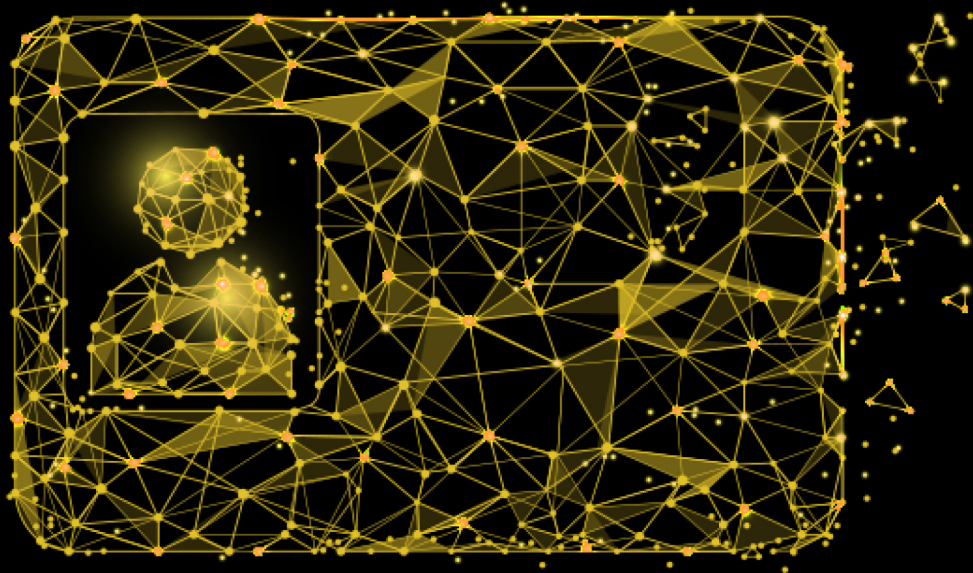


Christoph Heuermann

CITIZENSHIP ENCYCLOPEDIA

Becoming a citizen in
97 nations



STAATENLOS  S

**The Stateless Paradox:
Becoming a citizen in 97 nations - and why to do it**

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'The Stateless Paradox: Becoming a citizen in 97 nations - and why to do it'

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Introduction

You might wonder why this book was even created. After all, my main blog and community is called Staatenlos - the German word for stateless. This should not be misinterpreted, especially in a book about citizenship. I always used it as a metaphoric description for the internationalisation of all aspects of life. I specifically chose the word Staatenlos in an attempt to reinterpret a loaded term and give it at least some positive meaning.

Persons who are factually stateless, which means they have no citizenship at all, are severely constrained in every aspect of their life. This is one of the worst things that can happen to you. People without any citizenship do not, as one might wrongly think, escape the increasing bureaucracy, challenges and interventions of modern nation states, but are subject to these more than everyone else. In essence, they lack many rights while escaping none of the duties of citizens. To have no citizenship at all does not improve your freedom, it largely destroys it. As a factually stateless person you are completely at the mercy of the country you are currently located in. People with no citizenship at all can hardly cross any border and will struggle to provide basic identification that is needed for more and more things in today's world. While stateless travel documents or 1954 Convention Documents do exist, holders will have to apply for a visa to travel to any country even as a tourist, which means such a quasi-passport is as bad as the worst ordinary passports. Their freedom of movement is rather connected to the residence permits they may have, not to their non-existing citizenship. Most countries have specific provisions to help affected people to gain citizenship and there are a number of international initiatives regarding the topic. But if you think being actually stateless is a nice trick you could just try out, you are mistaken.

I want to provide a different connotation to the word stateless that is not associated with pure negativity. To be metaphorically stateless means to free yourself from the state and not be dependent on it. This is one of the most important things you should strive for in your life. Most people entrust their entire existence to the situation in one single country. That means the actions of a few politicians can possibly have a disastrous effect on your life. This year, Covid-19 has shown how fast supposed rights you thought to have can be suspended from one day to the other, how drastic measures can be extended without an end in sight - and worst, how a significant number of people will even cheer for more and harder lockdowns and just approve everything their government does, ignoring all consequences. You should not take the personal freedom and economic prosperity in a nation for granted, as most sadly do. To guarantee your liberty and a fulfilling life, you should forget about a life that most people would describe as normal and diversify internationally.

This is where Flag Theory comes into place. This concept is easily explained in one sentence: 'Go where you are treated best'. This applies to any part of your life you can possibly think of. Citizenship, residencies, companies, customers, employers, employees, bank accounts, portfolios, real estate, web hosting, education, health, cost of living, shopping, holidays, leisure, amusement, climate - why restrict yourself to one country when there are others better suited for this specific aspect you care about in your life?

You might be a citizen of Spain and Panama, residing in Cyprus but spending the summers in Austria, with bank accounts in Luxembourg and Georgia, a company in Romania, your main customers in the USA, frequently visiting other countries to enjoy the things they are most good at. Why not?

It is certainly easier to be a German, educated in Germany, living in Germany, employed in Germany, with bank accounts, portfolios and real estate in Germany, all your friends and family in Germany, only leaving Germany for your 2 week holiday every year. But is it, objectively, better? Probably not.

First of all, you are missing out on a lot that life has to offer. The world is vast. Needlessly restricting yourself to one nation like that and forgoing all the amazing experiences and opportunities that wait for you somewhere else is a folly. Secondly, by implementing Flag Theory in your life it becomes anti-fragile. If one of the countries in the first example implements laws that screw you over, you can mitigate it. You can switch out the pieces that are no longer to your liking and continue somewhere else. Only one part of your life will be affected and possible damage can easier be avoided or repaired. If Germany in the second example implements laws that screw you over, you are screwed over big. Your whole life is affected and it is likely already too late to avert huge and lasting damage. But such damage would be unnecessary, because it is so easy to take some preparatory measures. You do not need to and should not expect an apocalyptic crisis to be around the next corner all the time, but if you just prepare a little bit for all eventualities you will be very glad you have done it one day.

Of course, it all comes down to your personal preferences. You do not have to go to the extremes. You can start slowly and step by step. But you should start. Do not spend your next holiday in some popular tourist destination, but somewhere less conventional. Think about whether you really want to postpone all your dreams until retirement, if such a thing even exists for the average citizen in the future. Take some risks. Try and see if things in certain areas are done better somewhere

else than in your home country. And if they are done better there, why not participate?

While diversifying internationally might not be as easy and convenient as basing your whole life in one place, it certainly is more robust and rewarding in the long-term, no matter what happens. The 21st century has just started. You can be sure it still has a lot of surprises to offer, some positive, some negative. I would advise you to have some flexibility to react to these ever-changing circumstances and not count on others, especially not politicians, to do that job for you. Think for yourself and make your own decisions.

When almost every country closed their borders within a few days due to Covid-19, many people were stuck abroad or could only go back to their one home country. Some nations banned people with certain citizenship from particularly affected countries entirely, even though individuals with that citizenship may physically have been at the other end of the world. Everyone with multiple citizenship and/or multiple residence permits had a great advantage in this situation and at least had a choice in which nation to return, or use one as a stopover to somewhere else he or she could not have gone otherwise.

Some forecast the death of Flag Theory in the near future, on the grounds of an economic crisis that leads to an extensive re-nationalization. I strongly object. Globalization and internationalization are lasting and will not be reversed. Travelling may become a bit harder, but far from impossible. International business may become a bit harder, but far from impossible. As much as I am sure the current fiscal and monetary policy most countries follow will have disastrous effects in the long-term and we are overdue for a big recession, I am afraid many seriously underestimate how long the world's financial system and the nations dependent on it can be held

alive artificially. And even if some kind of crash happens, that does not mean the world is suddenly thrown back into the stone age. Let us just take the long prophesied collapse of the Eurozone as an example, which would be a truly world-changing event. If it were to happen in the next year, I would not be surprised. The debt problems European countries and companies face are hard to overlook. But if it does not happen as a result of massive state and central bank intervention, I would not be surprised either. Of course, this only postpones the fundamental problems into the future and ultimately makes them worse and worse, but you can be sure the politicians and officials who decide about that do not actually care what will happen in a few decades. They may even genuinely think they are doing the right thing. I do not generally assume people have bad intentions when incompetence and systemic blindness is also a good explanation.

In any case, life will always continue. You may have to take a serious hit to your personal life and financial situation if an event with such world-spanning implications were to happen, you will need to throw old beliefs and solutions out of the window, but it would not be the end. You just have to adapt to new circumstances, which will be much easier if you have taken some precautions with the help of Flag Theory. No matter what happens, there will always be options and opportunities waiting for you somewhere in the world. And if they exist, there will always be ways to embrace them. That is what Flag Theory is all about.

To obtain another or additional citizenship for yourself or to give your children and grandchildren one is a logical step in this way of thinking. Citizenship is the supreme discipline of Flag Theory. I also like to call it the 'Stateless paradox'. You should not aim to have no citizenship. That offers no benefits at all.

Instead, you should have as many as possible. More citizenship is not bad for you, but in fact almost always better. If you have the citizenship of two or more nations, you are not restricting your freedom but actually enhancing it. It is all about autonomy. The less you rely and depend on one country the better. A smart combination can allow you visa-free access to almost any country in the world, the option to permanently reside in many different places if you want to and has the potential to greatly improve your own life and that of your descendants. Opportunities of all kinds will be easier to embrace. And in case one of the countries you hold citizenship in implements questionable laws, for example regarding freedom of travel, military conscription or worldwide taxation - just timely get rid of the citizenship and be happy you have taken precautions instead of being stuck with it.

The trend in the world clearly goes towards allowing or even encouraging multiple citizenship. In 1960, less than 40% of United Nations member states allowed some form of multiple citizenship, while today it is more than 70%. Many countries removed or have an ongoing debate to abolish restrictions previously enforced, which means it will be increasingly more common to have two, three, four or even more different citizenship. If you combine the right countries, there really is no limit.

Concepts related to citizenship

This is a book primarily concerning citizenship. However, since there are quite some misconceptions and confusion about the differences and implications of some concepts closely associated with citizenship, this chapter will provide a brief explanation on these topics: Citizenship, nationality and passports, Residencies and tax residency, Visa and travel authorization systems. I will also give you a little introduction into my personal lifestyle, philosophy and favourite concept of all: Perpetual Travelling.

Citizenship, nationality and passports

In most countries, the terms citizenship and nationality are synonymous and mean exactly the same. But there is a fine distinction, especially applied in Latin America, where nationality is the attribute that defines the relation to the state (native or foreigner), while citizenship is given to adult nationals (usually above age 18) and is associated with further rights and obligations (Taking office, voting, conscription, etc.). In a few of these countries you can also never lose your nationality, but at most suspend your citizenship. However, this distinction can safely be ignored for our purposes. In essence, being a citizen of a country grants you additional rights and obligations that a non-citizen usually does not have. These include:

- The right to live and work in the country indefinitely
- The right to enter and leave the country at any time (sadly, the last months have shown this does not apply unconditionally everywhere)
- Freedom of travel according to the international agreements the country has made
- Easier immigration for your family, consular protection in foreign countries, (limited) protection from extradition to

foreign countries, voting rights, eligibility for (higher) government positions, ...

You can also enjoy some of these points if you are not a citizen, but live in the country in question with a (permanent) residence visa. You could say citizenship always includes the same rights as offered by a permanent residence visa, but goes a bit further in its implications.

The only potential downsides (you may not even consider them downsides, I definitely do) are military conscription, tax implications and international prestige. But these points are all predictable and manageable. Conscription today only exists in very few countries and where it exists, it can usually be avoided rather easily. Tax laws are known and there are a whole lot of interesting nations with adequate rates. That leaves international prestige: Citizenship in countries like Afghanistan or Iraq will indeed make your life rather harder than better, as such nations are blacklisted for all kinds of different purposes, which denies their citizens a whole range of possibilities. But apart from these considerations, there is no harm in being a citizen of as many countries as possible.

A passport is an identification document commonly used and needed for international travel. If you apply for a paper visa in a foreign country, it may also be the object where this visa is recorded in. Beyond that, a passport serves the same function as a national ID card. It is important to understand a passport is merely a symbol that you are a citizen of that country, it does not in itself make you a citizen. A majority of people in the world does not have a passport (and many do not have any kind of identification document at all) and their nationality is never questioned. In some very rare fringe cases, you could also end up with a valid passport without actually being a citizen. In Germany, a passport is not seen as proof of

citizenship, but merely as an indication. If you need to prove you are a German citizen, for example to become a government official, presenting your German passport is not enough, but you have to apply for a 'Staatsangehörigkeitsnachweis' or Certificate of Citizenship. That simply is another type of document you only get after authorities have carefully checked the status of your citizenship and are sure you are actually (still) a German citizen.

Confusion about this procedure is part of some quite hilarious but wide-spread conspiracy theories in Germany whose followers are commonly known under the term 'Reichsbürger' but partly also use the term Staatenlos for the spread of their misguided ideas. I never had anything to do with such groups. What they do is just wasting their own time on ludicrous theories without actually improving their life in the slightest bit. I prefer improving my and helping you to improve your situation in ways that actually work and matter.

Residencies and tax residency

A residence or residency is the place where you live, or more precisely, where you are allowed to live. If someone talks about residencies, they usually refer to a (permanent) residence visa or permit that grants you the right to live and work in a specific country without being a citizen there.

The number of residencies you can have is unrestricted. You obtain and lose them only according to the laws of the country in question. Most nations offer many different options to obtain a residence permit with miscellaneous requirements. You could say that if you are a citizen of an EU (European Union) or EEA (European Economic Area) member state, you already possess residencies in 26+ nations, as you are entitled to enter, live and work in all participating countries at any time without applying for a resident visa. There are still certain other

requirements you have to fulfill. Most notably you must not be dependent on social security transfers, else you may be forced to leave the country. Of course, you are also obliged to register with the responsible local authorities after a certain timeframe to get the whole bureaucracy connected to being a resident started. But you do not need to apply for a permit beforehand as you would have to do everywhere else in the world, and as everyone else in the world has to do if they want to live in the EU.

The cheapest and most popular permanent residence permits - at least before Covid-19 - are offered by Panama and Paraguay. Such a permit does not mean you have to live in the country, it just allows you to do that if you want to. There is absolutely no downside in having these, and the only requirement to make sure these permits stay valid is to enter the country for a single day every 2 years in Panama or every 10 years in Paraguay - which should be manageable. Of course, you can potentially get a residence permit in any country, these are just two examples where it currently is most easy to achieve.

A tax residency is the place where you are liable to personal, direct taxes, such as income tax. For most people, their tax residency will be the same as their main residence, but this is not necessarily the case. Certain laws and agreements between countries may result in another country than your country of residence taxing you, for example the 'Überdachende' (literally 'roofing') taxation in Switzerland, where a former resident of Germany may still be taxed in Germany for 5 years even after moving his main residence to Switzerland. It may also happen if you are an employee but work somewhere abroad for the majority of the year.

Generally, you are tax resident in the country where you spent 183 days a year - for the simple reason that a year only has

365 days and this without a doubt ensures that you have not spend more time anywhere else. More precisely and for practical reasons, it matters where you spent the nights, as the place you return to for sleep is generally deemed to be your primary whereabouts for that day. Most countries have additional provisions in place that tighten this requirement, sometimes shortening the timeframe, for example to 90 nights in Switzerland or just to 'more than anywhere else' in France. In the most extreme example possible, that means 3 nights in France and 2 nights in 181 other countries respectively would make you liable to French taxation. Of course, that is practically impossible to verify and highly unlikely to ever be enforced. As a last example, the US uses the 'Substantial Presence Test', where your physical presence inside the US within the last 3 years matters and is weighed according to a formula.

But the number of nights you spend in a country is not the only criteria. Just as important is the question where your main place of residence is deemed to be located. For the vast majority of people their only home will be their main residence and also where they spend more than 183 nights a year, but that is not necessarily the case for everyone.

While legislation about this is usually surprisingly short, court decisions about arising taxation conflicts have gone into lengthy detail about the habitual residence or main place of abode and at what point which criteria need to be fulfilled to be considered a tax resident or not, although the answers are still not as well defined as one might think. You will find plenty information about this topic in the Staatenlos blog or community. If more than one country claims you as their tax resident, there are procedures in place to determine who is allowed to tax what part of your income in the end.

Perpetual Travelling

Personally, I prefer a rather simple solution to this topic: It is not necessary to have a main or tax residence at all. This is the fundamental feature of Perpetual Travelling. I spent only around two weeks in Germany and instead traveled to 30-80 different countries every year for the past 5 years with nothing but hand luggage. Then again, I am kind of crazy - I will have visited every of the 197 UN countries within the next year at age 30. After that, I am working on the 329 different destinations the World Travelers Century Club has designated as separate territories - slowing down a bit. Maybe. In any case, I do not plan to settle permanently in a single country, but instead have 4-6 bases all around the world where I spend a few weeks or months each year and enjoy some rest from the travel in between.

It is important to understand you do not need to travel as extensive to follow the Perpetual Travelling lifestyle. As little as three countries per year can be enough. There are some things to consider, but if done right, this is perfectly legal and frees you from most of the burdens modern nation states impose on you - including direct taxation, mandatory insurance and the whole lot of nonsense you otherwise have to deal with in your daily life. Many people tell me one of the best things about this lifestyle is the relaxed state of mind coming from leaving all the crazy bureaucracy behind - or at least exchanging it for (much less) bureaucracy of your own choosing. Being factually stateless is bad, but being voluntarily homeless can be quite fantastic and is as close to the metaphorical statelessness I am aiming for as you can get. How easy it is to start this lifestyle is dependent on the laws of the country you last lived in as a resident, but it is generally possible for everyone. Some countries impose obstacles, for example the obligation to prove a new main residency before being released from your old one,

but there is a solution for every problem. Perpetual Travelling also does not affect your citizenship or the residence and travel rights connected to it in any way. You simply move your place of abode out of the country you currently live in - to nowhere.

As a German citizen, you just have to deregister your German residence, correctly structure or terminate remaining business or property and file a last tax return. You would do exactly the same if you move to another country - but you just skip that part, or just stay there temporarily. As long as your main place of residence really is not in Germany anymore, you are good to go. Most notably, you have to stay out of Germany for more than 183 nights a year, do not have any house or apartment left for personal use inside the country and take your spouse and minor children with you. After that, you only need to avoid to establish a new main residence in another country if that would be connected to implications you want to avoid. But other countries generally care far less than your former home country about what you are doing as long as it is not something blatantly illegal. For the rest of the world, you are just a tourist.

Whether this is morally right and legitimate is another question you are welcome to discuss in the Staatenlos community if you are sceptical. I am convinced it is the only logical and ethically right thing to do. The modern state is the great fiction where everyone tries to live on each others cost with increasing coercion under the threat of force. Collectivism is always bad. Individual liberty is the highest good. I want none of the supposed benefits of a 'normal' life and in turn just be left to live in peace. Government budgets are big black holes and no matter how much money you put in there, it will never be enough. Way too many people trade their freedom for false security. Ultimately, more and more people lose their personal

autonomy and can not even conceive of any other way to solve a problem than to cry for the government to throw money at it.

Whatever your opinion on this is, Perpetual Travellers still pay indirect taxes such as VAT. That alone is already more than enough to compensate for the usage of public infrastructure and to finance the only legitimate functions of government: Protection from physical harm with the absolutely smallest infringement on personal liberty possible and provision of a basic legal system and framework to support the peaceful and voluntary coexistence of individuals. Every single nation on earth is currently far, far, far, far away from this ideal. For me, Perpetual Travelling is the best solution to come closer to it.

Let me be clear that I oppose tax fraud in any form. I think tax fraud is among the dumbest things you can do. You can achieve every of your goals legally with a bit of effort and by changing your life in a way that is very probable to immensely improve it. If you want a better life play by the rules, but cleverly use them to your own advantage.

I want to end this excursion with a few words about the biggest problem for any Perpetual Traveller: Compliance. Perpetual Travelling was not designed or invented, it is just a result of how modern nations interact with each other and how their legislation works out in practice. The concept of people without a residence does not exist in the systems implemented in our modern world. In recent years, miscellaneous treaties have made anything in this area that has to do with money, be it businesses or bank and brokerage accounts, quite a bit more complicated. Almost everywhere, you need some kind of residence proof in form of a utility bill and/or a tax number. This is one of the reasons why it is ultimately smart to nevertheless have a residence or additional citizenship somewhere in the world - or rather multiple, in the right

countries that are best suited for you. Remember, you do not actually have to live there permanently, you are just allowed to if you want. You can still avoid to have a main residence, or have it in a country where this has no negative ramifications. You will still only become an official tax resident if you spend more than 183 nights in a country, with some exceptions. But this provides you with the documentation you need and enables you to do all finance-related things that are necessary for a living in our modern world.

While I understand this lifestyle is not for everyone, I am convinced it is the best thing you can do if you want to change your life for the better. If you emigrate from a country just to permanently immigrate somewhere else, you will likely face the same problems that were the reason for your emigration in the first place. The perfect country does not exist. That is why I do not live in one place, but in many, many different ones.

Visa and travel authorization systems

A visa is a document that grants you the right to enter a certain country for a certain purpose. We already spoke about (permanent) residence visa in the context of residencies.

However, this is only one specific visa category. There are residence visa, tourist visa, work visa, retirement visa, education visa, business visa, permanent or non-permanent, one entry or multiple entry, with a specific limit of days per year or not, and many other factors in any combination as the country issuing the visa sees fit.

For the purpose of this book, any residence visa that allows you to live in a country, permanently or not, can potentially be interesting to obtain citizenship. After all, if you are aiming for the most common way of obtaining citizenship other than by

birth, which is naturalization after spending a certain amount of years living in a country, you must be allowed to enter and stay in the country in the first place. However, since every country has a multitude of different visa for a multitude of different purposes, this is not explored in detail for every nation in this book. Rest assured, there are possibilities to get a residence visa in any country - but with heavily varying requirements.

A common misconception relating to tourist visa regards Travel Authorization Systems such as the Canadian or Australian ETA (Electronic Travel Authority) or the American ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization). These are not visa. If you are a citizen of a country eligible to use these systems, you do not need a visa to visit that country as a tourist. In the US, this is known as the visa-waiver program. The travel authorization systems are merely what they claim to be - travel authorizations for specific methods of transportation. Usually they are only needed if you enter a country by plane or boat - the fact that all countries having these systems can hardly be entered by other means is merely a coincidence. They pre-approve your travel, they are not a guarantee you are allowed to enter the country. Of course, being denied entry after being approved by such a system hardly happens, but it could. The distinction to proper visa is not that big anymore with more and more countries implementing electronic visa that effectively require the same information as the travel authorization systems. But if you ever applied for an actual paper visa at an embassy, you may notice the difference.

To give you an example, if you are a citizen eligible under the visa-waiver program, you only need an ESTA if you want to enter the United States directly by air or sea. You would not need anything else than your passport if you go to Mexico first and enter the US over land, where you are issued an old-school paper visa at the border.

How to obtain citizenship

Under which conditions you may obtain citizenship of a country differs greatly. Each nation is completely free to set their own laws and regulations. In practice there are the following methods to obtain citizenship:

- by birth (Jus sanguinis / Jus soli) or adoption
- by descent or registration due to ancestors
- by naturalization, declaration or grant (for long-term residents, due to marriage, for distinguished persons, through investment schemes, ...)

Note that the exact terms that describe these methods may differ from country to country. For example, 'by descent' often refers to a child's ordinary Jus sanguinis inheritance of citizenship from his or her parents at birth. I only use it to describe the potential inheritance or registration of citizenship from ancestors other than parents. In this way, there is a clearly defined category that represents the most common method to obtain citizenship: by birth. Here, we have to differentiate between the two main methods of determining who becomes a citizen at birth: Jus sanguinis and Jus soli.

Jus sanguinis is latin for 'right of blood' and means that the citizenship of the child is determined by the citizenship of the parents. In most nations, this is the main way of bestowing citizenship, and every country practices some form of it. The only exception is Vatican City. There are different things to consider in every nation as their legislation is distinct, but this essentially means:

If your child is born in a country you hold citizenship in, it is guaranteed to receive that citizenship. If your child is born in a country you do not hold citizenship in, it acquires your citizenship automatically in most of the cases. There are some

exceptions to this, where you have to request citizenship for your child within a certain timeframe, have to fulfill certain residence requirements, be a natural-born citizen yourself or other regulations. However, if your child is born in a foreign country this may grant him or her an additional citizenship if that country practices some form of Jus soli.

