

Citizenship Application Services

Individuals with dual citizenship receive the benefits and privileges offered by each country, including social service systems, voting rights, permission to work and ease of travel. With a second passport you increase your options to control your life and your assets.

Protecting your life

A second passport in times of uncertainty like war can be your only option to escape from great tragedy.

Protecting your assets

The proliferation of tax systems whereby national tax administrations obtain the right to tax citizens for their worldwide income (eg. deoffshorisation in Russia and FATCA in the US) is creating a surge in the number of applications for dual citizenship.

There are two options to acquire a second passport:

1. Citizenship through naturalisation

This is where you become resident of a country and apply for citizenship as soon as it is allowed according to local law. Some countries, like Switzerland, require you to live in their country for twelve years before you can apply for citizenship, while others, like Singapore, might expect you as a new citizen to go through their two year military service. There are also countries that allow you to apply for citizenship after only as few as three years of residency. During this residency you may not have to live in the country. It can, in certain cases, be sufficient to visit once a year during the naturalisation period.

2. Citizenship through investment: fast track to a second passport

For people who are not able to invest the time required to obtain citizenship, some countries offer the opportunity to acquire citizenship by investment. By making a substantial financial contribution to either a business venture or the purchase of real estate, investors can apply for residency and/or citizenship in a foreign country.

Clients with an interest in investing in Europe tend to favour the programs of countries such as Malta, Austria, Cyprus and Portugal. Austria is viewed as the "golden standard" in the world for dual citizenship. The investor can either choose to make a donation of €2-3m to qualify, or fund their Austrian business ventures by €10m.

Malta

Malta offers residency and ultimately citizenship for a minimum investment amount of €150,000 in bonds or shares and €350,000 in real estate, in addition to a donation of €650,000 to the Maltese government. Fast track residence cards will be issued within one to three weeks, with Schengen mobility for 18 months, and citizenship is approved after a processing time of four months. A passport will be issued after a processing period of 12 months from the date of initial residency.

Cyprus

The minimum investment amount for citizenship in Cyprus is €5m, although citizenship can be granted within three months. The investment amount can be lowered to €2m if the applicant is prepared to make a donation of €500 000.



Global reach
Local knowledge

How TMF Group can help?

TMF Group Malta can support applicants in completing their paperwork for Maltese citizenship. We guide and assist you through the process of collection, collation and preparation of the necessary supporting documentation. We also act as your central point of contact with Identity Malta and as their central point of liaison in the country. In most instances, we will also be available to assist applicants with their residential and other needs in Malta, by connecting them with the relevant local professionals.

Associated fees are calculated on a case by case basis, and take into account the number of dependents included with the main application, and the complexity of the due diligence process. TMF Group Malta is able to provide a fee proposal once a full assessment of your case is carried out. We are available to discuss proposals with introducers in order to ensure that fees quoted are reasonable in view of the circumstances of the case, and the type of service we are engaged to provide.

For more information on how TMF Group Malta can assist with the application process, please contact one of our experts:

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