



Malta Individual Investor Programme

The Malta Individual Investor Programme is aimed at persons who wish to acquire Maltese citizenship by investment. The programme allows applicants and their family the opportunity to acquire Maltese citizenship and to consequently enjoy the rights which other Maltese nationals enjoy as citizens of an EU Member State. Such rights include the right to work, travel, study and reside in Malta and the EU, as well as to have unrestricted, visa-free travel to over 130 countries around the world. Following the successful completion of the programme, one will be in a position to apply for a Maltese passport.

The programme is administered by Identity Malta which is the agency responsible for matters relating to passports, identity documents, work and residence permits for expatriates, land registration and registration of public deeds, acts of civil status and individual investment programmes.

Eligibility

In order for a person to be eligible as a main applicant under the program one would need to:

- be at least eighteen years old
- propose to make a contribution as determined in terms of the programme as outlined below
- meet the application requirements
- commit himself/herself to provide proof of residence in Malta, and to provide proof of title to residential property in Malta in accordance with the requirements of the programme as outlined below
- commit himself/herself to invest, amongst others, in stocks, bonds, debentures, special purpose vehicles or to make other investments as provided from time to time by Identity Malta by means of a notice in the Gazette of Malta.

Dependent

The programme allows dependants of the main applicant to apply for naturalisation in conjunction with the main applicant.

The term "dependent" is defined as:

- the spouse of the main applicant
- a child, including an adopted child, of the main applicant or of his spouse who is less than 18 years of age
- a child of the main applicant or of his spouse who is between the age of 18 and 26 years and who is not married and who proves that he is wholly maintained by the main applicant
- a parent or grandparent of the main applicant or of his spouse above the age of 55 years who prove that they are wholly maintained or supported by the main applicant and form part of the household of the main applicant; or
- a child of the main applicant or of the spouse of the main applicant who is at least 18 years of age, is physically or mentally challenged, and who is living with and is fully supported by the main applicant.





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Investment and residence

As a first step towards naturalisation, the main applicant is required to apply for an E-Residency Card. This card entitles the applicant to establish residence status in Malta and to travel freely within the Schengen Area. Dependents can also apply for this card, although this is only mandatory for the main applicant.

As part of the process of naturalisation, the applicant must give proof of residence in Malta for a minimum of 12 months prior to taking the oath of allegiance, which is the last step of the process. The residence requirement applies only to the main applicant. Main applicants are not expected to live in Malta for 12 months before taking the Oath of Allegiance but are expected to present a proposal explaining how they intend to obtain their residence status in Malta.

In order to apply for an E-Residency Card, one has to visit Malta since the person's biometric data is required. This does not apply to applicants for an E-Residency Card who are below the age of 12 since a passport photo together with the relevant forms will suffice in such cases.

In order to acquire an E-Residence card one is required to prove economic self-sufficiency, possession of a Global Health Insurance and a residential address in Malta.

Further to the residence requirements, the program is linked to investments made by the applicant in Malta. Identity Malta sets contribution levels that must be met and currently these stand as follows:

- Contribution to National Development and Social Fund of EUR 650,000 for the main applicant
- Contribution for spouse and minor children of EUR 25,000 each
- Contribution for dependent children aged 18 to 26 years or dependent parents above 55 years of EUR 50,000 each

Furthermore, certain fees are charged by the agency in relation to due diligence enquiries. These have been set as follows:

- For the main applicant: EUR 7,500
- For spouses, adult children and parents: EUR 5,000
- For children between 13 and 18 years of age: EUR 3,000 each.

Furthermore, the applicant must commit to retain residence in Malta for not less than 5 years. For this purpose, the applicant is required to either purchase or lease a property. In cases where the applicant chooses to purchase a property, the minimum value must exceed €350,000, whilst in cases where the applicant chooses to lease a property, the minimum annual rent must exceed €16,000.

The applicant must also make an investment of €150,000 in Government approved financial instruments, which must be maintained for a minimum period of 5 years.





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Maltese Passport

Upon the receipt of the Certificate of Naturalisation which indicates that the process has been finalised, the applicant may apply for a Maltese passport by providing a complete application form for a European Union Malta passport.

For more information about doing business in Malta and how TMF can help, please contact us:

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