

Acquisition of Indian Citizenship

Indian citizenship can be acquired under any of the following provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955: -

- a) Citizenship by birth - Section 3
- b) Citizenship by descent - Section 4
- c) Citizenship by registration - Section 5
- d) Citizenship by naturalisation - Section 6
- e) Citizenship by incorporation of territory - Section 7

2. The acquisition and termination of Indian citizenship is governed by the provisions of Citizenship Act, 1955 and Citizenship Rules, 2009. For more information please visit website <https://indiancitizenshiponline.nic.in/>

3. The eligibility conditions under the provisions of Sections 5 or 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the list of documents to be attached with the applications are listed in the table below:

Section	Who can apply under the section	Documents required to be submitted along with the applications
5 (1) (a)	Adult foreigner who or either of whose parents was born in undivided India and the applicant is ordinarily a resident in India for seven years before submitting his application for registration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Copy of valid passport2. Copy of valid residential permit3. Proof of birth of the applicant or either of his/her parents in undivided India- a copy of passport or birth certificate.
5 (1) (c)	Adult foreigner who is married to a citizen of India and has resided in India for seven years before submitting his application for registration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Copy of valid passport2. Copy of valid residential permit3. Proof of Indian nationality of his/her spouse- copy of Indian passport or birth certificate.4. A copy of marriage certificate issued by the Registrar of Marriage in India.

5(1)(d)	Minor children whose both parents are Indian citizen.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copy of valid foreign passport 2. Copy of valid residential permit 3. Proof of Indian citizenship of both parents- copy of Indian passport or birth certificate
5(1)(e)	Adult foreigner whose parents are registered as citizens of India under clause (a) of sub-section(1) of section 5 or sub-section(1) of section 6.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copy of valid foreign passport 2. Copy of valid residential permit 3. Copy of parents Certificate of Indian Citizenship issued under clause(a) of sub-section (1) of section 5 or sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.
5(1)(f)	Adult foreigner who or any of whose parents was citizen of independent India and who has resided in India for 12 months before submitting his application.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copy of valid foreign passport 2. Copy of valid residential permit 3. Proof that the applicant or one of his parents was a citizen of independent India – a passport or a copy of the birth certificate.
5(1)(g)	Adult foreigner who has been registered as an O.C.I card holder for at least five years or more on the date of his application for registration as a citizen of India <i>and who has resided in India for a continuous period of one year on the date of making application.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A copy of the valid foreign passport 2. A copy of the certificate of registration as Overseas Citizen of India card holder under section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955.
6(1)	Naturalization:-Adult foreigner who has resided in India for at least 12 years before submitting his application for naturalization as citizen of India.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A copy of valid Foreign Passport. 2. A copy of valid Residential Permit. 3. A copy of Bank challan in original amounting to Rs.1500/-deposited in the State Bank of India under Head No. "0070 - Other Administrative Services - Other Services - Receipts under the Citizenship Act." 4. One affidavit from self (applicant) and two affidavits from two Indians testifying to the character of the applicant in the prescribed language available in the application form. 5. Two language Certificates certifying the applicant's knowledge in any one of the Indian languages specified in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. (A language certificate from recognized educational institutions or from a recognized organization or from two Indian citizens of the district of the

		<p>applicant).</p> <p>6. Two newspaper (circulating in the district in which the applicant resides) cuttings of different dates or of different newspapers notifying his intention to apply for citizenship in the prescribed language in the application form.</p>
--	--	---

4. Main steps for acquisition of Indian citizenship by registration under section 5 and naturalization under section 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

- (i) Foreigner applicants have to fill the online application in the prescribed Form on the Ministry of Home Affairs' website <https://indiancitizenshiponline.nic.in/>, upload the relevant documents and pay the prescribed fee. The step by step procedure regarding filling the form is available on this website.
- (ii) Thereafter, the applicant has to submit the printout of the application along with copy of the documents to the District Collector/District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner of the area where the applicant ordinarily resides. The applicant is administered oath of allegiance by the Collector/ the competent authority and the applicant signs the application in the presence of the collector/competent authority. In cases in which the State Government or Central Government is the competent authority for grant of citizenship, the collector forwards application and other documents, after completing the necessary action as prescribed in the Citizenship Rules, 2009, to the Home Department of the concerned State/UT. In cases where the Central Government is the competent authority to grant citizenship, the State Government forwards the case with its recommendation. The whole process is carried out in the online citizenship module.
- (iii) If the applicant fulfils the prescribed criteria and there is no adverse security report, acceptance letter (in original) is issued to the applicant. Acceptance letter is the in-principle approval by the competent authority of the applicant's request for citizenship. The acceptance letter directs the applicant to pay the prescribed fee and submit documents including the certificate of renunciation of his foreign citizenship (or affidavit in lieu thereof, wherever permitted). On the other hand, if the applicant is not able to meet the eligibility/ security criteria, he is issued a self-contained rejection e-mail and his application is closed.
- (iv) After receipt of all the specified documents mentioned in the acceptance letter, the matter is examined for issue of citizenship certificate. If the documents are found in order, the competent authority approves the grant of Indian citizenship certificate.
