



Malta Citizenship by Investment

Malta Citizenship

Malta has been a member of the EU since 2004 and is part of Schengen since 2007. Citizenship obtained under this program gives the rights of full citizenship for life and can be passed on to future generations by descent. Maltese citizenship grants access to all investment opportunities in Malta and throughout the EU open to European Union citizens.

Legal basis for Citizenship by investment:

Maltese Citizenship by Investment may be granted under an amendment passed in November 2013 to the Maltese Citizenship Act, Chapter 188 of the Laws of Malta. These amendments provided the framework for the enactment of LN 47 of 2014. The "Malta Individual Investor Programme (MIIP) rules provide Maltese citizenship on the basis of a contribution to and investment in Malta.

Benefits:

- Schengen residence status for one year prior to issue of passport (issued on application).
- 160 visa-free destinations including united states.
- Passport issued within one year

Malta Citizenship Eligibility

To qualify under the regulations, a Main Applicant for citizenship must be at least 18 years of age and must meet the following three requirements:

1. 'Fit and Proper' Test

Applicants must show they are in good standing and repute and will undergo a 'fit and proper' test.

The main applicant may also add dependents to a citizenship application his/her spouse, children and parents or grandparents, under certain conditions, to benefit under the Malta

2. Four-tier Due Diligence Process

Due Diligence process is carried out directly by the Government that will assess applicants and will process and approve applications at various stages.

Applicants must demonstrate a clean criminal record, with checks being conducted with the International Criminal Court, INTERPOL and various other authorities and sources. Applicants must provide a police certificate which may be submitted subsequently to the submission of the application but at all times prior to approval.

3. Good Health

Applicants must show they do not suffer from a contagious disease or a health condition that could become a significant burden on the Maltese health system.

About Malta

- Sovereign State, member of the EU and of the Commonwealth
- Parliamentary democracy with political and social stability
- Modern and diversified economy based on international activities
- Stable macroeconomic environment
- Government focused on the attraction of cross-border investment and on the establishment of a safe, stable and open business environment
- Strong and modern legal system
- Administrative, financial and tax legislation is based on Commonwealth law
- Extremely attractive tax system **approved** by the EU
- Qualified, highly specialised multilingual workforce
- Excellent telecommunication and information technology infrastructure

Malta Individual Investors Programme (MIIP)

Malta Investor Programme grants Malta citizenship to foreign individuals and their families, who contribute to the economic development of Malta.

To qualify for Maltese citizenship by investment, the main applicant is required to contribute at least €650,000 to Malta. Of this contribution, 70 % will go into the Fund set up by the Government of Malta and run by a board of trustees. The rest goes to the consolidated fund. The Fund will finance projects linked to education, public health, innovation, job creation and social projects

In order to qualify under this Individual Investor Programme of the Republic of Malta (IIP), Applicants shall be persons who are at least 18 years of age and must make the following contributions and investments:

Contribution to the National Economic and Social Development Fund:

- Principal Applicant: €650,000
- If applicable, add Spouse: + €25,000
- If applicable, add for each Dependant aged under 18: + €25,000
- If applicable, add for each Dependents aged over 18: + €50,000

Residential Immovable Property:

- Purchasing Immovable Property \geq €350,000
- Leasing Immovable Property \geq €16,000 annually

Such property cannot be let or sublet and must be retained by the applicant for a period of at least 5 years.

Investments:

- Stocks, bonds or debentures €150,000

Documentation

Applicants are to commit themselves to provide proof of residence in Malta, and to provide proof of title to residential property in Malta in accordance with the IIP Malta regulations.

The number of successful applicants (excluding dependants) shall not exceed 1,800 throughout the duration of the Individual Investor Programme.

Applications for the Individual Investor Programme (IIP) must be submitted to the Maltese Authorities accompanied by the following documents:

- A certificate from a reputable health system that the main applicant and his dependants are not suffering from any contagious disease and that they are in good health
- Police conduct certificates (need not be submitted at application stage but can be submitted at a later date, prior to approval of application)
- Evidence that the main applicant and his dependants are fit and proper persons
- An undertaking to remit the required contribution when called to do so by Identity Malta
- An undertaking to purchase or lease immovable residential property in Malta
- An undertaking to make other investments as required by the regulations
- An affidavit of support for each dependent who is over 18 years old

NB. Where the original documents are in any other language, they are to be accompanied by an authorised true translation – we can assist you with the translation of the IIP documentation.



