



LIVING IN MALTA

Quick Reference Tips

This information brochure is being published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs, and Civil Liberties (MSDC) and funded by the Integration Fund of the European Union (EU). It is intended for third country nationals (TCNs) residing in Malta with the aim of providing information regarding entry and residence, citizenship, work, social security, health, social welfare services, education and accommodation.







ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

The Immigration Act (Cap 217) regulates entry and permanence in Malta of non-Maltese citizens, as well as the conditions for residence.

Entry Conditions

TCNs who wish to enter into Malta are able to do so under the following circumstances:

1. Possess a valid Schengen visa or a national visa or are exempted from being in possession of such a visa in accordance with the relative EU Regulation.
2. Possess a resident permit issued by another Member State which is party to the Schengen Convention.
3. Are granted a resident permit by Malta for a specific purpose.

Residence Permits

The issue of residence permits is regulated by the provisions of the Immigration Act (Cap 217) or national policies. Residence permits are issued to TCNs who have been authorised to reside in Malta for a specific purpose. Each type of residence provides different rights and obligations.

The following is a list of the purposes for which residence permits may be granted:

- Employment
- Self-employment
- Health reasons
- Economic self-sufficiency
- Study
- Family reunification
- Partner
- Exempt-person status
- Temporary residence
- Long-term residence

TCNs are given residence documents in the format established by the relative Regulation. They are in the form of a card which contains electronic features and data. This card also serves the purpose of an identification document for national use. The validity of the permit is in accordance with the specific authorisation granted to reside in Malta.

Malta does not issue identity cards to foreigners any longer.

The Department for Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs is entrusted with the responsibility of issuing residence documents.

Exemption Person Status

This status is enjoyed by the foreign spouse of a citizen of Malta and their dependent children who have not attained their 21st birthday.



How to apply?

Residence permit applications have to be submitted in person as it is mandatory to record biometric features. This must be done at the office of the Department for Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs, Evans Building, St Elmo's Place, Valletta.

Applications for a residence permit provided that the third country national is legally residing in Malta and had entered the Schengen territory legally in accordance with the conditions mentioned above.

Certain fees, unless exemptions apply, are applicable for TCNs as regards the application and issue for residence permits or visas.

Who to contact?

Department for Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs

Evans Building
St Elmo's Place
Valletta VLT 2000

Tel: +356 2590 4800

Email: residency.mhas@gov.mt

Web: <https://mhas.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Information/Services/Pages/Residence.aspx>

Central Visa Unit

Pjazza San Kalcidonju
Floriana FRN 1530

Tel: +356 2204 2310

Email: foi-cvu.mhas@gov.mt

Web: <https://mhas.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Information/Travelling%20to%20Malta/Pages/Travelling-to-Malta.aspx>



CITIZENSHIP

The Maltese Citizenship Act (Cap 188) regulates matters concerning Maltese citizenship. Amongst other issues it determines who acquires:

- Maltese citizenship by birth and by descent.
- By registration, whereby the person is entitled to become a citizen of Malta.
- By naturalization, whereby Maltese citizenship is granted on the basis of residence and more recently under the individual investor programme (IIP).

The Maltese Citizenship Act also provides the mechanism for the deprivation of Maltese citizenship and establishes the right of persons to hold dual citizenship.

The Department for Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs is entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the provisions of the said Act and relative policies.

Who to contact?

Department for Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs

Evans Building
St Elmo's Place
Valletta VLT 2000

Tel: +356 2590 4800

Email: citizenship@gov.mt

Web: <http://mhas.gov.mt/en/MHAS-Information/Services/Pages/Citizenship.aspx>



Ghawdex Gozo Victoria (Rabat)

Mdina Rabat

Valletta Malta

MALTA

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WORK

Employment Licences

According to the Immigration Act (Cap 217), TCNs must obtain an employment licence for any profession or occupation or engagement in business. The grant of such licences is managed by the Employment Licences Unit of the Employment and Training Corporation (ETC).

- The application for an employment licence is made by the employer on behalf of the TCN applicant.
- TCNs applying for a work permit are subject to labour market considerations. Therefore, they are only granted to TCNs where EEA/Swiss/Maltese nationals cannot be identified for the position in question.
- Employment licences are non-transferable. Thus employees cannot use the licence to take up a different job or to work for a different employer.
- Employment Licences for Third Country Nationals are valid for a maximum duration of one year.
- Third Country Nationals may only work on a full-time or on a part-time basis if the wage is at least twice the minimum wage throughout the validity of the employment licence. There are no restrictions on the type of work undertaken by Long Term Residents or by recognized Refugees and persons with Temporary Humanitarian Protection or Subsidiary Protection.

Residents must subsequently contact the Inland Revenue Department and register for a tax number at the Expatriates Section once an employment licence is issued. Contact should also be made with the Social Security Department in order to be given a social security number (NI number).

Who to contact?

