

ASTONS

Freedom through Investment: How to Choose a Country for Second Citizenship or Residency

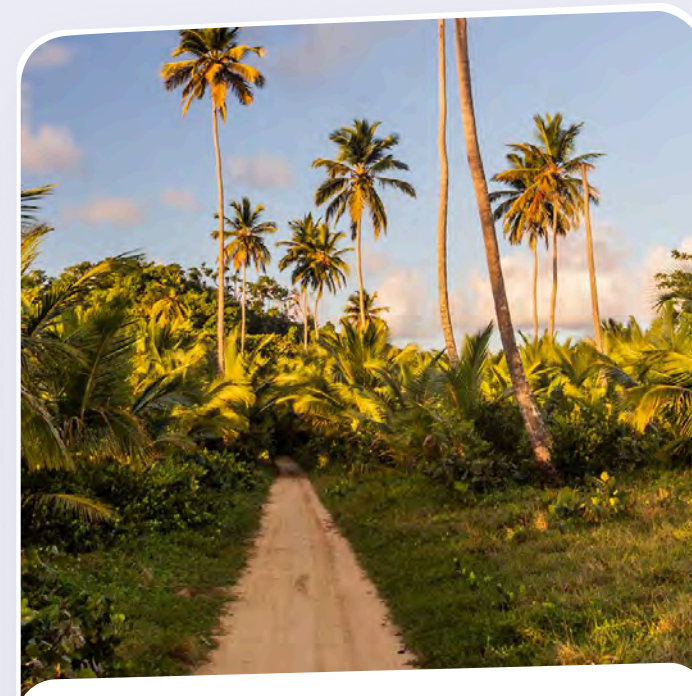
Become a global citizen with Astons



Cyprus
Residency



Vanuatu
Citizenship



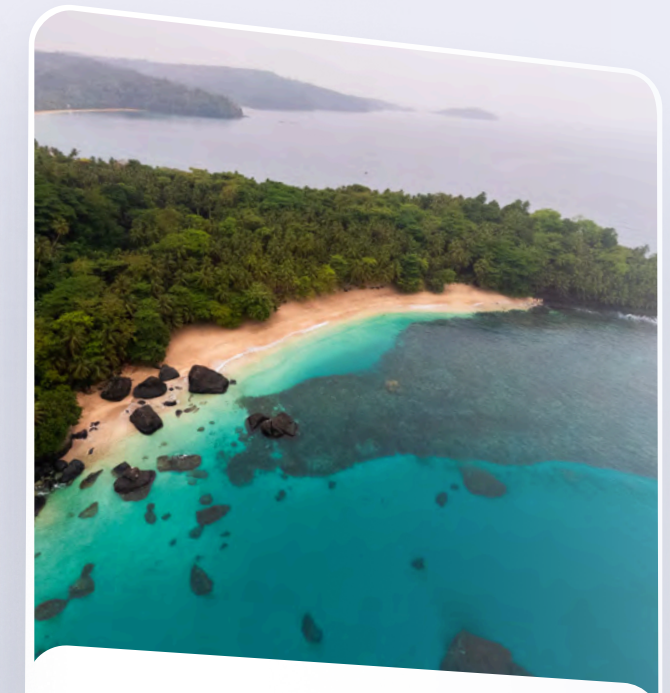
Nauru
Citizenship



Greece
Residency



Türkiye
Residency



São Tomé and Príncipe
Citizenship



Grenada
Citizenship



Investment immigration programmes

Offer a unique pathway to obtaining residency or citizenship status by investing capital in a country's economy. Unlike traditional methods (naturalisation, employment-based immigration, marriage, etc.), the investment route provides faster and more exclusive opportunities.

Below are seven key factors that make «citizenship / residency by investment» programmes particularly attractive to private investors and entrepreneurs:

1

Short Processing Times

Investors can obtain a second passport or residency permit in just a few months, significantly faster than through standard immigration, where citizenship is often a years-long wait. **A quick result** allows immediate benefits from the new status, enabling the investor to act on plans without delay.

2

Minimal Requirements and a Simple Process

Investment immigration programmes have fewer formal criteria for candidates. Typically, there is **no requirement** for knowledge of the official language, history or culture exams or prolonged residence before applying. The only conditions are meeting the investment requirements and passing a background check—this transparent and predictable process sets it apart from the complex bureaucratic procedures of other types of immigration.

3

Global Mobility (Visa-free Travel)

A second passport obtained through investment **greatly expands freedom of movement**. The new citizen typically gains visa-free or simplified entry to dozens (if not hundreds) of countries worldwide. For an investor-entrepreneur, this means quickly travelling for business, visiting partners and clients abroad, and saving time and resources on visa applications.

