

Maltese Citizenship by Naturalisation for Exceptional Services

The Maltese Citizenship by Naturalisation for Exceptional Services regulations promulgated in 2020, allows for an investor/applicant who is successfully eligible to obtain Maltese citizenship. Under these regulations foreign individuals and their families may be eligible to obtain Maltese citizenship through two possible routes, the first one following a period of thirty-six months and another one after a period of twelve months by exception. These regulations are one of the most prestigious and attractive in the World. Until the issuance of the Maltese passport following a successful application process, applicants/investors apply for Maltese residence immediately, following which a residence card is issued within three weeks, allowing the investors to reside in Malta and travel visa-free throughout the Schengen area.

Application Criteria

- Main applicant must be at least eighteen years of age;
- In possession of a valid travel document;
- Submit application via an Agent licensed in terms of the Agents (Licences) Regulations;
- Satisfy fitness and properness criteria;
- Be of good health and free of contagious diseases; and
- Satisfy investment requirements.

Dependants

- The spouse of the main applicant;
- A child, including an adopted child, of the main applicant or of his spouse who is less than eighteen years of age;
- A child, including an adopted child, of the main applicant or of his spouse, who is between eighteen and twenty-nine years of age, not married, and wholly dependant on the main applicant;
- A parent or grandparent of the main applicant or of his spouse, who has attained fifty-five years of age, who is principally dependant on the main applicant;
- An adult child, including an adopted child, of the main applicant or of his spouse who is a qualified person with a disability as defined in the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act.

Eligibility Requirements

- Purchase a property for a minimum of €700,000 to be held for a minimum of five years; or Take on a lease of a residential immovable property for a minimum annual rent of €16,000 for a minimum period of five years;
- Investment of €600,000 in case of an exceptional direct investment following thirty-six months of residence or €750,000 in case of an exceptional direct investment following less than thirty-six months of residence, and an additional €50,000 investment per dependant in either case.
- Donate a minimum of €10,000 to a registered philanthropic, cultural, sport, scientific, animal welfare or artistic non-governmental organisation prior to the issuance of the certificate of naturalisation.

- Provide proof of residence in Malta of thirty-six months or twelve months in case of a higher exceptional direct investment;
- Purchase a global health insurance for all the family.

Investment and Fees

- At residency stage €10,000 (payment on account of investment amount) must be paid. A €5,000 fee for the Applicant and €1,000 fee for each dependant must be paid for the obtainment of a residence permit.
- At eligibility stage a fee of €15,000 for the Applicant and €10,000 for each dependant must be paid in due diligence fees. An administrative fee of €1,000 per applicant and each dependent would also be due.
- At citizenship stage the remaining investment of €590,000 or €740,000 (as applicable) must be made. The investment of €50,000 for each dependant must also be made, as applicable. Furthermore, at this stage €5,000 for the Applicant and €1,000 for each dependant must be paid in administrative fees. It is at this stage that the rest of the investment obligations (property and donation) must be made.

Process

1	KYC of applicants
2	Submission of Residence Forms to Agency Community Malta ("Agency") for Due Diligence and police clearance
3	Submission of Citizenship eligibility application to Agency for completeness and correctness
4	On the Minister's instructions, the Agency informs the applicant of the Minister's decisions on the applicant's eligibility or otherwise to obtain citizenship
5	Subject to option chosen (12 or 36 months), Agent presents Citizenship application
6	After further checks and due diligence, the Agency informs the Minister with the findings
7	Minister to decide whether to approve application based on Agency findings
8	Applicant fulfills his/her obligations (investment, donation and property)
9	Oath of Allegiance in Malta and certificate of naturalisation by investment

Benefits

Once an applicant and dependants acquire Maltese citizenship, they:

- Benefit from family eligibility;
- Have a right to reside and work in Malta and European Member States;
- Have the right to travel in 182 countries including the US, the UK and Canada without a visa;
- Have the right to live in a democratic, politically stable and safe country;
- Gain access to a multi-cultural environment that accepts diversity;
- Gain access to high level Educational and English Learning institutions;
- Gain access to great health care centres;
- Benefit from an advantageous tax regime.