

Maltese Citizenship for Exceptional Services by Direct Investment

Introduction

The Granting of Citizenship for Exceptional Services Regulations, 2020 (the 'Programme') have been introduced by virtue of Legal Notice 437 of 2020 and are effective as from 20 November 2020. Eligible applicants who contribute to the economic development of Malta would be eligible to apply for Maltese citizenship by naturalisation for exceptional services, for themselves and their family dependants, subject to a stringent due diligence process and after being legal residents of Malta for one or three years.

The Programme is administered by Community Malta Agency (the 'Agency') and all prospective applicants need to engage an approved licensed agent to assist them with the application process and to submit their application to the Agency.

Conditions & eligibility – main applicant

Every main applicant should satisfy the following conditions and main eligibility criteria:

General

- must be at least 18 years of age
- must not be a beneficiary under any other Malta residence programme
- must be in receipt of stable and regular sources of income that are sufficient to maintain himself and his dependants in Malta
- must be in possession of a valid travel document
- must be in possession of a health insurance policy in respect of all risks normally covered for Maltese nationals
- must be a 'fit and proper' person – a thorough due diligence investigation will be carried out on the main applicant and dependants (if any), specifically looking at criminal background / charges, international sanctions, business / professional affairs, source of wealth and health history
- must not be a potential threat to national security, public policy or public health
- must not be involved or likely to be involved in any activity which may cause disrepute to Malta

Residency

- the main applicant can apply for Maltese citizenship after 36 months of legal residency in Malta, which, by exception, may be reduced to 12 months
- the main applicant must provide proof of residence and other connecting factors to Malta

Financial

- a non-refundable exceptional direct investment of €600,000¹ or €750,000¹ (depending on the initial duration of the residence status)
- a donation of €10,000 to a local registered NGO, as approved by the Agency
- payment of due diligence fees, residence permit fees, residence card fees and other administrative fees as charged by the Agency or any other authority in Malta

¹ An additional €50,000 investment is required for any additional dependant

Immovable property

The main applicant must hold qualifying immovable property for residence for a minimum period of 5 years from the date of issuance of the certificate of naturalisation, as follows:

- by acquiring immovable property in Malta worth at least €700,000

OR

- by leasing immovable property in Malta with a minimum annual lease payment of €16,000

Eligible dependants

An eligible dependent would be a family member of a main applicant and shall include:

- the spouse of the main applicant
- minor children (younger than 18 years) of the main applicant and/or of the spouse
- adult children (younger than 29 years) of the main applicant and/or of the spouse, who must not be married and must be financially dependent on the main applicant
- children over 18 years who are mentally or physically disabled and who must be supported by the main applicant
- parents and/or grandparents (older than 55 years) of the main applicant and/or of the spouse, who must be financially dependent on the main applicant

Vistra

Vistra Residency Services Limited has been duly licensed under the Agents (Licences) Regulations with licence number AKM-VIST-21.

Vistra can also assist beneficiaries to comply with all necessary recurrent requirements, including compliance and renewals. A dedicated team of experienced professionals can also provide concierge services which includes property management, lifestyle management and personal assistance.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this fact sheet is a general description of the Programme. For more detailed information, please contact us.

Get in touch

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