4

Right to Reside and Access to New Markets

Residency or citizenship through an investment programme grants **the right to live** in the chosen country (and, in the case of EU citizenship, throughout the European Union). This opens access to new markets, a stable legal system, and high-quality infrastructure. The investor can expand their business internationally, set up a company abroad, and take advantage of high levels of security, education, and healthcare for themselves and their family in the new country.

5

Tax Incentives and Financial Flexibility

Many countries offering citizenship or residency by investment attract investors with **favourable tax regimes** and opportunities for international tax planning. For example, some jurisdictions do not tax global income, capital, or inheritance for new residents. The new residency status enables investors to optimise their expenses, protect their capital, and simplify access to foreign financial markets (such as opening bank accounts, raising investments, and real estate transactions) without excessive restrictions.

6

Benefits for the Entire Family





Investment programmes are designed **for family applicants**: along with the primary investor, the spouse and children typically obtain second status, and often even the parents. This means the entire family gains new opportunities—from high-quality education and healthcare to visa-free travel. Additionally, **the acquired citizenship is lifelong** and passed down to descendants, providing children and future generations with a reliable «safety net» and global perspective.

7

Security and a «Plan B» for the Future





A second passport or residency through investment acts as a form **of insurance** against political and economic risks. In times of global instability, the investor has a backup option — a chance to relocate their business and family to a safe jurisdiction with a predictable economy and stable legal system. Most programmes also allow **dual citizenship**, so applicants do not have to relinquish their original passport. This flexibility ensures additional stability and confidence for the future, which is especially valuable for affluent individuals and entrepreneurs who are planning several steps ahead.

Using these seven factors as criteria, investors can make an informed decision when choosing the best country for second citizenship or residency. **Investment immigration is an investment not only in the country's economy but also in personal freedom, security, and global opportunities.**

Country	 SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	 TÜRKİYE	 VANUATU	 EGYPT
Application processing time	From 3–4 months (minimum government processing time: 2 months)	From 8-12 months	From 3-4 months	From 9-12 months
Qualifying dependents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Children up to 30 years old • Parents over 55 years old 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Children up to age 18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Children up to age 28 • Parents/Grandparents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Children up to age 21
Main program benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visa-free access to 69+ countries (including South Africa, Singapore, Hong Kong) • Access to European residence permit programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visa-free access to 118 countries including Singapore, Japan, Qatar, and South Korea) • Rental income and option to re-sell the property in 3 years • Property investment with no donation • No residency requirements • Option to relocate to the US and establish your business under the USA E-2 Investor Visa • Allows for dual citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visa-free access to over 93 countries, including Singapore and Hong Kong • The alternative citizenship acquisition process is strictly 100% confidentially • No tax on income, wealth or inheritance • No physical residence or visit required • A safe place to call home in the event of economic instability or political unrest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visa-free access to 55 countries • Opportunity to move to the USA on E-2 business visa available with Egyptian passport • 4 investment options, there is the possibility of a refund • An Egyptian citizen can use the banking infrastructure without restrictions
Investment Term for Real Estate Hold	—	3 years	—	—
Cash Only - Minimum Required Investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$90,000 — non-refundable contribution to the National Transformation Fund for a single applicant • \$95,000 — family of up to 4 people • \$5,000 — for each additional dependant 	From \$400,000 – Residential or commercial property purchase	Non-refundable contribution (DSP) from \$130,000 – for a single application \$180,000 – family of up to 4 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From \$300,000 – purchase of real estate from a licensed developer • \$250,000 - gratuitous contribution to the state treasury • From \$500,000 - interest-free deposit in a state bank • Investments in an existing or new business - from \$350,000 + non-refundable charitable contribution • of \$100,000
Visa-free travel for citizens	60+ countries, including South Africa, Singapore, Hong Kong	118 countries	93 countries	55 countries
The right to live, work and study without restriction in	São Tomé and Príncipe	Türkiye	Vanuatu	Egypt
Additional notes	No residency is required	No residency is required	No residency is required	No need to live in the country

