

Golden Visa Programme

Portugal is one of Europe's most historically influential countries, with a rich past of global exploration and trade. Today, residents of Portugal enjoy visa-free travel and access to the 26 countries of the European Schengen Area. The programme offers an opportunity for you and your family to live, study and work in Portugal, a very safe country with excellent health care and educational opportunities.

The Golden Visa Programme provides a possible route to Portuguese and European Union citizenship after five years, if a basic knowledge of the Portuguese language and genuine links can be demonstrated. Portugal is an extremely family-friendly nation, and the Golden Visa Programme extends to dependants, providing an excellent option for families seeking a European base. English is widely spoken and the country offers attractive personal tax options via the non-habitual tax regime.

The programme requires an applicant to stay in Portugal for at least seven days in the first year and no less than 14 days in each subsequent two-year period.

Requirements/Investment Options

The Golden Visa Programme was launched in October of 2012 and has become Europe's most popular residency-by-investment programme and is available to all non-EU nationals. The programme requires the main applicant to invest in the country in return for a residence permit. The programme offers eight different investment or contribution options that will qualify the applicant for residence.

Property:

Portugal has an excellent real estate offerings, whether for lifestyle or investment, with a large geographic, environmental and price-point diversity. This option has the advantage of combining the programme's mandatory 7-days per year average stay with the potential for owning property in a highly desirable country.

The investment thresholds under the real estate option are as follows:

1. Real estate purchase with a minimum value of EUR 500,000. Only touristic investments are allowed in the metropolitan and touristic areas of Lisbon, Porto, the Algarve and large parts of the popular coastline. Investors can only invest for personal use in lower density areas, inland, Madeira and the Azores. This can be reduced to EUR 400,000 in low population density areas
2. Real estate purchase with a minimum investment of EUR 350,000 in properties older than 30 years or in an area of urban regeneration. As above, this category now only allows touristic investments in the metropolitan areas. This can be reduced to EUR 280,000 in low population density areas



Investment:

One of the following capital transfer options:

3. EUR 250,000 in support of artistic output or maintenance of national heritage
4. EUR 500,000 for investing into research activities conducted by public or private scientific research institutions involved in the national scientific or technological system
5. EUR 500,000 for the acquisition of units of investment funds or venture capital funds for the capitalization of companies whose maturity at the time of the investment is at least five years, and at least 60% of the value of investments will be realized in commercial companies based in the national territory
6. EUR 1.5 million capital transfer to a Portuguese Bank

Business Investment:

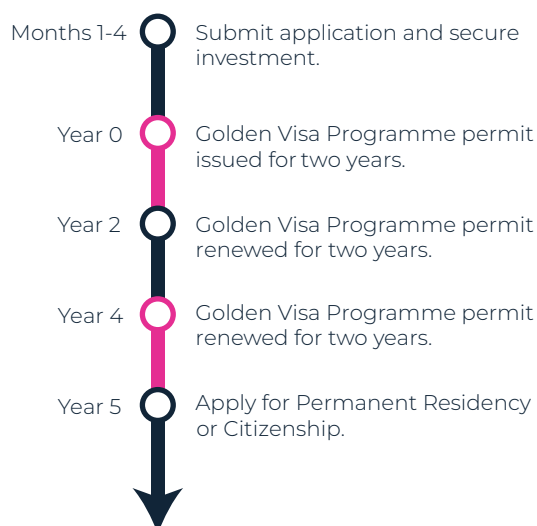
7. Entrepreneurs can incorporate a company or increase the share capital of an existing Portuguese company for EUR 500,000 and must create five local jobs for a three year period
8. Create a minimum of 10 new jobs

Process Overview

Meet with our team to review the available options. Once a qualifying option is selected and you have passed our initial due diligence checks, we then proceed with working on your application and sign the Legal Package over Zoom, which includes Limited Power of Attorney. This is required to initiate the bank account opening on your behalf as well as to obtain your tax ID number. You will then transfer the required funds into your Portugal bank account and invest into the qualifying option. Shortly after, your Golden Visa application can be submitted. After your initial approval, you will visit Portugal for the biometric appointment and a few months after your residence card(s) will be issued.

The Golden Visa is a temporary residence permit valid for a period of two years from the date of issue and may be renewed for successive periods of two years, provided that the necessary requirements for its granting are maintained. After five years, you can apply for a permanent residence permit or Portuguese nationality, assuming you meet the requirements.

Application Process





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Dual Citizenship

Portugal allows dual citizenship. Eligibility for Portuguese citizenship is possible after five years of legal residence and compliance with prevailing requirements. This includes some knowledge (level A2) of the Portuguese language and a clean Police Clearance Certificate.

Taxation

Personal taxation for non-residents on Portuguese-sourced employment and pension income is charged at a preferential rate of 25%, although interest and rental income, dividends and capital gains are taxed at 28%.

For new residents wanting to stay for longer periods and possibly reside in Portugal, there is a Non-Habitual Residents (NHR) regime which may be more beneficial. Once NHR tax status is obtained, income derived from a foreign source and relating to employment income, pension income and business and professional income can be subject to tax exemption, and any income derived from a Portuguese source will be subject to income tax at a flat rate of 20%, though some surcharges may apply.

Portugal does not apply a wealth tax. There is no tax on gifts or inheritances between parents, children and grandchildren.

Summary of Key Advantages

- Visa-free travel access to the Schengen area
- Right to live, work, and study in Portugal
- Residency can be granted within 6-8 months
- Low physical presence requirement (seven days in the first year and no less than 14 days in each subsequent two year period)
- Attractive taxation system
- Investment options from as little as EUR 250,000
- High quality of life, fantastic local cuisine and wines, rich cultures, mild climate and a high level of security
- Citizenship possible after five years of legal residence





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