If a child has parents with differing or multiple citizenship, it will usually receive all of these citizenship at birth - if that is what the laws of the affected countries provide and allow. Transmission of citizenship is usually automatic. That means you, your parents or grandparents could have additional citizenship without even knowing it. Most likely an unknown or unintended citizenship was lost at some point on the way, but if you know for a fact that some of your direct ancestors did have another citizenship that you do not currently hold, it is very much worth having a look whether you could be entitled to this citizenship as well.

Jus soli is latin for 'right of soil' and means that the citizenship of the child is determined by the place it was born in. Common throughout the former British Empire but severely restricted in most places, today it is still practiced in almost all of North and South America and some other countries around the world. There are three forms of Jus soli you should know about:

- Unconditional Jus soli
- Conditional Jus soli
- Double Jus soli

Unconditional Jus soli is practiced in 29 nations, for example Argentina and Panama. This means a mother could never have been to the country and possibly just enter a week before and leave a week after birth on a tourist visa, it would be enough to give the child citizenship of these countries. The usual exception to the principle of Unconditional Jus soli are children

born to people in service of a foreign government, for example the children of foreign embassy officials, or children of parents that hold citizenship in an enemy country in times of war. Fears about birth tourism or mass immigration are the main reasons why this principle was abolished or restricted in most countries. However, notably Canada and the US are still practicing it in its unconditional form. In case of the US, Republican politicians have tried to limit Jus soli citizenship to permanent residents for decades, thus denying US citizenship to children of illegal immigrants, people on limited visa, tourists and all other non-residents. However, all of these attempts failed so far. The US currently has gone over to executive measures and instead makes sure women from certain countries, most notably China, simply can not enter the US at all if they are pregnant, by denying visa and limiting their entrance. But at least women eligible under the visa-waiver program are usually not denied entry even when pregnant, so entering the US for the purpose of birth tourism is still possible in many cases, albeit under increased scrutiny. Just remember this also subjects your child to worldwide taxation due to US citizenship as well as unwanted attention in some parts of the world, which is not really the nicest of gifts you could make to a newborn.

Conditional Jus soli applies further restrictions to this principle through residence requirements. For example, the United Kingdom abolished Unconditional Jus soli in 1981 - by introducing a condition. A child born in the UK to foreign parents is only granted UK citizenship if one parent is a permanent resident (which you become in the UK after living in the country for 5 years), or at age 10 at the latest if the child has been a continuous resident in the UK since birth.

Double Jus soli is a special form that may be unconditional or conditional. It means that citizenship is granted to a child born in the country when one of the parents was also born in the

same country. It was originally intended to make sure that at least third-generation immigrants automatically receive citizenship. Some countries have residence or other requirements attached to this principle, but some do not. If for example you really wanted your grandchild to become a Luxembourgian (provided this specific provision remains intact in the next decades), all you have to do is make sure your child is born in Luxembourg and the child of your child is as well. That would entitle your grandchild to Luxembourgian citizenship even though his parents and grandparents may never have actually lived in the country.

For the rare cases where a child is born on a ship in or a plane above international waters, it may still be able to get a Jus soli citizenship if the ship or plane is registered in a country that provides for this case in their legislation. More common is a birth in national waters or airspace that usually count as an ordinary part of a country, and thus legislation regarding Jus soli citizenship is in effect there even if the child is not born on solid ground.

Since the citizenship of parents, grandparents or even further ancestors as well as the place of birth may all be relevant, it is totally possible, by chance or deliberate planning, that a child gets 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or even more citizenship directly at birth - if the laws of the affected countries interact in a way that makes this possible and all allow multiple citizenship.

Citizenship by adoption is not further explored in this book. Adopting minors always grants them the citizenship of the adopter, at least after a few years. Adopting other adults, which is possible in some countries, does not grant them citizenship. The potential for misuse is obvious and this does not work in any country as far as I am aware.

Another way to become a citizen is by descent from other people than just your parents, potentially going really far back in time. One example would be Armenia, where you can get citizenship if any of your ancestors once was an Armenian at some point - you just have to prove it, which usually is the difficult part. It is very much worth checking out your family history and speak with older family members about this topic, because the chances that some of your ancestors came from a different country than the one you now live or have citizenship in is very high. The possibility this specific country has some way that you can claim the citizenship due to your ancestors is slim, but it exists. Programs like the 'Law of Return' in Israel or the 'Late Resettlers' in Germany fall into the same category, as well as many other special provisions in various countries that may affect your citizenship if your ancestors were displaced by the Second World War and its aftermath.

In any case, you need to provide solid proof that your ancestor actually was a citizen of or born in the country in question. Since you most likely do not even have the birth certificate or some proof of citizenship of your grandparents lying around, not to speak of earlier generations, this can prove rather difficult the further you go back in time. However, especially in countries that suffered from mass-scale expulsions, it might be enough to just provide anything as long as it is plausible, though prepare for a rather complicated struggle in this case. You can also search through extensive archives of historical documents that are available in many places, with a lot of specialized service providers to help you on the way. If you are sure you descend from a certain country where you could claim citizenship but miss the documents to prove it, you should involve the whole family in the process. After all, some of them will also be eligible for that particular citizenship if you are, and it is very possible that the proof you need is not lost, but has

just been collecting dust in some aunt's basement for the past decades.

The most common way to become a citizen apart from birth is naturalization. The ordinary way is to obtain a (permanent) residence permit in a certain country and live there for a specified number of years. This usually ranges from 2 to 8 years, most commonly 5. However, there are also a few countries that put their requirements in the range from 10 to 30 years of residence. Additionally, you need to fulfill all the other requirements laid out by the law and then apply for citizenship. Every country has their own laws and there are tons of variations for different people depending on their previous citizenship, place of birth, ancestors or other conditions. Do note that even if you fulfill all the requirements, it is still an application that could potentially be turned down. That hardly happens, but in some countries it may. Another variation of this is citizenship by marriage, which usually leads to obtaining the citizenship of your spouse if you are living in your spouse's country considerably faster. A small number of nations also grant citizenship just considering the time you have been married and not requiring any residence in the country itself, which can be very convenient.

Another method to obtain citizenship is through investment programs. This is essentially a shortcut that grants you citizenship of a nation in a reasonable timeframe with no or very short residence requirements in exchange for donating or investing a lot of money. The places with such programs known most widely are various Caribbean islands, but the possibility exists in quite some more nations around the world. All these countries introduced special legislation and agencies for this purpose and you can choose between dozens of service providers that help you through the process. These programs are in constant change and heavily criticized by certain political

groups, but you can be sure they will always exist somewhere in nations that see a benefit in attracting foreign investment.

Finally, we come to the last method of obtaining citizenship, which is the discretionary power of the head of the executive (President, Prime Minister or Chancellor) to grant citizenship as he or she sees fit. All countries allow this in some form. This is not done on a mass scale and usually reserved to celebrities or people with outstanding achievements in economics, science, culture or other areas, but it happens frequently. It only attracts interest in popular cases, for example back in 2013 when Russian President Vladimir Putin granted Russian citizenship to the French actor Gerard Depardieu after he left France due to their 75% top tax rate (which was abolished within two years after greatly failing expected revenues). Sometimes this method is also used to grant citizenship to investors when the country does not have an official program for this. This is for example done in Austria, in a rather opaque way.

Citizenship for yourself

This chapter will provide you with an overview about the different ways to obtain citizenship and where you can do it the fastest. It will not take into account other considerations like multiple citizenship, freedom of travel, military conscription or tax implications. You can find full information on all included countries in the index. You will find the recommended countries from my point of view and according to my preferences in the chapter 'Ideal countries'. The following chapter will be broken down into the feasible methods to obtain citizenship for yourself: By residence, by marriage, by investment, by descent and by descendants.

By Residence

The following examined countries provide the fastest ways to become a citizen by naturalization due to residence.

After two years: Argentina, Dominican Republic*, Peru, Singapore*

After three years: Armenia, Ecuador, Honduras, Israel, Paraguay, Poland*, Serbia*

After four years: Australia, Brazil, Canada

These countries are followed by many dozens of other nations that require 5 years residence, which is the timeframe used most commonly in the world at the moment.

Before applying for citizenship, you will usually need to obtain a permanent residence visa. In all the marked* nations, you will have to spent the specified amount after you have obtained this permanent residence visa, the time spent before is irrelevant. In the others it is possible to fulfill the time

requirement as a temporary resident and become a permanent resident just at some point before you apply for citizenship. In Peru, it is not necessary to become a permanent resident at all, because Peru treats permanent residence as an alternative to citizenship, not as a prerequisite.

The distinction between temporary and permanent residence is important and may make a big difference. While spending just two years in Singapore sounds very nice and a temporary residence there is no big problem to get, obtaining a permanent one is very hard. The same applies to Israel, where you technically can spend the 3 years as a temporary resident, but becoming a permanent resident at some point before naturalization at all is the hard part. In the Dominican Republic, Poland and Serbia this is comparably easier, but if you do not fall under a category of persons that has facilitated access to permanent residence visa you may have to live there on several temporary residence visa first and can only apply for a permanent residence after 2-5 years. Then you need to spend the specified amount on top - which completely negates the supposed swiftness of these citizenship and actually puts them in the upper range of time needed. But since there are also ways to obtain these permanent residence visa rather fast, it really depends on the individual case and can not be generalized. Also keep in mind that after fulfilling the requirements, the process of naturalization itself may take anything from a few months to more than a year, depending on the bureaucratic efficiency of the respective country. You also generally do not need to fulfill the residence requirements without any interruption, but within a larger timeframe (for example, residence for 4 years within the last 8 years). However, you always have to spend at least the year before applying for naturalization as a resident in the country.

Taking the above nations, I would categorize the difficulty to obtain a temporary or permanent residence and finally become a citizen as following:

Easier: Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru

Harder: Australia, Canada, Israel, Poland, Serbia, Singapore

Residence visa in the easier countries can basically be obtained by anyone with an average salary. Harder does not mean it is impossible, it just means the requirements are higher than in the easier countries. If you already have family or other contacts in these countries that can be helpful. If you are a highly skilled professional or an entrepreneur earning over ~100.000 USD a year, you should not have any problems to obtain a (temporary) residence visa in any of these countries - though as stated before, you will have a hard time in Israel and Singapore to get a permanent one at all.

When you have fulfilled all the requirements and apply for naturalization, you usually have to present the following documents: Passport or national ID card, proof of permanent residence, birth certificate, police certificates, tax returns and proof of fee payment. Then you need to successfully complete an interview or prove your language skills and pass a citizenship test, depending on what exactly the country requires.

In some nations, you have to prove that you were actually inside the country for the specified amount of days. Some nations require a specific number of days with actual physical presence or a maximum amount of days you are allowed to stay abroad. For this purpose, you should inform yourself about the exact procedure in your chosen country right after you

migrated there. Some countries track every of your entries and exits automatically (at least if done by plane), some will require you to present a consistent travel journal, some want proof of residence for every year you claim to have lived inside the country (rental agreement, water/electricity/internet bills, bank statements, ...). Be sure to collect the necessary documents and satisfy the specific requirements of your chosen country right from the start.

Do note that the application process itself, after you fulfilled all the requirements, may take anything from a few months up to two years. Depending on the country, you are usually expected to still live there as previously and adhere to the same rules until citizenship has been finally granted.

I will finish with some (dis)honorable mentions of the citizenship included in this book that are hardest to get by residence without using any special rules. In some of these countries, even just getting a temporary, not to speak of a permanent residence permit is already really hard. But if you manage to get one at some point, you would need to spend a total of 10 years in Monaco (but even after that less than 5% of applications are actually approved), 20 years in Andorra, 20 years in Oman, 25 years in Brunei, 25 years in San Marino, 30 years in Liechtenstein (but usually only 10 if approved by the local community) and finally 30 years in the United Arab Emirates. If you manage to become a citizen by naturalization in one of these countries I would be rather impressed. I can hardly stay a week in the same place, so these timeframes are definitely not suiting me personally.

By Marriage

The second common option to obtain citizenship is by marriage. It works basically the same as naturalization by residence, it is generally just way faster and obtaining a residence visa should not be a problem, since your spouse already is a citizen in that country which usually entitles you to stay there with him or her.

The countries where citizenship by marriage is granted the fastest are the following. Again, keep in mind that after fulfilling the requirements, the process of naturalization itself may take anything from a few months to more than a year:

Immediately if resident: Argentina, Bahamas*, Barbados*, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Luxembourg, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Tonga, Vanuatu*

One year marriage and/or residence: Belize, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Spain

Two years marriage and/or residence: Armenia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt*, El Salvador, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Slovenia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Ukraine

The marked* options only apply to foreign females marrying male citizens.

Possible abroad: Ecuador (2 years marriage), Italy (1.5 years marriage with italian child, 3 without), Cyprus (3 years marriage), Portugal (3 years marriage), Netherlands (3 years marriage), Hungary (5 years marriage with hungarian child, 10 without), France (5 years marriage), Malta (5 years marriage), Switzerland (6 years marriage), Sweden (10 years marriage).

All these nations require you to be a resident, except the ones listed under 'Possible abroad'. These countries even allow you to gain citizenship if you reside somewhere else, provided you are living together with your spouse and have other sufficiently substantial connections to his or her country. The Netherlands and Sweden also require you to not live in a country where you already hold citizenship in to utilize this possibility. For some reason, apart from Ecuador and Switzerland these are all EU countries, but I could not find anything indicating this possibility exists in more nations.

The other distinction is the one between marriage years and residence years. Some nations only care about the time of residence even before you married a citizen, some only care for the time after the marriage has taken place as long as you are a resident, and some consider a combination of these. For example, in Malaysia the requirement is 2 years of residence. It does not matter at what point the marriage has taken place, if you already lived in Malaysia for more than 2 years before marrying a Malaysian you can apply for citizenship immediately. This is different to South Korea, where you need to be a resident for 2 years after the marriage has taken place, which again is different from Guatemala where you just have to be married for one year and then can become a citizen at any time even if you just reside inside the country for a few months until the naturalization process is completed.

Of course, I am not advocating to find a spouse solely based on this list. Marriages of convenience - marrying only for a special purpose, like obtaining a residence visa or citizenship, and later divorcing again - are generally seen as fraud which would result in a cancellation of citizenship or visa. Authorities would hardly notice or be able to prove a malicious intent, but better be on the safe side of things in such matters. But if you are

searching for a partner and contemplate marriage anyway - why not combine the beautiful with the useful?

By Investment

Citizenship by investment offers the fastest and most convenient route to citizenship, but of course, also the most expensive. As it is the most interesting and sought-after way for many people, I will cover the topic quite extensively. Citizenship by investment has seen a resurgence in the past years with many countries starting new programs, but it has also come under increased scrutiny at the same time. Wealthy people buying residencies or citizenship for themselves and their families is heavily disapproved by certain political groups. Leftist groups in the EU parliament as well as the European commission have officially requested all member states to abolish citizenship by investment schemes as well as mere investor residencies (Golden Visa) in Europe, citing corruption, money-laundering and tax evasion risks. A number of recent scandals in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Malta where passports were granted to persons facing criminal charges abroad surely does not improve the overall picture. The program in Bulgaria is currently suspended and unlikely to re-open. The program in Malta will phase out by August 2020 and be replaced by a more restrictive one. I personally doubt whether the programs in and around the EU have a chance to survive long-term, including investor or golden visa without real residence requirements such as the ones in Greece or Portugal. If you consider to obtain citizenship by investment in Bulgaria, Cyprus or Malta, I would advise to act quickly. This is also applicable to peripheral countries where the EU has the means to pressure these nations into abandoning their programs, for example Montenegro (limited until the end of 2021) and Moldova (currently suspended and unlikely to re-open).

A number of countries did sell just passports rather than proper citizenship back in the 90s, an important distinction. While having the passport of a country usually means you also have citizenship of that country, it is not necessarily the case, though today it hardly happens. I once had a German client who obtained a non-EU citizenship without being granted permission to do so beforehand, which results in the automatic loss of German citizenship. He did not really mind and thought German authorities would not notice anyway, which seemed to be the case at first. He used his German passport without any issues for several years - until it had to be renewed. Only upon trying to renew his passport he learned that authorities in fact did notice and that he had not been a German citizen anymore for the past years, despite having no issues using his passport.

While this is a rather special case, it shows how passports do not necessarily correspond to citizenship. Selling passports without providing the underlying citizenship is illegal by all international standards and today only exists in the form of corrupt government officials or contractors that give out half-fake passports. These passports may look real, maybe they are even registered in an official database, maybe they will even work and you can use them to travel, but they are ultimately based on fraud. They do not make you a citizen and will most likely land you in jail at some point. You should definitely avoid offers that are too cheap to be true. One frequently mentioned country in this context is Romania. Romania, like almost every country, offers a standard temporary investor visa for ~100.000 EUR, that grants you the right to obtain a permanent residence after 5 years of uninterrupted living in the country. After 3 more years you can apply for naturalization, which is totally official and legitimate. But Romania definitely does not offer instant citizenship, especially not for a fraction of the cost of its investor visa. The absolutely cheapest official citizenship by investment programs

are offered by Dominica and St. Lucia and start at 110.000 and 115.000 USD for a single person, fees included. If you find any instant (meaning you get citizenship within a few months with no real residence requirements) citizenship cheaper than that, better triple check what you are looking at.

In essence, any citizenship program not listed here is either newly launched in/after 2020, passport fraud or an outright scam. Listed are only programs that are specifically designed for citizenship, not golden visa schemes that just provide a residence permit after which ordinary naturalization requirements have to be fulfilled.

The distinction is that any program requiring no or almost no residency that significantly shortens the process is considered citizenship by investment, while everything else is an investor or golden visa. These are only rarely explored in detail in this book because they exist in varying forms in virtually any country, sometimes as expensive as citizenship by investment, sometimes much cheaper. For example, an edge case would be the Dominican Republic, where you can get citizenship just ~6 months after you gained a permanent residence permit, which you can get for a deposit of ~200.000 USD. This however is nothing special, as everyone with a permanent residence permit in the Dominican Republic can potentially gain citizenship after ~6 months, and there are other options to obtain this permit than depositing this amount of money. You pay primarily for the residence permit, not for the citizenship, and the residence requirements are not shortened in comparison to the ordinary requirements. Something similar applies to Brazil, where you can also get a permanent residence visa for an investment of ~200.000 USD. But you can only obtain citizenship after waiting 4 years, which is the normal time everyone else has to live in the country before applying for naturalization as well.

However, be advised that if you obtain an investor or golden visa, nations are usually not too harsh about residence requirements for naturalization, especially in large or less developed nations. That means you often do not actually have to live in the country for most of the year but can still become a citizen after the required amount of years has passed. You should clarify such details with local service providers once you start an immigration process.

The following countries did have a proper citizenship by investment program in the past. These have been closed and do not exist as of June 2020: Comoros, Ireland, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tonga.

All the usual requirements (knowledge and test about the language, laws, politics or history of the country) do not apply in citizenship by investment programs. All listed countries either allow multiple citizenship for everyone or allow it at least if gained by investment. If you want to include children or parents it is always required that they are dependent, meaning they must be reliant on financial support by the main applicant (small pension, unemployed, students). Children must also not be married.

All investments must be pre-approved by the respective government and the projects are often already fixed. Given is the minimum amount to qualify for citizenship, investing more is of course possible. The expected yields are averages as of June 2020 and will vary in the future.

Note that in addition to the specified contribution amounts, you have to expect processing, due diligence, passport and professional service provider fees. Especially in the countries that offer comparably cheap citizenship, this raises the actual

cost significantly above the mere contribution amounts that are usually advertised. Depending on the price range of the service provider in question, these fees might be a bit lower or higher than listed here. A table with the total expected cost for different family configurations is given at the end of this chapter.

Albania

The government of Albania planned to launch a citizenship by investment program in 2020 that also offers significant tax benefits. However, there is backlash to this plans both inside the country and the EU, so whether the program will really be launched is not guaranteed.

Antigua & Barbuda

- Citizenship after ~4 months
- 5 days residence required within every 5 years
- Investments must be held for at least 5 years
- Can include spouse, children (until age 28) and parents (above age 58)
- Expected yield: 4-6% for real estate

100.000 USD donation (National Development Fund) or
150.000 USD donation (University of West Indies Fund, includes one year scholarship, only for 6+ person families) or
200.000 USD investment in real estate or
400.000 USD investment each in a business with any number of partners (5.000.000 USD combined) or
1.500.000 USD investment in a business

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~40.000 USD for donation, ~80.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~15.000 USD

Additional fees for every further person: ~20.000 USD

Austria

Not an official program. Citizenship is awarded on the basis of a grant due to 'outstanding achievements' that must be approved on various government levels. In this case, all usual requirements are waived and multiple citizenship is permitted. The process will last 2-3 years. Required amounts vary and are largely only rumoured, from at least 1.000.000-3.000.000 EUR as a donation to 5.000.0000-15.000.000 EUR as an investment. Extensive support by service providers or friendly contacts to high government officials will likely be needed for success and favorable conditions.

Bulgaria

Note: The program was suspended in early 2020. It is unlikely to re-open.

- Only for Non-EU citizens
- No residence requirements
- Bonds must be held for the duration of the process
- Can include spouse and children (until age 18), but it will take longer for them than for the main applicant
- Expected yield: 0% (any accrued interest or dividends are not returned)

Option 1:

Citizenship after 5-6 years

1.000.000 BGN (~510.000 EUR) investment in government bonds

Option 2:

Citizenship after 2-3 years

2.000.000 BGN (~1.020.000 EUR) investment in government bonds or a business

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~40.000 EUR for option 1, ~45.000 EUR for option 2

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~50.000 EUR for option 1, ~60.000 EUR for option 2

Additional fees for every further person: ~7.500 EUR

Cambodia

Note: The citizenship law was amended in 2018. The required investment amounts were changed at that time. There is still contradicting information around and the original source is not publicly available.

- Can include spouse and children (until age 18)
- 12 months residence required for Option 1, 6 months residence required for Option 2

Option 1:

1.000.000.000 KHR (~244.000 USD) donation (to the national budget)

Option 2:

6.000.000.000 KHR (~1.460.000 USD) investment in a business

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~50.000 USD for donation

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~15.000 USD for donation

Additional fees for every further person: ~30.000 USD for donation

No consistent information on fees for investment option

Cape Verde

Not an official program. Citizenship is awarded on the basis of a grant due to 'outstanding achievements'. The process takes around 6 months and requires an investment into real estate or the creation of at least 10 jobs, with a cost of 200.000-500.000 EUR.