Application Process

Within ninety days of the receipt of the application, the Authorities shall verify that the IIP application is formally correct, all relevant information provided and the applicant's background have been verified by one or more independent due diligence agents, and that all relevant fees have been paid.

Within thirty days from the date of completion of this verification, and following any further reviews and checks that the Authorities may deem necessary, the applicant's representative will be informed in writing by the Authorities that the application has been approved in principle, refused or delayed.

Once an application is approved in principle, the Authorities will issue a Letter of Approval in Principle to the main applicant informing him/her that within four months from the issue of such letter he/she needs to provide evidence that the main applicant and any dependants are covered by a global health insurance policy and that a contract of purchase or lease to either acquire or lease residential immovable property at the values mentioned above has been entered into.

Within five days of the issue of the Letter of Approval in Principle, the main applicant will be instructed to remit the contribution less the non-refundable payment already received. Payment is to be received within twenty days of such instruction, after which the Authorities will notify the Minister to issue a certificate of naturalisation, following proof by the main applicant that he has been a resident of Malta for a period of at least twelve months preceding the day of issuing the certificate of naturalisation.

The applicants shall be able to demonstrate a connection with the jurisdiction in their personal, social, philanthropic or commercial activities. Applicants already resident one year prior to IIP approval already satisfy this requirement.

This certificate of naturalisation shall only become effective and be made available to the applicant after an oath of allegiance is taken by the applicant. The application process takes between six to twenty four months, provided all the conditions are satisfied. The contribution is not refundable.

Timeline

Formal Application

Application is formally submitted to Identity Malta with the supporting documents. Payments due now include the due diligence fees, passport fees and a deposit of €10k on account of the €650k contribution, less any payments made on applying for residency. Evidence of source of funds to be presented.



Up to 90 days

The Authorities confirm if documentation submitted is in order. Further verification process up to 1 month



Up to 120 days

Principle approval of application under the IIP obligations



Up to 125 days

Formal request for contribution – the authorities request payment of remaining balance



Up to 145 days

Deadline for paying balance on contribution



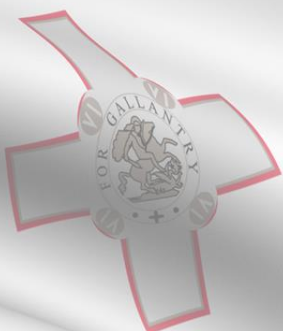
Up to 240 days

Final compliance – the applicants need to provide evidence of property purchase or rental agreement and 150k investment



Up to 183 days

Issue of Certificate of Naturalisation – maximum time to issue – 2 years and subject to Oath of Allegiance and one year residence



Tax

The Maltese tax system decides the income tax on the basis of domicile and residence – not citizenship. Residence for tax purposes is established by demonstrating an intention to reside in Malta indefinitely and definitely on the basis of a day count of 183 days.

Benefits on Sale of Property

- After the obligatory 5 year period, property in Malta can be sold completely exempt from tax if such property is held for a period of 3 years as the resident's sole and ordinary residence. If sold before the lapse of 3 years, property tax of 12% is chargeable on the selling price
- No capital gains tax
- No inheritance tax
- Tax rate for foreign source income remitted to Malta – 15%

Refusal & Revocation

Applications may be refused under the following circumstances:

- Applicant has been denied a visa to a country
- Applicant has a criminal record
- Applicant could represent a potential national security treat
- Applicant is likely to cause disrepute

Reasons for revocation include:

1. Citizenship was acquired by means of fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact
2. The Citizen has shown himself or herself by act or speech to be disloyal or disaffected towards the President or the Government of Malta
3. Citizen had engaged, unlawfully traded or communicated with an enemy or been engaged in or associated with any business that was motivated by willingness to assist an enemy in that war

Malta Individual Investor Programme – Summary

Investment Requirement

€650,000 NDF contribution PLUS €350,000 real estate investment PLUS €150.00 government bonds

Physical Residence Requirement

12 month residency

Timeframe to Obtain Citizenship

1 year

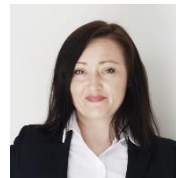
Visa Free Travel Once Citizenship is Granted

166 countries

Key Benefits

- EU citizenship
- Stable and efficient environment for business
- Safe country

Contacts



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