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ESSENTIALS DEEP-DIVE · IDENTITY

Aadhaar for *Foreign Nationals*

Aadhaar is optional for foreign nationals, useful as a single ID + address proof, but never required. Here is who is eligible, the documents per category, the process and the realistic timeline.

182 days minimum stay to apply

Optional not mandatory for you

Aadhaar is India's 12-digit national identity number, issued by the **UIDAI** after capturing your biometrics (fingerprints, iris, photo) and demographics. For Indian residents it is for life, but for a **foreign national it is not**. Your Aadhaar's validity is tied to the duration of your visa and FRRO permit, and most importantly, **you do not need it** to live and work here. Your passport and visa already cover banking, your SIM and your PAN. Aadhaar is simply a convenient single card that doubles as proof of identity *and* proof of address, nice to have, never required. This guide is the honest, full version: whether it's worth applying, who is eligible, the exact documents for your category, the real process and the realistic timeline. Your IKAN consultant books the appointment and comes with you.

Optional	182 days	90-180 days	Visa-tied
NOT MANDATORY FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS	MIN. STAY IN THE PRIOR 12 MONTHS	REALISTIC PROCESSING TIME	VALIDITY FOLLOWS YOUR FRRO PERMIT

DO THIS FIRST

Before you apply, **ask whether you even need Aadhaar**. For banking, a SIM and your PAN, your **passport + visa is the reliable KYC basis**, Aadhaar is not required for any of them. Apply only if you want **one card that serves as both ID and address proof**, or a service genuinely asks for it. If you do apply, you must have completed **182 days or more of stay in the last 12 months**, and your Aadhaar will stay valid only **as long as your visa / FRRO permit is valid**, not for life.

⚠ **Aadhaar is optional, and your validity is not for life.** Unlike Indian citizens, a foreign national's Aadhaar is valid only for the **duration of your visa and FRRO residential permit**. When your permit lapses, so does your Aadhaar. Never treat it as your primary, permanent ID, your **passport and visa remain the documents that matter**.

PART A · SHOULD YOU APPLY?

THE HONEST ANSWER

You almost certainly don't need it

It is worth being clear, because a lot of older guidance overstates this. Aadhaar is **voluntary** for foreign nationals, and the three things people assume they need it for, a **bank account**, a **SIM card** and a **PAN**, all accept your **passport and visa** as the KYC basis instead. So treat Aadhaar as a convenience, not a hurdle.

Banking · passport works

On an employment visa you open a **resident savings account** on your passport, visa and FRRO certificate. No Aadhaar needed, see **PAN & Bank Account**.

SIM card · passport works

An Indian SIM is issued to a foreign national on **passport + visa + a local address**. Aadhaar is one option, never a requirement, see **Getting Connected**.

PAN · passport works

Foreign nationals get a **PAN on Form 95** using passport and an apostilled or Indian address proof. Aadhaar is not required and you're largely exempt from PAN-Aadhaar linking.

When it genuinely helps

One card for **both ID and address**, smoother local sign-ups (some gym, school or utility desks ask), and easier **EPFO / government** interactions if your role needs them.

Passport + visa is your reliable KYC basis. Keep self-attested copies of your passport's photo, address and visa pages, plus your **FRRO certificate**, in one document kit. That kit, not Aadhaar, is what opens your bank account, SIM and PAN. Apply for Aadhaar only when you want the convenience of a single combined ID + address card.

PART B · WHO IS ELIGIBLE

THE 182-DAY RULE

Eligibility & categories

You may apply for Aadhaar only if you have **stayed in India for 182 days or more in the 12 months immediately preceding** your application. Within that rule, foreign nationals and residents fall into a few categories, and the documents differ slightly for each.

1. **NRIs, Non-Resident Indians**

   Holders of a **valid Indian passport**. The simplest category, your Indian passport is itself your proof of identity.

2. **OCI cardholders**

   Overseas Citizens of India, who present their **OCI card plus foreign passport**.

3. **LTV holders**

   Long-Term Visa holders from minority communities of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, on their **LTV document plus foreign passport**.

4. **Citizens of Nepal & Bhutan**

   Apply on a **passport or citizenship certificate**, a specific provision for these two neighbouring countries.

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Other foreign nationals

Anyone on a **valid visa with residency proof**, including most assignees on an employment visa. You'll show your **passport, visa and proof of 182+ days' stay**.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED, BY CATEGORY

CATEGORY	PROOF OF IDENTITY (POI)	PROOF OF ADDRESS (POA)	DATE OF BIRTH
NRIs	Valid Indian passport	Any Indian address proof, or NRI bank statement showing the address	Passport or birth certificate
OCI cardholders	OCI card + foreign passport	Any Indian address proof, or NRI bank statement showing the address	Foreign passport
LTV holders	LTV document + foreign passport	FRRO certificate, rental agreement, or bank statement with address	Foreign passport
Nepal / Bhutan nationals	Passport or citizenship certificate	Same as PoI, or a bank statement with address	Passport
Other foreign nationals	Valid foreign passport + visa	FRRO certificate, lease, bank statement or utility bill, plus proof of 182-day stay	Passport

Best address proofs: FRRO certificate, lease, or bank statement. For most assignees the cleanest proof of address is your **FRRO registration certificate**, your **lease / rental agreement**, a recent **bank statement**, or a **utility bill** in your name. If you're an "other foreign national", also carry a short covering letter with copies of your immigration arrival / departure stamps showing the 182+ days.