Employment Licences Unit

The Employment and Training Corporation (ETC)
Head Office
Hal Far Road
Hal Far BBG 3000
Tel: +356 2165 4940
Email: employment-licences.etc@gov.mt
Web: etc.gov.mt

Inland Revenue Department Malta (IRD)

Block 4, Vincenzo Dimech Street
Floriana FRN 0170

Inland Revenue Department Gozo (IRD)

Enrico Mizzi Street,
Victoria VCT 10
Tel: +356 2296 2296
Email: taxpayerservice.ird@gov.mt
Web: ird.gov.mt

Social Security Department

38 Ordinance Street
Valletta VLT 1021
Tel: +356 2590 3000
Email: social.security@gov.mt
Web: https://secure3.gov.mt/socialpolicy/social_benefits/ss_overview



Employment Conditions

The Employment and Industrial Relations Act (Cap 452) regulates worker rights as well as their obligations. This includes but not limited to:

- Working hours
- Sick leave
- Minimum wage
- Different types of employment contracts
- Paid leave
- Notice periods
- Overtime pay

If the employer does not follow the conditions of work, a claim can be made by the employee with the Department of Industrial and Employment Relations.

If the employee is being discriminated against on the basis of sex/gender and family responsibilities, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, racial or ethnic origin, and gender identity in employment, contact must be made with the Department of Industrial and Employment Relations.

Furthermore, The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality investigates cases when an individual is being discriminated against on any of the following grounds, namely on the basis of gender and family responsibilities, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, racial or ethnic origin, and gender identity in employment; banks and financial institutions, as well as education. Moreover, if an individual is being discriminated against on the basis of racial/ethnic origin or gender in the provision of goods and services and their supply, a case may be presented to the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality.

Who to contact?

Department Of Industrial and Employment Relations (DIER)

121, Melita Street,
Valletta VLT 1121

Tel: +356 2122 4245/6

Email: ind.emp.relations@gov.mt

Web: dier.gov.mt

National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE)

Gattard House
National Road

Blata l-Bajda HMR 9010

Tel: +356 2590 3850

Email: equality@gov.mt

Web: equality.gov.mt



SOCIAL SECURITY

The Social Security Act (Cap 318) regulates social security benefits in Malta. This system provides the following benefits for TCNs:

- Sickness benefits
- Injury benefits
- Invalidity pension
- Retirement pension
- Widow's pension
- Children's allowance

The Social Security Act provides for more kinds of benefits for persons who qualify, whether they are a TCN or not.

Certain categories of TCNs qualify automatically for benefits such as long term resident permit holders, citizens from states who ratified the European Social Charter, those married to an EU national, whilst others may be eligible for some of these benefits subject to various conditions being satisfied.

TCNs must first obtain an employment licence from the ETC and then contact the Social Security Department in order to obtain a national insurance number. It is also possible to log on to the Social Policy website to view social benefits.

TCNs may be entitled to contributory benefits and pensions as long as they satisfy the contribution test. Those who are self-occupied may also be entitled to contributory benefits as long as they satisfy the contribution test. The rate of contributions paid for self-occupied and occupied can be calculated by visiting the Inland Revenue website: www.ird.gov.mt

Who to contact?

Social Security Department

38 Ordinance Street
Valletta VLT 1021

Tel: +356 2590 3000

Email: social.security@gov.mt

Web: https://secure3.gov.mt/socialpolicy/social_benefits/ss_overview

Inland Revenue Department Gozo (IRD)

Enrico Mizzi Street,
Victoria VCT 10

Tel: +356 2296 2296

Email: taxpayerservice.ird@gov.mt

Web: ird.gov.mt

Inland Revenue Department Malta (IRD)

Block 4, Vincenzo Dimech Street
Floriana FRN 0170



HEALTH

Healthcare in Malta is provided according to the level of health insurance cover of the foreign national. Sickness insurance can be provided through either:

- Paying social security contributions (National Insurance).
- Having a private health insurance.

TCNs working in Malta are automatically covered by the public health care system via social security contributions, also known as National Insurance.

TCNs working in Malta have to acquire private insurance alongside national insurance, unless the applicant is a home based carer, a person working with persons with disability or persons in need of constant care, or is working in the public service.

Public Health Care

In order to qualify for public health care, one must pay social security contributions, or the National Insurance in Malta or through S1 entitlement earned from paying social security contributions in another EU country. Dependents also qualify to be covered by the same system.

The Health Centres are the hub of the primary health care services provided by the Government and offer various health services covered by social security. The following is a list of all Health Centres in Malta:

- Floriana Health Centre
- Gzira Health Centre
- Qormi Health Centre
- Paola Health Centre
- Cospicua Health Centre
- Mosta Health Centre
- Rabat Health Centre
- Birkirkara Health Centre

European Health Insurance Card

Persons residing in Malta and who pay social security contributions may also qualify for EHIC which provides temporary coverage when travelling throughout the EU.

Who to contact?

