

RESIDENCE AND CITIZENSHIP PLANNING



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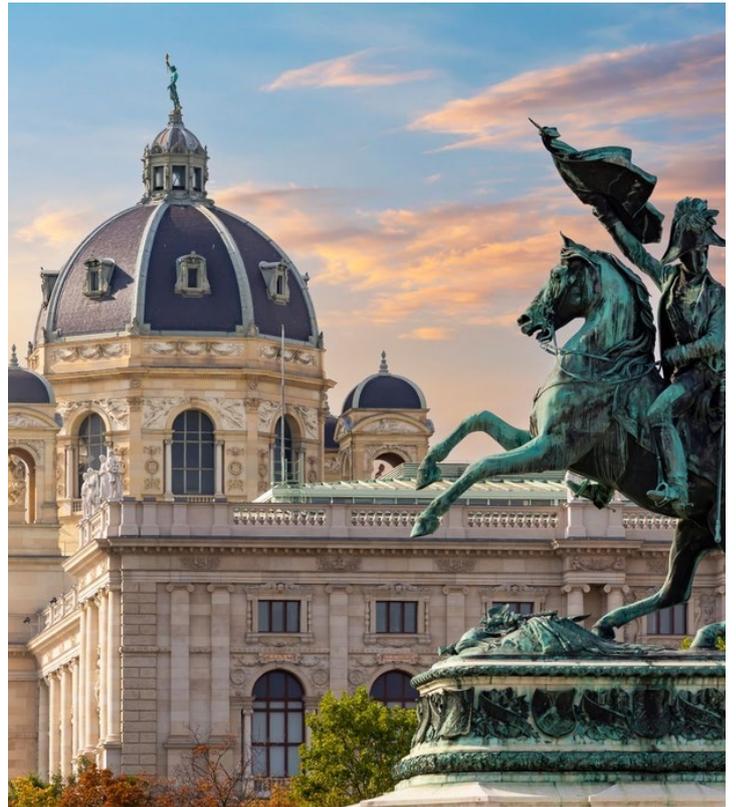
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What makes a passport powerful

A passport or a citizenship have nowadays become a very powerful tool for travel, residence and business opportunities. It allows visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry to many states, improved healthcare or education as well as business opportunities and connections. Many individuals, especially of states with an unstable political and economic situation are seeking for a second citizenship in order to have a finer future and provide better opportunities for their families. A few states have reacted to these wishes and created opportunities for individuals and their families to obtain their citizenship by some kind of sponsorship and financial support or investment into that state. But is it really that easy? In the following this topic is being introduced.

The ten most powerful citizenships in the world

The charts are based on the Henley Passport Index which used to be the Visa Restriction Index up until 2017. The information is elicited on the International Air Transportation Association (IATA), which analyses how citizens of different nations are eligible to travel to other countries without any travel or visa restrictions. The index does not involve any consideration of changed travel restrictions that came into effect due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The number that follows up demonstrates the amount of countries with visa free entries.

1. Japan (191)
2. Singapore (196)
3. South Korea, Germany (189)
4. Italy, Finland, Spain, Luxembourg (188)
5. Denmark, Austria (187)
6. Sweden, France, Portugal, Netherlands, Ireland (186)
7. Switzerland, United States, Norway, Belgium, New Zealand (185)
8. Greece, Malta, Czech Republic, Australia (184)
9. Canada (183)
10. Hungary (181)

The seven weakest citizenships in the world

The countries with the most restrictions are mostly from Africa and Asia as well as crisis and war regions.

Following passports are considered as the weakest in the world:

1. Afghanistan (26)
2. Irak (28)
3. Syria (29)
4. Pakistan (32)
5. Somalia, Jemen (33)
6. Palestine (37)
7. Libya, Nepal (38)



Residence and Citizenship by investment

There are over 100 countries in the world that offer some kind of citizenship-by-investment programs, in which they allow wealthy individuals to acquire some kind of citizenship or residence permit by simply putting through an investment. This allows families to reside in a second place. The most privileged form of nationality is citizenship since it offers you free entry and exit without any typical visa and passport application process.

