

MALTA'S INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP

# Malta Citizenship By Naturalisation For Exceptional Services By Direct Investment



## OVERVIEW

Since the end of 2020, Malta's government has welcomed applications for citizenship from people contributing to the island's economic development.

Open to qualifying individuals, their families and dependents, citizenship allows you to live and work in Malta and any European Union member country, and to travel freely within the EU and worldwide to over 180 countries including Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, the US and UK.

Comprehensive criteria and conditions for those considering application are set out in the 'Granting of Citizenship for Exceptional Services Regulations'. These also place an annual limit on the number of accepted applicants, each of whom must pass stringent due diligence tests and meet a minimum expected level of investment.

## KEY INFORMATION

### Who can apply?

Under the regulations, persons aged 18 and over can apply for Maltese citizenship. They may include family members within the application, including spouse, unmarried dependents under the age of 29 and dependent parents over the age of 55.

The main applicant and any dependents must have backgrounds free from anything Malta's Government views as undesirable. This includes not being under criminal investigation, nor deemed a potential national security or reputational risk, not denied a visa from countries Malta has free travel arrangements with and not included on a US travel ban list.

The Maltese Government specifically excludes nationals of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). This list, which may change from time-to-time, extends to those who reside, do business or have significant ties and connections to these countries.

The Community Malta Agency (CMA) is responsible for administering the citizenship application process on behalf of the Maltese Government.

## Principal requirements

Successful applicants must:

- Have been legally resident in Malta for a minimum of 36 months (or 12 months by exception), leasing a residential property during that time with annual rental value of at least €16,000.
- Make a minimum investment in Malta of €590,000 (or €740,000 after 12 months by exception).
- From the point of being granted citizenship, purchase a Maltese residential property for a minimum of €750,000 or lease a residential property with annual rental value of at least €16,000. In both cases, the property must be retained (and not sub-let) for a minimum of five years eneral partnership
- Donate a minimum of €10,000 to an approved and registered sport, cultural, scientific, philanthropic, animal welfare, or artistic non-governmental organisation or society.

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# Malta Citizenship By Naturalisation For Exceptional Services By Direct Investment (Cont.)

## The Process

Under the regulations, a five-stage application process exists.

### 1 Residence stage

- Main applicant and all adult dependents apply for a Maltese residency card.
- Undergo CMA Tier 1 due diligence to decide whether residence is approved.
- Subject to approval, residency cards are issued and applicants can move to the next stage.

### 2 Eligibility Stage

- Submit a Citizenship Eligibility Application, undergo CMA Tier 2 due diligence and ensure application is correct and complete (further information and documents may be requested).
- Undergo CMA Tier 3 and Tier 4 due diligence.
- Applications and outcome of due diligence presented to Maltese Government minister who decides whether applicants are eligible for citizenship or not.
- Subject to ministerial approval, applicants start Maltese citizenship application process.

### 3 Citizenship Stage

- After completing the 36 months residence period (or 12 months by exception), citizenship application can be submitted to the CMA.
- Following a due diligence update, the CMA presents final findings to the minister who decides whether to approve the application and grant Maltese citizenship or not..
- Subject to above approval, the applicant must fulfil the investment, property and donation requirements for naturalisation process to begin.
- Subject to ministerial approval, applicants start Maltese citizenship application process.

### 4 Naturalisation

- Subject to fulfilling the investment, property and donation requirements, the main applicant and adult dependents are invited to visit Malta and take oath of allegiance..
- Applicants are granted Maltese citizenship and issued a certificate of naturalisation.

### 5 Monitoring

- The CMA conducts continuous monitoring for five years

## GOVERNMENT FEES AND INVESTMENTS APPLYING DURING EACH APPLICATION STAGE

| Residence stage |  |         |
|-----------------|--|---------|
| Applicant       | Part payment of non-refundable deposit | €10,000 |
| Applicant       | Residence permit                       | €5,000  |
| Each dependant  | Residence permit                       | €1,000  |
| Applicant       | Residency card                         | €27.50  |
| Each dependant  | Residency card                         | €27.50  |

Continues over

# Malta Citizenship By Naturalisation For Exceptional Services By Direct Investment (Cont.)

## Fees (cont.)

| <b>Eligibility stage: Eligibility Payment Request Voucher (EPRV)</b> |   |          |
|--|---|----------|
| Applicant  | Due diligence fee   | €15,000  |
| Each dependant   | Due diligence fee   | €10,000  |
| Benefactor   | Due diligence fee   | €15,000  |
| Per applicant / dependant  | Administrative fee  | €1,000   |
| <b>Citizenship stage: Investment Request Voucher (IRV)</b>           |   |          |
| Applicant  | Exceptional direct investment (36 months residency)           | €590,000 |
| Applicant  | Exceptional direct investment (Less than 36 months residency) | €740,000 |
| Each dependant   | Exceptional direct investment                                 | €50,000  |
| Per applicant  | Administrative fee  | €5,000   |
| Per dependant  | Administrative fee  | €1,000   |

## HOW CAN ACUMUM HELP?

Acumum has extensive experience of the Maltese citizenship application process and has established connections to government and non-government agencies involved.

We can provide advice and support at all stages of the application process. This includes advising on application requirements, assisting with the application process and providing expert support to ensure efficient progress towards successful completion.

To find out more or have a no-commitment initial conversation contact Acumum on:

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## ABOUT ACUMUM

Based in Ireland, Malta and the UK, we provide a comprehensive and award-winning range of legal, corporate, and private client services to international clients.

Guided by a commitment to long-term relationships and exemplary customer service, our experienced team works to create inclusive, practical and cost-efficient solutions for clients. Among those we work with are individuals, family offices, companies, governments and intermediaries.