

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of Valletta, Malta. The image shows the historic city with its yellow buildings, the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, and the harbor with a large cruise ship docked. The city is surrounded by the sea, and the harbor is filled with water and boats.

The Maltese Citizenship by Naturalization for Exceptional Services by Direct Investment

The 'Maltese Citizenship by Naturalization for Exceptional Services by Direct Investment' ('The New Regulations') provides for the grant of a certificate of naturalization as a citizen of Malta to any foreign individuals and their families who contribute to the economic development fund of Malta and meet the statutory requirements.

The New Regulations were introduced by virtue of Legal Notice 437 of 2020, in terms of the Maltese Citizenship Act.



Who is eligible to apply?

An individual shall be eligible under the New Regulations if he/she:

- is at least eighteen years of age;
- proposes to make an investment as required by 'The New Regulations';
- meets the application requirements;
- commits to provide proof of a residential address in Malta as required by 'The New Regulations';
- Makes a donation as required by the regulations to a registered philanthropic, cultural, sport, scientific, animal welfare or artistic non-governmental organisation or society, or as otherwise approved by the Agency;
- is covered by an indefinite global health insurance policy (including his/her dependants); and
- provides proof of residency in Malta for the applicable 12 or 36 month period, as required by 'The New Regulations'.

Furthermore, an applicant and his/her dependants must satisfy the minimum eligibility criteria which mainly include:

- proper background verification;
- clean criminal record and is not subject to international sanctions;
- not being subject to any criminal investigation;
- not being a potential national security threat to Malta;
- not being involved in any activity likely to cause

disrepute to Malta; and

- not having been denied a visa to a country with which Malta has a visa-free travel arrangements and who has not subsequently obtained a visa to the country that issued the denial.

All eligibility criteria must be satisfied in order for an applicant to be approved.

Dependants include:

- The beneficiary's spouse or individual of similar status;
- Children (including adopted children) of the beneficiary or the beneficiary's spouse. Adult children who are under 29 years of age, provided that they are unmarried and principally dependant on the beneficiary. Adult children with a disability as defined in the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act;
- A parent or grandparent of the beneficiary or the beneficiary's spouse who are over 55 years of age and principally dependant on the main applicant.

Application requirements

The qualifications and general requirements for applications under 'The New Regulations' are the following:

- a certificate in the form prescribed by Identity Malta from a reputable health system that the applicant and his/her dependants are in good

health, police certificate/s;

- evidence, through due diligence processes, that the main applicant and his/her dependants are fit and proper persons;
- an undertaking to remit the total of the required contribution;
- an undertaking to purchase or take on lease of immovable residential property in Malta,
- an undertaking to meet the relevant investment and donation requirements, and any other documents that may be required from time to time by notices issued by the Community Malta Agency;
- The main applicant must provide an affidavit of support for each eligible dependant who is over eighteen years old (with the exception of the spouse);
- Application forms and any documents submitted with it shall be completed in the English language. Should the original language of the document not be English, such document must be accompanied by an authenticated translation;
- If an applicant makes a false statement or omits requested information, the application may be declined;
- If a person has been granted citizenship, the Minister reserves the right to deprive a person of his/her citizenship if the person fails to comply with the requirements set out in the regulations or has become a threat to national security or is involved in conduct which is seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of Malta;
- The number of successful main applicants shall not exceed 400 per annum and 1,500 applications in total.

Residence leading to Citizenship - requirements and schedule of fees

The New Regulations prescribed four main stages as follows:

Phase 1

Application for Maltese residence card

At this stage, the applicant:

- Needs to include all the dependants who will be part of the application;
- Has to provide clear indication with respect to whether the applicant will be opting for the 12 or 36 month option.

Phase 2

Application for Eligibility test

- Application needs to be submitted within 12 months from obtaining the Maltese residence card;
- The applicant should provide detailed information in connection with the source of fund and source of wealth of the main applicant together with other details on the main applicant and the dependants included in the application;
- Upon approval by the Minister, an eligibility letter of approval ('E-LoA') will be issued

Phase 3

Application for Maltese Citizenship

- Once that the E-LoA is issued and the applicable 12-month / 36-month residency period is completed, the applicant must submit the necessary documentation with respect to the Citizenship Application;
- This will be followed by a final in-depth due diligence that will eventually lead to the Minister's final approval decision.

Phase 4

Letter of Approval in Principle and investment obligation

- Upon positive consideration by the Minister, a final letter of approval in principle ('LoA') will be issued to the main applicant;
- The main applicant will be requested to fulfill the exceptional investment, donation and property requirements within 4 months from the date of issue of the LoA;
- Upon completion of the obligations, the main applicant and any dependants included within the application will be invited to visit Malta to take the oath of allegiance with Malta



Summary of monetary requirements under the New Regulations



(a) The following contributions are required:

Main applicant	€750,000 for 12-month residency or €600,000 for 36-month residency* *of which €10,000 (in both cases) are non-refundable and payable at Phase 1
Each Dependant	€50,000

(b) The following fees shall be payable with respect to each application:

i Due Diligence fees

Main applicant	€15,000
Each Dependant	€10,000
Benefactor (if applicable)	€15,000

ii Administration fees (related to submissions and processing by the Agency)

Main applicant	€6,500*
Each Dependant	€2,500*

*Plus €27.50 for the issue of the residency card

(c) Other requirements

Property Requirements Purchase of immovable property with value of at least €700,000 or Rental of €16,000 / year
Philanthropic Donation To a registered organisation of at least €10,000

Contact us



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PwC has been authorised to act as an Accredited Person in terms of the applicable rules and is in a position to assist with completion and submission of the relevant application forms, as well as providing guidance throughout the whole process.

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