Cyprus

- Citizenship after ~6-12 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 28) and parents (above age 65, need to have their own property worth at least 500.000 EUR)
- Investments must be held for at least 5 years, a property worth at least 500.000 EUR must be held indefinitely
- Expected yield: ~4-6% for real estate, ~0.5-1% for bonds

Option 1:

150.000 EUR donation (Research and Innovation Foundation and Cyprus Land Development Corporation) **and**
2.000.000 EUR investment in residential real estate

Option 2:

150.000 EUR donation (Research and Innovation Foundation and Cyprus Land Development Corporation) **and**
500.000 EUR investment in residential real estate **and**
2.000.000 EUR investment in infrastructure, land development, real estate, government bonds, a business with at least 5 employees, (Registered) Alternative Investment Funds or a combination of these

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~15.000 EUR

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~25.000 EUR for adult children, ~10.000 EUR for minor children

Additional fees for every further person: ~10.000 EUR for adult children/parents, ~500 EUR for minor children

Dominica

- Citizenship after ~3 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 28) and parents (above age 55)
- Investments must be held for at least 3 years
- Expected yield: 4-6% for real estate

100.000 USD donation (Economic Diversification Fund) or
200.000 USD investment in real estate

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~10.000 USD for
donation, ~40.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~110.000 USD for
donation, ~20.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for every further person: ~30.000 USD for
donation, ~20.000 USD for investments

Egypt

- Citizenship after ~3-6 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse and children (until age 18)
- The investment and cheaper deposit have to be held for at least 5 years, the more expensive deposit for 3 years
- Expected yield: 0% for deposit (any accrued interest is not returned)

250.000 USD donation (to the national budget) or
400.000 USD investment in a business (share at least 40%) or
500.000 USD investment in real estate or
750.000 USD deposit with the Central Bank of Egypt or
1.000.000 USD deposit with the Central Bank of Egypt

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~20.000 USD

No consistent information on fees for family members

Grenada

- Citizenship after ~4 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 30), parents (above age 55) and siblings (not married and no children)
- Investments must be held for at least 3 years
- Expected yield: 3-5% for real estate

150.000 USD donation (National Transformation Fund) or
220.000 USD investment each in tourism development with a partner or
350.000 USD investment in real estate

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~15.000 USD for donation, ~70.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~55.000 USD for donation, ~15.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for every further person: ~30.000 USD for donation, ~30.000 USD for investments

Jordan

- 'Temporary' citizenship after ~3-6 months, full citizenship after ~3 years
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, unmarried/widowed/divorced daughters, sons (until age 18) and parents
- Investments must be held for at least 3 or 5 years, deposit for 5 years, bonds for 10 years, a property worth at least 250.000 USD must be held indefinitely
- Expected yield: 0% for deposit, ~5% for bonds, ~6-9% for real estate

250.000 USD investment in real estate **and**

1.000.000 USD investment in Small-and Medium Enterprises or

1.500.000 USD deposit at the Central Bank of Jordan or

1.500.000 USD purchase of government bonds or

1.500.000 USD investment in a pre-defined portfolio or

1.500.000 USD investment in a business outside Amman that creates at least 20 jobs or

2.000.000 USD investment in any project inside the country that creates at least 20 jobs

Additional fees: No information available

Malta

Note: Malta will phase out its current program by August 2020 and replace it with a more restrictive one. The exact details of the new program are yet unknown, though expect longer residency requirements and even higher contributions.

- Citizenship after ~12 months
- 12 months residence required during the process
- Can include spouse, children (until age 26) and parents
- Investments and lease must be held for at least 5 years
- Expected Yield: 3-4% for real estate

Option 1:

650.000 EUR donation (National Development and Social Fund and Consolidated Fund) **and**

350.000 EUR investment in real estate **and**

150.000 EUR investment in government bonds, stocks or other types of financial investment

Option 2:

650.000 EUR donation (National Development and Social Fund and Consolidated Fund) **and**

16.000 EUR rent of property per year **and**

150.000 EUR investment in government bonds, stocks or other types of financial investment

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~15.000 EUR

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~135.000 EUR for adult children, ~80.000 EUR for minor children

Additional fees for every further person: ~55.000 EUR for adult children/parents, ~25.000 EUR for minor children

Moldova

Note: Moldova has suspended the program in July 2019 to review its structure and agents. It is still closed and unlikely to ever re-open.

- Citizenship after ~3-6 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 29) and parents (above age 55)

100.000 EUR donation (Public Investment Fund)

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~50.000 EUR

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~23.000 EUR

Additional fees for every further person: ~11.000 EUR

Montenegro

Note: The program is limited to 2000 applicants or until 31st December 2021. It is unlikely to be extended.

- Only for Non-EU citizens
- Citizenship after ~3-6 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 28) and parents (above age 65)
- Expected yield: ~7-9% for real estate

100.000 EUR donation (Government Fund) **and**

250.000 EUR investment in real estate in an undeveloped region (e.g. northern region of the country) or

450.000 EUR investment in real estate in a developed region (e.g. southern region of the country)

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~25.000 EUR

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~55.000 EUR

Additional fees for every further person: ~55.000 EUR

Samoa

- Citizenship after ~3 years
- 15 days residence required per year
- Can include spouse and children (until age 18)

4.000.000 SAT (~1.500.000 USD) investment with a variety of options (real estate, agriculture, fishing, tourism, information technology, power-generation, development fund, ...)

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~55.000 USD

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~100.000 USD

Additional fees for every further person: ~30.000 USD

St. Kitts & Nevis

- Citizenship after ~3-6 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 30) and parents (above age 55)
- The cheaper investment must be held for at least 5 years, the more expensive one for 7 years
- Expected yield: 4-6% for real estate

150.000 USD donation (Sustainable Growth Fund) or

200.000 USD investment in real estate or

400.000 USD investment in real estate

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~15.000 USD for donation, ~50.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~60.000 USD for donation, ~50.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for every further person: ~15.000 USD for donation, ~15.000 USD for investments

St. Lucia

- Citizenship after ~3-6 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 25) and parents (above age 65)
- Investments and bonds must be held for at least 5 years
- Expected yield: 3-5% for real estate, 0% for bonds

100.000 USD donation (National Economic Fund) or
300.000 USD investment in real estate or
500.000 USD purchase of government bonds or
1.000.000 USD investment each in a business with any number
of partners (6.000.000 USD combined) that creates at least 6
jobs or
3.500.000 USD investment in a business that creates at least 3
jobs

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~15.000 USD for
donation or bonds, ~70.000 USD for real estate or business
projects

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~100.000 USD for
donation, ~60.000 USD for bonds, ~90.000 USD for real estate
or business projects

Additional fees for every further person: ~35.000 USD for
donation or bonds, ~30.000 USD for real estate or business
projects

Turkey

- Citizenship after ~3-4 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse and children (until age 18)
- Investments, deposit and bonds must be held for at least
3 years
- Expected yield: ~2-4% for real estate, ~5% for deposit,
~12.5% for bonds

250.000 USD investment in real estate or
500.000 USD deposit with any Turkish bank or
500.000 USD purchase of government bonds or
500.000 USD investment in fixed funds or
500.000 USD investment in a business that creates at least 50 jobs

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~40.000 USD for real estate, no consistent information available for other options
No consistent information on fees for family members

Vanuatu

Note: There are two programs under different names, the Development Support Program (DSP) and the Vanuatu Contribution Program (VSP). The latter is in the hands of a single agency, has higher fees than shown here and exclusively targets the Asian market. There is a lot of misinformation around. Many websites state that the donation amount required starts at 80.000 USD. As of June 2020, this is wrong, and any offer for under ~130.000 USD most likely either gets you a fake passport or nothing at all. Be very careful which service provider you choose and triple-check their reputation.

- Citizenship after ~1-2 months
- Can include spouse, children (until age 25) and parents (above age 50)
- No residence requirements

130.000 USD donation (mostly to the national budget)

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~5.000 USD

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~65.000 USD

Additional fees for every further person: ~20.000 USD

Investment overview

The following table lists the approximate total expected costs for different family configurations for the most relevant options. EUR prices for Austria, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Cyprus, Malta, Moldova and Montenegro have been converted to USD with a rate of 1 EUR = 1.11 USD.

	Single applicant	Applicant + spouse	Applicant + spouse + two children	Applicant + spouse + two children + two parents
Antigua & Barbuda - Donation	~140.000 USD	~148.000 USD	~155.000 USD	~195.000 USD
Antigua & Barbuda - Real Estate	~280.000 USD	~288.000 USD	~295.000 USD	~335.000 USD
Austria - Donation	~2.500.000 USD	No data	No data	No data
Bulgaria - Fast Track	~1.180.000 USD	~1.205.000 USD	~1.245.000 USD	-
Cape Verde - Investment	~330.000 USD	~340.000 USD	~350.000 USD	~370.000 USD
Cambodia - Donation	~295.000 USD	~300.000 USD	~310.000 USD	-
Cyprus - Donation / Real Estate	~2.395.000 USD	~2.405.000 USD	~2.410.000 USD	~2.435.000 USD
Dominica - Donation	~110.000 USD	~185.000 USD	~220.000 USD	~280.000 USD
Dominica - Real Estate	~240.000 USD	~255.000 USD	~260.000 USD	~300.000 USD
Egypt - Deposit	~770.000 USD	No data	No data	-
Grenada - Donation	~165.000 USD	~225.000 USD	~235.000 USD	~295.000 USD
Grenada - Real Estate	~420.000 USD	~430.000 USD	~440.000 USD	~495.000 USD
Jordan - Bonds	~1.755.000 USD	No data	No data	No data
Malta - Donation / Real Estate	~1.290.000 USD	~1.350.000 USD	~1.410.000 USD	~1.530.000 USD
Moldova - Donation	~165.000 USD	~178.000 USD	~190.000 USD	~215.000 USD
Montenegro - Donation / Real Estate	~415.000 USD	~430.000 USD	~445.000 USD	~565.000 USD
Samoa - Investment	~1.550.000 USD	~1.600.000 USD	~1.650.000 USD	-

St. Kitts & Nevis - Donation	~165.000 USD	~215.000 USD	~225.000 USD	~255.000 USD
St. Kitts & Nevis - Real Estate	~250.000 USD	~275.000 USD	~300.000 USD	~330.000 USD
St. Lucia - Donation	~115.000 USD	~185.000 USD	~215.000 USD	~310.000 USD
St. Lucia - Bonds	~515.000 USD	~555.000 USD	~570.000 USD	~645.000 USD
Turkey - Real Estate	~290.000 USD	No data	No data	-
Vanuatu - Donation	~135.000 USD	~160.000 USD	~200.000 USD	~240.000 USD

For a single applicant, the cheapest option for a donation is Dominica with ~110.000 USD, closely followed by St. Lucia with ~115.000 USD. If you prefer an investment in real estate, the cheapest option is Dominica as well with ~240.000 USD, followed by St. Kitts & Nevis with ~250.000 USD, Antigua & Barbuda with ~280.000 USD and Turkey with ~290.000 USD.

Spouses and children can be included everywhere. Parents or parents-in-law can be included in all countries if they are above a certain age with the exception of Bulgaria, Cambodia, Egypt, Samoa and Turkey. Children and parents need to be financially dependent on the main applicant, otherwise they are not eligible to be included. Grenada is the only country that also offers citizenship to siblings (if they are unmarried and have no children).

As soon as you want to include additional family members, Antigua & Barbuda becomes by far the cheapest donation option. This is because further dependents here raise the cost much less than elsewhere. For real estate, Dominica is still on top no matter how many applicants are included.

There are various indices that try to rank these programs. Generally, even when ignoring the cost factor, the Caribbean programs are considered the best, fastest, most convenient

and most professional, and have been for decades. This especially applies to Dominica and Grenada, though the other islands follow closely. If you just want any citizenship and do not care much for the exact country, the Caribbean is the first place to consider, with Dominica leading in nearly all aspects.

You should avoid Austria due to its obscure semi-official process, Cambodia and Jordan due to the weakness of their passports and missing transparency and Vanuatu as long as you are not absolutely sure you are working with a trustworthy agency.

Documents that usually have to be provided if you want to apply for one of these programs include: Passport, birth certificate, marriage certificate, medical certificate, police certificates from prior residencies, business background information, Curriculum Vitae and professional references.

By Descent

As mentioned earlier, it is very well worth your time to check out your family history. It is not only interesting, but also may provide you with some real benefits regarding citizenship. For once, in some special constellations it can be possible that you are already a citizen of another country without even knowing it. If the citizenship law of the nation in question provides that citizenship is always transferred automatically to descendants and was never lost at some point, it is possible that you, your parent and your grandparent can all claim the citizenship of some great-grandparent. The phrasing is not quite correct because you may in fact actually be a citizen, you are just missing official documents and confirmation. Of course, the problem is to prove that. Chances are slim, but depending on the exact circumstances this is possible in countries that had a proper citizenship law for that long. This may also apply to you even just considering your parents or grandparents. Maybe your parents are emigrants and did not care about the citizenship of the country they left, so they did never register your birth with the authorities in their old country. But if your parents did not lose their old citizenship before your birth and depending on the exact laws, this may not matter and you might actually have been a citizen of your parents old nation without knowing or caring. In this case, you would just need to prove your descent and your parents (former) nationality in some way to obtain a passport or another certificate as proof that you are in fact a citizen of the country in question and have been all your life.

The more viable option are nations that have a specific program to claim citizenship by descent. This means they actually allow you to regain the citizenship that some of your ancestors may have lost at some point. You can separate these programs into two categories. Some make a cut at a specific

degree of kinship, usually grandparents or great-grandparents, while others do not make such a cut and allow to claim citizenship from any ancestor. Practically this may not make a huge difference, as it will be harder to obtain the necessary documentation the further you go back in time. But I find it quite amazing how much information can be reconstructed out of old photos, memories of family members and historical archives. If you think one of your ancestors might originate from one of the following countries where you could claim citizenship, you may want to use this as an impulse to start digging in your family history. There are also a number of other programs that fall into this category but have more specific requirements.

Limited up to grandparents: Chile, Czechia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia

Limited up to great-grandparents: Belarus, Ireland, Solomon Islands

Unlimited by number of generations: Armenia, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Serbia

Programs tied to ancestors being citizens or born in a country within a specific timeframe: Germany, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Ukraine

The most widely known of such special programs is probably Israel's Law of Return. It allows any person with Jewish parents or grandparents, provided they did not convert to another religion, or any person that converted to Judaism to immigrate into Israel and immediately become a citizen.

By Descendants

If you do not marry someone from another country, have no suitable ancestors, do not have the required money for citizenship by investment, do not want to fulfill long residence requirements and are not doing some exceptional work that prompts a country to give you citizenship, you are out of options - almost.

You can give your children another citizenship, simply by making sure they are born inside a nation that practices Unconditional Jus soli. This will be discussed in the chapter 'Citizenship for your descendants'. But in some of these countries, having a child makes it much easier to obtain that particular citizenship for yourself as well. Your child simply needs to be born in the nation to obtain that citizenship, no matter your or the other parent's nationality or residence status, and within a short timeframe this can get you a residence permit and citizenship for yourself as well.

This is possible in Brazil, Mexico and Panama. Some sources also claim it applies to Argentina, but I could not verify that. In every case, you should consult a local immigration lawyer before to become aware of how the process will exactly work out. If you plan to give birth in a foreign country you should carefully plan this prior - whether you can stay long enough on a tourist visa or need a different one, which city and hospital you should choose, what accommodation you will use, etc. It may also be a good idea to arrive around two or three months before the birth is expected, and not just a few days or weeks. While this makes no difference for the citizenship, I imagine it to be quite some more comfortable.

After your child has been born, you can obtain a birth certificate for him or her. As a parent of a citizen, you can then

immediately apply for a temporary or even permanent residence in the above mentioned countries. After that, you are on the fast-track for citizenship: You only need to live for 1 year in Brazil (instead of 4), 2 years in Mexico (instead of 5) or 3 years in Panama (instead of 5).

Citizenship in the EU and EEA

At present, citizenship in one of the member or associated states of the European Union is surely one of the best ones to have. They offer greater travel and residency freedom than any other country in the world and Europe is still an economic powerhouse. Whether all this stays that way can be questioned in the wake of aging demographics and increasingly interventionist policies. With more and more people entirely relying and dependent on the state, personal independence, entrepreneurship and ultimately economic prosperity is subverted step by step, though that is hardly a problem unique to Europe. The political future of the European Union is another question: Will it dissolve into a purely economic sphere again, continue its current stagnation or become a full political union, the United States of Europe? Entanglement in military conflicts, ever-increasing bureaucracy, excessive taxation in many member states and a possible worldwide citizenship tax at EU level are other things to be aware of. Don't get me wrong, the EU does offer some amazing benefits, but I like to consider all implications, not just the obviously positive ones. However, while you should always have an eye on potential future issues, for the time being citizenship in an EU or EEA member state is surely more advantageous than in most other places - and you know by now that little is stopping you from obtaining additional citizenship in other parts of the world as a potential replacement should things move in the wrong direction.

Citizenship in the European Union grants you the right to free movement, settlement and employment as well as a ban on

any citizenship-related discrimination in the whole EU and associated countries which apply these rules at least partly. In essence, it is the equivalent to being a citizen of 26+ countries with just one actual citizenship.

The following table provides an overview about citizenship in all EU and EEA countries. The residence requirements for parents in the Jus soli column usually have to be fulfilled preceding the birth of a child, but often within a larger period (e.g. in Belgium, 5 years resident within the 10 years preceding birth). In the Jus sanguinis column, all ancestors refers to the direct bloodline (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, ...). All EU countries have provisions for Jus soli citizenship for foundlings or children who would otherwise be stateless and most grant faster naturalization to former citizens or refugees. These special cases are not part of this table.

The future status of the United Kingdom is still unknown, but a status similar to EEA countries seems likely. Do note that Switzerland is not part of the EEA, but it does still implement most of the rules connected to it on a bilateral basis, including freedom of movement and settlement.

	Multiple citizenship	Citizenship due to birth in territory (Jus soli)	Citizenship due to ancestors (Jus sanguinis)	Years residence for naturalization	Years residence and duration of marriage for naturalization
Austria	Restricted (birth, with permission, special cases)	No (faster naturalization)	One parent	10 (likely only 6)	6 and 5
Belgium	Yes	Partially (one parent born here and 5 years resident, until age 12 if resident since birth)	One parent (*)	10 (likely only 5)	5 and 3
Bulgaria	Yes, but only for national-born	No (faster naturalization)	One parent or any ancestors	5	3 and 3

	citizens (renunciation of previous citizenship for naturalized foreigners except marriage, EU/EEA, North Macedonia)				
Croatia	Yes, but only for national-born citizens (renunciation of previous citizenship for naturalized foreigners)	No (faster naturalization)	One parent or grandparent	8	5 years resident
Cyprus	Yes	No	One parent	7 (*)	2 and 3 (as non-resident 3 years marriage) (*)
Czechia	Yes	No (faster naturalization)	One parent, grandparents under conditions	5 (only 3 for EU citizens)	If permanent resident (after 2-5 years residence)
Denmark	Yes	No	One parent (*)	9 (only 2 for Nordic Council citizens)	6 and 3 or 7 and 2 or 8 and 1
Estonia	Yes, but only for national-born citizens (renunciation of previous and no additional next citizenship for naturalized foreigners)	No	One parent, any ancestors affected between 1918-1940 under conditions	8	-
Finland	Yes	Partially (at age 18-22 if 6 years resident)	One parent (*)	5 (only 2 for Nordic Council citizens)	4 and 3

	Multiple citizenship	Citizenship due to birth in territory (Jus soli)	Citizenship due to ancestors (Jus sanguinis)	Years residence for naturalization	Years residence and duration of marriage for naturalization
France	Yes	Partially (one parent born here, at age 13-18 if 5 years resident)	One parent	5 (only 2 when completing higher education in France)	3 and 4 or 5 years resident (as non-resident 5 years marriage)
Germany	Restricted (birth, EU/EEA, with permission, special cases)	Partially (one parent 8 years resident) (*)	One parent, any ancestors affected between 1933-1952 under conditions	8 (likely only 7)	3 and 2
Greece	Yes	Partially (one parent 5 or 10 years resident)	One parent, any ancestors under conditions	7 (only 3 for EU citizens)	3 and greek child
Hungary	Yes	No (faster naturalization)	One parent or any ancestors	8	3 and 3 or 3 and hungarian child (as non-resident 5 (with child) or 10 years marriage)
Ireland	Yes, but only for national-born citizens (no additional next citizenship for naturalized foreigners)	Partially (one parent 3 years resident or British)	One parent or grandparent, one great-grandparent under conditions	5 (*)	3 and 3 (*)
Italy	Yes	Partially (at age 18 if continuous resident)	One parent, any ancestors since 1861 under conditions (unlikely, complex laws)	10 (only 4 for EU citizens)	2 years resident (as non-resident after 3 years marriage), halved with Italian child
Latvia	Restricted (EU/EEA, NATO, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand)	No	One parent, any ancestors since 1881 under conditions	5	-
Lithuania	Restricted (birth, ancestors between 1918-1990)	No	One parent, any ancestors affected between 1918-1940 under conditions	10	7 and no threshold

	Multiple citizenship	Citizenship due to birth in territory (Jus soli)	Citizenship due to ancestors (Jus sanguinis)	Years residence for naturalization	Years residence and duration of marriage for naturalization
Luxembourg	Yes	Partially (one parent born here, at age 18 if 5 years resident)	One parent or grandparent	5	If resident (as non-resident after 3 years marriage)
Malta	Yes	No	One parent, any ancestors under conditions	5 (*)	5 years marriage (also as non-resident) (*)
Netherlands	Restricted (birth, marriage, special cases)	Partially (one parent born here, at age 18 if continuous resident (*)	One parent (*)	5 (*)	3 years residence (as non-resident 3 years marriage) (*)
Poland	Yes (not explicitly unrestricted but tolerated)	No	One parent, any ancestors since 1920 under conditions	3 (only 1 if Polish ancestors)	2 and 3
Portugal	Yes	Partially (one parent born here, one parent 3 years resident)	One parent or grandparent, Jewish ancestors under conditions	5	3 years marriage (also as non-resident)
Romania	Yes	No (faster naturalization)	One parent or grandparent	8 (only 4 for EU citizens)	5 and 5
Slovakia	Restricted (birth, marriage, special cases)	No	One parent	8	5 and 5
Slovenia	Yes, but only for national-born citizens (renunciation of previous citizenship for naturalized foreigners)	No (faster naturalization)	One parent, any ancestors under conditions	10	1 and 2

	Multiple citizenship	Citizenship due to birth in territory (Jus soli)	Citizenship due to ancestors (Jus sanguinis)	Years residence for naturalization	Years residence and duration of marriage for naturalization
Spain	Yes, but only for national-born citizens (renunciation of previous and no additional citizenship for naturalized foreigners, exceptions for former colonies)	Partially (one parent born here, at age 1 if continuous resident)	One parent	10 (only 2 if citizen of former colonies or Sephardic Jew, or 1 if born in Spain)	1 and 1 (*)
Sweden	Yes	No	One parent (*)	5 (only 2 for Nordic Council citizens)	2 and 3 (as non-resident after 10 years marriage)
United Kingdom	Yes	Partially (one parent 5 years resident, at age 10 if continuous resident)	One parent, any ancestors under conditions (unlikely, complex laws)	5	3 years resident
Iceland	Yes	No	One parent (*)	7 (only 4 for Nordic Council citizens)	3 and 4
Liechtenstein	Yes, but only for national-born citizens (renunciation of previous citizenship for naturalized foreigners)	No	One parent	30 (only 10 if approved by the local community)	5 and 5
Norway	Yes	No (faster naturalization)	One parent	7 (only 2 for Nordic Council citizens)	4 and 3 or 5 and 2 or 6 and 1
Switzerland	Yes	No	One parent (*)	10	5 and 3 (as non-resident after 6 years marriage)

(*) means that citizenship can be lost automatically and involuntarily.

Cyprus, Ireland and Malta may revoke citizenship of naturalized foreigners that have multiple citizenship if certain residence or report requirements are not met.

Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland may revoke citizenship of children born abroad that have multiple citizenship if certain residence or report requirements are not met.

Germany may revoke citizenship of children that have multiple citizenship born from foreign parents if certain residence requirements are not met.

The Netherlands may revoke citizenship of any person that has multiple citizenship if they don't reside one in every ten years inside the EU or fail to receive a dutch passport or nationality certificate every 10 years.

As seen previously, citizenship by investment is - for now - available in Bulgaria (~1.200.000 USD), Cyprus (~2.400.000 USD) and Malta (~1.300.000 USD).

Citizenship by Marriage has also been discussed previously. The best option in the EU is offered by Luxembourg. If you marry a Luxembourgian, you are instantly eligible for citizenship as soon as you have your habitual residence in the country, that means after about ~6 months. Other good options are Spain (1 year residence and 1 year marriage) and Slovenia (1 year residence and 2 years marriage), though they restrict multiple citizenship for naturalized foreigners. Be aware that a country may apply different rules for national-born citizens and naturalized citizens, especially regarding multiple citizenship and loss of citizenship.

Multiple citizenship is unrestricted in Cyprus (2 years residence and 3 years marriage), Czechia (2-5 years residence), Poland (2 years residence and 3 years marriage) and Sweden (2 years residence and 3 years marriage).

