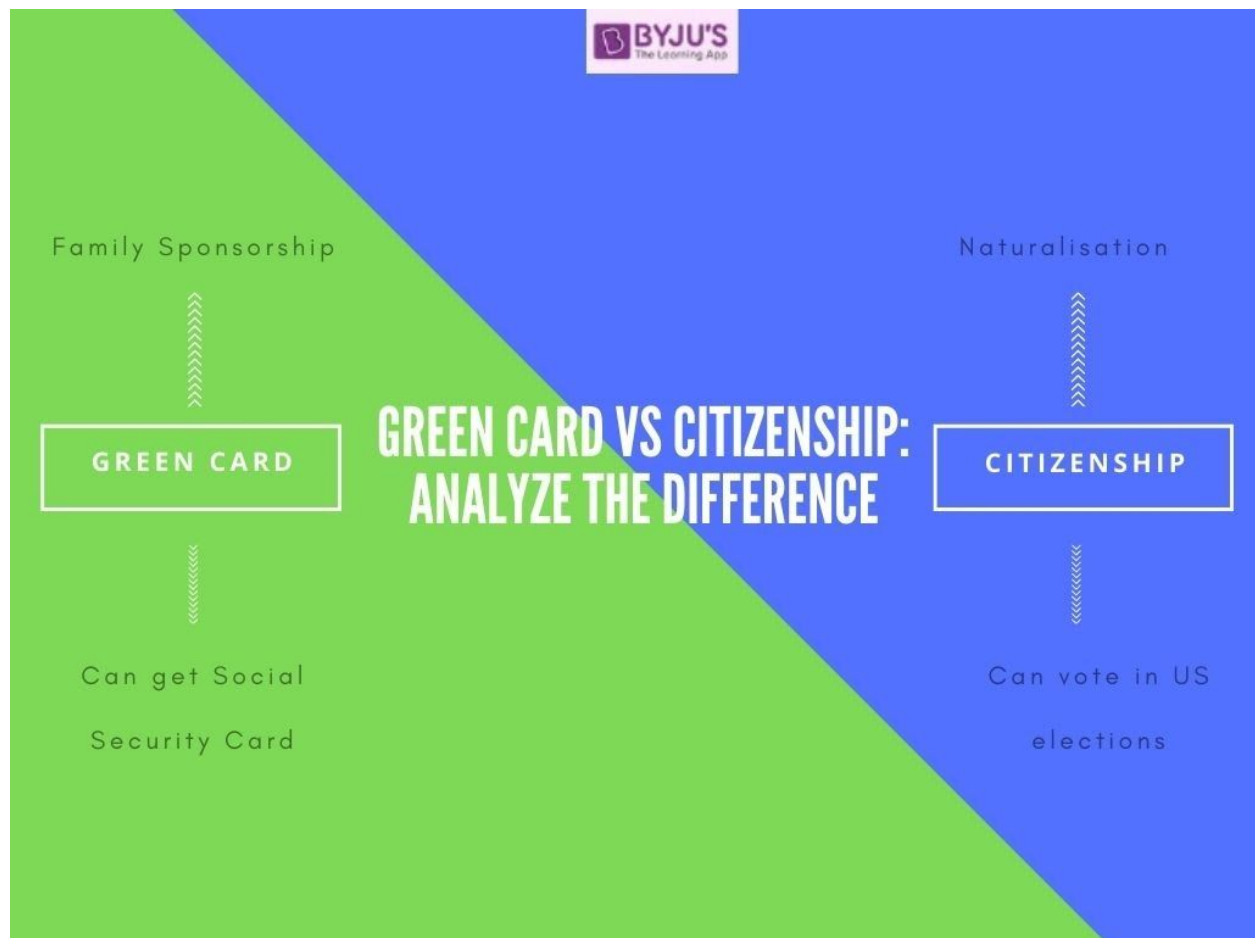


# Difference Between Green Card and Citizenship

Green Card holders and Citizenship are terms that grant foreign nationals the right to live and work in the United States of America. But the two of them are not interchangeable and differ on the basis of responsibilities, rights and benefits, among many other factors.

A Green Card holder, also known as a permanent resident, is someone who has been granted permission to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis while retaining the citizenship of their original country.



Citizenship is the highest status that can be granted under U.S. immigration law and offers the permanent right to live in the United States.

This article will further explain the difference between a Green Card holder and Citizenship within the context of the IAS Exam.

Difference between Green Card and Citizenship	
Green Card	Citizenship
A Green Card holder can avail a Social Security card which makes them eligible for social security benefits such as Medicare, supplemental security income	A foreign national who is granted citizenship are eligible to vote in the US elections. A Green Card holder cannot do the same.
Green card holders can apply visas for their spouses and unmarried children so that they can reside in the United States	Citizenship gives the ability to petition for foreign national spouses, married and unmarried children, siblings, and other relatives to live in the U.S
Green Card holders can travel outside the United States, but the time spent outside the country should not be prolonged as it can affect his/her residential status	A US citizen can go travel outside the United States for a long period of time without any detrimental effect on their citizenship
Green Card holders can join certain branches of the United States Military but cannot join those Federal Agencies which require that only a US citizen can apply.	Citizenship offers the right to work and apply in all branches of the US military as well as government agencies
A Green Card holder can be deported from the United States on the grounds of serious crimes, espionage or failing to inform the US government about a change in address.	A US citizen will not be deported but his/her citizenship can be revoked if any fraud was committed when applying for citizenship
<p>A foreign national can become a permanent resident through the following way:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Family Sponsorship:</b> Where a relative who is already a US citizen can sponsor the permanent resident process by proving the applicant belongs to the same family</li> <li><b>2. Employer Sponsorship:</b> Foreign nationals can also apply for U.S. permanent residency if they are sponsored by an employer.</li> <li><b>3. U.S Green Card Lottery:</b> While more difficult than the two previous options, it is possible to obtain U.S. permanent residency via the U.S. Green Card lottery, a government-sponsored program.</li> </ol>	<p>Citizenship can be obtained through the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Naturalization:</b> To become a naturalized U.S. citizen a Green Card needs to be obtained and once it is done so certain requirements such as speaking and writing basic English and having a moderate understanding of US civics and history.</li> <li><b>2. Through marriage:</b> A Green Card holder can obtain citizenship by marrying another US citizen</li> <li><b>3. Military Service:</b> By serving in certain branches of the US military, a foreign national can obtain citizenship</li> </ol>

