



Citizenship on the Basis of Merit



Built Differently

To Make the Difference

With over half a century of dedicated experience, CLA Malta is committed to your financial success. Learn more about our services. We invest time in understanding your unique goals, ensuring personalised strategies to get you where you want to be.



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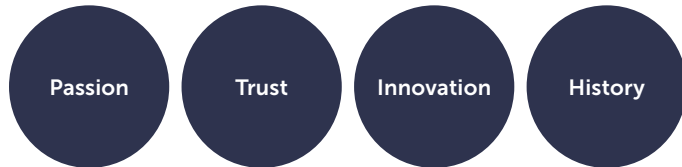
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CLA Malta

CLA Malta stands out from the rest. We are built differently and structured to provide innovative and client-first services in taxation, legal advisory, and corporate support to various industries.

Our philosophy is rooted in creating a collaborative environment where our team and clients prosper, guided by our core values of flexibility, engagement, and dedication.

With half a century of expertise, CLA Malta is dedicated to providing top-tier service, ensuring efficiency, and driving businesses towards success.



We're passionate about staying adaptable and ensuring active participation from everyone to accomplish all goals.

Drawing from our extensive knowledge, we support local businesses' growth and assist international companies in establishing and succeeding in Malta.

At CLA Malta, building your success is not just our priority.
It's our passion.

CLA Global

CLA Global Limited (CLA Global) was founded by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP and S&W.

The organisation offers one of the largest financial outsourcing services and private client and wealth advisory platforms of any global accounting organisation. Moreover, it hosts a culture of diversity and inclusion that uses combined strengths as its greatest competitive advantage.

Professionals in its member firms support clients by speaking their language and serving as their eyes and ears from a business, regulatory, and tax perspective — so they can help them cross borders confidently and efficiently.



Malta

Malta is an archipelago in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea. It is a nation dotted with historical sites related to a succession of rulers including the Romans, Moors, Knights of Saint John, French and British. It has numerous fortresses, megalithic temples and the Hypogeum dating to circa 4000 B.C.

Malta is the largest island and the cultural, commercial and administrative centre. The island offers plenty of specialist activities both at sea and on land varying from learning English or a new skill, to discovering its history or getting fit. And if this were not enough, Malta's two sister islands, Gozo and Comino, can be a pleasant change-of-scene or alternative destinations in themselves.

Malta is a republic island whose strong ties with the United Kingdom, having formed part of the British colony, is a Member of the Commonwealth of Nations. Malta has been a member of the European Union since 2004 and it later also joined the Eurozone in 2008.



Currency

Euro



Capital City

Valletta - UNESCO World Heritage Site & European Capital of Culture for 2018



Language

Maltese and English



Climate

Guaranteed 300 days of sunshine



Accessibility

Direct flights to & from all major cities in Europe & beyond. Mediterranean cruise liners regularly include Valletta as one of the ports on their itinerary



Malta - An Ideal Destination



Malta's economy is among the **strongest** in Europe with minimal unemployment levels (Moody's, S&P and Fitch) and a **low** company income tax system.



Malta has **NO** real-estate taxes, **NO** inheritance taxes and **NO** taxes on foreign income and gains.



Malta is the **2nd safest country** in the world (UN World Risk Report, 2019)



A **high level** educational system with **international recognition**.



Malta is part of the **EU, Schengen Area, Euro Zone** and **Commonwealth**.



Top Quality medical services hub in Europe



Malta Housing prices up by 5.2% in Q3 of 2022 when compared with Q3 2021



Renowned for top Mediterranean cuisine and availability of high level restaurants



Possibility of chartering yachts and visiting countries in the Mediterranean



300 days of sunshine;
bathing water amongst
the **best in Europe**



Citizenship by Naturalisation on the Basis of Merit

About

Malta has recently revisited the provisions of its legislation regarding the granting of naturalisation on the basis of merit, mainly establishing new processes and reviewing the scope of eligibility.

Applies to

Both EU and non-EU nationals.

Who is eligible?

Citizenship by Naturalisation on the basis of Merit may be granted to:

- Persons providing exceptional services to Malta or to humanity;
- Persons making an exceptional contribution to Malta or to humanity; or
- Persons of exceptional interest to Malta.

The Minister responsible for Citizenship matters has the sole discretion to grant or refuse the relevant request on a case-by-case basis, following a formal recommendation by an independent Evaluation Board.

A rigorous Due Diligence process is performed on applicants in order to ascertain that they meet the qualifications established by law.