Especially interesting are the countries where you do not need to fulfill residence requirements as long as you are married to a

citizen. You can live together anywhere else in the world. Only the Netherlands and Sweden state you can not benefit from this if you live in a country you already hold citizenship in. Still, you need to have strong ties to the country in question and be there on a regular basis, due to family, business or other reasons. This is possible in Italy (1.5 years marriage with italian child, 3 without), Cyprus (3 years marriage), Portugal (3 years marriage), Netherlands (3 years marriage), Hungary (5 years marriage with hungarian child, 10 without), France (5 years marriage), Malta (5 years marriage), Switzerland (6 years marriage) and Sweden (10 years marriage).

Before you can fulfill residence requirements, you first need to have a residence permit. If you are already an EU or EEA citizen, you can just move freely to any of these countries as you like with little bureaucratic hurdles. But if you are not, there are many different ways to get a residence visa in any member state and I just want to mention the most convenient ones - which of course involve spending some money.

These are the so-called Golden Visa or investor visa that exist in a variety of EU countries. They do not instantly grant you citizenship, but they provide you with a permanent residence visa that is necessary for you to be allowed to live in the nation at all - if you are not already a citizen of another EU/EEA member state, in this case these programs are pointless for you.

The best options are Greece and Portugal. These programs have no real time requirements attached to them, which means you can stay for as long or short in these nations as you like - or just use them as a gateway to actually spend your time in other European countries. You can also usually include your spouse, children and parents in the application, depending on a few criteria. If you decide to actually properly settle in one of

these nations, you are eligible for citizenship after the ordinary, specified amount of years - but the requirement of spending at least 183 days or more per year inside the nation may be waived, though this is handled rather inconsistently.

In Greece, you need to invest 250.000 EUR in one or several real estate properties. This grants you a residence permit valid for 5 years, which will be renewed if you still hold the required amount as an investment at the end of this timeframe. If you decide to settle in Greece properly, you can apply for Greek citizenship after 7 years.

In Portugal, you need to invest 280.000-500.000 EUR in real estate (depending on the area and age of the buildings), 350.000 EUR in a qualified investment fund or existing business with at least 5 employees or create a new business with at least 8-10 employees (depending on the area). Alternatively, you can also invest 250.000 EUR in the conservation of national heritage, art and culture or 350.000 EUR into scientific research of accredited institutions. This visa is only valid for 1 year. You will need to stay in the country for at least 7 days. After that, it will be renewed every second year as long as you maintain your investment while you have to spend at least 14 days per year in Portugal. If you actually really live in Portugal, you are eligible for citizenship after 5 years.

Be aware of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland and Romania - while they are EU member states and offer great investor visa, these countries are not part of the Schengen zone. While you are allowed to freely travel the EU as a citizen of one of these countries, this does not apply if you just have a permanent residence permit from them. That only allows you to travel to the one respective country that granted you the visa, not to the whole EU. Only a permanent residence permit in a Schengen

member country, such as Greece and Portugal, allows you to move freely to other Schengen states for 90 days within a 180 day period. You can only settle in the country that granted you the visa, but you are still allowed to spend almost half a year somewhere else inside the EU/EEA.

You should also carefully consider the above if you are already an EU citizen but want to get rid of that citizenship for some reason. If you are determined, you could obtain citizenship somewhere else in the world and give up your old EU citizenship in the process, but then re-acquire the freedom of travel and settlement rights you just gave up by obtaining one of the residence permits above. That is an entirely possible and viable option and offers you the most important benefits of the EU while avoiding potential future issues tied to citizenship, if you deem that likely to happen.

Ideal countries

This chapter will provide you with an overview about the countries I consider ideal for the purpose of obtaining more citizenship. This is of course subjective and I can only tell you what criteria I personally care about. I will also give you an example about how you could start your citizenship quest. I will only consider countries that do not have a single negative or uncertain point in their current legislation. That means:

- They officially allow unrestricted multiple citizenship
- They do not have military conscription or it can be easily avoided
- They have no overly restrictive provisions for a revocation of citizenship or naturalization
- They offer decent freedom of travel
- They are not permanently on the brink of crisis or bankruptcy

After applying these criteria, this leaves us with the following countries:

Albania, Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica*, Chile, Czechia, Dominica, France, Grenada, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius*, New Zealand, Norway, Panama*, Peru*, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, Sweden, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu

The marked* countries do not officially allow multiple citizenship for everyone, but in practice do not really care.

Notable countries failing one of these requirements are Argentina (always on the verge of crisis), Bulgaria (multiple

citizenship only for EU/EEA/North Macedonia citizens or upon marriage), Cyprus (has military conscription, but this can usually be avoided by living abroad), Paraguay (revocation of naturalization if living abroad for more than 3 years without justification, though this hardly ever happens), Russia (has military conscription, but many evade), St. Vincent & the Grenadines (only allows multiple citizenship on birth, marriage or for naturalized foreigners), Switzerland (has military conscription, but this can usually be avoided by living abroad) and Venezuela (has military conscription and is always in a crisis).

If you additionally want to consider tax levels and discard all countries that I like to call 'tax hells' or 'tax deserts', the list gets a lot shorter:

Antigua & Barbuda, Costa Rica, Panama, Seychelles, St. Kitts & Nevis, Vanuatu

Since these are so few countries, I will add the ones with a somewhat reasonable, at least not excessive tax level:

Albania, Chile, Czechia, Georgia, Grenada, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Romania, Tonga, Uruguay

This leaves us with 16 countries that I would consider to be suitable for me personally, at least if only looking at the pure legal side of things. So, how would I go about collecting as many of these as possible, if this were a goal I would devote my life to?

First, I would want another EU/EEA citizenship that later serves as a replacement for my German citizenship, as Germany would not allow me to have more than one or two outside the EU. Liechtenstein sadly falls out. As much as I would like to be

a citizen of that country, living there for 10 years is not an option. That leaves us with Czechia and Romania. In the Czech Republic, I would only need to live for 3 years since I am already an EU citizen. The same applies to Romania, where I would need to live for 4 years. I could probably pick up the citizenship of Panama in parallel. While you officially have to 'live' there for 5 years, it can be enough to just visit regularly (every ~2 months) if you have substantial investments or economic interests inside the country. This does not always work out, but it can. At the latest, I would pick it up while living for 5 years in Chile or Uruguay or for 7 years in Costa Rica while enjoying the (at least through special programs) territorial taxation these countries offer. My German citizenship would now be gone anyway, so I can safely spend the ~140.000-300.000 USD to become a citizen of Antigua & Barbuda, another ~160.000-250.000 USD to do the same in St. Kitts & Nevis, ~170.000-300.000 USD for Grenada and finally an additional ~130.000 USD to become a citizen by investment in Vanuatu. I would pick these up along the way whenever I feel like it. Of course, saving up the funds for such a donation or investment every couple of years is not trivial, but certainly possible if you are a successful entrepreneur and set this as the highest goal you want to achieve in your life. Certainly, I would not forget looking for a spouse that is happy to have our children in Brazil and Mexico. They are not listed above, but simply making sure your child is born in Brazil or Mexico and then living there for 1 or 2 years to obtain citizenship is something I would not miss out on. Ideally, said spouse also already has one or two other citizenship I could easily pick up by living in her country for one or two years.

We are now about 15-20 years into the future and I have picked up something between 5 to 12 citizenship along the way. Apart from collecting the other ones I already told you about, somewhat easy to pick up would be Albania, Georgia

and Tonga with 5 years of residence. I would pass on the Seychelles as their requirements are too hard, but evaluate if spending another 500.000 USD to only need to live 2 instead of 6 years on Mauritius before naturalization is actually worth it (I guess not). I would consider Liechtenstein as the final crown jewel for retirement - though I can hardly imagine sitting in a small village in an alpine valley for 10 years straight and I doubt that is going to change, no matter how much I like the nation for what it represents.

All combined, provided the legislation of these countries stays the same (which it will not, but maybe it will become even better), it is possible to pick up almost every of the above listed citizenship within 40 years and definitely about 10 different ones within 20 years. I think I will not actually set this as a life goal of mine, but I hope I inspired you to think about all the possibilities you just have to embrace.

If you are looking to maximize your travel freedom, the easiest way to do that is - surprise - to become a citizen in a country that offers great travel freedom. I use the [Passport Index](#) as a reference (it currently takes Covid-19 related restrictions into account, I do not). The greatest travel freedom is offered by The United Arab Emirates, followed by all EU/EEA countries, South Korea, Japan, United States, Singapore, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Brazil, Chile and Argentina. If you are a citizen of one of these nations, there is not too much room for any more improvement. The easiest to obtain from these are Argentina and Brazil.

But at some point, you should think about quality of countries instead of quantity. Would it be a gamechanger for you if you could go to the Congo, Sudan or Turkmenistan without applying for a visa in advance? Probably not. As an avid country collector that will have visited every nation and autonomous

state in the world soon, I know that every place in the world offers something that makes it worth visiting. But if you only go there once in your life, there is not much point in being able to do it visa-free. I think it is quite funny that some people are proud about the number of countries they could potentially be visiting visa-free shown in some ranking and occasionally mentioned in a newspaper article, but actually do not use that possibility at all. Anyway, being able to enter China, the European Union, Russia or the United States whenever you like? That has quite a bit of value, especially since many other countries are attached to these powers. So if you are able to go to all of these areas visa-free, there is hardly anything left in the world where you would still need a visa.

If your current citizenship does not permit you to enter the European Union visa-free, your best option to change that is citizenship in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Peru, Honduras, Paraguay or of course any EU country you are able to obtain a residence visa for. If you consider citizenship by investment, you can also add Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and Vanuatu to the list. All these countries allow you to visit for 90 days within a 180 day timeframe.

For the United States, you should consider Australia (90 days) and Canada (180 days). Since this list is rather short, you can also add Chile and most EU countries to it, but naturalization in these nations takes a little bit longer.

If you would like to enter Russia more often, the best countries are Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras and Paraguay. Actually, obtaining a residence permit or becoming a Russian citizen yourself is not too difficult either. If you consider citizenship by investment, you can also add Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the

Grenadines and Vanuatu. All these countries allow you to visit for 90 days.

For entering China frequently, the citizenship most easy to obtain are Armenia (90 days) and Ecuador (30 days). The only citizenship to obtain by investment would be Grenada (30 days). Other good countries which take a little longer for naturalization are Fiji (30 days), Mauritius (60 days), Serbia (30 days) and Tonga (30 days).

Keep in mind that if you really only care about easy and extended travel to these countries, a permanent residence permit in them would also work and will allow you to go there whenever and for how long you like. However, these are rather hard to obtain in China and the US. It may also mean you are treated as a resident for all tax and regulatory purposes even if you do not actually spend most of your time there. In the EU and Russia this is usually not the case, though of course you need to have a look whether you are required to spend a certain amount of days inside the country for your residence visa to remain valid.

A honorable mention goes to Brunei, which is the only nation that offers visa-free travel to all 4 of these areas: 90 days to EU/Schengen, 90 days to the United States, 14 days to Russia and 15 days to China. Sadly, Brunei does not officially allow multiple citizenship, and you can only be naturalized there if you live in the country for 25 years or if you are a female marrying a Brunei citizen. There is also little chance for your children, as birth in Brunei only grants them citizenship if they are 'commonly accepted as belonging to one of the indigenous groups of the Malay race', which is rather hard to achieve if you are not already a native.

Citizenship for your descendants

You may think planning what citizenship your children or grandchildren could have one day is a bit far-fetched, but it can potentially be a gift worth far more than a lot of other things. Citizens of developed countries with great travel freedom are usually used to the liberty they have, to go or live wherever they please as long as they can finance it. You probably hardly think about that, but for billions of people an objectively 'better' citizenship would open up opportunities they would otherwise hardly have. Of course citizenship laws can and will change frequently and planning decades into the future will never exactly work out as envisioned. But the fundamentals are quite set. Citizenship you obtained for yourself will, in accordance with the relevant legislation, in almost all cases transfer down to your descendants, so improving your own situation will already help them as well. However, if you do not find a suitable option to obtain more citizenship for yourself, there are additional possibilities to at least do it for your children or grandchildren.

The following countries apply Unconditional Jus soli, which means they grant citizenship to a child born in their territory with no further requirements:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Lesotho, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay, Venezuela

Bangladesh, Liberia, Tanzania and Uganda theoretically provide for Unconditional Jus soli citizenship in their legislation, but do not actually practice it.

Another couple of nations apply Double Jus soli, which means a child born there becomes a citizen if one of his or her parents was also born in the same country:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, France, Gabon, Luxembourg, Mozambique, Niger, Timor-Leste, Senegal, Spain

Double Jus soli is further restricted with residence requirements in these countries:

Andorra, Belgium, Greece, Netherlands, Portugal

Some other nations also have provisions for Double Jus soli in their legislation, but introduce racial or religious restrictions that make it largely impossible if you are not already a native to these countries: Bahrain, Brunei, Cambodia, Guinea, Iran, Iraq, Mali, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Togo and Yemen.

Personally, I think the most interesting of these options is definitely Luxembourg, as I have never heard about Double Jus soli there before. Your children or you yourself will not have any benefits from a birth in the country, but your grandchildren might if the law stays unchanged. If you think planning that far into the future is futile, your attention should go to the Americas: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, St. Kitts & Nevis and Uruguay, just to name a few, all offer Unconditional Jus soli, unrestricted multiple citizenship, decent travel freedom and are all countries I could see myself living in, at least temporarily.

Of course, there are also Canada and the United States. I would personally not aim for these citizenship for various reasons and neither give them to my children. But many see these as one of the best citizenship you can possibly have, so just go for it if you want to. Another thing to consider is that if

you are a parent of a citizen, this usually allows you to apply for at least a temporary residence yourself. It is not a guarantee, but it will also help you gain a permanent residence down the road if you want to.

There is also a way to give your children two Jus soli citizenship upon birth at the same time - maybe even starting a little international crisis along the way.

You could move to the Falkland Islands before having children. If you are a permanent resident of the Falkland Islands or in extension the United Kingdom (usually after 5 years residence), your child would become a citizen of the United Kingdom upon birth in the Falkland Islands. But since Argentina still claims the Falkland Islands for itself and applies Unconditional Jus soli citizenship, Argentina should grant your child citizenship as well if you asked for it. If Argentina did not grant your child citizenship, it could be interpreted as relinquishing their claim to the islands. Now, if they in fact do that and it became public, what would the United Kingdom do with this attack on Falkland Islands sovereignty? You yourself are most likely in some serious trouble with British authorities on the grounds of national security, but would they deprive an innocent newborn of UK citizenship due to the acts of his or her parents? I do not know, but I find thinking about such possibilities quite interesting - although I am not keen on trying out above scenario by myself. But under current circumstances and legislation, it should absolutely be possible.

The same may apply for a birth directly on the border between two Jus soli nations - for example Brazil and Paraguay, Costa Rica and Panama or Honduras and Guatemala. Now this is again something I would not advise to try out, for one because these borders are largely located in rivers, on hills or in the jungle, not exactly the nicest and safest places to give birth to a child. You may also be accused of illegal border crossing. But

just hypothetically, if there were two doctors present, and each one would claim the child was born a couple of centimeters further left or right and thus in a different country, and each one would submit their point of view to the respective authorities in the two concerned nations - what would happen? Would the child get no Jus soli citizenship at all? Would there be a trial trying to determine the exact place of birth? Or would both countries simply just give citizenship to the child and be done with it?

I want to finish this chapter with some words about travel with children. As you have seen by now, Latin American nations are by far the most generous when it comes to basically all citizenship matters, but they may also make the most trouble when you travel in that region with children. However, this also applies to a lot of other countries.

As soon as only a single parent and not both are taking a child along, you will likely need additional documents apart from just a passport for your child. This especially applies if your surname is not the same as your child's surname, or if you have different citizenship. This is a red flag for most border officials and will subject you to further inspection. If only one legal parent is travelling with a child, you will most likely need a Child's Travel Consent. This is basically a form or piece of paper that lists the kids contact information, both legal parents contact information, the travel arrangement (who the child is travelling with) and the destination the child is allowed to go to, signed by both legal parents. In addition to that, you should always carry a proof of your relationship to the child (e.g. birth certificate or other documents). While this may not always be necessary, I would strongly advise you to always have above documents at hand. This may save you from some really unpleasant time, as suspected child kidnappers are hardly treated very nicely by border officials.

Travel with multiple passports

As a multiple citizen, you will have multiple passports. As mentioned earlier, a passport is merely a symbol of citizenship and you are not obliged to have one at all, but it is the most common type of identification document apart from national ID cards and you need one for most international travel. But even if you are only citizen of a single country, it is usually possible to have more than one passport. For example, a German citizen can obtain a second German passport in addition to the first one if he provides a convincing reason why he would need two. There are two reasons that usually work out:

First, if you need one passport for travel while the other passport is currently kept by a foreign embassy or contractor due to a visa application which may take several weeks. This especially applies if you (claim to) travel for business purposes or can show that you are travelling a lot and this situation has already occurred to you in the past.

Second, if you plan to visit a nation that denies your entry if you have stamps from the 'wrong' country in your passport. The most common example for this would be a stamp from Israel. With this stamp in your passport, you are denied entry into Lebanon. However, Israel stopped stamping passports due to this reason several years ago, and most people handling passport applications have noticed by now, so this might not be seen as a valid reason anymore.

But you may convince them anyway: Suppose you are in Israel but plan a day trip to Jordan, for example, visiting the ruin site of Petra. Jordan will stamp your passport with an indication that you used a land border crossing from Israel, which is a dead giveaway to Lebanese officials that you must have been in Israel prior. In this case, you need one passport to enter Jordan from Israel, and a second passport to be able to enter

Lebanon after that. Note that this may heavily dependent on the person that processes your application for a second passport. They often do not know the laws or procedures in these cases and may come to conclusions that are totally wrong. One example would be cases where German officials demanded the second passport to be handed back in once the exact journey provided as a reason to obtain the passport is over, instead of the passport being valid and usable for the next years. This is nowhere provided for and is simply an overreach coming from a wrong interpretation of the law. If you can not convince them and their superiors they are wrong, just try and go somewhere else - there are usually several authorities that are potentially responsible for handling passport applications. It is also rather dumb that a first German passport is valid for 10 years while a second is valid only for 6 years, so anyone who happens to know this fact immediately recognizes if a German is showing them their first or second passport.

However, you should be aware that using a second passport to circumvent rules like that may be a crime in the eyes of the country you want to enter and there are some nations where you should definitely not try that out. In Lebanon, worst that will happen to you is being denied entry and deported on the next flight to somewhere else. That rarely happens, because Lebanese officials have no additional way of obtaining information about where you have been and many also hardly care. But if for example you are not allowed to enter the US under the visa-waiver program anymore because you have been to one of the forbidden countries after March 1, 2011 (Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen), using a second (or new) passport to conceal that fact would be very dumb. Do not try that. Even though the passport does not give it away immediately, all flight information is generally saved for years and if there is one country that has

all this information available and properly checks it, it is the US. Being denied entry into the US and potentially landing on a US blacklist that is possibly shared with others has the potential to affect your life in a quite negative way. In this case, rather choose the proper way and apply for a B1/B2 visa beforehand. I actually have to do that in the near future myself, since after my last visit to the US in early 2019 I have been to every single one of the above mentioned countries with the exception of Libya.

If you are citizen of more than one country, you can definitely have more than one passport, and why would you not? Multiple passports from different countries are of course even better than multiple passports from the same country, because they allow you to take advantage of different visa regimes. Increasing your travel freedom is one of the main selling points for multiple citizenship.

You just have to use some common sense and use the correct passport in the correct way if you have more than one. Do not be discouraged by this possible pitfalls because even if you trap into them, there are likely no consequences. But be aware of their existence:

- Trying to enter a country with the wrong passport, e.g. one that does not allow you to enter the country visa-free
- Booking a flight with information from one passport but trying to use another one to check-in / board the flight
- Leaving a country with a different passport than the one you used to enter it
- Entering a country you are a citizen in with a passport from another country

The last point likely only leads to an extended lecture by the border official to tell you what citizenship you 'actually' have (I

heard several accounts about that from the US-Canada border), but better try to avoid that anyway. Most countries explicitly provide that their multiple citizen are obliged to enter their territory with the nations passport. If border officials even notice, all points might lead to a nice conversation in some backroom where you have to convince them that this was a mistake and you do not try to mislead or obfuscate something. If that happens to you, just honestly answer all questions. If you obtained your passports in a legitimate way and did not try to circumvent any laws, you will be fine. Just do not try to push the limit and hand the border official all your 6 passports and tell him or her to choose one. That would not exactly make most laugh. Multiple citizenship and in extension multiple passports, especially more than two, are and will continue to be an exception rather than the norm.

Citizenship taxation

One of the reasons that may lead people to consider their citizenship is worldwide taxation based on it. At the moment, this is only fully done in the US and Eritrea, but implementation of such a system is frequently discussed in developed western nations and pushed by leftist political parties. I personally expect at least Canada and various European countries to adopt this taxation system at some point in the future. The Automatic Exchange of Information has already laid the necessary foundation for it. The question is simply whether the nations consider the insanely high bureaucratic effort to implement such a system to be worthwhile - with more and more wealthy people emigrating, that point comes closer step by step. Such measures are even likely to have significant support in the general populace. After all, it will not affect them because the vast majority will never emigrate somewhere else.

Eritrea is a curious example. First of all, the tax rate every citizen abroad has to pay is just a flat 2%. Eritrean citizenship can by law not be renounced and never be lost. Of course, as one of the poorest nations in the world with a lot of refugees that do not intend to ever come back, Eritrea has absolutely no legal means to force its citizens abroad into payment. However, if you try to dodge that tax you better take your whole family with you, as the government tries to enforce the taxation by harassing, beating and imprisoning family members and friends still left in the country. You should also avoid ever coming back, else the same thing might happen to you. Of course, forget ever obtaining any official documents from Eritrea on this case as well. This leads to nationals abroad either paying the 2% tax or ceasing every and all connection to their home country completely, obtaining other nationalities and never coming back.

The US system is quite another thing entirely. It does not impose a special taxation on its citizens abroad, it just taxes them normally as if they were ordinary residents in the US. There is a comparably high Foreign Earned Income Exclusion of about ~130.000 USD per year, but everything above that likely goes into the US treasury - and if your country of residence wants to tax you as well and it does not have a Double Taxation Agreement with the US to clarify what will be done in this case, that is entirely your problem. Citizenship-based taxation was implemented in the wake of the American Civil War in the 1860s, first justified with 'patriotic duty' and later with the 'inherent benefits' a US citizen also enjoys abroad - though authorities have never ever made clear what exactly they consider these 'inherent benefits' to be. The US has their own version of information exchange (FATCA) and applies serious penalties to every non-complying citizen. However, it is estimated that only about 40% of US citizens abroad really fully pay the taxes they are officially due, which shows that even the US reaches their administrative limit with this system. While you can renounce your US citizenship, this is severely discouraged: The highest administrative fee for such a process in the world (~3000 USD), a possible expatriation tax and a cross-examination with several officials whose sole goal it is to dissuade you from giving up your citizenship.

There are a number of countries that tried citizenship-based taxation at some point in the past but all abandoned it because it never really worked out and they did not have the administrative means to enforce it: Bulgaria, Mexico, Philippines, Romania, Myanmar and Vietnam. Funnily enough, they all abandoned these systems in a transition phase from a socialist or dictatorial regime to a more free one - yes, that should absolutely make you worry about nations that try to newly implement citizenship taxation instead of dismissing it as the fundamentally bad idea it is in a globalized world.

Some nations exercise a weaker form of citizenship-based taxation: They tax their citizens on their worldwide income for a few years after they emigrate to certain low-tax countries. For example, in Finland, Mexico, Portugal, Spain and Sweden you will still be taxed for 3-5 years after you emigrated to a 'tax haven' or until you 'no longer have ties' to the respective country - whatever that may mean exactly. The same applies to Italy, just without a time limit - so potentially forever. A similar thing happens to French citizens moving to Monaco, they can not benefit from Monaco's tax system and will be subject to French taxes forever. Note that these laws are only partially enforced and can often be easily circumvented, for example by moving to an 'acceptable' country first. But the intention is clear: These nations want to discourage people from moving into low-tax countries, or at least grab some final money from them.