Don't rely on "Form C" as your address proof. Some older checklists list Form C, but Form C is your **host's 24-hour accommodation report** to the FRRO (see **Registering Your Stay**), not a personal ID you hold. Prefer your **FRRO certificate, lease or bank statement** instead; they are stronger and far less likely to be questioned at the centre.

PART C · THE PROCESS

STEP BY STEP

Enrol at a Seva Kendra

Aadhaar enrolment is done **in person** at a **UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra**, by appointment. Bring **originals** of every document, they're scanned, not kept. Here is exactly how it runs.

1. **Book an appointment online**

   Schedule a slot at a nearby **Aadhaar Seva Kendra** via the **UIDAI website**. Going by appointment, rather than walking in, saves you the longest waits.

2. **Visit with all originals**

   Carry every document from your category's row above, in original. Be prepared for **some wait time** at the centre, on a busy day it can be two to four hours depending on the queue.

3. **Fill the correct enrolment form**

   There are **specific forms** for NRIs, foreigners, OCI holders and minors. The operator will give you the right one, using the wrong form is a common reason a file is sent back.

4. **Give your biometrics**

   The centre captures your **fingerprints, iris scan and photograph**. This is quick and the reason enrolment must be done in person rather than online.

5. **Verify details & collect the slip**

   Check the spelling of your name, date of birth and address on screen **before you finish**, then collect your **acknowledgement slip with the Enrolment ID (EID)**.

6. **Track status online**

   Use your **Enrolment ID (EID)** on the UIDAI portal to follow progress. If a server outage interrupted enrolment, you may be asked to **revisit on the next available date**.

> **Plan for a wait, and possible technical hiccups.** Even with an appointment, expect to spend time at the centre, and on rare days a **server outage or technical issue** can mean returning another day. Keep your **acknowledgement slip and EID** safe, that single number is how you download your Aadhaar and track its status.

PART D · TIMELINE & DELIVERY

HOW LONG IT REALLY TAKES

Processing & collecting Aadhaar

Be realistic about timing. Unlike a same-day errand, Aadhaar for a foreign national involves back-end verification, so **approval typically takes 90 to 180 days** depending on the centre's workload. Once approved, you choose how to receive it.

STAGE	WHAT HAPPENS	TYPICAL TIME
1 · Appointment + enrolment	Book online, attend the Seva Kendra, give biometrics and collect your EID slip.	**1 visit**
2 · Back-end verification	UIDAI verifies your documents and visa-linked status. This is the long part.	**90-180 days**
3 · e-Aadhaar download	On SMS approval, download the e-Aadhaar PDF using your EID, the faster option.	**Same day**
4 · Physical card (on request)	Request dispatch of the printed card online; it's couriered to you.	**5-7 working days**

YOUR CHOICE ONCE APPROVED

e-Aadhaar vs. physical card

When your Aadhaar is approved you'll get an **SMS** on your registered mobile. From there you have two ways to hold it, and the digital one is just as valid.

e-Aadhaar · the fast route

Download the **e-Aadhaar PDF** immediately using your **Enrolment ID (EID)** or Aadhaar number on the UIDAI portal. It's a fully valid Aadhaar, no need to wait for plastic.

Physical card · on request

Prefer a printed card? Submit an **online request for dispatch** and it's typically delivered within **5 to 7 working days**. Useful as a wallet-sized combined ID + address proof.

Diarise your visa renewal, your Aadhaar follows it. Because validity is tied to your visa and FRRO permit, you should **update your Aadhaar when you renew or extend your visa**. Don't let it silently lapse and then assume it still works; keep your passport and visa as your dependable, primary identity at all times.

OFFICIAL RESOURCES

UIDAI	Aadhaar enrolment, appointments & status
Aadhaar Seva Kendra booking	Book your enrolment appointment
myAadhaar portal	Download e-Aadhaar & track by EID

YOUR SUPPORT

How IKAN helps

- We tell you honestly **whether you even need Aadhaar** for your situation, and confirm your passport + visa already covers banking, SIM and PAN
- We **check your 182-day eligibility** and assemble the exact documents for your category, with the right address proof
- We **book your Seva Kendra appointment** and accompany you, so the wait and the forms are handled for you
- We **track your application by EID**, help you download the e-Aadhaar, and remind you to refresh it when your visa renews

Aadhaar · quick checklist

- [ ] Confirm you **actually need it**, passport + visa covers bank, SIM & PAN
- [ ] Check you've completed **182+ days' stay** in the last 12 months
- [ ] Gather your **category documents**, PoI, PoA and date-of-birth proof in original
- [ ] Use a strong address proof: **FRRO certificate, lease or bank statement** (not Form C)
- [ ] **Book the Seva Kendra appointment** and plan for some wait time
- [ ] Keep your **EID slip** safe; expect **90 to 180 days** for approval
- [ ] Download the **e-Aadhaar**; refresh it when your **visa renews**

Aadhaar is a nice-to-have, not a must-have, and we'll only help you chase it if it genuinely makes your life here easier. Either way, your passport and visa keep you fully covered.

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