

## Cyprus Residency by Investment

Advantages for life





# Welcome

**Welcome to Cyprus**, an island loved by its citizens and chosen by expatriates as the home of their heart. With a total area of 9,251km<sup>2</sup>, Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. This relatively small size contrasts sharply with the high standard of living and the quality of life that the island offers.

Cyprus is where you can live the life that you always hoped for, both for yourself and your children.

Make Cyprus your home and you can travel and conduct your business effectively and efficiently. Two international airports, in Larnaca and Paphos, provide frequent and regular links to all the major airports, East and West. The road network is fully developed, while professional services and telecommunications are of the highest standard.

In your leisure time, you will always find something new to enjoy: an abundance of shopping, entertainment and leisure facilities for all ages, as well as natural beauty spots and places of interest both along the coast and in the mountains.

Get to know Cyprus by exploring the traces of 10 millennia, which retain their timeless value alongside local culture, traditions and customs, and echo the mixed influence of the island's changing population over the centuries.

It only takes one visit to realize that Cyprus is a country like no other; a place where people matter and everyone is welcome.



# The good life... in Cyprus

## Comfortable lifestyle

Cyprus combines mild and sunny Mediterranean weather with a distinctly European lifestyle at a comfortable pace, due to the short distances from coast to coast.

## Safety

Cyprus ranks as the 5th safest country in the world, with the lowest crime rate in Europe.

## Legal system

As a former British colony, Cyprus's legal system is largely based on the UK legal system.

## Language

Although Greek is the main official language, English is so widely spoken, it is easy to communicate both in the business environment and in everyday life.

## Education

Your children can enjoy education of a high and internationally recognized standard. Private schools, colleges and universities with English as the language of instruction grant certificates, diplomas and degrees in various fields, including medicine. High school education can also prepare school leavers for universities in the UK, United States and Canada, as well as other EU countries.

## Health care

For family health, there is no shortage of private doctors, specialists and surgeons who have qualified mainly in the UK, USA or Greece and offer immediate, high quality health care in private practices as well as hospitals.

## Multicultural environment

As an island that is geographically positioned between East and West, people from around the world have made Cyprus their second home. The diversity of the island's residents gives Cypriot society a multicultural dimension that makes it easy for anyone to feel at home.





# Cyprus Permanent Residency-by-Investment Program

In August 2012, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus introduced new legislation under the provisions of regulation 6(2) of the Aliens and Immigration Regulations 1972-2013, based on the Aliens and Immigration Law, Cap. 105, which was revised in May 2013.

This legislation enables non-EU nationals to obtain a Cyprus residence permit, with unlimited duration, within 60 days. The permit is valid for the entire family including dependent children over 18 years of age, subject to certain conditions being fulfilled. Furthermore, the process is extremely straightforward and can even be arranged through your representative, without your physical presence in Cyprus.

With one straightforward application accompanied by evidence of the required investment, you can obtain Cyprus residency for you and your dependents, for life.

# Key benefits of Cyprus residency

Residency in Cyprus, a member of the European Union, offers many benefits, which is why the Government's Residency-by-Investment Program has been so well received by non-EU citizens.

Having a second home in Cyprus will allow you and your family to enjoy so many factors that contribute to an excellent quality of life.



## **A safe haven**

Whatever the circumstances in your own country, you know that you and your family can travel to Cyprus anytime without the hassle of an entry visa, whether for business or pleasure, or in times of need.

## **Studying and working**

One of the most valuable benefits of Cyprus residency is that it allows you to legally reside on the island indefinitely. Residents' children can attend any schools and may apply to all colleges and universities.

Although permit holders are not allowed to be employed in Cyprus, they are entitled to be shareholders and receive income as dividends of a company registered in Cyprus. This allows them to benefit from the low corporate tax rate of just 12.5% on net profits and 0% tax on dividends.

## **Tax implications**

Investors are not deemed to be residents for tax purposes unless they actually spend more than 183 days a year in Cyprus. Furthermore, there is no inheritance tax in Cyprus, which means your property will pass to your children without any financial burden.

## **A stepping stone to full citizenship**

Seven years after residency has been granted, the residence permit holders are entitled to apply for Cypriot citizenship through naturalisation, with a Cyprus/EU passport, provided they have spent at least five years in Cyprus.