That leaves the last two examples: Hungary tries to tax its citizens living abroad in a country it does not have a Double Tax Agreement with, and Turkey taxes its citizens abroad working for the government or Turkish companies.

Economic and political unions

Today, many countries decide to band together in greater economic and/or political unions. The biggest and most developed example is the European Union, which we already covered in another chapter. Such unions come with benefits (such as freedom of movement and settlement) as well as drawbacks (such as reduced national autonomy). I want to provide you with a little overview about different unions that aim to be more closely connected and have at least done some first steps into that direction. The big goal most unions seek to accomplish in economic terms is the creation of a Single Market, which goes much further than a Free Trade Area. In a Free Trade Area, barriers of trade such as tariffs and quotas are reduced, but not for everything. Some industries may still be protected and some goods may still be exempted. There is also usually no free movement of people involved. The next step of economic integration is a Customs Union, where the whole bloc applies the same tariffs to the outside world so goods can flow internally without additional tariffs. After that comes the Single Market: The removal of all internal trade barriers and free movement of goods, services, capital and people. From here, the transition to an Economic Union is fluent and involves further standardization, for example applying the same rules for packaging, quality and safety standards and exercising a common external trade policy. If countries adopt the same currency, they are also in a Monetary Union. The last step is complete economic integration, which is an Economic and Monetary Union where the member states also match their fiscal policies and spending. At this point at the latest, the creation of some sort of central political authority is necessary, though of course it mostly develops much earlier. You could say this last step of a single nation forming voluntarily from smaller states was only ever really done in history when the Thirteen Colonies federalized to form the United States of America.

Note that all these associations have various sub-groups with different names and abbreviations for different purposes. I will only include unions which are already well established or will potentially go further in the integration with their neighbour states in the future. I will not go into detail about Africa: This topic is insanely complex, with the African Union as a continent-wide organization that spans over several intertwining sub-groups that are in different states of integration with their immediate neighbours. If you like to dig into that topic, just have a look at CEN-SAD, COMESA, ECCAS, ECOWAS, SADC and a lot of other nice abbreviations. Most advanced in this regard is the East African Community (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda), which is in serious preparations to become a deeply integrated economic, monetary and political federation similar to the EU by 2024.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

Observers: Papua New-Guinea, Timor-Leste

ASEAN is somewhere halfway between a Free Trade Area and a Customs Union. It has been working towards creating a Single Market and Economic Union for years, however this process is slow and not guaranteed to work out. The economic disparities between the member states are enormous. Another potential problem is the domination of Indonesia, which accounts for 40% of the population and economic power inside the bloc. ASEAN has a central secretariat, however this institution only observes and advises, all decisions are ultimately made by the member states.

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Members: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago

Associates: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks & Caicos Islands

CARICOM is an Economic Union. The Bahamas do not participate in the Single Market, Haiti participates only partially. 8 member states are also in a Monetary Union, using the Eastern Caribbean Dollar. A CARICOM national has the right to freely live and do self-employed (non-wage) work in any member state up to 6 months. Only after that further visa are required, which are rather easy to obtain. CARICOM has a central secretariat, however this institution only observes, advises and prepares initiatives, and holds no real power of its own.

Central American Integration System (SICA)

Members: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

SICA is an Economic Union. El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua have also formed a Free Travel Zone (CA-4) with no internal border controls. SICA has a somewhat influential central bureaucracy as well as an international parliament that serves as a place for debates and proposals, though all decisions are ultimately made by the member states.

Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)

Members: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia

EAEU is an Economic Union. Possible future members include Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The stated goal is to include all former Soviet states except the Baltic. The union is clearly dominated by Russia. Internationally unrecognized breakaway states like Transnistria (from Moldova), Donetsk and Luhansk (from Ukraine) and Abkhazia and South Ossetia (from Georgia) may also join at some point, though that would be connected to major international disputes. A monetary union with a single currency is being worked on, though that is a very slow process. The EAEU has a somewhat influential central bureaucracy. Cooperation between the member states was and is heavily disturbed through the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the subsequent economic sanctions imposed by Europe and the US.

European Union (EU)

Members: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

The European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) as well as Switzerland (which implements most regulations on a bilateral basis) can be seen as EU members-light. After Brexit is done, the United Kingdom will likely try to reach a status similar to Switzerland.

Nations that are in active membership negotiations likely to be concluded in this decade are Albania and Montenegro. Other

countries that aim for EU membership but may have a longer way ahead of them are Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. Potential membership of nations like Georgia, Moldova or Ukraine is nothing more than a loose intention of some politicians at the moment, prevented by internal conflicts and also contested by the Eurasian Economic Union.

The EU is an Economic Union. 19 of the 27 member states are also in a Monetary Union with the Euro as a currency. Most nations (except Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the United Kingdom) are also part of the Schengen zone, which allows internal free travel without any border controls - at least in normal times. The EU has the European Commission as a strong central bureaucracy as well as its own parliament. The interaction between EU entities, member state governments and national parliaments is rather complex. The EU is currently torn between pushing for complete economic and political integration or keeping the status quo, while the possibility of further member exits in case of a serious economic crisis should also not be underestimated.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Members: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates

The GCC is somewhere halfway between a Customs Union and a Single Market. There are still some barriers for the flow of goods and services. A monetary union has been proposed for a long time, but is currently not pursued. The organization is currently largely paralyzed due to ongoing diplomatic disputes, especially with Qatar. The GCC has a central secretariat, however this institution only observes and advises, all decisions are ultimately made by the member states.

Southern Common Market (Mercosur)

Members: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela
(suspended since 2016)

Associates: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru,
Suriname

MERCOSUR is an Economic Union. Citizens have facilitated access to residence and work visa. A passport is not needed for travel inside the bloc, national identity cards are sufficient. The union is largely focused on trade and the economy. Much further integration is unlikely: A proposed Union of South American Nations has been completely abandoned in the last years.

Retention permit

There are different ways how nations deal with multiple citizenship: They either allow it without any restrictions, restrict it to certain countries, only allow it for national-born citizens and not for naturalized foreigners, in theory only allow it for national-born citizens but in practice do not care, do not allow it at all and strictly enforce it, or do not officially allow it but in practice do not really care.

One last method that is used in Austria, Germany and South Africa is a permission that needs to be pre-approved. If granted, you are allowed to obtain another citizenship and stay a citizen of these countries. If denied, you will lose your former citizenship upon obtaining a new one. If you never apply for a permit and just ignore the matter, you also automatically lose your former citizenship (if authorities in these countries notice, but they usually do).

This applies only if you already are a citizen of these countries and additionally want to become a citizen somewhere else. If you are already a citizen somewhere else and want to become a citizen in one of these nations, you may only have to apply for a permission in Germany. In Austria, you are never allowed to retain your previous citizenship upon naturalization, while in South Africa you are always allowed to retain it.

The South African permit is rather straightforward and more of a formality since it is usually granted no matter the reasons provided. In Germany this is a bit more tricky, and in Austria even more so. It is a case-by-case question: You have to convince the specific official that by chance got your application on his desk through solid and understandable reasoning.

Let us start with Austria. First of all, you can only ever get a retention permit if you were born as an Austrian, if you were naturalized you are already out of luck. The official legislation reads (freely translated): 'A citizen is allowed to retain citizenship if this is in the interest of Austria due to his or her performed or expected achievements or other considerable reasons'.

In practice, you can obtain a retention permit if you can prove that without Austrian citizenship your personal life or career or the well-being of your children would be severely damaged. Austria does not want you to be a multiple citizen, you have to convince the authorities and provide good reasoning. General phrases like 'My parents still live in Austria' or 'I like to do holidays in Austria without a visa' will not convince anyone, you have to be really specific and either lay out how exactly your life will be damaged by not being an Austrian anymore or prove that you have done noteworthy things for the country (economic, scientific, cultural or athletic accomplishments). It is best to get help from experienced lawyers who successfully obtained retention permits for their clients in the past.

In Germany, the situation is similar, but a bit easier. The retention permit applies to everyone, not just national-born Germans. You also do not need a permit at all if you want to become a citizen of another EU or EEA country (including Switzerland). The law states the following (freely translated): 'Citizenship is not lost if written approval by the responsible authorities is obtained. Private and public interests have to be considered. If the applicant has his main place of residence abroad, it is especially relevant whether he can plausibly prove existing and lasting connections to Germany.'

Basically, you have to fulfill two requirements: If you mainly live outside of Germany, you need to prove existing and lasting

connections to the country. This can be fulfilled if you have friends and family still living in Germany or regularly visit for business purposes, if you have a bank account, insurance, companies or real estate in the country, and a lot of other possibilities. This point is usually not the main problem.

The problem is to prove that by becoming a citizen of another country, you gain certain advantages or avoid disadvantages. This is different to Austria, where you need to explain how not being an Austrian anymore negatively affects you. In Germany, you need to explain how not being a foreign citizen negatively affects you. Again, you have to be really specific and lay out several reasons in detail, for example in the following areas: Education (access to scholarships or funding), Business or Professionalism (certain jobs may be restricted to locals, improved reputation for clients), Real Estate (some countries only allow locals to hold land) and a variety of other reasons you can think of that actually apply to your situation (improved chances for child custody, family reunions, advantages through the local inheritance law, etc.). Mere universalities like 'It allows me to vote there' or 'I will be treated better as a local' are not enough, the reasons have to be individually tailored to your actual personal situation.

One rather funny thing is that tax benefits will never be seen as a valid reason, but improved access to public benefits is a perfectly fine one. Utilizing a beneficial tax system is apparently bad, but exploiting a social security system is not a problem.

Again, you should get help from experienced lawyers to maximize your chances of a successful application. Plenty report a 100% success rate. Processing times for retention permits are usually about 3-6 months. If your application is approved, it is generally valid for 2 years in which you can

obtain the additional citizenship you wanted. Note that you will likely be granted this permit only once or maybe twice in your life. If you plan to acquire a lot of citizenship for yourself in the future, you will lose your Austrian or German citizenship at some point. You can also forget the whole process completely if you try to gain a citizenship by investment, though I would be interested to see someone trying to reason the disadvantages of not buying a Caribbean passport to a government official.

Apart from the detailed explanation of your reasoning to obtain another citizenship, you will need to provide your current contact information, prove your German citizenship (by an attested passport or certificate of citizenship), explain how you obtained it (by birth/descent/marriage...) and prove your residence status in the country you want to become a citizen of (for example with a permanent residence card).

Foreigners wishing to become a German citizen can get a permit to retain their previous citizenship as well in a similar process where compelling reasons have to be provided. You just have to use another form and go through a process that is not called 'Beibehaltungsantrag' (retention permit) but 'Einbürgerung unter Hinnahme von Mehrstaatigkeit' (naturalization under acceptance of multiple citizenship).

Index

The rest of this book contains a list of 97 countries that might be of interest to you. If a specific country is not listed here it is most likely because it offers no real benefits compared to similar countries, in terms of international reputation, travel freedom, multiple citizenship and/or requirements to become a citizen there. I am aware I listed only few African countries, this is primarily due to poor freedom of travel. The most generous citizenship laws are definitely found in the Americas, followed by Europe and Oceania. Asian countries are generally more strict, while Middle Eastern countries usually have the most prohibitive citizenship laws.

For the purpose of acquiring additional citizenship, the only relevant information from the nations you already hold citizenship in is whether or not they allow multiple citizenship, or if there are other ways of potentially losing that citizenship. Everything else is entirely dependent on the (next) country you want to become a citizen of.

Citizenship law: Link to the current citizenship law, preferably an english translation. In any case, this is not necessarily the latest version of this law and might be outdated. Additionally, there may be further laws or regulations concerned with citizenship. Some countries contain the basic citizenship provisions in their constitutions, but have further laws for the specifics.

Multiple citizenship: Whether multiple citizenship is allowed ('Yes'), only possible under special conditions ('Restricted') or officially prohibited ('No'). Some countries allow multiple citizenship for national-born persons, but not for naturalized ones. Some also do not really enforce their legislation. This will be indicated for the countries where it applies.

Renunciation of citizenship: This point will only show up for nations that do not allow to voluntarily renounce citizenship. Almost all countries do, provided the person already has or acquires another citizenship. A minority of countries does not, forcing the person to remain a citizen indefinitely (at least from the perspective of the country in question). Apart from these special cases, renunciation can also be more complicated or impossible if done to avoid military conscription.

If you want to acquire citizenship in a nation that requires you to renounce your previous citizenship, but your previous country forces you to stay a citizen, the requirement is usually waived.

Citizenship / Naturalization loss: This point will only show up for countries where you can lose your citizenship if you disregard certain requirements. Citizenship by birth or descent can hardly be lost. The exception is failing to meet certain residence or report requirements until a certain age if you have multiple citizenship.

With the exception of oppressive regimes that may strip citizenship as a punishment, no country will take away your citizenship if it is the only one you have. Apart from very rare fringe cases, you will never lose your only citizenship, neither intentionally nor unintentionally. That is different as soon as you have more than one, but requirements are high and it is very unlikely to happen by chance (serving in a foreign army, terrorism, severe damage to the reputation of the country while serving a foreign state, ...).

However, if the citizenship was obtained through naturalization, some countries have far lower requirements for revoking it. All countries will revoke naturalization if it was obtained in a fraudulent way or serious crimes are committed in a certain timeframe after receiving citizenship. But in some, as little as residing outside the country for too long is enough to lose your

naturalization. Additionally, be aware that some countries allow multiple citizenship for national-born citizens, but not for naturalized ones.

Personal taxation: When a country has a maximum income tax rate of ~10% in all brackets and few other taxes, the tax level is considered 'Low'. Less than ~25% income tax in all brackets is considered 'Medium', anything above is considered 'High'. Edge cases may have two designations. The following is additionally noted:

- When a country has no income tax at all or practices territorial taxation of individuals (which means only local income is taxed, foreign income is generally tax-free)
- When special programs exist to significantly reduce the personal tax burden
- When citizenship or residency in the country leads to additional or unusual tax implications

Military conscription: Whether a country conscripts its citizens for the military. This only concerns men except if stated that it applies to females as well.

Passport strength: The strength of the country's passport, as shown on <https://www.passportindex.org/> (before Covid-19 related travel bans were applied).

Visa-Free / On arrival / Required: Amount of countries that can be visited without a visa, that require a visa that is issued on arrival or that require a pre-approved visa.

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen, United States, Russia, China: If and for how long you can enter these territories without a visa if you are a citizen of the examined country.

Citizenship by Investment / Residence / Marriage / Descent / Application / Birth: The requirements to become a citizen of the country in question through the specified method. If one of the methods is missing entirely it means there is no way to become a citizen through this method in that particular country. Language and citizenship tests are noted where they are definitely required, but some countries may not provide for this in their main legislation but somewhere else, so a few cases may have slipped through.

Citizenship laws are complex and usually have dozens of different paragraphs. What you find here is the most condensed version of the most relevant options that exist in a country. There are a multitude more possibilities for all kinds of special cases, for example for stateless persons and refugees. Such special cases are not mentioned.

Many countries have several ways to become a citizen by residence with different requirements. For example, many countries provide that you can apply for naturalization after 5 years residence, but are entitled to it without an application after 10 years residence. However, these lessened requirements are not worth the additional waiting time in any country included in this book and are thus not mentioned.

Common requirements for naturalization that are virtually the same in every country are left out as well. This includes criteria like: To be able to maintain yourself and your family financially, to have never been convicted for a crime over 12 months imprisonment, to not be bankrupt without having been discharged, to never have engaged in activities that harm the country in question or to not be of 'good character'.

The residence requirements refer to 'lawfully residing' in the country, which usually refers to spending at least 183 days per year there - to make sure a potential citizen has paid taxes for

several years. Some countries also only acknowledge the time you spent there on a permanent residence visa, while others also consider the time spent on a temporary visa - this is completely different from country to country. Be aware some countries only allow shorter periods of absence, for example 90 days per year. This is mentioned where it is directly provided in the law, but most nations have no publicly available guideline on this. Once you actually consider a country you should independently check the full requirements very carefully.

Many sources use the phrase 'by birth' if they refer to citizenship through Jus soli (place of birth), and 'by descent' if they refer to citizenship through Jus sanguinis (parental inheritance). Here, these two phrases are used a bit differently. Under citizenship by birth, you find the method through which citizenship is either granted automatically or by a request which can not be denied, no matter if it is due to Jus soli or Jus sanguinis. Usually, a formal request rather than a simple notification must be made in two cases. The difference is simply a slight amount of paperwork. First, if a child is eligible for Jus sanguinis citizenship but born abroad in another country. Second, if a child is eligible for Jus soli citizenship but the parents are not residents of the country in question. However, this is also different from country to country and usually not described in detail in the citizenship laws.

In contrast, under citizenship by descent / application you find the methods of obtaining citizenship that are not an undeniable right, but an application. These applications must contain sufficient proof and could potentially be turned down.

Albania

Note: A new citizenship law is currently under consideration, possibly introducing citizenship by investment and expanding citizenship by descent.

Citizenship law:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b5c10.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: No, abolished in 2010

Passport strength (Rank: 46)

Visa-Free countries: 70

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 82

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Investment

The government of Albania planned to launch a citizenship by investment program in 2020 that also offers significant tax benefits. However, there is backlash to this plans both inside the country and the EU, so whether the program will really be launched is not guaranteed.

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 3 years with Albanian parents or grandparents

Knowledge of Albanian language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 1 year residence

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Andorra

Citizenship law:

http://www.coprince-fr.ad/images/stories/pdf/Loi_qualifiee_relativ_e_a_la_nationalite.pdf (in French)

Multiple citizenship: No

Personal taxation: Low

Military conscription: No, does not have a military

Passport strength (Rank: 15)

Visa-Free countries: 104

Visa on arrival: 50

Visa required: 44

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 20 years residence

Knowledge of Catalan language and test about Andorra

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years residence

Knowledge of Catalan language and test about Andorra

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Conditional and Double Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Andorra, one parent is a permanent resident who resides in Andorra for a combined 10 years before and after birth

Born in Andorra, one parent is a permanent resident who was born in Andorra as well

Antigua & Barbuda

Citizenship law:

<https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/41556/72407/F322301278/ATG41556.pdf>,

<http://laws.gov.ag/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/cap-22.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Low (No income tax)

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 25)

Visa-Free countries: 102

Visa on arrival: 37

Visa required: 59

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Investment

- Citizenship after ~4 months
- 5 days residence required within every 5 years
- Investments must be held for at least 5 years
- Can include spouse, children (until age 28) and parents (above age 58)
- Expected yield: 4-6% for real estate

100.000 USD donation (National Development Fund) or
150.000 USD donation (University of West Indies Fund,
includes one year scholarship, only for 6+ person families) or
200.000 USD investment in real estate or
400.000 USD investment each in a business with any number
of partners (5.000.000 USD combined) or
1.500.000 USD investment in a business

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~40.000 USD for
donation, ~80.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~15.000 USD

Additional fees for every further person: ~20.000 USD

Citizenship by Residence

After 7 years residence

Max. absence 2 years within that period

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 1 year residence

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Antigua & Barbuda

Argentina

Citizenship law:

https://www.diputados.gov.ar/export/hcdn/secparl/dgral_info_parlamentaria/dip/archivos/Ley_346_TA.pdf (in Spanish)

Multiple citizenship: Yes (not explicitly unrestricted but tolerated)

Renunciation of citizenship: No

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 13)

Visa-Free countries: 110

Visa on arrival: 50

Visa required: 38

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 2 years residence

Immediately if resident and 'established a new industry', 'introduced a useful invention', 'is an entrepreneur' or 'populating territories on the current border line' (provided in the law, but rarely granted)

Intent to continue to reside in Argentina

Citizenship by Marriage

Immediately if resident (but the process may take several months or longer)

Intent to continue to reside in Argentina

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Argentina

Armenia

Citizenship law: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/51b770884.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: Yes (24 months, age 18-27)

Passport strength (Rank: 65)

Visa-Free countries: 35

Visa on arrival: 42

Visa required: 121

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 3 years residence

Knowledge of Armenian language and constitution

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years marriage and 1 year residence or immediately with Armenian child

Citizenship by Descent

Any armenian ancestor (proven by birth certificate, baptismal certificate or other documents)

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Australia

Citizenship law:

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2019C00040>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Naturalization loss: If not residing and physically present in Australia for 180 days in the 2 years after naturalization

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, abolished in 1972

Passport strength (Rank: 6)

Visa-Free countries: 111

Visa on arrival: 57

Visa required: 30

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 4 years residence

Max. absence 12 months in this timeframe

Likely to continue to reside in Australia or maintain close and continuing association

Knowledge of English language and test about Australia

Citizenship by Descent / Application

At age 10 if resident since birth

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Conditional Jus soli)

Born in Australia, one parent is a citizen or a permanent resident

Born outside Australia, one parent is a citizen who was born in Australia or was at some point residing and physically present in Australia for at least 2 years (citizenship may be lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Austria

Citizenship law:

<https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10005579> (in German)

Multiple citizenship: Restricted (possible on birth or with permission. This permission is only applicable to national-born Austrians and mostly granted if compelling reasons are provided, but likely only once)

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: Yes, but community service alternative (6 or 9 months, age 18-35)

Passport strength (Rank: 3)

Visa-Free countries: 125

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 27

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Investment

Not an official program. Citizenship is awarded on the basis of a grant due to 'outstanding achievements' that must be approved on various government levels. In this case, all usual requirements are waived and multiple citizenship is permitted. The process will last 2-3 years. Required amounts vary and are largely only rumoured, from at least 1.000.000-3.000.000 EUR as a donation to 5.000.0000-15.000.000 EUR as an investment. Extensive support by service providers or friendly contacts to high government officials will likely be needed for success and favorable conditions.

