



Cyprus

The Category F permanent residence permit is granted to non-EU citizens who can demonstrate that they have a secure adequate income from abroad. Although it is not necessary to invest in property, records show that applicants who choose to rent a home rather than buy one, are not always approved.

FINANCIAL CRITERIA

- ◆ Property acquisition: Although this application does not strictly require a property investment, purchasing a home is highly recommended to secure the permit. No fixed investment minimum is set, and the applicant may choose to buy a new or resale property. The funds for the purchase do not have to be transferred from abroad.
- ◆ Secure income: Minimum annual income of €9,568 for the main applicant and an additional €4,613 for each dependent person. This income may be derived from salaries, pensions, dividends, or rents, all from abroad.
- ◆ Bank deposits: A minimum deposit of €15,000 to €20,000 in a Cyprus bank account is required and may be used after the application goes through.

BENEFITS

- ◆ Residence permit valid for life.
- ◆ Unrestricted entry and stay in Cyprus with minimal investment.
- ◆ One application for the investor, spouse, and children under 18.
- ◆ Children up to the age of 18 can be included in the main application as dependents. Their permanent residence permit will automatically expire when they turn 18.
- ◆ Access to the general health care system (GESY).
- ◆ Opportunity to apply for Cyprus citizenship after legally residing on the island for at least eight (8) years, in accordance with the provisions of the naturalization scheme based on years of residence.
- ◆ Opportunity to become a tax resident of Cyprus, a status which grants you various tax incentives, including exemption from worldwide dividend and passive interest income, as well as from profits from the sale of securities.

RESTRICTIONS

- ◆ The Category F visa does not allow you to work or be employed in Cyprus. You may, however, be a shareholder in a Cypriot company that does business in Cyprus or abroad and earn dividend income from it.
- ◆ With a Category F visa, the only other EU countries you can travel to without a visa are Bulgaria and Romania.
- ◆ Children who obtained a Category F visa through their parents will automatically lose it once they turn 18.



OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- ◆ Application forms are only provided by the Civil Registry and Migration Department in Nicosia.
- ◆ You do not have to be present to submit your application in person. You can appoint an authorized representative to handle the application on your behalf. However, at some point, you must provide a photo and be present for biometric capturing at any migration district unit in any city before the final approval of your application.
- ◆ Once your application has been approved, your authorized representative will be able to collect the permanent residency cards on your behalf.
- ◆ The processing time for Category F visas cannot be determined with certainty.
- ◆ Every application incurs a fee of €500, plus €70 for each other accompanying person.
- ◆ Category F visa holders must make at least one visit to Cyprus every two years (no need for continuous residence in Cyprus).
- ◆ To ensure that the residency permit will not be withdrawn, you will have to submit the following to the Civil Registry and Migration Department:
 - Evidence of the minimum required secure income from abroad for yourself and all dependents, **every year**.
 - Health insurance coverage for yourself and your family if you are not a beneficiary of the General Health System (GESY), **every year**.
 - A clean criminal record from your country of residence or country of origin, **every three years**.

CYPRUS RESIDENCY AS A FIRST STEP TO CITIZENSHIP

After actually residing in Cyprus for 8 years, residence permit holders may apply for citizenship within 10 years, under two specific conditions:

- ◆ Within the eight years, you must have spent at least 2,555 days in Cyprus (i.e., 7 full years, with only short absences).
- ◆ Before applying for citizenship, you must have spent the last year continuously in Cyprus.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

To be valid, your application for a Category F visa must be supported by the following documents:

- ◆ Valid passport copy for the applicant, their spouse, and any children included in the application.
- ◆ Up-to-date CV for the main applicant.
- ◆ Official marriage certificate with certified English translation.
- ◆ Birth certificates for any children included in the application, with certified English translation.



- ◆ Certificate of clean criminal record from the country of residence, with an official certified English translation.
- ◆ Evidence of minimum required income derived from overseas, e.g., tax declaration or confirmation from a qualified auditor.
- ◆ Title deed or contract of sale, in the case that the applicant has purchased a property in Cyprus and evidence of payment for such property, including purchase price and payment receipts.
- ◆ Evidence of €15,000 - €20,000 in a local bank.

NOTE:

All documents must be translated into English by a certified translator. They must either bear the "APOSTILLE" stamp or be certified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the issuing country and subsequently by the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in that country.

FAQ

1. If I am a student in Cyprus, can I obtain permanent residence while I am enrolled at a university?

No, students are not eligible to apply for permanent residence. Once they have completed their studies, they may submit an application for permanent residence under the standard conditions that apply to everyone.

2. How can a student apply for permanent residence after graduation?

Under the current immigration rules, students who wish to obtain permanent residence in Cyprus after graduation have only two options:

- a) to obtain a work permit (through an interested employer), or
- b) to meet the requirements of the different residency-by-investment programs.

3. Do EU and non-EU citizens follow the same procedure to obtain permanent residence status in Cyprus?

No. EU citizens are not required to apply for permanent residency as per immigration regulations for non-EU citizens. They simply have to register if they wish to stay in Cyprus for longer than 3 months, and they will receive their registration certificate. They can also work and travel visa-free throughout the European Union.

Non-EU citizens must follow the permanent residence application process as per immigration regulations. Furthermore, they are not allowed to work in Cyprus or elsewhere in the European Union, and may not travel to other EU countries without a visa—with the exception of Bulgaria and Romania.

4. What is the difference between permanent residency and Cyprus citizenship?

If you are either a permanent resident or a citizen of Cyprus, you may live in Cyprus, establish a business, and enjoy access to education and health care. In both cases, you enjoy the same human rights and protection against discrimination.

The main difference, however, is that citizens may work and travel freely across the EU, while permanent residents may only work under very specific conditions and need a visa to travel to other EU countries. Bulgaria and Romania are the only two EU countries that non-EU permanent residents of Cyprus can travel to without a visa.

5. Does a non-EU permanent resident of Cyprus need a visa to travel to other EU countries?

In most cases, yes. Bulgaria and Romania are the only two EU countries that non-EU permanent residents of Cyprus can travel to without a visa.

6. Do I have to buy a property to be eligible to apply for permanent residency in Cyprus?

Unless you are interested in the fast-track (Regulation 6.2) application process, you do not need to buy property to apply for the Category F permanent residence permit. Strictly speaking, the application requires evidence of a secure income of €9,568 for yourself and an additional 4,613 euros for each dependent family member included in your application. This income must be earned abroad. It is worth noting, however, that your application for a Category F residence permit has a better chance of being successful if you do purchase a home in Cyprus.

7. Can I get Cyprus citizenship if I buy an apartment in Cyprus?

No. However, after eight years of permanent residence, you may apply for citizenship under certain additional conditions. Make sure to consult a reliable adviser for up-to-date regulations.