# Cyprus Residency by Investment at a glance

- Simple criteria, compared to other destinations
- Process can be conducted from abroad
- 100% approval rate if all criteria are fulfilled
- Quick approval within 3 to 8 weeks maximum
- Lifetime residency for the whole family
- No language proficiency, academic qualifications or physical examination required
- Requirement for a short visit once every two years
- Schengen visa can be arranged in Cyprus within 7 days and is valid for 2 years
- Employment is not permitted, but permanent residents may be the shareholders of a locally registered company and benefit from it.
- Freehold property ensures permanent property rights and the opportunity to generate rental income.
- Residency is a stepping stone to full citizenship.

You can obtain Cyprus residency without relocating immediately. It simply gives you the option to visit anytime, and make Cyprus your home whenever you're ready.

# Your detailed guide to Cyprus Residency by Investment

## The process

Cyprus is the only European Union country that allows non-EU nationals to obtain permanent residency within such a short period and with such simple criteria. The process can even be handled by a representative on the island, without the applicant being physically present. Provided that the application criteria are met, all applications will be successful.

The simple and straightforward application process covers the following steps:

1. Acquisition of property/ies in Cyprus with a minimum value of €300,000
2. Transfer of €30,000 to a Cyprus bank 3-year fixed deposit account
3. Preparation of required documents to support the application
4. Review of the application by the Civil Registry and Migration Department before it is submitted to the Minister of the Interior for a decision. Personal interviews are not usually necessary for this category of permit. The maximum total examination period is two months.
5. Once the application has been approved, the applicant must visit Cyprus within one year to obtain the actual permit and passport stamps. The passports can be forwarded to your representative in Cyprus to be stamped.

The permit is valid indefinitely, provided that the applicant and dependents visit Cyprus at least once every two years.



## Detailed criteria and required documentation

### 1. Property acquisition

The key criterion is the purchase of new immovable property or properties with a minimum value of €300,000 (excluding VAT). Only new properties purchased directly from a developer qualify for this scheme.

The applicant must submit the application form together with a contract of sale and proof of payment of at least €200,000 (excluding VAT). The property can also be purchased by a company which is registered in the name of the applicant and/or the applicant and spouse, provided that he/she/they are the sole shareholders. The contract of sale must be submitted to the Cyprus Department of Land and Surveys.

Provided that the combined value exceeds €300,000 per married couple, the property acquired for the purpose of this application could be:

- One residential property
- Two residential properties (apartments/houses)
- One residential unit and one shop (with a minimum area of 100sqm)
- One housing unit and one office (with a minimum area of 250sqm).

### 2. Annual income

The applicant must provide a declaration stating a secure annual income from a legitimate source outside Cyprus, with supporting documentation. The minimum annual income per applicant is €30,000, plus an additional €5,000 per dependent up to the age of 18. For a married couple, a combined annual income of €35,000 is acceptable.

### 3. Fixed deposit

A statement of deposit must be provided showing a minimum deposit of €30,000 in a Cypriot bank account, which will be blocked for a period of 3 years. At the end of this period, the funds will be released without restriction and without the need to notify the authorities.

### 4. Statement of intent

The applicant must provide an official statement, confirming that he/she does not intend to work or be engaged in any form of business in Cyprus. However, the applicant and/or his wife are entitled to be a shareholder and receive income as dividends of a company registered in Cyprus without affecting their application.

#### 5. Dependent children over 18 years old

The permit covers the applicant's spouse and children under the age of 18. Permits may be granted to dependent children aged 18-25, provided that they are full-time students or are financially dependent on the applicant/s. Supporting documentation is required. In such cases the required secured annual income is increased by €5,000 per dependent child. After the age of 25, a new and separate application must be submitted for each child.

#### 6. Non-dependent children over 18 years old

Permits can also be obtained for non-dependent children over 18 years old provided that each child has an attributable market value of €300,000 (excluding VAT) of the acquired property, over and above the €300,000 attributable to the main applicant. In such cases the application must be accompanied by a receipt of payment for at least 66% of the purchase price of the acquired property.

The value of the property required for an application to cover a married couple and a non-dependent child over 25 years of age would therefore be at least €600,000 (excluding VAT), with payment receipts covering at least €396,000.

As in the case of the main application, each non-dependent child must also submit all other required documents, such as the secure annual income of at least €30,000 and a 3-year fixed deposit account.

#### 7. Other required documents

The main documents that must accompany your application are

- Clean criminal record issued in the country of origin
- Health insurance policy
- Marriage certificate and children's birth certificates
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Copy of a passport which is valid for at least 2 years

Per married couple	Fast Track Procedure – total cost
Minimum investment amount	€325,000 (property price including 5% VAT)
Minimum bank deposit	€30,000
Government charges	€600
TOTAL	€355,600





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