

**Consulate General of India  
Belfast**

**NO OBLIGATION TO RETURN TO INDIA (NORI)**

**(A) Overview:**

**NORI is a 3-stage process available to J1 visa holders. The Consulate General of India, Belfast handles only Stage - I and Stage - III. The applicant has to handle Stage - II themselves. The 3 Stages are as follows:**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>STAGE – I</b>   | Attestation of Bio-data and Affidavit forms by the Consulate General of India, Belfast.  |
| <b>STAGE – II</b>  | Submission of Bio-data and Affidavit forms by the applicant to their respective Passport issuing authorities (RPOs), State Home Department and Department of Education (M/o Human Resource and Development) for obtaining necessary clearances for NORI. |
| <b>STAGE – III</b> | Issuance of Waiver Certificate by the Consulate General of India, Belfast.   |

**(B) Jurisdiction:**

Consulate General of India, Belfast serves applicants from **Northern Ireland**.

**(C) Documents Required:**

**STAGE – I**

Stage 1 is the attestation of Bio-data and Affidavit forms by the Consulate General of India, Belfast. The applicant has to submit the following documents / forms for the Stage – I.

- 1. Online Appointment:** Once the online uploaded documents are scrutinised and verification done by the Consulate General of India, Belfast, **applicant needs to choose an appointment date through user dashboard on eSewa portal and secure online appointment for consular service before visit in-person** to submit the document for requested consular services.
2. Download, fill and sign the Miscellaneous Application form. Click on the following link to download: <https://www.cgibelfast.gov.in/page/consular-forms/>. Each applicant is required to fill up separate Miscellaneous Application form and affix his / her recent passport size photograph.
3. Original and a self-attested photocopy of applicant's current passport and valid J1 Visa or a valid DS-2019 (if J1 Visa has expired).
4. A self-attested print of applicant's current valid eVisa, applicant must be UK resident.
5. Any of the following original and self-attested documents viz. copy of utility bill (telephone / electricity / gas / water / Council Tax bill) or Driving License or lease deed of residence etc. where the applicant's UK address is clearly mentioned, should be provided.

6. Download and fill the Bio-data form and Affidavit form. Submit 3 sets of original self-attested Bio-data form and Affidavit form along-with one photocopy. One set of form means one Bio-data form and one Affidavit form.

For form and details, please follow the link below;

<https://www.mea.gov.in/nori-menu.htm>

[Click here for NORI – Bio-Data Proforma](#)

[Click here for NORI – Affidavit Proforma](#)

7. A fee of £108.00 (Pounds One Hundred and Eight Only) (fees £18.00 for each affidavit and bio-data form attestation (£18.00X6 = £108.00) for Stage I per application. **The fees will be accepted in CASH only**, Credit/Debit card or other banking instrument will NOT be accepted.

## **STAGE – II**

The Ministry of Human Resources Development has launched a new portal - <http://nori.ac.in> for inviting online application for NORI since 27th February 2016. The applicant has to visit the portal and follow further instructions there for the Stage – II. On receipt of the attested forms from the Consulate General of India, Belfast the applicants are required to send one set of the attested Bio-data form and Affidavit form to each of the following authorities in India:

| <b>Sr. NO</b> | <b>Authority</b>  | <b>How to send?</b>   |
|---------------|---|---|
| <b>1</b>      | The Regional Passport Office/ Passport Issuing authority from where the applicant was issued the Passport to come abroad.   | Offline (by postal means) or online. Applicants may contact their respective authorities for more clarification / information in this regard. |
| <b>2</b>      | The Home Department of the State in India where the applicant belongs.  |   |
| <b>3</b>      | The Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Department, ES-5 Division, External Scholar Ship Division., 2nd floor, Wing-6, West Block-1, R.K. Puram, Delhi-110 066. |   |

**Note: It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain clearances from the three authorities in India. The Consulate will not pursue it on their behalf.**

## **STAGE – III**

In the Stage – III, the applicant applies for issuance of Waiver Certificate by the Consulate General of India, Belfast after he / she has received the clearances from the 3 authorities in India. The Consulate General of India, Belfast will issue the Waiver Certificate and forward it to the Embassy of India in Washington DC for onward transmission to the US Immigration Authority who will notify the applicant directly regarding its acceptance. A copy of the same will be sent to the applicant also. The applicant has to submit the following documents / forms for the Stage – III:

1. Same as Stage I. Please read Stage – I above.
2. Same as Stage II. Please read Stage – II above.
3. A copy of all the three clearances along with the CASE NUMBER (BAR CODE FORM) given by US Immigration authorities ([www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)) to the Embassy, for Details, please visit.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange/student/residencywaiver.html>

5. Original and copy of clearance (NOC) from the Regional Passport Officer (RPO) concerned.
6. Original and copy of clearance (NOC) from the Home Department of State concerned.
7. Original and copy of clearance (NOC) from the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resources, New Delhi.
8. Fee: A fee of £18.00 (Pounds Eighteen only) for stage III. The fees must be paid only in CASH only. No Credit/Debit card or other banking will be accepted.
9. Please mention “Miscellaneous Consular Services – NORI Stage – III” on top of the Miscellaneous Application Form.

Before visiting the Consular Section of the Consular General of India, Belfast in person, please visit the website,

<https://indianconsularservices.mea.gov.in/consularServices/> for availing various Miscellaneous Consular Services through Online Consular Services System (eSewa Portal).

1. **Online Appointment:** Once the online uploaded documents are scrutinised and verification done by the Consular General of India, Belfast, **applicant needs to choose an appointment date through user dashboard on eSewa portal and secure online appointment for consular service before visit in-person** to submit the document for requested consular services.
2. There is no need to notarize any document. All the above-mentioned documents must be presented in duplicate (i.e. in original along with a photocopy) to the Consular Officer.
3. **Fee:** A fee of £18.00 (Pounds Eighteen only) for stage III. **The fees will be accepted in CASH only.** No Credit/Debit card or other banking will be accepted.

**Notes:**

- a) The photocopies must be legible enough.
- b) Only recent photographs of the applicant should be used wherever necessary.

#### 4. Processing times:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>STAGE – I</b>   | Same day, however, if unforeseen technical reasons occur, services can be delayed till those problems are resolved.                 |
| <b>STAGE – II</b>  | No fixed processing time. Depends on time taken in obtaining clearances from offices in India. Handled by the applicant themselves. |
| <b>STAGE – III</b> | Same day, however, if unforeseen technical reasons occur, services can be delayed till those problems are resolved.                 |

#### (D) Procedure (How to apply on eSewa portal)

Please refer list of documents required mentioned above for execution of Power of Attorney before starting the process to register and upload the listed documents on the eSewa (eCCSS) portal, it is mandatory for the applicant to register on the below mentioned eCCSS portal **before in-person visit to the Consulate in Belfast to submit and sign the documents before the consular officer.**

Once you are ready with all required document to apply for Consular Service, please click on below mentioned link and the system will redirect you to eCCSS portal:

<https://indianconsularservices.mea.gov.in/consularServices/>

Please check the required documents, fees, etc. for particular Consular service without registering on eCCSS portal. Once you are sure that you would like to avail particular consular service please follow the below steps.

- Sign up and create your account using the New User Tab.
- Activate your account using OTP received on your registered email ID.
- Please login into your account and apply for the required service.
- Users can also avail multiple services with the same account.
- After selection of the service, please **upload the necessary documents** on eCCSS portal, link:

<https://indianconsularservices.mea.gov.in/consularServices/>

- **All the documents to be uploaded on the eSewa portal must be of size less than 200 KB and in required format (pdf/jpeg/any other if required).**
- On successful submission of the documents, an electronic acknowledgment will be generated, which the applicant can print after logging in to his/her account.
- After scrutiny of the documents by the Consulate, the applicant will receive confirmation for payment of fees, which can be seen in the dashboard of his/her

account.