Dependants

The legislative framework provides the main applicant with the possibility to include in his/her application:

- The spouse/partner
- Children who have not attained their 18th birthday
- Unmarried children between 18 and 29 years of age who are still dependant on the main applicant
- Children who have attained their 18th birthday who are certified by a recognised medical professional or authority as having a disability in terms of the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act

Exceptional Services/ Contributions & Special Interest

Exceptional Services and Contributions are criteria for the granting of citizenship by merit that benefit Malta and have recognised value and serve the public interest.

The following persons may be considered as applicants providing “exceptional services and/or contributions”:

- Scientists and Researchers
- Athletes and Sports Persons
- Artists and Cultural Performers
- Entrepreneurs
- Philanthropists
- Technologists
- Individuals contributing to job creation

A person of special interest shall be deemed by the Minister to possess the necessary skills, profile, qualities, talents and expertise that are considered to significantly advance or benefit the national interest of the Republic of Malta.





The Process: Obtaining Citizenship by Naturalisation on the basis of Merit

a) Proposal Letter

The process to obtain Citizenship by Naturalisation on the basis of Merit entails different processes, starting with the submission of a proposal letter prior to submitting the application for naturalisation.

- 01** **Drafting a Proposal Letter**
A letter is drafted to introduce the main applicant and dependants (if any) with a description of the exceptional service/service/contribution concerned, or the special interest that would be of benefit to Malta.
- 02** **Submission to Community Malta Agency**
The Proposal Letter is then submitted to Community Malta Agency for its review - the entity responsible for the process.
- 03** **Fees**
Applicant shall pay the applicable non-refundable fees.
- 04** **Due Diligence**
In tandem with the submission of the Proposal Letter, Community Malta Agency carries out a due diligence review of the main applicant and his/her dependants (if any), and have their background and integrity thoroughly assessed.
- 05** **Review of Information and Background Checks**
Relevant information provided by the applicant is verified by independent due diligence service providers in accordance with AML/CFT legislation and guidelines. Background checks are also carried out by one (1) or more of such due diligence service providers.
- 06** **Risk Assessment**
Community Malta Agency ensures that an appropriate risk assessment has been carried out.
- 07** **Evaluation Board Review**
Community Malta Agency then refers the Proposal Letter to the Evaluation Board for its review.
- 08** **Evaluation Board Recommendation**
The Evaluation Board makes its recommendation to the Minister through Community Malta Agency whether the Proposal Letter should be approved or rejected.
- 09** **Ministerial Decision**
The Minister's decision shall be final.
- 10** **Notifying the Applicant**
Should the Proposal Letter be approved by the Minister, Community Malta Agency issues a Letter of Approval in principle. In the event of a rejection, the applicant is informed in writing of the refusal. There is no appeal to a refusal.

b) Application

Once a Letter of Approval in principle for the Proposal Letter is received by the applicant, s/he may proceed to file an application for naturalisation on the basis of merit.

1. Application

The formal Application for citizenship is submitted to Community Malta Agency which must include the following:

- Proof of residence in Malta (for at least 8 months in the period prior to the date of Application);
- Proof of ownership or lease of an adequate residential property in Malta (not required for minor applicants);
- An indication of the exceptional service or the exceptional contribution rendered or made or to be rendered or made to the Republic of Malta or to humanity, or of the exceptional interest that his naturalisation is or may be to the Republic of Malta together with an endorsement by the designated competent body (where applicable)
- Confirmation of adequate knowledge of Maltese or English; and
- Proof of all ties that were created in Malta

2. Due Diligence and Fees

Upon receipt of the Application, Community Malta Agency updates its due diligence and requests the applicant to pay any applicable non-refundable administration fees.

3. Evaluation Board & Review

Community Malta Agency refers the Application to the Evaluation Board which reviews the Application within reasonable time.

4. Evaluation Board Review

The Evaluation Board passes their recommendation to Community Malta Agency whether the Application should be approved or rejected.

5. Ministerial Decision

Community Malta Agency passes on the Evaluation Board's recommendation to the Minister whose decision shall be final.

6. Notifying the Applicant

Should the Application be approved by the Minister, Community Malta Agency issues a Letter of Approval. In the event of a rejection, the applicant is informed in writing of the refusal.

