

## Naturalisation scheme based on years of residence

Since 19 December 2023, there have been revised criteria for naturalisation based on years of residence. These requirements specify that an applicant must have:

- 12 months lawful stay in the Republic (up to 90 days absence allowed\*) plus lawful stay of 7 years in the Republic out of the 10 years before the 12 months. Eight years in total.
- Good character.
- Sufficient knowledge of Greek (Level B1\*\* at the Examinations for the Verification of the Greek Language conducted via the Ministry of Education).
- Sufficient understanding of the socio-political realities in the Republic (at least 60% at the relevant examinations conducted by the Ministry of Education).
- Adequate accommodation and stable and regular financial means to support themselves and their families (contract of sale or rental, rental payment and utility receipts, proof of salary, employment contract, income tax statement, social security and bank account documentation).

\*If you exceed 90 days, the 12-month continuum is interrupted. You will need to start again. Remember also that the requirements are 7/3/4 years, as the case may be, in 10 years, plus immediate 12 continuous months. Our advice to clients is that 7/3/4 out of 10 years, plus an immediate 12 months, is a legal criterion that must be followed; otherwise, the application will be rejected.

\*\*Level B1 means you can handle everyday communication situations independently. \*\*

Note that the day of arrival counts as a day in Cyprus and the day of departure from Cyprus as a day out.

An amendment to the Civil Registry Law was passed on November 30th, 2023. The amendment enables highly skilled foreign workers to obtain Cypriot citizenship after residing in Cyprus for a shorter period, specifically 4 to 5 years, depending on their proficiency in the Greek language.

### How to apply

The applicant must prepare a complete list of entries and departures from Cyprus, based on passport stamps, to confirm the required days of stay. Each family member has to file a separate application and pay the required fee.

**Application processing time and the 8-month rule**

According to the new Cyprus citizenship law, applications for naturalisation for highly skilled foreign workers must be processed within eight months. For other applicants, the processing time is estimated to be 2 to 3 years as of April 2025.

**Required documents for M127**

- Birth certificate\*
- Criminal record\*
- Marriage certificate\*
- Copies of all the pages of all the passports of the applicant showing arrivals and departures to Cyprus
- List of arrivals and departures
- Newspaper advertisements in two consecutive publications mention that the applicant has applied for naturalisation
- Two passport-size photographs stamped by the local Muhtar
- CV and work certificate
- Receipt(s) of fee payment
- Government fees
- Application submission – €500
- Plus, on approval – €500

**Military Service**

Male applicants who acquire Cypriot citizenship by naturalisation (after a specified period of residence) are required to serve in the military. This obligation is as follows:

- If you are between 18 and 26 years old, you will serve for 6 months in the military. You must join within two years of acquiring citizenship. If you delay, you will serve an additional two months (a total of 8 months).
- If you are over 26, you will serve for 3 months in the military. If you delay, you will serve another 2 months (5 months).
- If you did not receive any military documents upon acquiring citizenship, contact the military office in the district where you applied for citizenship. They will provide your army number and relevant documents.

Military conscription occurs every July (for the first ten days) at the nearest military camp. Your nearest military office will explain the details, so contact them when you acquire citizenship. The address for each district is available at National Guard Cyprus - gov.cy.