- **Appointment:** On receipt of confirmation for payment of fees, the applicant needs to **choose an appointment date through user dashboard on eSewa portal** and secure online appointment for consular service before visiting Consulate General of India, Belfast in-person with all original and copies of documents to submit and sign before the consular officer for requested consular services.
- The applicant has to check the status of the application periodically through user dashboard on eSewa portal.
- **Fees:** When the applicant visits the Consulate in Belfast in-person with prior appointment, he/she needs to bring all original and copies of supporting document as mentioned in service-wise document list, specified fees must be paid **in CASH** only at the Consulate. Personal Cheques, Credit or Debit Cards or any other Banking Instruments will not be accepted. Please try to tender exact fee amount. All fees are non- refundable.
- For any technical help (e.g. issues like sign up, log in), the user can mail to eSewa support email ID ([support-eccss@nic.in](mailto:support-eccss@nic.in)). However, for any non- technical help (e.g. sending of documents/ appointment availability, list of required documents, service/application status etc.), the consulate should be contacted by email to [cons.belfast@mea.gov.in](mailto:cons.belfast@mea.gov.in).
- The Consulate reserves the right to reject attestation of documents, if the contents are considered objectionable or contrary to the Rules.

The original copies of the documents will be matched and verified with the uploaded documents before providing consular service to the applicant.

**[Apply for Miscellaneous Consular services eCCSS portal:](#)**

<https://indianconsularservices.mea.gov.in/consularServices/> (please click here)

**Please note:** Consulate General of India, Belfast has no agents for rendering these services to the applicants.

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**No Obligation to Return to India (NORI) Certificate - FAQ**

Q: How & where to apply for NORI and what are the required documents?

A: **Issue of No Obligation to Return to India (NORI) Certificate**

1. As per the immigration laws of United States of America, 2 years of home (India) residency is mandatory for all J-1 visa holders for applying for H1B visa, i.e., work visa. For this, the J-1 visa holders are required to submit to US authorities a NORI Certificate. Normally, the applicants who are staying in USA need a J1- waiver for which they need to apply for a NORI Certificate to the Indian Missions/Post concerned in USA. Those who have returned to India may apply for this Certificate in the CPV Division, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. The applicants staying in a third country are required to apply at the Indian Mission/Post concerned. Please visit <http://www.mea.gov.in/nori.htm> for the relevant information.

## 2. Procedure for issuing NORI Certificate:

The following documents are to be submitted along with application (Miscellaneous Service) for issuing NORI Certificate:

i) NOC from the Ministry of HRD (Department of Higher Education) or Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in case of doctors & medical professionals [Instructions for issuance of clearances are issued by the concerned Ministries from time to time];

ii) NOC from Passport Office (Passport Issuing Authority) [Applicants may check with the Indian Mission/Post abroad OR Consular Section [socons@mea.gov.in](mailto:socons@mea.gov.in) ([socons\[at\]mea\[dot\]gov\[dot\]in](mailto:socons[at]mea[dot]gov[dot]in)), CPV Division, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi through e mail, wherever the application is being submitted].

iii) NOC from the Home Department of State/Union Territory in India where the applicant belongs to.

iv) Original notarized affidavit containing full details of his/her visit to USA on student visa, especially, details of his/her Indian passport number, date and place of issue, period of stay in USA, his/her address in USA during his/her stay there and his/her present address in the place where currently staying.

v) Copies of the Indian passports including the one in which the candidate travelled to US and US visa pages;

vi) Copy of Third Part Bar Code page from the US State Department containing the applicant's Waiver Review Case File Number (this is required to be quoted in the NORI Certificate as well as details of Passport, US address, etc.);

3. Applicants are expected to submit the above-mentioned documents, in original, along with their application with prescribed fee for miscellaneous consular services in Indian Mission/Post abroad. There is no fee for the applicant who applies in India. It is the responsibility of the applicant concerned to obtain all necessary clearances.

4. The applicant who is in India should submit application for issue of NORI Certificate at the CPV Division (Consular-I Section), Ministry of External Affairs, Patiala House Annexe, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel: 011-23389165; Email: [socons\[at\]mea\[dot\]gov\[dot\]in](mailto:socons[at]mea[dot]gov[dot]in)). For those who are applying from a third country where they are currently staying, the concerned Mission/Post should issue NORI Certificate by accepting all the above documents. Specimen copy of the letter is enclosed for reference.

Specimen copies of the bio-data and affidavit for Miscellaneous Services are attached.

Please follow the link below; <https://www.mea.gov.in/nori-menu.htm>

[Click here for NORI - Bio-Data Proforma](#)

[Click here for NORI - Affidavit Proforma](#)

6. MEA Website: <https://www.mea.gov.in/nori-certificate.htm>