Country	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	GRENADA	DOMINICA	ST. LUCIA	NAURU	
Application processing time (approx.)	From 6-8 months	From 10-12 months	From 6-8 months	From 6-8 months	From 3-4 months	
Qualifying dependents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spouse Children under 30 Dependent parents and grandparents from 55+ Siblings of any age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spouse Children under 29 Parents and grandparents of any age Siblings from 18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spouse Children under 30 Dependent parents and grandparents from 65+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spouse Dependent children under 30 Dependent parents from 55+ Siblings under 17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spouse; children of the main applicant or of the spouse, of any age; parents and grandparents of the main applicant or of the spouse, of any age; siblings of the main applicant or of the spouse, of any age. 	
Main program benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visa free access to 154 countries including EU, & UK Complete investment after citizenship application approval Real estate may be sold to the next CBI applicant (if still qualifies) Attractive tax regime Good flight connections with Europe and the US 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visa free access to 148 countries including EU, & UK and China Complete investment after citizenship application approval Real estate may be sold to the next CBI applicant (if still qualifies) Attractive tax regime No physical residence or visit required A route to USA through a USA E-2 visa Allows for dual citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visa-free access to 143 countries Complete investment after citizenship application approval Real estate may be sold to the next CBI applicant after 5 years (if still qualifies) Attractive tax regime No physical residence or visit required Real estate may be sold in the open market after 3 years Allows for dual citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visa free access to 148 countries including EU, & UK Complete investment after citizenship application approval Attractive tax regime No physical residence or visit required Good flight connections with Europe and the US 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visa-free travel to 80+ countries, including UAE, Hong Kong, Singapore and Ireland Investment payment after citizenship approval No residency requirement Dual citizenship allowed No taxes on global income, inheritance, or capital gains Flexible source of funds requirements Cryptocurrency can be a legal source of funds 	
Cash Only - Minimum Required Investments	Non-refundable contribution	\$230,000— the contribution amount for a single applicant or family up to 4 \$245,000 for a family of 5 or more	\$235,000— the contribution amount for a single applicant or family up to 4	\$200,000 - the contribution for a single applicant \$250,000 - for a family up to 4	\$240,000 -the contribution for a single applicant or family up to 4	From \$90,000* — for the main applicant +\$2,000 — each eligible dependent 16 y.o. and over +\$15,000 — each sibling (in addition to eligible dependent fee) *Limited Time Offer is valid until 30 June 2026. Outside this period, the minimum investment requirement is \$115,000.
	Real estate investment	From \$300,000 – Investment in real estate	From \$270,000 – Investment in real estate	Minimum \$200,000. Government fees for property option: \$75,000 - single applicant \$100,000 - for a family up to 4	From \$350,000 – Government Bonds Investment	—
Term of holding real estate	5 years	5 years	3 years	5 years	—	
Visa-free travel for citizens	154 countries, including the EU & UK	148 countries, including the EU & UK, and China	143 countries	148 countries, including UK and EU	Visa-free access to 80+ countries including UAE, Hong Kong, Singapore and Ireland	
Additional notes	Residency requirements: All adult applicants must spend a minimum of 5 days over the course of the first 5 years in the country once citizenship is acquired					

Country	GREECE	PORTUGAL	MALTA
Application processing time	From 4-6 months	From 1 year	From 4-9 months
Qualifying dependents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Children under 21 • Parents of main applicant and spouse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Dependent children in education • Parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Dependent and unwed children of any age • Parents and grandparents
Main program benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visa-free travel to Europe • The lowest cost entry route to obtain EU residency for the entire family • No government contribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visa-free travel to Europe • Opportunity to obtain citizenship after 5 years • Attractive tax regime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visa-free travel to Europe • Fast-track permanent residency program granting the right to reside in Malta indefinitely • Attractive tax regime
Investment term	PR is valid as long as the investment is kept	5 years	5 years
Cash Only - Minimum Required Investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From €250,000 for the restoration of listed building (properties officially registered with the Greek government as having historical or cultural value) in all regions of Greece or for property converted from commercial to residential • From €400,000 for purchasing property in all other regions of Greece • From €800,000 for purchasing property in Attica, Thessaloniki, Mykonos, Santorini, and islands with populations of more than 3,100 residents <p><i>The investment amount from €400,000 and €800,000 must be made in a single residential property which is at least 120 square meters in size</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From €500,000 investment in private equity funds with at least a five-year hold, the firm or fund does not invest directly in real estate projects, and allocates at least 60% of their investment capital into Portuguese companies • From €500,000 investment into a new or established Portuguese company that will create at least five permanent jobs. • From transfer of €400,000-500,000 to support research activities within the country [location determines minimum investment] • A transfer of €200,000-250,000 to support cultural and artistic activities [location determines minimum investment] <p>The creation of 10 permanent jobs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution of €98,000 + 5 years lease with a min annual rental cost of €10,000 – €12,000 • Property purchase min €300,000 + contribution €68,000 • Capital asset min €500,000 + bank deposit of min €150,000 + Donation to NGO of €2,000
Visa-free travel for Residence Permit holders	Schengen Zone	Schengen Zone	Schengen Zone
The right to live, work and study without restriction in	Greece	Portugal	Malta