Ministry of Health

Palazzo Castellania,
15 Merchants Street,
Valletta VLT 2000

Tel: +356 2122 4071

Email: permsec.mfh@gov.mt

Web: ehealth.gov.mt

Head of Entitlement Unit,

Ground Floor, Ex-Outpatients Block,
St. Luke's Hospital,
G'Mangia MSD 07

Tel: +356 2299 2345

Email: entitlement.doh@gov.mt

Web: ehealth.gov.mt



SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

TCNs have free access to social welfare services in Malta, which are provided by the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS). This is divided into three main agencies that offer comprehensive programmes of prevention, support and treatment services, both on community and residential settings.

Aġenzija Sedqa provides assistance and services in health promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation to persons with drug and/or alcohol problems and other similar conditions, and to their families, so as to help them live a stable life and towards better integration in society.

Aġenzija Appoġġ provides assistance to children, families and the community, safeguards and promotes the well-being of these persons through the development and provision of psycho-social welfare services.

Aġenzija Sapport provides services and assistance to individuals with disabilities.

Who to contact?

Aġenzija Sedqa

3, Braille Street,
Santa Venera SVR 1690

Tel: +356 2388 5110

Email: sedqa@gov.mt

Web: sedqa.gov.mt

Aġenzija Appoġġ

36, St. Luke's Road,
G'Mangia, PTA 1318

Tel: +356 2295 9000

Email: appogg@gov.mt

Web: appogg.gov.mt

Aġenzija Sapport

Triq Patri Ġwann Azzopardi,
Santa Venera, SVR 1614

Tel: +356 2256 8000 / +356 2145 1868

Email: sapport@gov.mt

Web: sapport.gov.mt

Supportline 179



EDUCATION

Education in Malta is regulated by the Education Act (Cap 237) and is provided both by state and non-state schools at all levels, ranging from nursery to tertiary education. Education is compulsory from the ages of 5-16.

Primary State Schools are found in most of the main towns in Malta. To enrol children in State schools, parents need to register their children at the Education Department in Floriana. They will be encouraged to apply for exemption of fees for school. Each exemption application will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Both English and Maltese languages are used in state schools, however instruction is mainly in Maltese. Special language integration courses are provided for students with limited knowledge of both languages, as well as services for students with learning problems and Resource Centres for children with certain disabilities.

Non-State Schools are divided into two types of schools; church schools and independent schools. Both offer pre-primary to upper secondary education and are regulated by the Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE). This entails that the curricula are similar across various schools.

Tertiary Education is provided by both the University of Malta, Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) and Institute for Tourism Studies (ITS). The University of Malta as the National University offers full-time or part-time degree and diploma courses, many of which run on the modular or credit system. The language of instruction is English. MCAST is a vocational education and training institution which offers full-time and part-time vocational courses ranging from certificates to degrees, preparing students for careers in different sectors of the economy or for higher education. The Institute for Tourism Studies (ITS) provides training to students who wish to pursue a career in the hospitality industry.

Learning Maltese and English All residents can take free Maltese and English language courses through LifeLong Learning which is provided by the Ministry for Education and Employment.

Who to contact?

Ministry for Education and Employment

Great Siege Road
Floriana VLT 2000
Tel: +356 2598 0000
Email: education@gov.mt
Web: education.gov.mt

University of Malta

Msida MSD 2080
Tel: +356 2340 2340
Email: int-eu@um.edu.mt
Web: um.edu.mt

Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST)

Triq Kordin
Paola PLA 9032
Tel: +356 2398 7100
Email: information@mcast.edu.mt
Web: mcast.edu.mt

Institute for Tourism Studies (ITS)

Bajja San Ġorġ
San Ġiljan PBK 1553
Tel: +356 2379 3100
Web: its.edu.mt



ACCOMMODATION

TCNs have the following options for accommodation in Malta:

- Rented property
- Purchase of property
- Facilities providing accommodation services such as hotels and guesthouses

Property can be found through the various real estate agents on the island or by searching online or in the local press.

Renting a property in Malta is agreed upon via a tenancy agreement which stipulates and protects the interests of both parties. This agreement will specify information including the payment of bills, when rent is due and how it is to be paid, the date of commencement of tenancy and its duration, services that are provided by the landlord, the length of notice period before termination of the tenancy, and other rules that may apply.



The information contained in this brochure may be subject to changes and therefore verification of the information is recommended. It is advisable to consult the Ministry's integration portal at www.integration.gov.mt or to contact the relevant ministries, departments or agencies referred to in this brochure.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
De Vilhena Residence, Apt. 2, Trejjet il Fosos, Floriana · Malta
www.iom.int

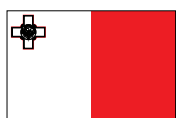
Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (MSDC)
158 Cavalier House, Old Mint Street, Valletta VLT 2000
www.socialdialogue.gov.mt

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Sustainable Management & Migration Flows



MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL DIALOGUE,
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES