

FAQs on Person of Indian Origin (PIO) Card

Q.No.1 Who is eligible for PIO Card?

Any person who at any time held an Indian Passport; or

he or either of his parents or grand parents was born in or was permanently resident in India as defined in Government of India Act, 1935 and other territories that became part of India thereafter *provided neither was at any time a citizen of **Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka***; or

who is a spouse of a citizen of India or a person of Indian origin as mentioned above.

Q.No.2 How can I submit my application for issue of a PIO card?

The application for PIO Card consists of the following documents:-

- ⇒ PIO-Card Application Form (<http://cgimunich.de/download/pio-application.pdf>) duly filled in and signed by the applicant, in duplicate (2 complete sets with all supporting documents in each set)
- ⇒ 4 colour photo (size 35 mm x 35 mm) (1 pasted on each form & 2 photos for the PIO Card).
- ⇒ A valid German/Foreign Passport - an endorsement for issue of a PIO Card is made on the German/Foreign Passport of the applicant - also attach a photocopy of the German/Foreign passport & nationality certificate (Einbürgerungsurkunde) to each set.
- ⇒ Copy of the relevant pages of Indian Passport as a proof of applicant being an Indian national previously **OR** copy of the relevant pages of Indian Passport/OCI Card of either parent (if the applicant did not have an Indian passport at any stage) along with copy of the birth certificate establishing the relationship with the parent **OR** copy of relevant pages of Indian Passport/PIO Card/OCI Card of the spouse & marriage certificate establishing the relationship.
- ⇒ Proof of "Surrender of applicant's Indian Citizenship" (For previously Indian nationals & only if the German/Foreign Citizenship was obtained **on or after 01.06.2010** - application can be submitted simultaneously as per procedure explained in Q.No.16).

Submit your application at the counter along with prescribed fee on any working day between 0930 hrs & 1100 hrs. Alternatively, you may send your application by post. Postal applicants should transfer fee to Consulate's Bank Account No.658709488 with Unicredit Bank-Hypovereinsbank (BLZ 70020270) and attach proof of transfer to the application. Postal applicants are also required to send a self addressed stamped (for registered post - €3.50) medium size envelope for return of documents unless the documents are to be collected in person between 09:30 & 11:00 hrs on due date. Always mention your contact telephone numbers/email address on your application. Incomplete application will not be processed. Processing takes about one week after receipt of completed application and fees.

Please also note that the consular jurisdiction of this Consulate is States of Bayern & Baden-Württemberg only. Applicants in other parts of Germany may apply to the respective Indian Consulates at Frankfurt, Hamburg and at the Embassy of India, Berlin. In case a child cannot sign, his/her thumb impression may be provided. A parent should sign the declaration on behalf of a minor child but not in the places (boxes) provided for applicant's specimen signature/thumb impression. All copies of supporting documents are to be self-attested by the applicant. A non-Indian origin spouse of an Indian National/OCI/PIO may apply for PIO card after one year of marriage. A minor child with German/Foreign passport, whose both parents are Indian nationals, may apply for PIO card and not OCI Card.

Q.No.3 What is the prescribed fee for issue of PIO card?

PIO card fee for adult is **Euro 322***/-

PIO card fee for child (below 18 years) is **Euro 162***/-

Q.No.4 What is the specification of photographs for issue of PIO card?

It should be, of size 35mm x 35mm or 40mm x 40mm, without border and showing full frontal view of the person's head and shoulders, having a white or light background. There should be no glare if the person is wearing glasses.

Q.No.5 How can I submit application for my minor child (holding German passport) for issue of a PIO card?

Procedure explained in Q.No.2 may be followed. The eligibility of the child for PIO Card should be supported by his/her old/previous Indian passport (if any) OR his/her birth certificate and copies of Indian passports of the parents.

Q.No.6 I never held an Indian passport but I was born to Indian parents. Am I eligible for a PIO card? If so, how can I submit my application for issue of a PIO card?

Yes, you are eligible for a PIO card. Procedure explained in Q.No.2 may be followed. The eligibility for PIO Card should be supported by your birth certificate and copies of (present or previous) Indian passport of either of your parents.

Q.No.7 I am a German national married to an India national / a person of Indian origin. Am I eligible for a PIO card? If so, how can I submit my application for issue of a PIO card?

Yes, you are eligible for a PIO card, if one year has passed since your marriage. Procedure explained in Q.No.2 may be followed. The eligibility for PIO Card should be supported by your marriage certificate and copies of present or previous Indian passport / PIO Card / OCI Card of your spouse.

Q.No.8 As a PIO card holder what benefits one is entitled to?

A PIO Card holder

- Shall not require a separate visa to visit India.
- Will be exempted from the requirements of registration if his/her stay on any single visit in India does not exceed 180 days. In the event of continuous stay in India exceeding 180 days, he/she shall have to get himself/herself registered within 30 days of the expiry of 180 days with the concerned FRRO/FRO.