Citizenship-by-Investment programs:



Antigua and Barbuda

Investment

- ✔ The purchase of real estate with minimum value of USD 200,000 from an approved realestate projection.
- ✔ The direct purchase of an eligible business for a minimum amount of USD 1.5 million.
- ✔ A contribution to the National Development Fund of a minimum of USD 150,000.

The processing time takes about three to four months and the key benefit brings along the right of free movement to Antigua and Barbuda, Hong Kong, Russia, Singapore, the UK, and Europe's Schengen Area, among others.



Austria

Investment

- ✔ The applicant is required to invest a minimum of USD 3 million into the Austrian economy. A passive investment for example into real estate does not qualify.
- ✔ More requirements include following documents: passport, birth and marriage certificate, a certificate of a complete criminal free record and impeccable references.

The processing time takes about 24–36 months and the key benefit involves visa-free or visa-on-arrival to 189 destinations including Canada and HongKong.



Grenada

Investment:

The Grenada Citizenship-by-investment program offers 2 options.

- ✔ Either a National Transformation Fund Donation with a minimum contribution of non-refundable USD 150,000 to the NTF.
- ✔ Or a real estate investment of at least USD 220,000 as a co-owner from a government approved real estate project.

The processing time takes between three to four months and the key benefit is the ability of free movement to Grenada, the UK, China, Russia, Singapore and Europe's Schengen Area.



Malta

The application for Malta's citizenship by naturalization undergoes a four-tier due diligence service.

Investment

- ✔ An investment of at least EUR 600,000–750,000 depending on the residence status length. The residence period is 36 months or by exemption 12 months long before you are eligible to become a citizen.
- ✔ The purchase of a residential property in Malta with a minimum value of EUR 700,000 which must be held for 5 years. Alternatively, the lease of a residential property, that must be held for 5 years as well and hold a value of at least EUR 16,000.
- ✔ A EUR 100,000 donation to an organization or society that complies with certain criteria and must be approved by the Community Malta Agency.
- ✔ Legal resident of Malta that has been living there for 36 months (or 12 months by exemption), who also has been renting a property with an annual worth of at least EUR 16,000 per year.

The processing time presupposes applicants to hold the Maltese residence status for a minimum of 36 months or 12 months by exemption before applying for citizenship and the key benefits include an attractive place to live or own a second home with great air links.

Montenegro

Montenegro offers a Citizenship-by-Investment program. With its citizenship you gain visa free access to 124 destinations and furthermore Montenegro is a member state of the European Monetary Union, the NATO Alliance, OSCE, and the WTO. The country is business orientated and provides political and economic stability.

Investment

- ✔ A EUR 450,000 Investment to real estate projects in the capital in Podgorica or in the coastal region
- ✔ Or an EUR 250,000 Investment in the northern areas excluding Podgorica.

Both investments also require an extra EUR 100,000 government fee for the application. The country has a duo citizenship stipulation but it does not apply to Individuals who successfully applied to the Citizenship-by-Investment program.

The process takes place through intermediary agents and once the government receives all necessary documents it takes three months for it to be granted. The key benefits include the right of free movement to Montenegro, the countries in Europe's Schengen Area, Russia, and others.



St. Lucia

The St. Lucia Citizenship-by-Investment program gives applicants and their families the possibility to become a citizen. In order to become so, they have to make a significant economic contribution.

Investment

There are multiple options:

- ✔ A real estate investment worth USD 300,000 which must be held for at least five years.
- ✔ A USD 3,5 million investment in an approved enterprise project, additionally the creation of three jobs.
- ✔ A joint contribution of USD 6 million in which each participant contributes at least USD 1 million, and additionally the creation of no less than 6 jobs.

These three options, demand extra government administration fees: –
main applicant: USD 30,000

- ✔ Main applicant with spouse: USD 45,000
- ✔ Each dependent aged 18 and over: USD 10,000
- ✔ Each dependent 17 and older: USD 5,000
- ✔ Each subsequent family member after sixth: USD 10,000

Canada

Canada is known as one of the best countries to reside in as it offers excellent features in high living standards, health care, high education, growing economy, great opportunities to do business with access to the entire North American market and low crime rate. It offers several options for certain groups to apply for its citizenship. Those groups who are eligible for an application are:

- ✔ Entrepreneurs
- ✔ Investors
- ✔ Self-employed persons
- ✔ Skilled workers and professionals

The only requirement in order to apply for Canadian citizenship is three years of residence in which you must be at least 183 days each year physically present in the country. Once your application is granted you and your family can enjoy all benefits that come along with gaining the Canadian passport, except voting and holding political office.

Investment

You are required to demonstrate relevant business experience which is defined under the regulations.

You must have managed or operated a qualified business for at least two out of the five years before your application.



Germany

Why is the German passport so powerful?

The German passport is one of the most popular and powerful in the world. It allows visa-free entry to 189 countries and it enables many opportunities for individuals who hold a German passport. Germany has a very strong economy including booming businesses, affordable education and healthcare system and many well-paying job opportunities. They have a strong, well functional democracy, developed social system, and the standard of living is very high. These factors summed up increase the comfort and attractiveness of wanting to own a German passport, which makes it so restrictive to get one as a non-German citizen.

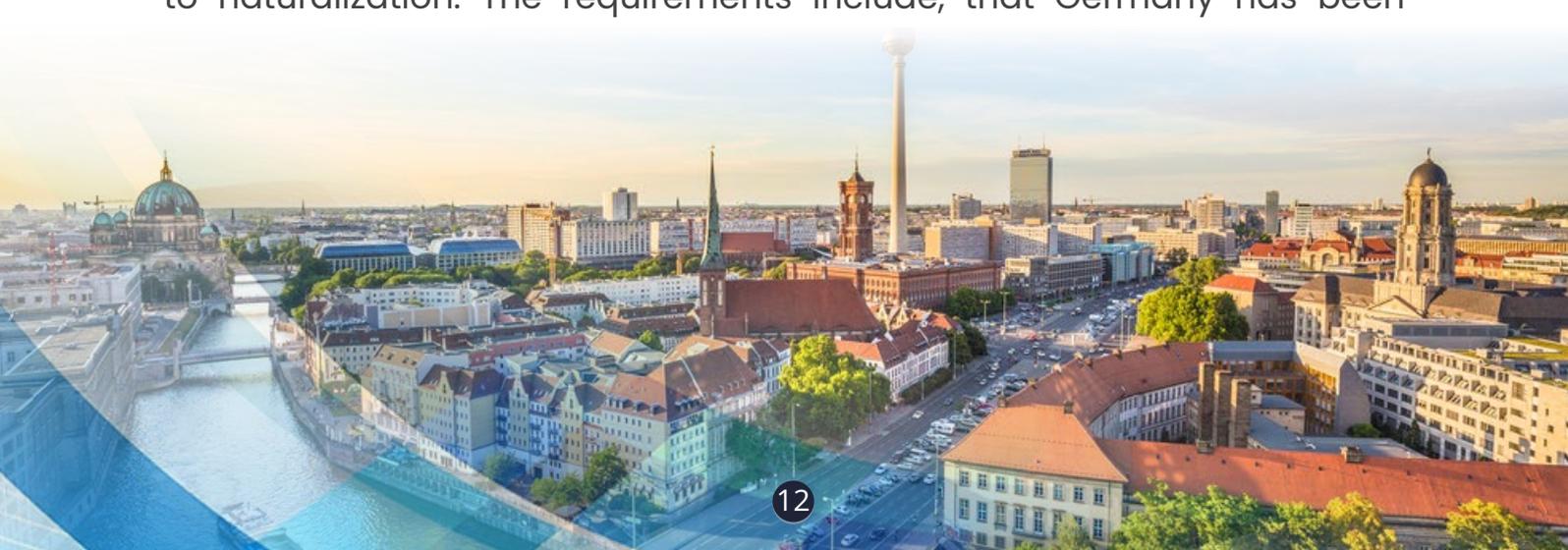
How do you get a German passport?

In order to obtain a German-passport you must be a German citizen. A residence- or work- permit is not sufficient for a German passport. There are three different ways of becoming a German citizen:

- ✓ The entitlement to naturalization (Anspruchseinbürgerung)
- ✓ The naturalization on discretion (Ermessenseinbürgerung)
- ✓ The spouse naturalization

You can find more information about those options on our website in "Immigration to Germany part 1": There is no such way, to become a German citizen by Investing.

