

Malta – Great Options for Residency and Citizenship



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Why is Malta an interesting option for residency and citizenship?

Malta is a very beautiful country located in the Mediterranean, close to Sicily. It is made up of a lot of little islands and offers a Mediterranean lifestyle. Malta is well known for its education system, its healthcare system, and also its low crime rate. It is a very safe island on which to live. I've been living here for quite a long time myself. Malta is well located, with good access via both sea and air, as well as direct access to Asia, Europe, and North Africa too.

As of June, Malta has recorded zero cases of Covid-19 for the past 11 months. It shows how seriously they have dealt with the pandemic. The island has also led the European Union with their vaccination program. Most of the adult population has been vaccinated, with 75% having already received the first dose of vaccine.

It is strategic to invest in Malta because of its stability, predictability, and security. Malta's economy is very strong, which attracts investments directly to its shores. Malta pays very close attention to the design of its financial framework. I believe that Malta is the best option to choose when it comes to investment migration given the direction in which it is heading.

What are the different choices available?

Malta offers two different options. To start with, there is the Malta Citizenship by Naturalisation for Exceptional Services by Direct Investment option, which could eventually lead to citizenship once the applicant has been deemed eligible to apply for it. This option has a minimum investment of EUR738,000, if the applicant goes down the route of 36 months, or an investment of EUR888,000, if the applicant chooses to go through the 12-month route. Applicants and other dependents need to hold valid Maltese residence certificates for a minimum of 36 months, or 12 months, depending on the option they have chosen. Under the direct investment

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regulation, the number of applications allowed is 400 per year, with a total of 1,500. The Malta passport provides its holders with visa free access to 186 destinations excluding the current temporary Covid-19 travel bans.

Once the residency requirements have been fulfilled and we have submitted the eligibility pack to the government agency, they will run their own very strict due diligence process and only then let us know if applicants are deemed eligible to continue with the process, which would then lead to applying for citizenship.

Malta has the world's strictest due diligence standards and stringent vetting of applications. It is a detailed application that needs to be submitted to the government and takes a minimum of 120 days to be reviewed before we can move to the next step in the process.

Malta also has a new Permanent Residence Programme available. What does this program entail?

The Malta Permanent Residence Programme was known by a different name a few months ago. In the past it was called the 'Malta Visa and Residency Program', but now it has been changed to the Malta Permanent Residence Programme. There is a minimum contribution of EUR175,000 mixed capital requirements and the program has a processing time of four to six months. The Maltese residence certificate, which acts as a permit, will give its holders visa free access to all countries in Europe and the Schengen area. It allows residency in an EU member state that is neutral, stable, and highly respected, and grants its holders the right to reside, settle, and stay in Malta. Applicants

also have the opportunity to add their parents, their children, and their spouse to their application.

Malta has been such a popular option with our clients. Our clients are wealthy entrepreneurs and businesspeople that are looking to invest or open a company in Malta. Having a Maltese residence certificate or a Maltese citizenship would give them the option to do this freely. The programme is also very popular because of the stability of the country.

Clients can settle down with their family in a safe country that is a great place to raise your children. There are well-known and reputable schools. Malta also has a lot of beautiful natural places to visit, and charming little islands to go spend time on as well. It really is an excellent alternative residence or citizenship option to have. ■

