other agency authorised to issue PIO card would obtain prior clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs before issuing the card to an Iranian national.

2. Where can the application for PIO Card be filed?

- i. An application for issue of PIO Card shall be made in the prescribed Form to an Indian Mission/ Post in the country where the applicant is ordinarily resident.
- ii. Applicants already in India on long term visa (one year or more) may submit the application to the FRROs concerned as per the following jurisdiction:-

S.No.	FRRO Office	States/UTs	Remarks
1.	Delhi	Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand.	
2.	Amritsar	Punjab, J&K, Chandigarh.	
3.	Lucknow	UP, Bihar, Jharkhand.	
4.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura.	

5.	Hyderabad	Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Telangana	
6.	Chennai	Tamilnadu, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar islands.	
7.	Bangalore	Karnataka.	
8.	Mumbai	Maharashtra, M.P., Gujarat, Daman & Diu.	
9.	Thiruvananthapuram	Respective jurisdiction in Kerala and Lakshadweep	Excluding jurisdiction of other FRROs.
10.	Calicut/ Kozhikode	Respective jurisdiction in Kerala.	Excluding jurisdiction of other FRROs.
11.	Cochin/Kochi	Respective jurisdiction in Kerala.	Excluding jurisdiction of other FRROs.
12.	Mumbai	Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli.	This will be taken over by FRRO, Goa as and when CHIO Goa takes over registration functions from State Government.

FRROs may ensure that henceforth, the application which is submitted to the FRRO concerned is acknowledged and PIO card is issued to the eligible applicants within 30 days of submission of application, if no adverse information is available in the matter. Henceforth, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi will not accept PIO applications but will deal with all policy matters pertaining to PIOs. However, in case of any doubt, the cases may be referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs by FRRO concerned for clarification/decision.

Applications beyond their respective jurisdiction may be accepted by concerned FRRO in exceptional cases and forwarded to Ministry of Home Affairs with recommendation of the officer concerned for grant/refusal of PIO card.

3. What are the Documents to be relied upon to get PIO Card?

- a. Application of PIO Card can be downloaded from the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs i.e <http://www.mha.nic.in>

- b. Photocopy of the foreign passport presently held (Front page i.e. photo page and VISA page). Photocopy of the initial VISA, which has been registered with FRRO/FRO cum Superintendent of Police.
- c. Photocopy of all the pages of Registration certificate issued by the FRRO/FRO office.
- d. Four recent passport size photographs
- e. Demand Draft/Pay Order favour of concerned FRRO for Rs. 15000/- in case of individuals above 18 years and Rs. 7500/- in the case of applicants below 18 years of age.
- f. Two photocopies of Demand Draft/Pay Order.
- g. Proof of Indian Origin:
 - i. Previous Indian Passport OR
 - ii. Birth Certificate and parents'/grandparents/great grand parents Indian passport OR
 - iii. Marriage certificate and copy of spouse's Indian passport

Note: All Documents to be presented in duplicate and also shown in original.

4. What is the Fee for PIO Card?

A fee of Indian Rupees 15,000 or equivalent in local foreign currency shall be payable along with the application. The fee for a PIO Card for a child upto the age of 18 Years will be Rs. 7,500 (or, its equivalent in local foreign currency).

5. What is the Validity of the PIO Card?

PIO card is valid for lifetime of the holder provided that he/she has a valid passport.

6. What are the benefits to a PIO Card- holder?

The PIO cardholders are entitled to the following benefits:

1. PIO card issued to an applicant shall be valid for his/her lifetime from the date of its issue provided that such applicant has a valid passport.
2. It is clarified that PIO cards which have been issued prior to Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Gazette Notification dated: 30th Sept 2014 shall also be deemed to be valid for lifetime of its holder subject to the condition that such person has a valid passport.
3. PIO card holder will be exempt from the requirement of registration.
4. The PIO card holder doesn't require a student VISA for undertaking studies in India and similarly no Employment VISA will be required for taking up employment in India.
5. The PIO card holder shall enjoy parity with NRIs in respect of facility available to the latter in the economic, financial and education fields except in matters relating to acquisition of agriculture plantation/properties. However, no parity shall be allowed in the sphere of political rights.

Note: PIO card holders are exempted from the requirement of registration.

7. What are the provisions for the issue of a Duplicate PIO Card?

In the event of the loss of a PIO Card, a duplicate card may be issued after charging a fee of US\$ 100 or equivalent in local currency, subject to the completion of the other formalities viz. lodging of an FIR, scrutiny of claim, etc. as required to issue a duplicate passport. A duplicate PIO Card may be issued from the same office that issued the original card.

8. On what grounds PIO Card can be cancelled?

- (a) the PIO Card was obtained by fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact; or
- (b) the PIO cardholder has shown himself by act or speech to be disaffected towards the Constitution of India and other laws of India; or
- (c) the PIO cardholder is a citizen or subject of any country at war with, or committing external aggression against India, or of any other country assisting the country at war with, or committing such aggression against, India; or
- (d) the PIO cardholder has been sentenced in India for indulging in acts of terrorism or smuggling of narcotics, arms, ammunitions etc. or has been sentenced for committing an offence punishable with imprisonment upto one year, or fine upto rupees ten thousand; or
- (e) if it is not conducive in the public interest that the person should continue to hold a PIO Card.