

Cyprus Citizenship by Investment

Cyprus is currently the only European country which by law offers citizenship and passport in 3-6 months without having to live there at any point in time (the only fast track EU citizenship program).

| Description of program: | Residency and Passport |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Timeline: | 2 months |
| No of countries for visa-free travel: | 146 countries and the EU (including 27 European Schengen Countries) |
| Right to live, work and study in EU: | Yes |
| Mandatory visit: | No |
| Requirement to reside: | No |
| Requirement of tax residency: | No |
| Investment: | €5mn (which can be reduced to €2.5mn in the case of a collective investment) |

Investment criteria

The Ministry of Interior announced the new criteria for the Naturalization of foreigners investing in Cyprus as approved by the Council of Ministers on 19 March 2014. The Cyprus Government through the Ministry of Interior has reduced further the already revised set of economic criteria.

A non-Cypriot citizen, who meets one of the following economic criteria, either personally or through a company which her or she participates as a shareholder that meets one of the economic criteria set out, may apply for the acquisition of the Cypriot citizenship through Naturalization by exception.

The investment program enables foreign citizens to apply for a Cyprus citizenship provided that they:

a. purchase and maintain a privately owned residence in Cyprus, the value of which must be at least €500.000, excluding VAT;

b. have a clean criminal record

c. hold a confirmation that he or she is not included in the list of persons whose assets in the EU are subject to sequestration

d. are 30 years old and over



Investment Required

Following recent amendments, the applicant is required to meet one of the following key financial criteria. Spouses and dependent children are not required to meet any additional financial requirements:

1. Deposits in banks operating in Cyprus for a minimum of €5m, fixed for 3 years, or

2. Direct investments in Cyprus for a minimum of €5m held for at least 3 years in any of the following:

- government bonds
- financial assets (bonds, shares or debentures) of Cypriot companies or Cypriot organizations
- investment in real estate

- purchase or creation or participation in Cypriot businesses or companies: The applicant must have made an investment of at least €5mn in the purchase, creation or participation in businesses or companies, that are based and operating in the Republic. These businesses or companies should evidently have a presence in Cyprus and employ at least five (5) Cypriot citizens. This criterion includes share participation in a Cyprus bank, and also applies to investors who have shares in Cyprus companies which satisfy the investment criteria.

3. Combination of any of the above, or

4. Collective Real estate investment, comprising of an investment of €2.5mn per investor (5 applicants for €2.5m each), where the total value of the collective real estate investments is at least €12.5mn. The investment can be done through an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).

Qualifying Criteria

- The main applicant must be 30 years of age and above.

- The main applicant can include their dependent spouse and children on the application.

- The applicant's spouse applies simultaneously with the applicant for citizenship. The dependents may apply on

approval of their parent's application. namely within 3 months of the date of submission at no extra cost.

- The definition of dependent is as follows:

Children, up to the age of 18 and

Children from the age of 18-28, if they are financially dependent on the main applicant

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