

Present Occupation on the India e-Visa Form

The Present Occupation dropdown on the India e-Visa application is mandatory, and what you select changes which fields appear below it. Here's the complete list and the rules that catch people out. Independent guide, not affiliated with the Government of India.

Full list of Present Occupation options

There is no type-to-search on this dropdown. The list is alphabetical, so you scroll to find your option.

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|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| • Air Force | • Labour | • Reporter |
| • Business Person | • Lawyer | • Researcher |
| • Cameraman | • Media | • Retired |
| • Charity/Social Worker | • Military | • Sea Man |
| • Chartered Accountant | • Missionary | • Security |
| • College/University Teacher | • Navy | • Self Employed/Freelancer |
| • Defence | • News Broadcaster | • Student |
| • Diplomat | • Official | • Trader |
| • Doctor | • Others | • TV Producer |
| • Engineer | • Paramilitary | • Un-Employed |
| • Film Producer | • Police | • UN Official |
| • Government Service | • Press | • Worker |
| • House Wife | • Private Service | • Writer |
| • Journalist | • Publisher | |

If you are retired or unemployed

Selecting RETIRED or UN-EMPLOYED doesn't remove the employment fields. Employer Name/business and Address stay marked mandatory, and leaving them blank triggers a red "Employer name is required" error that blocks Save and Continue.

Enter **NA** in these three fields:

- ✓ Employer Name/business
- ✓ Designation
- ✓ Address

Phone is not mandatory and can be left blank. Save and Continue then works normally.

If you are a student or housewife

Selecting STUDENT or HOUSE WIFE brings up a second dropdown, "Specify below occupation details of", with two options: Father or Spouse. Both options are available for either selection.

The Employer Name, Designation, and Address fields below then refer to that person, not to you. The form doesn't state this, and it's a common source of confusion: applicants either enter their own details or leave the fields blank and hit the same validation error.

If you select OTHERS

You must type your occupation into the "If Others, please specify" field. The page won't save without it.

If none of the options match your job

Pick the closest match, or select OTHERS and specify your occupation in the free-text field.

Form fields, labels, and validation rules on the official portal can change without notice. Always complete your application directly on indianvisaonline.gov.in, the only legitimate place to apply, and treat this guide as orientation rather than the final word on any specific field.