



CITIZENSHIP MALTA

2021
EDITION

EMPIRE PLLC, A Global Advisory Firm
Members of State Bar of Texas & California*
2211 Norfolk St Ste 600
Houston, TX 77098-4055
USA OFFICE +1 972-370-3203



MALTA CITIZENSHIP BY NATURALIZATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES BY DIRECT INVESTMENT (MEIN)

The previous Malta Citizenship by Investment Program has been terminated permanently. Malta introduced the new concept of Granting of Citizenship for Exceptional Services Regulations aka Malta Citizenship by Naturalization for Exceptional Services by Direct Investment.

The new legislation has an increased focus on ensuring applicants have a genuine link with the country. Successful candidates will be granted citizenship in Malta by a Certificate of Naturalization, which can also be extended to include their families. Once a candidate is awarded Maltese citizenship, they can set up business in the country and get a Malta passport enabling them to enjoy visa-free travel to more than 160 countries across the world including the United States.

All individuals and families applying for Malta economic citizenship must make a significant non-refundable investment in the National Development and Social Fund (NDSF) set up by the Government of Malta and run by a board of trustees. The fund, which is on the same level as the central bank, finances projects in the country linked to public health, education, job creation, social improvement, and innovation. The following investments must be made within four months of being issued a citizenship Malta Letter of Approval in Principle:

- Main applicant – €600,000 (3-year residency) or €750,000 (1 year residency)
- Spouse – €50,000
- Dependent children – €50,000 each
- Dependent parents & grandparents – €50,000 each



ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

The Malta MEIN program is open to all individuals who fulfill **the requirements laid down by law**. The basic eligibility for an applicant is:

- a) Be over the age of 18
- b) Have a clean criminal record and pass a stringent due diligence process
- c) Not be from one of the 'banned' countries list
- d) Fulfill all the necessary investment requirements.
- e) Not have been previously denied a visa to a country that has a visa-free travel agreement with Malta, and, has subsequently not obtained a visa to the country that issued the denial.
- f) Not be deemed a national security risk or a reputation risk
- g) Not be under a criminal investigation

Dependents eligible for application

Dependents are also eligible to apply for a residence along with the main applicant. The following persons are applicable for such an application:

- Spouse
- Unmarried dependents under 20 years old
- Any dependent parents over the age of 55 years, which must be fully dependent on the main applicant.

Each family member must have a clean record and pass a personal background check.

PROCESS OF OBTAINING MALTA CITIZENSHIP AND COSTS



Stage 1: Residency in Malta

At the first stage, it is necessary to apply for a Maltese residence card. An applicant must first pass CMA's thorough due diligence check. A residence card valid for 36 months will be given to an applicant if the application is approved. Afterward, collecting biometric data for the residence card and lease of an apartment should be made.

Fees:

- (a) €10,000 for the residence permit
- (b) Government residency application fees- €5,000 for main applicant and €1,000 per dependant
- (c) Residency card fees – €27.50 per applicant
- (d) GCS fees (50%)

Stage 2: Eligibility for citizenship

Within 12 months from the issue date of the residency card, citizenship eligibility application must be submitted to the CMA. The CMA will perform due diligence and present the application to the Minister who will decide on eligibility of the applicant. Further information and documents may be requested.

Fees:

- (a) Due diligence fees – €5,000 for the main applicant, €15,000 for the benefactor (if applicable) and €10,000 per dependant aged 13 years old and above (paid directly to the Agency)
- (b) Admin fees – €1,000 per applicant (paid directly to the Agency)
- (c) GCS fees (50%)

PROCESS OF OBTAINING MALTA CITIZENSHIP AND COSTS



Stage 3: Maltese Citizenship

After 12 months or 36 months from your residency stage, it is possible to submit Malta citizenship application to the CMA. Once the application is approved by the Minister, citizenship is granted.

Around 2 to 3 months from the approval date are needed to get Maltese citizenship. If the application is approved and citizenship is granted, the applicants has to fulfill the Exceptional Investment, Donation, and Property requirements.. This has to be done in order to start the process of naturalization.

Fees:

(a) Admin fees – €500 per applicant (paid directly to the Agency)

Stage 4: Naturalization

If all the previous stages are done successfully, the main applicant and any dependent will be invited to visit Malta and take the Oath of Allegiance.

The Oath of Allegiance must be completed within 6 months from the issuance date of Letter of Approval in Principle.

Certificate of Naturalization is granted to applicants who obtained Maltese citizenship.

Fees:

(a) Govt Direct Investment – €600,000 or €740,000 for main applicant and €50,000 per dependant

(b) Charity donation – €10,000