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

After 6 years residence if EU/EEA citizen, 'exceptionally integrated' or born in Austria
Knowledge of German language and test about Austria

Citizenship by Marriage

After 5 years marriage and 6 years residence
Knowledge of German language and test about Austria

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Bahamas

Citizenship law:

<https://www.bahamas.gov.bs/wps/wcm/connect/d40cb8f8-2e95-4f05-a8de-105e88bdb7ac/Chap+2+Citizenship.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>, http://laws.bahamas.gov.bs/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/1973/1973-0018/BahamasNationalityAct_1.pdf

Multiple citizenship: No

Personal taxation: Low (No income tax)

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 21)

Visa-Free countries: 105

Visa on arrival: 40

Visa required: 53

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Conditional (30 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (30 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

Max. absence 3 years in that timeframe

Intent to continue to reside in the Bahamas

Citizenship by Marriage

Immediately if female marrying a Bahamian citizen (but the process may take several months or longer)

Citizenship by Descent / Application

One parent is a citizen

Born in the Bahamas

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis)

Born in the Bahamas, mother is a citizen or father is a citizen and married to the mother

Born outside the Bahamas, mother is a citizen or father is a citizen who was born in the Bahamas and married to the mother (paternal citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Barbados

Citizenship law:

https://www.oas.org/dil/The_Constitution_of_Barbados.pdf,

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b56b8.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 18)

Visa-Free countries: 111

Visa on arrival: 38

Visa required: 49

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (30 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 8 years residence

Max. absence 2 years in that timeframe

Intent to continue to reside in Barbados

Citizenship by Marriage

Immediately if female marrying a Barbadian citizen (but the process may take several months or longer)

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Barbados

Born outside Barbados, father is a citizen by other means than Jus sanguinis or mother was born in Barbados (citizenship is

lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Belarus

Citizenship law:

https://www.legislationline.org/download/id/5911/file/Belarus_Law_Citizenship_2002_am2010_en.pdf

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (not explicitly unrestricted but tolerated. Foreigners have to renounce their previous citizenship upon naturalization)

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: Yes, but many evade (12 or 18 months, age 18-27)

Passport strength (Rank: 57)

Visa-Free countries: 44

Visa on arrival: 43

Visa required: 111

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (30 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 7 years residence

Max. absence 3 months per year

Knowledge of Belarusian or Russian language

Citizenship by Descent

Parents, grandparents or great-grandparents (proven by passports, birth certificates, military identification or other documents)

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Belgium

Citizenship law:

https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/change_lg.pl?language=fr&la=F&table_name=loi&cn=1984062835 (in French)

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Citizenship loss: At age 28 if born abroad, never lived in Belgium after age 18 and not declared the will to retain Belgian citizenship

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, abolished in 1994

Passport strength (Rank: 4)

Visa-Free countries: 125

Visa on arrival: 45

Visa required: 28

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Knowledge of Dutch, French or German language

Proof of social integration (educational or integration courses)

Proof of economic contribution (min. 468 work days or payment of six quarterly social insurance contributions in the last 5 years)

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 5 years residence

Knowledge of Dutch, French or German language

Proof of social integration or economic contribution with reduced requirements

Citizenship by Descent / Application

Until age 12 if resident since birth and both parents residents for at least 10 years

At age 18 if resident since birth

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Conditional Double Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Belgium, one parent is a permanent resident and was born in Belgium as well

Belize

Citizenship law:

<http://www.belize-law.org/web/lawadmin/PDF%20files/cap161.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Naturalization loss: If residing outside Belize for more than 5 consecutive years except if married to a Belizean by descent (Jus sanguinis)

Personal taxation: Medium, but territorial tax system

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 50)

Visa-Free countries: 61

Visa on arrival: 36

Visa required: 101

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Likely to continue to reside in Belize

Citizenship by Marriage

After 1 year residence

Likely to continue to reside in Belize

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen
Born in Belize

Brazil

Citizenship law:

http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/ato2015-2018/2017/lei/L13445.htm (in Portuguese)

Multiple citizenship: Yes (not explicitly unrestricted, but revocation of Brazilian citizenship after acquiring another one is very rare in practice)

Personal taxation: Medium to High

Military conscription: Yes, but a majority is exempted or evades (12 months, age 18-45)

Passport strength (Rank: 12)

Visa-Free countries: 111

Visa on arrival: 50

Visa required: 37

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 4 years residence

Max. absence 1.5 years in that timeframe

After 1 year residence if citizen of a 'Portuguese-speaking country' or with Brazilian child or parent

Knowledge of Portuguese language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 1 year residence

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Brazil

Brunei

Citizenship law:

http://agc.gov.bn/AGC%20Images/LAWS/ACT_PDF/cap015.pdf

Multiple citizenship: No (but unofficially possible in practice)

Naturalization loss: If residing outside Brunei for more than 5 consecutive years without maintaining substantial connections to the country

Personal taxation: Low (No income tax)

Military conscription: No, but a National Service Program (3 months, age 16-21)

Passport strength (Rank: 16)

Visa-Free countries: 106

Visa on arrival: 47

Visa required: 45

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (14 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (15 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 25 years residence

After 12 years residence if born in Brunei

Knowledge of Malay language

Intent to permanently settle in Brunei

Citizenship by Marriage

Immediately if female married to a Brunei citizen (but the process may take several months or longer)

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis)

Father is a citizen

Born in Brunei and 'commonly accepted as belonging to one of the indigenous groups of the Malay race' mentioned in the law

Bulgaria

Citizenship law:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/49622ef32.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (Foreigners have to renounce their previous citizenship upon naturalization, except if they marry a Bulgarian or are EU/EEA/North Macedonia citizens)

Personal taxation: Low to Medium

Military conscription: No, abolished in 2008

Passport strength (Rank: 9)

Visa-Free countries: 116

Visa on arrival: 49

Visa required: 33

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Citizenship by Investment

Note: The program was suspended in early 2020. It is unlikely to re-open.

- Only for Non-EU citizens
- No residence requirements
- Bonds must be held for the duration of the process
- Can include spouse and children (until age 18), but it will take longer for them than for the main applicant
- Expected yield: 0% (any accrued interest or dividends are not returned)

Option 1:

Citizenship after 5-6 years

1.000.000 BGN (~510.000 EUR) investment in government bonds

Option 2:

Citizenship after 2-3 years

2.000.000 BGN (~1.020.000 EUR) investment in government bonds or a business

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~40.000 EUR for option 1, ~45.000 EUR for option 2

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~50.000 EUR for option 1, ~60.000 EUR for option 2

Additional fees for every further person: ~7.500 EUR

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Knowledge of Bulgarian language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 3 years residence

Citizenship by Descent

Any Bulgarian ancestor (proven by passports, birth certificates or other documents)

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Cambodia

Citizenship law:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b5210.html>,

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: Yes (18 months, age 18-30)

Passport strength (Rank: 75)

Visa-Free countries: 20

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 132

Citizenship by Investment

Note: The citizenship law was amended in 2018. The required investment amounts were changed at that time. There is still contradicting information around and the original source is not publicly available.

- Can include spouse and children (until age 18)
- 12 months residence required for Option 1, 6 months residence required for Option 2

Option 1:

1.000.000.000 KHR (~244.000 USD) donation (to the national budget)

Option 2:

6.000.000.000 KHR (~1.460.000 USD) investment in a business

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~50.000 USD for donation

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~15.000 USD for donation

Additional fees for every further person: ~30.000 USD for donation

No consistent information on fees for investment option

Citizenship by Residence

After 7 years residence

Knowledge of Khmer language, script and history

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 1 year residence

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Canada

Citizenship law:

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-29/page-1.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 5)

Visa-Free countries: 115

Visa on arrival: 54

Visa required: 29

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (180 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 3 to 5 years residence (physical presence in the country for 1095 days within 1825 days)

Knowledge of English or French language and test about Canada

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Canada

Born outside Canada, one parent is a citizen by other means than Jus Sanguinis (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Chile

Citizenship law:

<https://www.senado.cl/capitulo-ii-nacionalidad-y-ciudadania/senado/2012-01-16/093226.html> (in Spanish)

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High, but special program available (3 years territorial taxation)

Military conscription: No, if volunteer quotas are met (else 12 months, age 17-24)

Passport strength (Rank: 12)

Visa-Free countries: 111

Visa on arrival: 50

Visa required: 37

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Knowledge of Spanish language

Citizenship by Descent / Application

Born in Chile (almost always granted but not automatic)

Parents or grandparents (proven by passports, birth certificates or other documents)

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis)

Born in Chile, one parent is a citizen

Born outside Chile, one parent is a citizen and this parent or a grandparent is a citizen by other means than Jus sanguinis (citizenship is lost in the third generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

China (Hong Kong, Macao)

Note: Hong Kong and Macao are special administrative zones of China. They do not have their own citizenship laws, just additional regulations, but they provide their own, better passports. It is questionable whether these special passports will actually be as beneficial as they currently are for much longer. You can only be a 'citizen' of Hong Kong or Macao if you live there as a permanent resident and already are or become a Chinese citizen at the same time.

Citizenship law:

<https://www.gov.hk/en/residents/immigration/chinese/law.htm>

Multiple citizenship: No

Personal taxation: High, but special program available (3 years territorial taxation in mainland China). Territorial taxation in Hong Kong and Macao.

Military conscription: Yes (24 months, age 18-22), but not actually implemented since 1949 as volunteer numbers are high enough. Residents of Hong Kong and Macao are exempted.

Passport strength (Rank: 56 / 12 / 23)

Visa-Free countries: China 32, Hong Kong 118, Macao 95

Visa on arrival: China 48, Hong Kong 37, Macao 43

Visa required: China 118, Hong Kong 43, Macao 60

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days) for Hong Kong and Macao

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (14 days) for Hong Kong, 30 days for Macao

Citizenship by Residence

China: If you are a permanent resident or a near relative of a Chinese citizen or have 'other legitimate reasons' (no exact requirements given, but you should fulfill more than one of these. Naturalization on the Chinese mainland is very rare)

Hong Kong and Macao: If you are a permanent resident (after 7 years residence). Naturalization is on a case-by-case basis and you likely need to fulfill several other additional criteria:

- Near relative who is a Chinese citizen and lives in Hong Kong or Macao, especially spouse and children
- Sufficient financial means
- Knowledge of Chinese language
- Intent to continue to reside in Hong Kong or Macao

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen (except if permanently settled outside China and the child obtains another citizenship at birth)

Colombia

Citizenship law:

<https://www.refworld.org/topic,50ffbce524d,50ffbce525c,3dbd1ec44,0,,LEGISLATION,COL.html> (in Spanish)

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: Yes (12 or 18 months, age 18-28)

Passport strength (Rank: 34)

Visa-Free countries: 82

Visa on arrival: 47

Visa required: 69

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 2 years residence if Spanish citizen by birth or with Colombian Child

After 1 year residence if Latin American or Caribbean citizen by birth

Max. absence 3 months per year

Knowledge of Spanish language and test about Colombia

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years residence

Max. absence 3 months per year

Knowledge of Spanish language and test about Colombia

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Conditional Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Colombia, one parent is a permanent resident

Costa Rica

Citizenship law:

http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?nValor1=1&nValor2=38386 (in Spanish)

Multiple citizenship: Yes, officially only for national-born citizens, but in practice for naturalized foreigners as well

Renunciation of citizenship: No

Naturalization loss: If residing outside Costa Rica for more than 6 years without proving a 'connection' to Costa Rica

Personal taxation: Medium, but territorial tax system

Military conscription: No, does not have a military

Passport strength (Rank: 23)

Visa-Free countries: 95

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 57

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 7 years residence

After 5 years residence if Spanish or Latin American citizen by birth

Likely to continue to reside in Costa Rica

Knowledge of Spanish language and test about Costa Rica

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years marriage and 2 years residence

Likely to continue to reside in Costa Rica

Knowledge of Spanish language and test about Costa Rica

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Costa Rica

Born outside Costa Rica, one parent is a citizen by birth

Cyprus

Citizenship law:

<https://www.legislationline.org/documents/id/5818>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Naturalization loss: If residing outside Cyprus for more than 7 consecutive years without annually registering the intent to retain the citizenship

Personal taxation: High, but special program available (Non-Dom, no tax on dividends)

Military conscription: Yes, but community service alternative (14 or 18 months, age 18-50)

Passport strength (Rank: 8)

Visa-Free countries: 122

Visa on arrival: 44

Visa required: 32

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Citizenship by Investment

- Citizenship after ~6-12 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 28) and parents (above age 65, need to have their own property worth at least 500.000 EUR)
- Investments must be held for at least 5 years, a property worth at least 500.000 EUR must be held indefinitely
- Expected yield: ~4-6% for real estate, ~0.5-1% for bonds

Option 1:

150.000 EUR donation (Research and Innovation Foundation and Cyprus Land Development Corporation) **and**

2.000.000 EUR investment in residential real estate

Option 2:

150.000 EUR donation (Research and Innovation Foundation and Cyprus Land Development Corporation) **and**

500.000 EUR investment in residential real estate **and**

2.000.000 EUR investment in infrastructure, land development, real estate, government bonds, a business with at least 5 employees, (Registered) Alternative Investment Funds or a combination of these

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~15.000 EUR

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~25.000 EUR for adult children, ~10.000 EUR for minor children

Additional fees for every further person: ~10.000 EUR for adult children/parents, ~500 EUR for minor children

Citizenship by Residence

After 7 years residence

Intent to continue to reside in Cyprus or continue to be 'in the service' of a company, body of persons or the government of Cyprus

Citizenship by Marriage

In Cyprus: After 3 years marriage and 2 years residence

Outside Cyprus: After 3 years marriage

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Czechia

Citizenship law:

https://www.mzv.cz/file/2400342/Citizenship_Act_No._186_2013_Sb._o_statnim_obcanstvi_CR.pdf

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: No, abolished in 2005

Passport strength (Rank: 5)

Visa-Free countries: 124

Visa on arrival: 45

Visa required: 29

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 3 years residence if EU/EEA citizen since at least 7 years

Max. absence 6 months per year, max. 2 consecutive months except for 'serious reasons' (pregnancy, illness, study, business)

Knowledge of Czech language and test about Czechia

Citizenship by Marriage

If permanent resident (after 2-5 years residence)

Citizenship by Descent / Application

Born in Czechia and is a permanent resident

Both grandparents from either the paternal or maternal side (proven by passports, birth certificates or other documents)

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Dominica

Citizenship law:

<http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Dominica/constitution.pdf>,

<http://www.dominica.gov.dm/laws/chapters/chap1-10.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, does not have a military

Passport strength (Rank: 32)

Visa-Free countries: 92

Visa on arrival: 39

Visa required: 67

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Investment

- Citizenship after ~3 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 28) and parents (above age 55)
- Investments must be held for at least 3 years
- Expected yield: 4-6% for real estate

100.000 USD donation (Economic Diversification Fund) or
200.000 USD investment in real estate

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~10.000 USD for
donation, ~40.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~110.000 USD for
donation, ~20.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for every further person: ~30.000 USD for
donation, ~20.000 USD for investments

Citizenship by Residence

After 7 years residence

After 5 years residence if Commonwealth citizen

Intent to continue to reside in Dominica

Knowledge of English language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 3 years residence

Knowledge of English language

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Dominica

Born outside Dominica, one parent is a citizen by other means than Jus sanguinis (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Dominican Republic

Citizenship law:

https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Dominican_Republic_2015.pdf?lang=en,

<http://ojd.org.do/copia25/Normativas/CIVIL%20Y%20COMERCIAL/Leyes/Ley%20No.%201683%20sobre%20naturalizacion.pdf> (in Spanish)

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Naturalization loss: If residing outside the Dominican Republic within the year of naturalization or for more than 10 consecutive years

Personal taxation: Medium, but limited territorial tax system

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 66)

Visa-Free countries: 30

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 122

Citizenship by Residence

After 2 years with permanent residence (total 5-7 years if previous temporary residences are needed)

After 6 months with permanent residence if 'founded or sustained industries or real estate' in the Dominican Republic
Knowledge of Spanish language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 6 months residence

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Conditional Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in the Dominican Republic, both parents are permanent residents

Ecuador

Citizenship law:

<http://pdba.georgetown.edu/Constitutions/Ecuador/english08.html>,

https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/reglamento_ley_de_movilidad_humana_reformado_abril_2018.pdf (in Spanish)

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Renunciation of citizenship: Only if previously naturalized in Ecuador

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, suspended for peacetime in 2008

Passport strength (Rank: 49)

Visa-Free countries: 49

Visa on arrival: 49

Visa required: 100

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (30 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 3 years residence

Knowledge of Spanish language and the 'national symbols' of Ecuador

Max. absence 180 days per year

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years marriage (whether residing in Ecuador or abroad)

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Ecuador

Born outside Ecuador, one parent is a citizen and this parent or a grandparent was born in Ecuador (citizenship is lost in the third generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Egypt

Citizenship law:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4e218.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Naturalization loss: If not residing in Egypt for 2 consecutive years within the 5 years after naturalization

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: Yes (12-36 months, age 19-34)

Passport strength (Rank: 75)

Visa-Free countries: 17

Visa on arrival: 42

Visa required: 139

Citizenship by Investment

- Citizenship after ~3-6 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse and children (until age 18)
- The investment and cheaper deposit have to be held for at least 5 years, the more expensive deposit for 3 years
- Expected yield: 0% for deposit (any accrued interest is not returned)

250.000 USD donation (to the national budget) or
400.000 USD investment in a business (share at least 40%) or
500.000 USD investment in real estate or
750.000 USD deposit with the Central Bank of Egypt or
1.000.000 USD deposit with the Central Bank of Egypt

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~20.000 USD

No consistent information on fees for family members

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

After 5 years residence if any ancestor was born in Egypt

Knowledge of Arabic language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years residence if female married to an Egyptian citizen

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

El Salvador

Citizenship law:

[https://es.wikisource.org/wiki/T%C3%ADtulo IV: La Nacionalidad \(Constituci%C3%B3n de El Salvador - 1983\)](https://es.wikisource.org/wiki/T%C3%ADtulo_IV:_La_Nacionalidad_(Constituci%C3%B3n_de_El_Salvador_-_1983)),
<http://scm.oas.org/pdfs/2008/CEAM/El%20Salvador/Decreto%20Legislativo%20No.%20299,%20del%2018%20de%20febrero%20de%201986.pdf> (in Spanish)

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (Foreigners have to renounce their previous citizenship upon naturalization and can not get a next additional citizenship without losing citizenship of El Salvador)

Naturalization loss: If residing outside El Salvador for more than 5 consecutive years or in the 'country of origin' for more than 2 consecutive years

Personal taxation: Medium to High, but limited territorial tax system

Military conscription: Yes, but most are exempted (12 months, age 18-30)

Passport strength (Rank: 37)

Visa-Free countries: 84

Visa on arrival: 42

Visa required: 72

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 1 year residence if Spanish or Latin American citizen by birth

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years residence

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in El Salvador

Fiji

Citizenship law:

http://www.immigration.gov.fj/images/pdfs/citizenship_decree_2009.pdf

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 51)

Visa-Free countries: 50

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 102

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (30 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 to 10 years residence (physical presence in the country for 1825 days within 3650 days)

Knowledge of English language and the 'responsibilities of a citizen' of Fiji

Intention to continue to reside in Fiji

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 to 5 years residence (physical presence in the country for 1095 days within 1825 days)

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Fiji

Finland

Citizenship law:

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=en&p_isn=65676&p_country=FIN&p_classification=01

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Citizenship loss: At age 22 if multiple citizen and not meeting certain residence or report requirements

Personal taxation: High. Up to 3 years taxation of citizens abroad after emigration or until they 'no longer have ties' to Finland

Military conscription: Yes, but community service alternative (5.5 or 8.5 or 11.5 months, age 18-50)

Passport strength (Rank: 2)

Visa-Free countries: 127

Visa on arrival: 45

Visa required: 26

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 2 years residence if citizen of Denmark, Iceland, Norway or Sweden

Knowledge of Finish or Swedish language or sign language

Max. absence two periods of 2-6 months and six periods of 1-2 months

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 4 years residence

Knowledge of Finish or Swedish language or sign language

Max. absence two periods of 2-6 months and six periods of 1-2 months

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

France

Citizenship law:

https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do;jsessionid=F204CE226D00356A7BF304A1DFBD00E6.tplgfr31s_1?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070721&dateTexte=20200218 (in French)

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, but a National Service Program is currently introduced (1 month / age 16-18)

Passport strength (Rank: 4)

Visa-Free countries: 127

Visa on arrival: 43

Visa required: 28

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 2 years residence if completed higher education and obtained a qualification in France

Knowledge of French language and test about France

Citizenship by Marriage

In France: After 3 years marriage and 4 years residence

Outside France: After 5 years marriage (French citizen must be registered as living abroad)

Knowledge of French language and test about France

Citizenship by Descent / Application

Between age 13 and 18 if born in France and resident since the age of 8 or at least 5 years (not necessarily consecutive)
resident since the age of 11

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Double Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in France, one parent was born in France as well

Georgia

Note: A new citizenship law is active from 1st January 2021, allowing multiple citizenship without restrictions.

Citizenship law:

<https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/2342552?publication=5>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Medium, but territorial tax system

Military conscription: Yes, but many evade, and likely abolished soon (12 months, age 18-27)

Passport strength (Rank: 40)

Visa-Free countries: 74

Visa on arrival: 49

Visa required: 75

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

Knowledge of Georgian language and test about Georgia

Citizenship by Marriage

After 5 years residence

Knowledge of Georgian language and test about Georgia

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Germany

Citizenship law:

<https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/stag/BJNR005830913.html>

(in German)

Multiple citizenship: Restricted (possible for EU/EEA, on birth or with permission. This permission is usually granted if compelling reasons are provided, but likely only once)

Citizenship loss: If multiple citizen due to birth in Germany from non-citizen parents and spending less than 8 years or not graduating in Germany until age 21

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, suspended for peacetime in 2011

Passport strength (Rank: 2)

Visa-Free countries: 128

Visa on arrival: 44

Visa required: 26

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 8 years residence

After 7 years residence if completed an integration course

After 6 years residence if 'exceptionally well integrated'

Knowledge of German language and test about Germany

Max. absence 6 months per year

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years marriage and 3 years residence

Citizenship by Descent / Application

Victims of Nazi persecution: Anyone who lost German citizenship between 1933 and 1945 due to 'political, racial or religious reasons', and their descendants.

Multiple citizenship is allowed in this case. There are extensive archives on people affected at that time. Descent is proven by birth certificates or other documents.

Late resettlers: Anyone who was a German national or ethnic German as of 1945 or 1952, living in any state of the former USSR except the Baltic, who has moved to one of these countries prior to 1952 and lived there since then, and their descendants born before 1993 still living there.

Also applicable to Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania and China, provided a person can prove that they have been discriminated or suffered disadvantages from prior discrimination after 1992.

Knowledge of German language required.

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Conditional Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Germany, one parent is a permanent resident and resided in Germany for the last 8 years before birth

Greece

Citizenship law:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/4c90edcf2.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: Yes, but community service alternative (9 or 12 or 13.5 or 17 months, age 19-45)

Passport strength (Rank: 4)

Visa-Free countries: 124

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 28

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 7 years residence

After 3 years residence if EU/EEA citizen

Knowledge of Greek language and test about Greece

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years residence with Greek child

Knowledge of Greek language and test about Greece

Citizenship by Descent / Application

Upon enrollment into Elementary School (age 6) if born in Greece and one parent was a resident since at least 5 years before birth or at least 10 years in total

Any ancestor provided he appears in Greek municipal records, descent proven by birth certificates or other documents.

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Conditional Double Jus Soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Greece, one parent is a permanent resident and was born in Greece as well

Grenada

Citizenship law:

<https://www.mgovernance.net/sites/aud/files/7.%20Citizenship.pdf>,

<http://labour.gov.gd/legislation/Citizenship%20Act%20Cap%2054.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 31)

Visa-Free countries: 97

Visa on arrival: 35

Visa required: 66

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (30 days)

Citizenship by Investment

- Citizenship after ~4 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 30), parents (above age 55) and siblings (not married and no children)
- Investments must be held for at least 3 years
- Expected yield: 3-5% for real estate

150.000 USD donation (National Transformation Fund) or
220.000 USD investment each in tourism development with a partner or

350.000 USD investment in real estate

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~15.000 USD for donation, ~70.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~55.000 USD for donation, ~15.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for every further person: ~30.000 USD for donation, ~30.000 USD for investments

Citizenship by Residence

After 7 years residence

After 5 years residence if Commonwealth or Irish citizen

Intends to continue to reside in Grenada

Max. absence 3 months per year

Knowledge of English language

Citizenship by Marriage

Immediately if resident (but the process may take several months or longer)

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Grenada

Born outside Grenada, one parent is a citizen by other means than Jus sanguinis (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Guatemala

Citizenship law:

https://www.minfin.gob.gt/images/downloads/dcp_marcolegal/bases_legales/Constitucion_politica_de_la_republica_de_guatemala.pdf,

<https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2001/0135.pdf> (in Spanish)

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (Foreigners have to renounce their previous citizenship upon naturalization)

Renunciation of citizenship: Only if born in the country to non-citizen parents

Personal taxation: Low, and territorial tax system

Military conscription: Yes, but a majority is exempted (12-24 months, age 17-21)

Passport strength (Rank: 35)

Visa-Free countries: 82

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 70

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Max. absence 6 consecutive months or 1 year in total

After 2 years residence if previously resident in another Central American country or 'contributed to economic, social or cultural development'

Max. absence 1 consecutive month or 2 months in total

Knowledge of Spanish language and test about Guatemala

Citizenship by Marriage

After 1 year marriage

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Guatemala

Honduras

Citizenship law:

<https://honduras.justia.com/federales/constitucion-politica-de-la-republica-de-honduras-de-1982/titulo-ii/capitulo-i/>

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (Foreigners have to renounce their previous citizenship upon naturalization and can not get a next additional citizenship without losing Honduran citizenship)

Renunciation of citizenship: Only if born in the country to non-citizen parents

Personal taxation: Medium, but territorial tax system

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 35)

Visa-Free countries: 84

Visa on arrival: 44

Visa required: 70

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 3 years residence

After 2 years residence if Spanish or Latin American citizen by birth

After 1 year residence if Central American citizen by birth

Knowledge of Spanish language

Citizenship by Marriage

Immediately if resident and married to a Honduran by birth
(but the process may take several months or longer)

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Honduras

Born outside Honduras, one parent is a citizen who was born in Honduras (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Hungary

Citizenship law:

https://www.legislationline.org/download/id/5925/file/Hungary_Citizenship_act_2012_en.pdf

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Medium. Possible taxation of citizens abroad under certain conditions.

Military conscription: No, suspended for peacetime in 2004

Passport strength (Rank: 5)

Visa-Free countries: 123

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 29

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 8 years residence

Knowledge of Hungarian language

Citizenship by Marriage

In Hungary: After 3 years marriage and 3 years residence or after 3 years residence with Hungarian child

Outside Hungary: After 10 years marriage or after 5 years marriage with Hungarian child

Knowledge of Hungarian language

Citizenship by Descent

Any Hungarian ancestor (proven by passports, birth certificates or other documents)

Knowledge of Hungarian language

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Iceland

Citizenship law:

https://www.legislationline.org/download/id/4751/file/Icelandic_Nationality%20Act_1952_am2012_en.pdf

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Citizenship loss: At age 22 if born abroad and never 'resided, stayed or interacted with Iceland to a sufficient extent'

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, does not have a military

Passport strength (Rank: 6)

Visa-Free countries: 120

Visa on arrival: 48

Visa required: 30

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 7 years residence

After 5 years residence if in a 'registered cohabitational union' with an Icelandic citizen

After 4 years residence if citizen of Denmark, Finland, Norway or Sweden

Knowledge of Icelandic language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 4 years residence

Knowledge of Icelandic language

Citizenship by Descent / Application

At age 18 if continuous resident since age 11

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Ireland

Citizenship law:

<http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/INCA%20Dec2014.pdf/Files/INCA%20Dec2014.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (Foreigners can not get a next additional citizenship except by marriage without losing Irish citizenship)

Naturalization loss: If acquiring another citizenship (except by marriage) or residing outside Ireland for more than 7 consecutive years without a written notice to the minister or annually registering the intent to retain the citizenship

Personal taxation: High, but special program available (Non-Dom, territorial taxation under conditions)

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 3)

Visa-Free countries: 120

Visa on arrival: 51

Visa required: 27

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence (1825 days out of the last 3285 days)

Intent to continue to reside in Ireland

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 3 years residence (1095 days out of the last 1825 days)

Intent to continue to reside in Ireland

Citizenship by Descent

Parents or grandparents born in Ireland (proven by passports, birth certificates or other documents)

Great-grandparents provided your parents or grandparents are registered in the Foreign Births Register

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Conditional Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Ireland (also applies to North Ireland), one parent is a British citizen or resided in Ireland for at least 3 years before birth

Israel

Citizenship law:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4ec20.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (Foreigners have to renounce their previous citizenship upon naturalization, does not apply if citizen due to Law of Return)

Citizenship loss: If acquiring the citizenship of Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi-Arabia, Syria or Yemen

Personal taxation: High, but special program available (10 years territorial taxation under conditions)

Military conscription: Yes, both genders, exemptions possible (24 or 30 months, age 18-40)

Passport strength (Rank: 17)

Visa-Free countries: 105

Visa on arrival: 45

Visa required: 48

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 3 years residence (1095 days out of the last 1825 days)

Knowledge of Hebrew language

Citizenship by Descent / Application

Law of return: Any person with Jewish parents or grandparents, provided they did not convert to another religion, or any person converted to Judaism

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis)

Born in Israel, one parent is a citizen

Born outside Israel, one parent is a citizen by other means than

Jus sanguinis (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Italy

Citizenship law:

<https://www.legislationline.org/documents/id/5131>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High, but special program available (Inbound Tax Regime, tax exemption of 50-90% for 5-10 years). Taxation of citizens abroad after emigration to a 'tax haven' until they 'no longer have ties' to Italy.

Military conscription: No, suspended for peacetime in 2005

Passport strength (Rank: 3)

Visa-Free countries: 127

Visa on arrival: 44

Visa required: 27

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

After 4 years residence if EU/EEA citizen

After 3 years residence if born in Italy or Italian grandparents

Knowledge of Italian language

Citizenship by Marriage

In Italy: After 2 years residence or after 1 year residence with Italian child

Outside Italy: After 3 years marriage or after 1.5 years marriage with Italian child

Citizenship by Descent / Application

Possibly any ancestor since 1861

The laws are complex and processing times for applications are likely 5-15 years

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Jamaica

Citizenship law:

https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Jamaica_2015.pdf?lang=en, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4ed44.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Naturalization loss: If residing outside Jamaica for more than 7 consecutive years without annually registering the intent to retain the citizenship

Personal taxation: Medium to High

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 52)

Visa-Free countries: 57

Visa on arrival: 37

Visa required: 104

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Citizenship by Marriage

Immediately if resident (but the process may take several months or longer)

Intention to live permanently together with the spouse

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Jamaica

Born outside Jamaica, one parent is a citizen (except due to naturalization)

Japan

Citizenship law:

<http://www.moj.go.jp/ENGLISH/information/tnl-01.html>

Multiple citizenship: No, except until age 22

Citizenship loss: Persons with multiple citizenship by birth must decide for or renounce Japanese citizenship at age 22

Personal taxation: High, but special program available (3 years territorial taxation)

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 3)

Visa-Free countries: 123

Visa on arrival: 48

Visa required: 27

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (15 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 3 years residence if born in Japan or one parent born in Japan

Max. absence 73 days per year

Knowledge of Japanese language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 1 year residence

After 3 years residence

Max. absence 73 days per year

Knowledge of Japanese language

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Jordan

Citizenship law:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4ea13.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (Foreigners have to renounce their previous citizenship upon naturalization, except if by Investment)

Personal taxation: Medium to High

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 79)

Visa-Free countries: 21

Visa on arrival: 41

Visa required: 136

Citizenship by Investment

- 'Temporary' citizenship after ~3-6 months, full citizenship after ~3 years
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, unmarried/widowed/divorced daughters, sons (until age 18) and parents
- Investments must be held for at least 3 or 5 years, deposit for 5 years, bonds for 10 years, a property worth at least 250.000 USD must be held indefinitely
- Expected yield: 0% for deposit, ~5% for bonds, ~6-9% for real estate

250.000 USD investment in real estate **and**

1.000.000 USD investment in Small-and Medium Enterprises or

1.500.000 USD deposit at the Central Bank of Jordan or

1.500.000 USD purchase of government bonds or

1.500.000 USD investment in a pre-defined portfolio or

1.500.000 USD investment in a business outside Amman that creates at least 20 jobs or

2.000.000 USD investment in any project inside the country that creates at least 20 jobs

Additional fees: No information available

Citizenship by Residence

After 15 years residence, only for ethnic Arabs

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage if female Arab married to a Jordanian citizen

After 5 years marriage if female Non-Arab married to a Jordanian citizen

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis)

Father is a citizen

Born in Jordan, mother is a citizen if father is unknown or parentage is questionable

Latvia

Citizenship law:

<https://likumi.lv/ta/en/id/57512-citizenship-law>

Multiple citizenship: Restricted (possible for EU/EEA, NATO members, Australia, Brazil and New Zealand)

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, abolished in 2007

Passport strength (Rank: 7)

Visa-Free countries: 122

Visa on arrival: 45

Visa required: 31

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Knowledge of Latvian language and test about Latvia

Citizenship by Descent

Latvian exiles: Anyone who left the country or was deported between 1940 and 1990 and their descendants born before 1st October 2014

Latvian ancestors: Any ancestor living permanently in Latvia between 1881 and 1940 with evidence that you or one of your parents or grandparents 'belong to' the nation of Latvia or the ethnic group of Livs

Knowledge of Latvian language

Proven by passports, birth certificates or other documents

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Liechtenstein

Note: A new citizenship law will be voted on by the citizens of Liechtenstein within a few months, likely allowing multiple citizenship for naturalized foreigners from EU/EEA countries (June 2020).

Citizenship law: <https://www.gesetze.li/konso/1960.23> (in German)

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (Foreigners have to renounce their previous citizenship upon naturalization)

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: No, does not have a military

Passport strength (Rank: 10)

Visa-Free countries: 118

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 34

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 30 years residence, residence years spent under age 20 count twice

After 10 years residence if approved by the local community

Knowledge of German language and test about Liechtenstein

Citizenship by Marriage

After 5 years marriage and 10 years residence, residence years after the marriage has taken place count twice

Knowledge of German language and test about Liechtenstein

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Luxembourg

Citizenship law:

<http://legilux.public.lu/eli/etat/leg/loi/2017/03/08/a289/jo> (in French)

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, abolished in 1967

Passport strength (Rank: 2)

Visa-Free countries: 127

Visa on arrival: 45

Visa required: 26

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Knowledge of Luxembourgian language and test about Luxembourg

Citizenship by Marriage

In Luxembourg: Immediately if resident (but the process may take several months or longer)

Outside Luxembourg: After 3 years marriage

Knowledge of Luxembourgian language and test about Luxembourg

Citizenship by Descent / Application

At age 18 if resident for more than 5 years and one parent was a resident for at least 1 year before birth

Parents or grandparents (proven by passports, birth certificates or other documents)

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Double Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Luxembourg, one parent was born in Luxembourg as well

Malaysia

Citizenship law:

[http://www.agc.gov.my/agcportal/uploads/files/Publications/FC/Federal%20Consti%20\(BI%20text\).pdf](http://www.agc.gov.my/agcportal/uploads/files/Publications/FC/Federal%20Consti%20(BI%20text).pdf)

Multiple citizenship: No

Naturalization loss: If residing outside Malaysia for more than 5 consecutive years without annually registering the intent to retain citizenship

Personal taxation: Medium to High, but territorial tax system

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 8)

Visa-Free countries: 119

Visa on arrival: 45

Visa required: 34

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 7 years residence

Knowledge of Malay language

Intent to permanently settle in Malaysia

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years residence

Knowledge of Malay language

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis)

Born in Malaysia, one parent is a citizen

Born outside Malaysia, father is a citizen

Malta

Citizenship law: <https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/188/eng/pdf>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Naturalization loss: If residing outside Malta for more than 7 consecutive years without giving written notice to the minister

Personal taxation: High, but special program available (Non-Dom, territorial taxation under conditions)

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 4)

Visa-Free countries: 124

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 28

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Investment

Note: Malta will phase out its current program by August 2020 and replace it with a more restrictive one. The exact details of the new program are yet unknown, though expect longer residency requirements and even higher contributions.

- Citizenship after ~12 months
- 12 months residence required during the process
- Can include spouse, children (until age 26) and parents
- Investments and lease must be held for at least 5 years
- Expected Yield: 3-4% for real estate

Option 1:

650.000 EUR donation (National Development and Social Fund and Consolidated Fund) **and**

350.000 EUR investment in real estate **and**

150.000 EUR investment in government bonds, stocks or other types of financial investment

Option 2:

650.000 EUR donation (National Development and Social Fund and Consolidated Fund) **and**

16.000 EUR rent of property per year **and**

150.000 EUR investment in government bonds, stocks or other types of financial investment

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~15.000 EUR

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~135.000 EUR for adult children, ~80.000 EUR for minor children

Additional fees for every further person: ~55.000 EUR for adult children/parents, ~25.000 EUR for minor children

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Knowledge of Maltese or English language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 5 years marriage (whether residing in Malta or abroad)

Citizenship by Descent / Application

Anyone born outside Malta where one parent and grandparent were born in Malta, and their descendants (proven by passports, birth certificates or other documents)

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen (except if born outside Malta to a person who is a citizen based on registration of descent)

Marshall Islands

Citizenship law:

http://rmiparliament.org/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/1984/1984-0004/CitizenshipAct1984_1.pdf

Multiple citizenship: No

Personal taxation: Low to Medium, but territorial tax system

Military conscription: No, does not have a military

Passport strength (Rank: 42)

Visa-Free countries: 74

Visa on arrival: 47

Visa required: 77

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (Unrestricted)

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

Knowledge of Marshallese language and test about the Marshall Islands

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years residence with Marshallese child

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Mauritius

Citizenship law:

<http://mauritiusassembly.govmu.org/English/constitution/Pages/constitution2016.pdf>,

[http://dha.pmo.govmu.org/English/Documents/Act-Fee-Forms%202016/Docs%20-%20Act%20-%20Fee%202016/MAURITIUS%20CITIZENSHIP%20ACT\(2\).pdf](http://dha.pmo.govmu.org/English/Documents/Act-Fee-Forms%202016/Docs%20-%20Act%20-%20Fee%202016/MAURITIUS%20CITIZENSHIP%20ACT(2).pdf)

Multiple citizenship: Yes, officially only for national-born citizens, but in practice for naturalized foreigners as well

Naturalization loss: If residing outside Mauritius for more than 5 consecutive years without a written notice to the minister or annually registering the intent to retain the citizenship

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: No, does not have a military

Passport strength (Rank: 28)

Visa-Free countries: 100

Visa on arrival: 36

Visa required: 62

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (60 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (60 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 6 years residence

After 2 years residence if investing at least 500.000 USD in Mauritius

Intent to continue to reside in Mauritius

Knowledge of English, French, Tamil or Mauritian Creole language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 4 years marriage and 4 years residence

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis)

Born in Mauritius, one parent is a citizen

Born outside Mauritius, one parent is a citizen by other means than Jus sanguinis (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Mexico

Citizenship law:

<https://www2.juridicas.unam.mx/constitucion-reordenada-consolidada/en/vigente>,

<http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/53.pdf> (in Spanish)

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (Foreigners can not get a next additional citizenship without losing Mexican citizenship)

Renunciation of citizenship: Only if born in the country to non-citizen parents or previously naturalized in Mexico

Naturalization loss: If acquiring another citizenship, pretending to be a foreign national or using a foreign passport inside Mexico or living outside Mexico for more than 5 consecutive years

Personal taxation: High. Up to 3 years taxation of citizens abroad after emigration to a 'tax haven' or until they 'no longer have ties' to Mexico.

Military conscription: Yes, and community service alternative, but most are exempted (12 months, age 18-19)

Passport strength (Rank: 17)

Visa-Free countries: 100

Visa on arrival: 50

Visa required: 48

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 2 years residence if any ancestor was a Mexican by birth or with a Mexican child or if Spanish, Portuguese or Latin American citizen by birth

Max. absence 6 months total in the last 2 years before naturalization

Knowledge of Spanish language and test about Mexico

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years marriage and 2 years residence

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Mexico

Born outside Mexico, one parent is a citizen who was born or naturalized in Mexico (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Moldova

Citizenship law: <http://lex.justice.md/md/311522/> (in Romanian/Moldovan)

Multiple citizenship: Restricted (possible on birth or by investment)

Personal taxation: Low to Medium

Military conscription: Yes, but abolished by 2021 (12 months, age 18-27)

Passport strength (Rank: 43)

Visa-Free countries: 76

Visa on arrival: 44

Visa required: 78

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Investment

Note: Moldova has suspended the program in July 2019 to review its structure and agents. It is still closed and unlikely to ever re-open.

- Citizenship after ~3-6 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 29) and parents (above age 55)

100.000 EUR donation (Public Investment Fund)

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~50.000 EUR

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~23.000 EUR

Additional fees for every further person: ~11.000 EUR

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

After 3 years residence with Moldovan child
Max. absence 6 months per year
Knowledge of Romanian/Moldovan language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 3 years residence
Max. absence 6 months per year
Knowledge of Romanian/Moldovan language

Citizenship by Descent / Application

At age 18 if 5 years resident

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Conditional Jus Soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Moldova, one parent is a permanent resident

Monaco

Citizenship law:

<https://www.legimonaco.mc/305/legismclois.nsf/ViewTNC/53A6CED455ACCB9DC1257C3C00340B84!OpenDocument> (in French)

Multiple citizenship: Restricted (only on marriage)

Personal taxation: Low (No income tax)

Military conscription: No, does not have a military

Passport strength (Rank: 10)

Visa-Free countries: 112

Visa on arrival: 52

Visa required: 34

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

Naturalization is subject to approval by the Prince of Monaco.

Usually, less than 5% of applications are successful.

Citizenship by Marriage

After 10 years marriage

Must not renounce their previous citizenship upon marriage with a Monegasque but instead must be allowed to retain it

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis)

Father is a citizen except if citizenship was gained through marriage

Mother is a citizen who was born in Monaco or has Monegasque ancestors

Montenegro

Citizenship law:

<https://www.paragraf.me/propisi-crnegore/zakon-o-crnogorsko-m-drzavljanstvu.html> (in Montenegrin)

Multiple citizenship: Restricted (possible for North Macedonia or by Investment)

Personal taxation: Low to Medium

Military conscription: No, abolished in 2006

Passport strength (Rank: 39)

Visa-Free countries: 78

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 74

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (30 days)

Citizenship by Investment

Note: The program is limited to 2000 applicants or until 31st December 2021. It is unlikely to be extended.

- Only for Non-EU citizens
- Citizenship after ~3-6 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 28) and parents (above age 65)
- Expected yield: ~7-9% for real estate

100.000 EUR donation (Government Fund) **and**

250.000 EUR investment in real estate in an undeveloped region (e.g. northern region of the country) or

450.000 EUR investment in real estate in a developed region (e.g. southern region of the country)

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~25.000 EUR

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~55.000 EUR

Additional fees for every further person: ~55.000 EUR

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

After 2 years residence with Montenegrin parents,
grandparents or great-grandparents

Knowledge of Montenegrin language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 5 years residence

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

The child can not have multiple citizenship but can opt for Montenegrin citizenship until age 23 if it renounces all other citizenship

Morocco

Citizenship law:

<https://www.refworld.org/topic,50ffbce524d,50ffbce525c,3ae6b5778,0,,,MAR.html> (in French)

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Renunciation of citizenship: No

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: Yes, exemptions possible (12 months, age 19-25)

Passport strength (Rank: 64)

Visa-Free countries: 31

Visa on arrival: 41

Visa required: 126

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Knowledge of Arabic language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years residence

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Conditional Double Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Morocco, if the father was born in Morocco as well while the mother was also born in Morocco or in a nation with predominantly Arabic language or Islamic religion

Netherlands

Citizenship law:

<https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2020-04-01> (in Dutch)

Multiple citizenship: Restricted (possible on birth, upon marriage and other special cases)

Citizenship loss: If residing outside the Netherlands or the European Union for more than 10 years without having a valid Dutch passport, identity card or citizenship certificate at all times

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, suspended for peacetime in 1997

Passport strength (Rank: 3)

Visa-Free countries: 126

Visa on arrival: 44

Visa required: 28

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Knowledge of Dutch language

Citizenship by Marriage

In the Netherlands: After 3 years residence

Outside the Netherlands: After 3 years marriage if not residing in a country you hold citizenship in

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Conditional Double Jus Soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in the Netherlands, one parent is a permanent resident and was born in the Netherlands to a parent who was a permanent resident as well

New Zealand

Citizenship law:

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1977/0061/latest/whole.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High, but special program available (Transitional tax resident, 3 years territorial taxation)

Military conscription: No, abolished in 1972

Passport strength (Rank: 5)

Visa-Free countries: 114

Visa on arrival: 55

Visa required: 29

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence (physical presence in the country for 1350 days within 1825 days)

Max. absence 125 days per year

Knowledge of English language

Intent to continue to reside in New Zealand or continue to be 'in the service' of a company, body of persons, international organization or the government of New Zealand

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Conditional Jus Soli)

Born in New Zealand, one parent is a citizen or a permanent resident

Born outside New Zealand, one parent is a citizen by other means than Jus Sanguinis (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

North Macedonia

Citizenship law: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/3f54916b4.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (Renunciation of previous citizenship for naturalized foreigners except on marriage)

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: No, abolished in 2006

Passport strength (Rank: 39)

Visa-Free countries: 77

Visa on arrival: 47

Visa required: 74

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 8 years residence

Knowledge of Macedonian language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 1 year residence in North Macedonia

After 8 years marriage if residing abroad

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Norway

Note: A new citizenship law is active from 1st January 2020, allowing multiple citizenship without restrictions.

Citizenship law:

<https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51> (in Norwegian)

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Citizenship loss: At age 22 if not resident in Norway for 2 years or not resident in Denmark, Finland, Iceland or Sweden for a combined 7 years or no 'sufficient ties' to Norway

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: Yes, both genders, and community service alternative, but a majority is exempted (6 or 12 months, age 18-28)

Passport strength (Rank: 4)

Visa-Free countries: 123

Visa on arrival: 47

Visa required: 28

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 7 years residence

After 2 years residence if citizen of Denmark, Finland, Iceland or Sweden

Intent to continue to reside in Norway

Knowledge of Norwegian language and test about Norway

Citizenship by Marriage

After 7 years marriage and 3 years residence

Intent to continue to reside in Norway

Knowledge of Norwegian language and test about Norway

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Oman

Citizenship law: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/58dcfe444.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: No

Naturalization loss: If residing outside Oman for more than 6 consecutive months within the 10 years after naturalization without a 'valid justification'

Personal taxation: Low (No income tax)

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 51)

Visa-Free countries: 43

Visa on arrival: 45

Visa required: 110

Citizenship by Residence

After 20 years residence

Knowledge of Arabic language

Max. absence 60 days per year

Citizenship by Marriage

After 15 years residence if male married to an Omani female with son

After 10 years residence if female married to an Omani male with son

Knowledge of Arabic language

Max. absence 60 days per year

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis)

Father is a citizen

Mother is a citizen if father is unknown or parentage is questionable

Panama

Citizenship law:

<https://panama.justia.com/federales/constitucion-politica-de-la-republica-de-panama/titulo-ii/> (in Spanish)

Multiple citizenship: Yes, officially only for national-born citizens, but in practice for naturalized foreigners as well

Renunciation of citizenship: Only if previously naturalized in Panama

Personal taxation: Medium, but territorial tax system

Military conscription: No, does not have a military

Passport strength (Rank: 29)

Visa-Free countries: 89

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 63

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 3 years residence with Panamanian child

Spanish and Latin American citizens by birth after as many years residence as Panamanians are required to have for naturalization in their country (if less than 5)

Knowledge of Spanish language and test about Panama

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years residence

Knowledge of Spanish language and test about Panama

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Panama

Born outside Panama, one parent is a citizen and the child establishes domicile in Panama at some point (until age 19 if citizen due to naturalized parents)

Paraguay

Citizenship law:

http://www.embapar.jp/seccion_consular/menores/nacionalidad-paraguaya/

Multiple citizenship: Yes, officially only for national-born citizens, but in practice for naturalized foreigners as well

Naturalization loss: If residing outside Paraguay for more than 3 consecutive years without 'suitable justification'

Personal taxation: Low, and territorial tax system

Military conscription: Yes, but community service alternative (12 months, age 18-20)

Passport strength (Rank: 27)

Visa-Free countries: 89

Visa on arrival: 48

Visa required: 61

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 3 years residence

'Exercise any profession, trade, science, art or industry' inside Paraguay

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Paraguay

Born outside Paraguay, one parent is a citizen and the child establishes domicile in Paraguay at some point

Peru

Citizenship law:

<http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/research/peru-Ley%2026574%20Ley%20de%20Nacionalidad.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: Yes, officially only for national-born citizens, but in practice for naturalized foreigners as well

Personal taxation: Medium to High

Military conscription: No, abolished in 1999

Passport strength (Rank: 24)

Visa-Free countries: 88

Visa on arrival: 52

Visa required: 58

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 2 years residence

'Exercise any profession, trade, art or business' inside Peru

Knowledge of Spanish language and history of Peru

Max. absence 6 months per year

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years marriage and 2 years residence

Max. absence 6 months per year

Citizenship by Descent / Application

After age 18 if born outside Peru and one parent was a citizen at the time of birth

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Peru

Born outside Peru, one parent is a citizen and this parent or a grandparent was born in Peru (citizenship is lost in the third generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Poland

Citizenship law:

https://www.legislationline.org/download/id/6570/file/Poland_citizenship_act_2009_en.pdf

Multiple citizenship: Yes (not explicitly unrestricted but tolerated)

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, abolished in 2009 (but registration required above age 18)

Passport strength (Rank: 5)

Visa-Free countries: 122

Visa on arrival: 47

Visa required: 29

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 3 years with permanent residence (total 5-8 years if previous temporary residences are needed)

After 1-2 years residence with any Polish ancestors

Knowledge of Polish language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 2 years residence

Knowledge of Polish language

Citizenship by Descent / Application

Possibly any ancestor born in Poland or its former territories since 1920, provided Polish citizenship was not lost somehow.