Q.No.9 As a PIO card holder will I get benefits as NRI?

Parity with NRIs will in respect of all facilities available in the economic, financial and educational fields except in matters relating to the acquisition of agricultural/ plantation properties. No parity shall be allowed in the sphere of political rights.

A PIO cardholder cannot undertake mountaineering, missionary and research work and visit protected/restricted areas without a specific permit.

Q.No.10 As a PIO card holder, do I need to get a visa to enter/visit India?

A PIO Cardholder can visit India **without visa** for 15 years from the date of issue of PIO card.

Q.No.11 I am a PIO card holder. How can I get Indian citizenship?

As per section 5(1) (a) & 5(1) (c) of the Citizenship Act, you have to reside in India for minimum 7 years before making application for Indian citizenship

Q.No.12 How can I compare the rights, eligibility and other requirements/conditions with regard to OCI, PIO and NRI?

A comparative chart (<http://mha.nic.in/pdfs/oci-chart.pdf>) of OCI Card/PIO Card is available at www.mha.nic.in

Q.No.13 I am a PIO card holder. Now I wish to get an OCI card. Please guide me.

A PIO card holder needs to pay only € 24* (€ 127* in case the PIO was issued for € 160 as to a child) for getting OCI card, if otherwise eligible – the original PIO card is to be surrendered/cancelled at the time of issue of OCI card.

Please check Frequently Asked Questions on OCI (<http://cgimunich.de/download/oci-faq.pdf>) and procedure/instructions for application (<http://cgimunich.de/download/oci-instructions.pdf>) as available at www.cgimunich.de

Q.No.14 If I wish to change my minor son's/daughter's PIO card to an OCI card, how much fee I will have to pay?

Same procedure as Q.No.13. The fee for conversion would be Euro 127*.

Q.No.15 I have a PIO card valid for 10 more years. However, my German passport is expiring and a new passport will be issued. What is the procedure to include the new passport number in my PIO Card? Is there any fee for this service?

An observation will be made on the PIO card regarding your new German passport number. You are required to fill up a normal PIO form (<http://cgimunich.de/download/pio-application.pdf>) and submit your application with the following:

- (i) One photograph (to be pasted on the form).
- (ii) Present PIO card, in original.
- (iii) New German passport, in original.
- (iv) A copy of the PIO Card & new German Passport for our record.
- (v) Euro 14*/- as fee

Submit your application at the counter along with prescribed fee on any working day between 0930 hrs & 1100 hrs. Alternatively, you may send your application by post. Postal applicants should transfer fee to Consulate's Bank Account No.658709488 with Unicredit Bank-Hypovereinsbank (BLZ 70020270) and attach proof of transfer to the application. Postal applicants are also required to send a self addressed stamped (for registered post - €3.50) medium size envelope for return of documents unless the documents are to be collected in person between 09:30 & 11:00 hrs on due date. Always mention your contact telephone numbers/email address on your application. Incomplete application will not be processed. Processing takes about one week after receipt of completed application and fees.

Q.No.16 Am I supposed to surrender my Indian nationality before applying for the PIO card? If so what is the procedure.

Yes. PIO applicants, who held an Indian Passport and acquired German/Foreign nationality on or after **1st June 2010** are required to surrender their Indian Nationality and obtain a Surrender Certificate. The PIO applicants residing in Baden Wurttemberg and Bayern who have acquired German nationality **on or after 1st June 2010** and surrendered their Indian

passports to the German authorities, may obtain Surrender Certificate from the Consulate by submitting application as per following procedure:

- ⇒ Renunciation of Citizenship Affidavit (<http://cgimunich.de/download/renunciation-of-citizenship.pdf>), duly filled in & signed by the applicant (in case a child cannot sign, his/her thumb impression may be provided along with parents' signatures).
- ⇒ Copy of the laminated/details pages of the valid German/Foreign Passport of the applicant.
- ⇒ Copy of the nationality certificate (Einbuengerungsurkunde) to confirm the date from which the present nationality has been acquired.
- ⇒ Copy of the relevant pages of Indian Passport.
- ⇒ The original Indian passport (if the Indian passport has already been surrendered to the German authorities at the time of acquiring German nationality – this may be indicated the above Affidavit).
- ⇒ Prescribed fee of **Euro 117*** can be paid in Cash at the Indian Consulate or deposited to its bank account No.658709488 with Unicredit Bank-Hypovereinsbank (BLZ 70020270) and proof attached to the application.
- ⇒ Self addressed stamped (for registered post – Euro 3.50) medium size envelope is required for return of documents unless the documents are to be collected in person between 09:30 & 11:00 hrs on due date.

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**Note: Further queries may be sent by email to consular@cgimunich.de
*Fee includes Consular Service Surcharge of €2 effective from 01.04.2011.**