Country	 CYPRUS	 USA (EB-5)	 HUNGARY	 ITALY
Application processing time	From 6 months	2-2,5 years	From 3-5 months	From 3 months
Qualifying dependents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spouse Dependent children up to 25 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spouse Unmarried children up to 21 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spouse Children under 21 Parents of the investor and their spouse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spouse Children under 18 and parents
Main program benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast-track Permanent Residency Program Residency program with no donation Favourable tax regime Eligible properties must be new construction from approved developers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After holding a Green Card for 5 years investors may apply for citizenship (US Passport – 170+ visa-free countries) All family members qualify for a Green Card, and the right to live, work and study in the USA Only direct path to a Green Card compared to all other US immigration options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visa-free access to the Schengen Area and the right to stay in other EU countries for up to 90 consecutive days The right to live and work in Hungary No minimum stay requirement – maintain residency without needing to reside in Hungary full-time Pathway to permanent residency and potential EU citizenship Include family members in the application, including spouse and dependent children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visa-free access to the Schengen Area and the right to stay in other EU countries for up to 180 consecutive days Opportunity to open accounts in Italian and other European banks as a resident Opportunity to benefit from a preferential tax regime on worldwide income
Investment term	—	—	5 years when obtaining permanent residence (PR), but upon renewal of the residence permit (RP), the asset must be held for 10 years	Rolled up during the lock-up period and paid out from the 6th year
Minimum Required Investments	Property purchase from €300,000 VAT is not included	\$800,000 in a program approved US enterprise Investment period 5-6 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From €250,000 – acquisition of shares in real estate investment funds registered with the National Bank From €1,000,000 – donation to a higher education institution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From €500,000 — acquisition of shares in Italian companies From €1,000,000 — donation to a non-refundable public interest project (e.g. in culture, science, or education) From €2,000,000 — investment in Italian government bonds
Visa-free travel for Residence Permit holders	Cyprus	USA, Canada, Mexico	Schengen Zone	Schengen Zone
The right to live, work and study without restriction in	Cyprus	USA	Hungary	Italy

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES



Authorised Agent of São Tomé and Príncipe Citizenship By Investment Programme



Authorised Vanuatu Citizenship Agent



Licensed Legal Services in Greece



Authorised Representative of the Antigua and Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Program



Authorised Agent of Saint Lucia Citizenship By Investment Programme



Authorized Agent of the Nauru Citizenship Program



Authorized Agent of the Grenada Citizenship Program

ASTONS IN THE MEDIA

This section features key publications that have drawn on Astons' expertise — our specialists are regularly consulted for insights and guidance on global relocation, investment citizenship, residency options, and international premium real estate investment.



Americans Head to Europe for the Good Life on the Cheap



Many of Europe's 'golden visa' programs are closing — but demand is up in this Mediterranean hotspot



London house prices: Covid causes property prices in prime spots to tumble by 40 percent



You could 'buy' European residency for about \$500K: What to know about golden visas



Powerful Passports 2025: Here are the 11 countries whose passports unlock most of the world - including the UAE



Countries cut cost of citizenship to attract disillusioned British taxpayers



Passports: Best 'golden visa' citizenships to beat Brexit travel restrictions



Powerful Passports 2025: Here are the 11 countries whose passports unlock most of the world - including the UAE



The Most Accessible And Powerful Passports: Spain And Greece Top New Astons Ranking



Move fast: Greece's golden visa rules are changing



Why 'Trump regime refugees' are falling in love with Madrid



Spain is the best option for international investors looking for Golden Visas: Findings

ABOUT ASTONS

Astons serves a distinguished clientele—individuals who demand nothing less than excellence on their own terms. Every aspect of the Astons Streamlined Application Process is guided by the highest standards of integrity, ethics, and professionalism, with unwavering respect for client privacy. As a client-first firm, Astons delivers exceptional service and steadfast trust across the global premium real estate market and the investment migration sector.

KEY BENEFITS OF ALTERNATIVE RESIDENCY OR CITIZENSHIP



Global mobility for business or pleasure, including the EU and the UK, without visa requirements and being added to additional government databases.



Invest in real estate and other assets with various hold options, the possibility to liquidate your investments, and generate passive income during the hold term.



Wealth preservation by leveraging favourable tax environments.



An alternative place to call home. Enhance your financial stability due to stable economic and political environments.



Plan B or simply the ability to relocate to Europe, the EU, or other global locations for the entire family in a matter of months.



Access the world's most prestigious schools and universities.



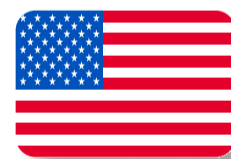
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