The rules are complex and it is unlikely that citizenship was not lost at some point.

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Portugal

Citizenship law:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b52e4.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High, but special program available (Non-habitual residency, 10 year territorial taxation but hard to unfeasible requirements). Up to 5 year taxation of citizens abroad after emigration to a 'tax haven' or until they 'no longer have ties' to Portugal.

Military conscription: No, abolished in 2004

Passport strength (Rank: 3)

Visa-Free countries: 125

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 27

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Knowledge of Portuguese language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage (whether residing in Portugal or abroad)

Citizenship by Descent / Application

One grandparent was a citizen (proven by passports, birth certificates or other documents)

Any Sephardic Jewish ancestors from Portugal, proven by Sephardic surnames in the family tree and 'emotional and traditional connection with the former Portuguese Sephardic Community'

Born in Portugal, one parent is a resident since 5 years (no matter if before or after birth)

Born in Portugal, the child completed one school cycle in Portugal (from age 6-10, 10-12, 12-15 or 15-18)

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Conditional Double Jus Soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Portugal, one parent is a resident since 2 years

Born in Portugal, one parent is a resident and was born in Portugal as well

Romania

Citizenship law:

https://www.legislationline.org/download/id/5943/file/Romania_Citizenship_law_2010_en.pdf

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Low to Medium

Military conscription: No, abolished in 2006

Passport strength (Rank: 8)

Visa-Free countries: 118

Visa on arrival: 48

Visa required: 32

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Citizenship by Residence

After 8 years residence

After 4 years residence if EU/EEA citizen or invested more than 1.000.000 EUR in Romania

Max. absence 6 months per year

Knowledge of Romanian language and test about Romania

Citizenship by Marriage

After 5 years marriage and 5 years residence

Max. absence 6 months per year

Knowledge of Romanian language and test about Romania

Citizenship by Descent / Application

One grandparent was a citizen or born in Romania or its former territories (proven by passports, birth certificates or other documents)

After age 18 if born and currently residing in Romania

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Russia

Note: A new citizenship law is active from July 2020, allowing foreigners to retain their previous citizenship upon naturalization and easing naturalization requirements.

Citizenship law:

<https://www.legislationline.org/documents/id/4189>,
<https://migrantmedia.ru/migracionnoe-zakonodatelstvo-rf/fz-134-federalnyy-zakon-ot-24-04-2020-134-fz-o-vnesenii-izmeneniy-v-federalnyy-zakon-o-grazhdanstve/> (in Russian)

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: Yes, and community service alternative, but many evade (12 months, age 18-27)

Passport strength (Rank: 41)

Visa-Free countries: 80

Visa on arrival: 42

Visa required: 76

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 1 year residence with 'high achievements in science, technology or culture' or with a 'profession or qualification of interest for Russia' or if able to speak Russian on a first-language level

After 1 year residence if citizen of the former USSR or citizen of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova or Ukraine

Knowledge of Russian language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage if resident

After 1 year residence with Russian child

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Samoa

Citizenship law: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4211de254.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Naturalization loss: If residing outside Samoa for more than 2 consecutive years if it is unlikely that the person will reside in Samoa again at some point

Personal taxation: Medium to High

Military conscription: No, does not have a military

Passport strength (Rank: 36)

Visa-Free countries: 85

Visa on arrival: 42

Visa required: 71

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (60 days)

Citizenship by Investment

- Citizenship after ~3 years
- 15 days residence required per year
- Can include spouse and children (until age 18)

4.000.000 SAT (~1.500.000 USD) investment with a variety of options (real estate, agriculture, fishing, tourism, information technology, power-generation, development fund, ...)

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~55.000 USD

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~100.000 USD

Additional fees for every further person: ~30.000 USD

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Intent to continue to reside in Samoa

Citizenship by Marriage

After 5 years marriage if resident

Intent to continue to reside in Samoa

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis)

Born in Samoa, one parent is a citizen

Born outside Samoa, one parent or grandparent is a citizen by other means than Jus Sanguinis or has at some point resided in Samoa for at least three years (citizenship is lost in the third generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

San Marino

Citizenship law:

https://www.legislationline.org/download/id/6578/file/San_Marino_amendments_%20to_citizenship_law_2016_it.pdf,

https://www.legislationline.org/download/id/6573/file/San_Marino_citizenship_law_2000_am2004_it.pdf (in Italian)

Multiple citizenship: No

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 15)

Visa-Free countries: 109

Visa on arrival: 45

Visa required: 44

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 25 years residence

Citizenship by Marriage

After 15 years residence

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Serbia

Citizenship law: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4b56d0542.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: No (but unofficially possible in practice)

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: No, abolished in 2011

Passport strength (Rank: 30)

Visa-Free countries: 86

Visa on arrival: 48

Visa required: 64

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (30 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (30 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 3 years with permanent residence (total 5-8 years if previous temporary residences are needed)

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage if resident

Citizenship by Descent

Any Serbian ancestor (proven by passports, birth certificates or other documents)

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Seychelles

Citizenship law:

<https://seylli.org/sc/legislation/consolidated-act/30>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Medium to High, but territorial tax system

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 25)

Visa-Free countries: 104

Visa on arrival: 35

Visa required: 59

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (30 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (30 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 13 years physical presence in the country, reset if absent for more than one year without permission, if possessing a 'extraordinarily ability' in science, arts, education, economics, business, law or sports, holds an educational degree or making a financial contribution that significantly aids to the development of the Seychelles

After 11 years residence if investing more than 1.000.000 USD in the country

Knowledge of English, French or Seychellois Creole language and test about Seychelles

Citizenship by Marriage

After 10 years marriage and 5 years residence

Knowledge of English, French or Seychellois Creole language and test about Seychelles

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Slovenia

Citizenship law:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b59118.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (Foreigners have to renounce their previous citizenship upon naturalization)

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, abolished in 2003

Passport strength (Rank: 6)

Visa-Free countries: 122

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 30

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

Knowledge of Slovenian language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years marriage and 1 year residence

Knowledge of Slovenian language

Citizenship by Descent

One grandparent was a citizen (proven by passports, birth certificates or other documents)

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Singapore

Citizenship law:

[https://sso.agc.gov.sg/Act/CONS1963?ValidDate=20170401&Pr
ovIds=P1X-](https://sso.agc.gov.sg/Act/CONS1963?ValidDate=20170401&Pr
ovIds=P1X-)

Multiple citizenship: Restricted (possible on birth)

Personal taxation: Medium, but territorial tax system

Military conscription: Yes (22 or 24 months, age 16-21)

Passport strength (Rank: 5)

Visa-Free countries: 131

Visa on arrival: 38

Visa required: 29

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (15 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 2 years with permanent residence (total 5-8 years if previous temporary residences are needed)

Intent to continue to reside in Singapore

Knowledge of English, Mandarin, Malay or Tamil language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years marriage and 2 years residence

Intent to continue to reside in Singapore

Knowledge of English, Mandarin, Malay or Tamil language

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis)

Born in Singapore, one parent is a citizen

Born outside Singapore, one parent is a citizen by other means than Jus Sanguinis or resided in Singapore for 5 years anytime before birth or for two years within the 5 years before birth (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Solomon Islands

Citizenship law:

http://www.parliament.gov.sb/files/committees/bills&legislation/committee/2018/Citizenship_Bill_2017.pdf

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, does not have a military

Passport strength (Rank: 32)

Visa-Free countries: 87

Visa on arrival: 44

Visa required: 67

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Likely to continue to reside in the Solomon Islands or maintain close association

Knowledge of English, Pijin or another recognized language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 5 years marriage if resident

Citizenship by Descent / Application

Any parent, grandparent or great-grandparent was a citizen

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

South Africa

Citizenship law:

<https://www.gov.za/documents/south-african-citizenship-act>

Multiple citizenship: Restricted (possible with permission. This permission is usually granted. Foreigners are allowed to retain their previous citizenship upon naturalization.)

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: No, abolished in 2001

Passport strength (Rank: 47)

Visa-Free countries: 63

Visa on arrival: 39

Visa required: 96

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Intent to continue to reside in South Africa or continue to be 'in the service' of a company, body of persons, international organization or the government of South Africa

Knowledge of English or other recognized languages

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years marriage and 2 years residence

Intent to continue to reside in South Africa or continue to be 'in the service' of a company, body of persons, international organization or the government of South Africa

Knowledge of English or other recognized languages

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Conditional Jus Soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in South Africa, one parent is a permanent resident

South Korea

Citizenship law:

https://elaw.klri.re.kr/eng_service/lawView.do?lang=ENG&hseq=48862

Multiple citizenship: Restricted (possible on birth, on marriage with a South Korean or other special cases)

Personal taxation: High, but special program available (3 years territorial taxation)

Military conscription: Yes (21-24 or 30 months, age 18-28)

Passport strength (Rank: 3)

Visa-Free countries: 121

Visa on arrival: 50

Visa required: 27

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (60 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 3 years residence if born in South Korea to a parent born in South Korea

Knowledge of Korean language and test about South Korea

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 1 year residence

After 2 years marriage and 2 years residence

Knowledge of Korean language and test about South Korea

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Spain

Citizenship law:

https://www.legislationline.org/download/id/6580/file/Spain_civil_code_excerpt_on_citizenship_as_of2007_en.pdf

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (Foreigners have to renounce their previous citizenship upon naturalization, except if Andorran, Equatorial-Guinean, Philippine or Latin American citizen, and can not get a next additional citizenship without losing Spanish citizenship)

Citizenship loss: At age 21 if born abroad and not declaring their will to retain Spanish citizenship

Personal taxation: High. Up to 5 year taxation of citizens abroad after emigration to a 'tax haven' or until they 'no longer have ties' to Spain.

Military conscription: No, abolished in 2001

Passport strength (Rank: 2)

Visa-Free countries: 126

Visa on arrival: 46

Visa required: 26

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

After 2 years residence if Andorran, Equatorial-Guinean, Philippine, Portuguese or Latin American citizen or of Sephardic Jewish origin

After 1 year residence if born in Spain or with Spanish parents or grandparents

Knowledge of Spanish language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 1 year marriage and 1 year residence

Knowledge of Spanish language

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Double Jus Soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Spain, one parent was born in Spain as well

St. Kitts & Nevis

Citizenship law:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b50214.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Low (No income tax)

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 22)

Visa-Free countries: 106

Visa on arrival: 36

Visa required: 56

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Investment

- Citizenship after ~3-6 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 30) and parents (above age 55)
- The cheaper investment must be held for at least 5 years, the more expensive one for 7 years
- Expected yield: 4-6% for real estate

150.000 USD donation (Sustainable Growth Fund) or

200.000 USD investment in real estate or

400.000 USD investment in real estate

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~15.000 USD for donation, ~50.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~60.000 USD for donation, ~50.000 USD for investments

Additional fees for every further person: ~15.000 USD for donation, ~15.000 USD for investments

Citizenship by Residence

After 14 years residence

Citizenship by Marriage

Immediately if resident (but the process may take several months or longer)

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in St. Kitts & Nevis or

Born outside St. Kitts & Nevis, one parent is a citizen by other means than Jus sanguinis (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

St. Lucia

Citizenship law: <http://www.govt.lc/constitution7>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Medium to High

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 30)

Visa-Free countries: 95

Visa on arrival: 39

Visa required: 64

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Investment

- Citizenship after ~3-6 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse, children (until age 25) and parents (above age 65)
- Investments and bonds must be held for at least 5 years
- Expected yield: 3-5% for real estate, 0% for bonds

100.000 USD donation (National Economic Fund) or

300.000 USD investment in real estate or

500.000 USD purchase of government bonds or

1.000.000 USD investment each in a business with any number of partners (6.000.000 USD combined) that creates at least 6 jobs or

3.500.000 USD investment in a business that creates at least 3 jobs

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~15.000 USD for donation or bonds, ~70.000 USD for real estate or business projects

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~100.000 USD for donation, ~60.000 USD for bonds, ~90.000 USD for real estate or business projects

Additional fees for every further person: ~35.000 USD for donation or bonds, ~30.000 USD for real estate or business projects

Citizenship by Residence

After 8 years residence

Citizenship by Marriage

Immediately if resident (but the process may take several months or longer)

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in St. Lucia

Born outside St. Lucia, one parent is a citizen by other means than Jus sanguinis (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Citizenship law:

http://www.oas.org/juridico/PDFs/mesicic4_svg_const.pdf

Multiple citizenship: Restricted (possible on birth, on marriage or for naturalized foreigners)

Personal taxation: Medium to High

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 24)

Visa-Free countries: 102

Visa on arrival: 38

Visa required: 58

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 7 years residence

Citizenship by Marriage

Immediately if resident (but the process may take several months or longer)

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Born outside St. Vincent & the Grenadines, one parent is a citizen by other means than Jus sanguinis (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Sweden

Citizenship law: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/420cadf64.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Citizenship loss: At age 22 if born abroad and never 'been to Sweden under circumstances that indicate a link to Sweden' or if failed to obtain a permission to retain citizenship

Personal taxation: High. Up to 5 year taxation of citizens abroad after emigration or until they 'no longer have essential connections' to Sweden.

Military conscription: Yes, both genders, and community service alternative, but most are exempted (9-12 months, age 18-19)

Passport strength (Rank: 4)

Visa-Free countries: 127

Visa on arrival: 43

Visa required: 28

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 2 years residence if citizen of Denmark, Finland, Iceland or Norway

Absence over 6 weeks per year is deducted from the period of residence

Citizenship by Marriage

In Sweden: After 3 years marriage and 2 years residence

Outside Sweden: After 10 years marriage if not residing in a country you hold citizenship in

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Switzerland

Citizenship law:

<https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20092990/index.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Citizenship loss: At age 25 if born abroad and never registered with a Swiss government agency

Personal taxation: Medium to High

Military conscription: Yes, but community service alternative (8 or 13 months, age 18-30)

Passport strength (Rank: 3)

Visa-Free countries: 123

Visa on arrival: 48

Visa required: 27

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

Knowledge of German, French, Italian or Romansh language and test about Switzerland

Citizenship by Marriage

In Switzerland: After 3 years marriage and 5 years residence

Outside Switzerland: After 6 years marriage if 'closely connected' to Switzerland

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Taiwan

Citizenship law:

<https://law.moj.gov.tw/Eng/LawClass/LawAll.aspx?PCode=D0030001>

Multiple citizenship: Yes, but only for national-born citizens (not explicitly unrestricted but tolerated. Foreigners have to renounce their previous citizenship upon naturalization, exceptions for 'high-level professionals')

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: Yes (4 or 6 months, age 19-40)

Passport strength (Rank: 29)

Visa-Free countries: 84

Visa on arrival: 51

Visa required: 63

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 3 years residence if born in Taiwan

Max. absence 6 months per year

Knowledge of Mandarin or another national language and test about Taiwan

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years residence

Max. absence 6 months per year

Citizenship by Application

Born in Taiwan, one parent was born in Taiwan as well

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Thailand

Citizenship law:

<http://library.siam-legal.com/nationality-act-b-e-2508/>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Renunciation of citizenship: No

Naturalization loss: If residing outside Thailand for more than 5 years or 'making use' of other citizenship inside Thailand

Personal taxation: High, but limited territorial tax system

Military conscription: Yes, but most are exempted, and likely abolished soon (24 months, age 19-21)

Passport strength (Rank: 55)

Visa-Free countries: 39

Visa on arrival: 50

Visa required: 109

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (30 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Knowledge of Thai language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years residence

Knowledge of Thai language

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Conditional Jus Soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Thailand, both parents are permanent residents

Timor-Leste

Citizenship law:

http://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Law_2002_9_LAW_ON_CITIZENSHIP_.pdf

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Low to Medium

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 48)

Visa-Free countries: 56

Visa on arrival: 45

Visa required: 97

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

Knowledge of Portuguese or Tetum language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 5 years marriage and 2 years residence

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Double Jus Soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Timor-Leste, one parent was born in Timor-Leste as well

Tonga

Citizenship law:

https://ago.gov.to/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/1915/1915-0006/NationalityAct_2.pdf

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 39)

Visa-Free countries: 83

Visa on arrival: 41

Visa required: 74

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (30 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Intent to continue to reside in Tonga

Knowledge of Tongan language

Citizenship by Marriage

Immediately if resident (but the process may take several months or longer)

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Trinidad & Tobago

Citizenship law:

<https://www.ebctt.com/wp-content/uploads/laws-of-tnt-chapter-1-50-citizenship.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Medium to High

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 26)

Visa-Free countries: 101

Visa on arrival: 37

Visa required: 60

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 8 years residence

After 5 years residence if Commonwealth or Irish citizen

Knowledge of English language

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Trinidad & Tobago

Born outside Trinidad & Tobago, one parent is a citizen by other means than Jus sanguinis (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Turkey

Citizenship law:

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/4496b0604.html>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High. Possible taxation of citizens abroad working for turkish companies under certain conditions.

Military conscription: Yes, exemptions possible (6 or 12 months, age 20-41)

Passport strength (Rank: 42)

Visa-Free countries: 72

Visa on arrival: 49

Visa required: 77

Citizenship by Investment

- Citizenship after ~3-4 months
- No residence requirements
- Can include spouse and children (until age 18)
- Investments, deposit and bonds must be held for at least 3 years
- Expected yield: ~2-4% for real estate, ~5% for deposit, ~12.5% for bonds

250.000 USD investment in real estate or

500.000 USD deposit with any Turkish bank or

500.000 USD purchase of government bonds or

500.000 USD investment in fixed funds or

500.000 USD investment in a business that creates at least 50 jobs

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~40.000 USD for real estate, no consistent information available for other options

No consistent information on fees for family members

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence
Intent to continue to reside in Turkey
Knowledge of Turkish language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 3 years residence

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Ukraine

Note: A new citizenship law is currently under consideration, likely allowing multiple citizenship at least with EU/EEA countries (June 2020).

Citizenship law:

<https://www.legislationline.org/documents/id/7179>

Multiple citizenship: No (but unofficially possible in practice)

Naturalization loss: If exercising any rights or obligations connected to the previous citizenship

Personal taxation: Medium

Military conscription: Yes, but most are exempted (12 or 24 months, age 20-27)

Passport strength (Rank: 22)

Visa-Free countries: 93

Visa on arrival: 49

Visa required: 56

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Knowledge of Ukrainian language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 2 years marriage and 2 years residence

Citizenship by Descent

Any parent, grandparent or sibling born or residing in Ukraine before 1990

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

United Arab Emirates

Citizenship law: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/3fba182d0.pdf>

Multiple citizenship: Restricted (possible on birth)

Naturalization loss: If residing outside the United Arab Emirates for more than 2 years 'without excuse'

Personal taxation: Low (No income tax)

Military conscription: Yes (16 or 36 months, age 18-30)

Passport strength (Rank: 1)

Visa-Free countries: 118

Visa on arrival: 61

Visa required: 19

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to China: Yes (30 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 30 years residence

After 7 years residence if ethnic Arab

After 3 years residence if ethnic Arab from Bahrain, Qatar or Oman

Knowledge of Arabic language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 7 years marriage if female with UAE child

After 10 years marriage if female without UAE child

Citizenship by Descent / Application

From age 6 if mother is a UAE citizen married to a foreigner

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis)

Father is a citizen

Mother is a citizen if father is unknown or parentage is questionable

United Kingdom

Note: Due to the ongoing process of leaving the EU, the future relations between UK and EU are yet unclear, including provisions for citizenship or freedom of travel (June 2020).

Citizenship law: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/61>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High (Non-Dom, territorial taxation under conditions)

Military conscription: No, abolished in 1960

Passport strength (Rank: 5)

Visa-Free countries: 120

Visa on arrival: 49

Visa required: 29

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (Unrestricted)

Visa-Free to United States: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Intent to continue to reside in the United Kingdom or continue to be 'in the service' of a company, body of persons, international organization or the government of the United Kingdom

Knowledge of English language and test about the United Kingdom

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years residence

Knowledge of English language and test about the United Kingdom

Citizenship by Descent / Application

At age 10 if continuous resident since birth

**Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis /
Conditional Jus soli)**

Born in the United Kingdom, one parent is a British or Irish citizen or a permanent resident (after 5 years residence)

Born outside the United Kingdom, one parent is a British citizen by other means than Jus Sanguinis (citizenship is lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

United States

Citizenship law:

<https://www.uscis.gov/legal-resources/immigration-and-nationality-act>

Multiple citizenship: Yes (not explicitly unrestricted but tolerated)

Renunciation of citizenship: Possible, but discouraged

Personal taxation: High. Worldwide taxation due to citizenship on any income over ~130.000 USD per year.

Military conscription: No, abolished in 1973, but register still exists (Selective Service System)

Passport strength (Rank: 3)

Visa-Free countries: 118

Visa on arrival: 53

Visa required: 27

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

Knowledge of English language and test about the United States

Max. absence 6 months per year

Citizenship by Marriage

After 3 years marriage and 3 years residence

Knowledge of English language and test about the United States

Max. absence 6 months per year

Citizenship by Birth (Conditional Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in the United States

Born outside the United States, both parents are citizens and at least one resided in the United States at some point

Born outside the United States, one parent is a citizen who was at some point residing and physically present in the United States for at least 5 years (including at least 2 years after the age of 14) before birth (citizenship may be lost in the second generation born abroad but can be reacquired)

Uruguay

Citizenship law:

<https://parlamento.gub.uy/documentosyleyes/constitucion>

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Renunciation of citizenship: Only if born in the country to non-citizen parents

Personal taxation: High, but limited territorial tax system

Military conscription: No

Passport strength (Rank: 19)

Visa-Free countries: 100

Visa on arrival: 48

Visa required: 50

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 5 years residence

After 3 years residence if married and living together in Uruguay

'Posses working capital or property or exercise any profession, trade, science, art or industry' inside Uruguay

Knowledge of Spanish language

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

One parent is a citizen

Born in Uruguay

Vanuatu

Citizenship law:

http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/consol_act/ca148/,
http://www.paclii.org/vu/legis/num_act/toc-C.html

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: Low (No income tax)

Military conscription: No, does not have a military

Passport strength (Rank: 33)

Visa-Free countries: 86

Visa on arrival: 44

Visa required: 68

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Investment

Note: There are two programs under different names, the Development Support Program (DSP) and the Vanuatu Contribution Program (VSP). The latter is in the hands of a single agency, has higher fees than shown here and exclusively targets the Asian market. There is a lot of misinformation around. Many websites state that the donation amount required starts at 80.000 USD. As of June 2020, this is wrong, and any offer for under ~130.000 USD most likely either gets you a fake passport or nothing at all. Be very careful which service provider you choose and triple-check their reputation.

- Citizenship after ~1-2 months
- Can include spouse, children (until age 25) and parents (above age 50)
- No residence requirements

130.000 USD donation (mostly to the national budget)

Additional fees for a single applicant: ~5.000 USD

Additional fees for spouse and two children: ~65.000 USD

Additional fees for every further person: ~20.000 USD

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

Intent to continue to reside in Vanuatu

Knowledge of English, French or Bislama language

Citizenship by Marriage

Immediately if female married to a Vanuatu citizen (but the process may take several months or longer)

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis)

One parent is a citizen

Venezuela

Citizenship law:

https://www.derechos.org.ve/pw/wp-content/uploads/ley_nacionalidad_ciudadania.pdf

Multiple citizenship: Yes

Personal taxation: High

Military conscription: Yes, but community service alternative (24 or 30 months, age 18-30)

Passport strength (Rank: 34)

Visa-Free countries: 79

Visa on arrival: 50

Visa required: 69

Visa-Free to EU/Schengen: Yes (90 days)

Visa-Free to Russia: Yes (90 days)

Citizenship by Residence

After 10 years residence

After 5 years residence if Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Caribbean or Latin American citizen by birth

Knowledge of Spanish language

Citizenship by Marriage

After 5 years marriage if resident

Knowledge of Spanish language

Citizenship by Birth (Jus sanguinis / Jus soli)

Born in Venezuela

Born outside Venezuela, one parent is a citizen by birth

Born outside Venezuela, one parent is a citizen by naturalization and the child establishes residence in Venezuela before age 18