However, there are other shortcuts which might come in consideration when trying to become a German citizen. There is an option of naturalizing to Germany as a holder of another EU-citizenship through the entitlement to naturalization. The requirements include, that Germany has been



the usual place of living for at least eight years, the applicant has an unrestricted residence permit in Germany (which you can easily apply for as an EU-member state citizen), and some other which you can also find in "Immigration to Germany part 1" on our website.

Since there are countries that belong to the EU that offer naturalization by investment programs, it is possible for third country members to naturalize and become a citizen in such a member state and therefore continue the process and reside to Germany for eight years in order to then apply for the German citizenship.

There are several EU-member states that offer these programs, like Austria which requires an investment of 3 million USD (listed above), as well as Portugal which is a lot cheaper and offers 4 options, in which one of these requires a 250,000 EUR investment in support of artistic production or in the recovery or maintenance of natural cultural heritage. After five years individuals can obtain the Portuguese citizenship which gives them the freedom of moving to Germany and then proceed with registration to take up residence, following the residency in Germany for eight years. That way allows individuals of third countries to become a German passport holder.

Creating an investment company in Germany

Since there is no way for third country members to invest into real estate in Germany in order to naturalize, there is the option of creating an investment company to become a resident. Non-EU member state citizens have to apply for a self-employment visa. That visa requires certain aspects including the company must fulfill an economic interest or a regional need, the activity must be expected to have positive effects on the German economy, and the financing for realising the business plan must be secured by equity capital or a loan commitment.

How long can someone stay in Germany?

Normally stays in Germany that extend the time frame of three months are only possible with a certain purpose and a legally secured residence status. Therefore the German law differentiates between the state of origin as well as the foreigner's position. Members of the European Union are eligible to enter Germany with a valid identification card, and stay for

three months without any extra paperwork. There are seven different residence documents that a foreigner needs in order to enter and stay in Germany, which are: the residence permit, the blue card EU, the ICT-card, the mobile ICT-card, the permanent residence permit-EU, the settlement permit, and a visa.

The residence permit, the blue card EU, the ICT-card, and a visa are determinable whereas the permanent residence permit-EU and the settlement permit are permanent and therefore unlimited. The main difference between the last two ones is that the residence permit-EU includes the right of free settlement to another EU member state.

Usually in order to obtain a residence document following criteria are presumed:

- ✔ the foreigner is able to finance his cost of living
- ✔ the foreigner's identity, and if they are not justified to return to a certain country, their citizenship must be clarified.
- ✔ there is no conflict of interest of deporting the foreigner
- ✔ the residence of the foreigner does not endanger any interests of the Federal Republic of Germany
- ✔ the foreigner fulfills the passport requirement

Residence permit-EU

Foreigners of a non-EU member state that have legally stayed in an EU-Member state for at least five years can obtain a residence permit-EU. This title allows the foreigner to move and settle to another EU-member state.

Self-employed foreigners in Germany

Foreign citizens that move to Germany can settle as self-employed. The requirements are an economic profit and a positive impact on the economy with secure finance. The implementation must be financed with equity capital or a credit (listed above).

These criteria are judged by the sustainability of the business idea, the foreigners' entrepreneurial practical knowledge, the amount of capital investment, and the impact of the occupational situation.

Healthcare

Another attracting aspect for residing to another country is the healthcare system. For many people this seems like a human right but there are some individuals that do not feel safe and supported with the system in their country. There are several different rankings, about which countries have the best healthcare system based on aspects like quality of care, engagement with the patient, coordinated care, and accessibility. Nowadays the healthcare system seems to be more relevant than ever before in History due to the rising exposure of unknown viruses such as Covid-19. Environment specialists predict an even higher upsurging of unknown viruses, caused by the climate change and the rising sea level.

A world health organization study has published a ranking on the best healthcare systems in the world and these were the top 5:

- ✓ France
- ✓ Italy
- ✓ San Marino
- ✓ Andorra
- ✓ Malta

Malta is also listed above in one of the citizenship-by-investment programs that were presented by Henley and Partners.





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