

Obtaining Cyprus Citizenship: Main Routes to a Cyprus Passport

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Introduction

Cyprus is an EU Member State, and Cypriot citizenship provides the significant advantage of holding a European Union passport. Individuals typically qualify for Cypriot citizenship through one of three pathways:

- *Citizenship by descent* (for those with a Cypriot parent)
- *Citizenship by marriage* (for spouses of Cypriot nationals)
- *Citizenship by naturalisation* (for foreign nationals who meet residence requirements)

This article provides an overview of each route and outlines the key criteria to help individuals understand their potential eligibility.

Citizenship by Descent or Marriage

Cyprus offers a straightforward process for individuals who can demonstrate a family connection to a Cypriot national.

Citizenship by Descent

Individuals born to at least one Cypriot parent are often eligible to apply for citizenship by descent. The specific documentation required can vary, particularly for those born abroad.

Citizenship by Marriage

Foreign nationals married to a Cypriot citizen may also qualify for citizenship. The eligibility criteria depend on factors such as the length of the marriage and the couple's period of residence together.

If you believe you may be eligible through descent or marriage, we can assist in assessing your situation and guiding you through the application process.

Citizenship by Naturalisation

Foreign nationals who have [established long-term residence](#) in Cyprus may be eligible to apply for citizenship through naturalisation. There are two main naturalisation routes:

- The *ordinary naturalisation route*
- The *simplified naturalisation route for skilled professionals*

The ordinary route

The ordinary naturalisation process is available to individuals who have lived in Cyprus for a substantial period. Applicants must have at least eight years of legal residence in Cyprus within the last 11 years, and have lived continuously in Cyprus for the 12 months immediately before applying (with absences not exceeding 90 days).

This route is suitable for individuals who have built their life in Cyprus and meet the standard naturalisation thresholds.

The simplified naturalisation for skilled professionals route

In 2024, Cyprus introduced a faster, more flexible naturalisation route designed to attract and retain highly skilled foreign professionals working in Cyprus-based international businesses.

Who Can Apply?

This fast-track option is available to qualified employees of [Foreign Interest Companies \(FICs\)](#). Eligible applicants must:

- Be [employed in Cyprus by a certified FIC](#)
- Earn a minimum monthly salary of €2,500 (before tax)
- Have 4 or 5 years of legal residence, depending on Greek language skills
- Reside continuously in Cyprus for the 12 months before applying (with absences not exceeding 90 days)
- Hold a clean criminal record

Language Requirements

The simplified route includes a Greek-language requirement, with two possible timelines:

- Five-year residence: A2 level Greek
- Four-year residence: B1 level Greek

Applicants must provide recognised certificates. During the interview, authorities may also assess their understanding of Cypriot culture, society, and institutions.

Family Members

It is important to note that the fast-track criteria apply only to the main applicant. Spouses, registered partners, and adult children may apply for citizenship after eight

years of legal residence, in line with the standard naturalisation timeline.

How Can We Help?

The pathway to Cyprus citizenship can vary significantly depending on personal circumstances. At Dixcart Cyprus, we assist clients in determining their eligibility, preparing supporting documentation, and managing each stage of the application process with clarity and efficiency.

If you are exploring your eligibility for Cypriot citizenship, whether through descent, marriage, or naturalisation, our team is here to help. Contact us at advice.cyprus@dixcart.com to discuss your situation and the most suitable route forward.