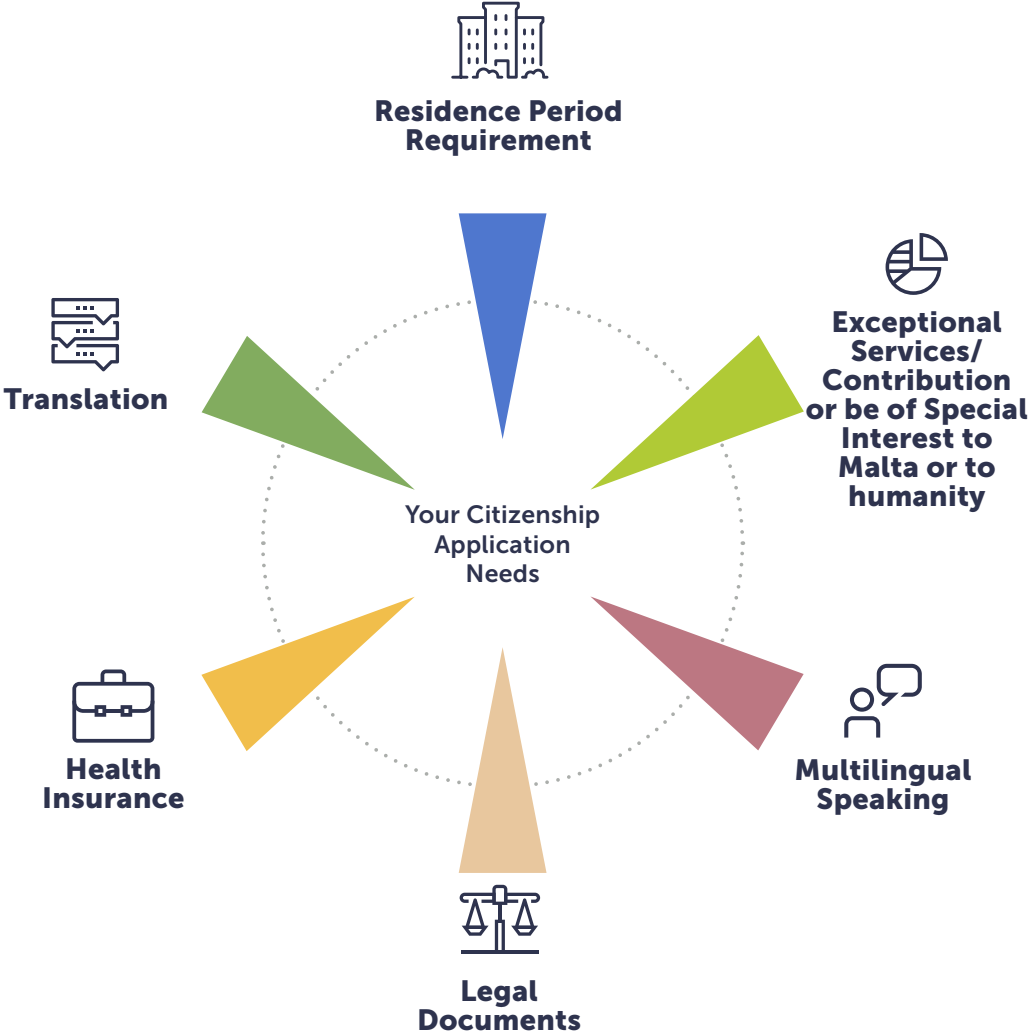
Throughout both processes, Community Malta Agency and/or the Evaluation Board may request for more information and/or documentation from the applicant in relation to himself/herself or his/her dependants. The Evaluation Board may also interview the applicant and any other person it may deem fit.

What Happens After Approval?

Following the approval of the Application for Citizenship by Naturalisation on the basis of Merit, the process moves one step closer to completion:

- A written statement must be submitted by applicant undertaking and confirming continued compliance with all obligations and commitments.
- The Oath of Allegiance must be taken within six months from the date of issuance of the Letter of Approval of the Application. The Applicant is to undertake to promote the fundamental values of the Republic of Malta and to support the Maltese community in the spirit of social justice and equity.
- Upon taking the Oath of Allegiance, the Certificate of Naturalisation is issued.

Malta Citizenship by Merit



Get in Touch



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Your Success is Our Mission

At CLA Malta, we offer a wide range of services designed to support your financial journey. No matter your needs, we have the expertise to help. Discover all we have to offer and find the right solution for you.



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Malta

The information contained herein is of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. Although we endeavour to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. No one should act upon such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation. Please contact us if you need any specific advice.