



# Malta (EU) Citizenship for Exceptional Services by **Direct Investment**

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A sparkling jewel, set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the island nation of Malta is consistently ranked as one of the world's top countries to live in terms of political freedom, climate, education, community and quality of life.

Malta has also enjoyed strong economic growth, with rising property prices and a boom in the traditionally service-based economy with the development of the islands as a centre for international trade and finance. Supported by EU-membership, a highly-respected regulatory environment, a beneficial tax regime, a stable banking system and a highly educated and English-speaking workforce – Malta is consistently seen as one of the best global locations from which to do business.

Boasting an average of 300 days of sun per year, with a rich tapestry of history and culture to explore, along with some of the finest beaches, bars, restaurants, clubs and scuba diving locations in the central Mediterranean – then we have seen the popularity of Malta explode as a destination for those seeking a stable and secure base for sound generational planning.

The Government of Malta, through the Citizenship through Investment Programme allows for the grant of citizenship by a certificate of naturalisation to foreign individuals and their families who contribute to the economic development of Malta.

The Maltese Citizenship Programme is a distinguished pathway to acquiring citizenship by naturalization in Malta. This exclusive programme offers individuals and their families a unique opportunity to obtain Maltese citizenship through a well-defined and rigorous process. Allow us to guide you through the essential components of this exceptional programme.

The Maltese Citizenship Programme grants individuals the esteemed status of citizenship by naturalization. To be eligible for this privilege, the principal applicant and all adult dependants must fulfill the requirement of holding Maltese residency status for a minimum of 36 months. However, it is worth noting that there exists an exception where residency status for a minimum of 12 months may be considered under specific circumstances.

To contribute to the economic and social development of Malta, applicants are required to make specific financial commitments. The contribution amounts vary depending on the duration of residency:

- ☑ **Principal applicant (36 months residency):** €600,000
- ☑ **Principal applicant (12 months residency):** €750,000
- ☑ **Contribution for dependants:** €50,000 (exact source not found, subject to verification)
- ☑ **Residence Requirement:** Applicants must fulfill the residency requirement by holding Maltese residency status for the specified duration.
- ☑ **Property Requirement:** As part of the programme, applicants are required to meet specific property criteria. This includes either:
  - ☑ **Property Purchase:** €700,000
  - ☑ **Property Rental:** Minimum annual rental of €16,000

Once the property is acquired, it must be retained for a minimum of five years from the date of issuing the citizenship certificate.

In addition to the financial contributions and property criteria, applicants are also required to make a donation of €10,000 to a registered philanthropic, cultural, sports, scientific, animal welfare, or artistic non-governmental organization or society. This donation should be made before the certificate of naturalization is issued, or as otherwise approved by the Agency.

Upon fulfilling the necessary requirements and submitting the payment request voucher settlement, the applicant receives a Letter of Approval for eligibility. The issuance of this letter typically takes between 120 and 150 calendar days.

Following the issuance of the Letter of Principle Approval, the principal applicant is instructed to remit the contribution within 25 days. Payment must be received within twenty days of such instruction. Once the payment is received, the Authorities notify the Minister to issue a certificate of naturalization. It is important to note that the contribution made is non-refundable.

By following the below procedure, you can navigate the process of obtaining Maltese citizenship through the Maltese Citizenship Programme.

### **Power of Attorney**

The prospective applicant gives a power of attorney to the Agent to act on their behalf for the entire duration of the application process.

### **Residence**

The Agent performs Tier 1 due diligence on the prospective applicant and submits the Residency application. The Agency conducts Tier 1 due diligence and obtains the first police clearance.

### **Eligibility**

The applicant must be willing to contribute through an exceptional direct investment in the economic and social development of Malta. The Agent submits the Citizenship eligibility application to the Agency. Birth and marriage certificates are submitted to the Public Registry and Passport Office by the Agent.

### **Due Diligence**

The Agency performs Tier 2 due diligence and ensures the correctness and completeness of the application. Further information and documents may be requested by the Agency to provide all the necessary documentation. The Agency then conducts Tiers 3 and 4 due diligence and presents the application and its findings to the Minister.

### **Eligibility Decision**

On the Minister's instructions, the Agency informs the Agent of the Minister's decision regarding the applicant's eligibility to apply for Maltese Citizenship.

### **Citizenship Application**

After 12 months or 36 months of residency, the Agent presents the Citizenship application to the Agency.

### **Update Due Diligence**

The Agency updates its due diligence on the applicant and presents its final findings to the Minister.

### **Citizenship Decision**

The Agency informs the Agent of the Minister's decision regarding the granting of Maltese Citizenship, based on the Minister's instructions.

### **Investments**

The applicant fulfils the exceptional investment, donation, and property requirements as outlined in the programme.

### **Oath of Allegiance**

The applicant is invited to Malta and takes the Oath of Allegiance to Malta, pledging to abide by the Constitution of Malta. The applicant also undertakes to promote the fundamental and democratic values of Malta and support the Maltese Community in the spirit of social justice and equity. The Oath of Allegiance must be taken within 6 months from the in-principle approval of the applicant. Upon taking the Oath, the applicant is granted Maltese Citizenship and issued a Certificate of Naturalisation.

### **Monitoring**

The Agency conducts continuous monitoring for a period of five years. Promethean Advisory is a leading law firm and immigration specialist in Malta which, as an accredited agent, is best placed to assist you with an effective, efficient and seamless application under the Malta Citizenship for Exceptional Services by Direct Investment Programme – and can provide any ancillary support and advice as is required with respect to accommodation, education, and any others matters as may be required to make your stay in Malta a comfortable, pleasant and productive one.



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