



Armenian Citizenship

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Overview of Armenian Citizenship

Armenian citizenship offers practical benefits such as enhanced travel privileges, exclusive land ownership rights, and access to government support. It also provides an opportunity to strengthen connections to the country and establish a presence in a region bridging Europe and Asia.

Benefits and Advantages of Armenian Citizenship

- **Freedom of Movement and Travel**

Armenian citizenship enhances freedom of movement by granting access to a valuable passport. As of 2024, the Armenian passport offers visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 69 countries, including Russia, China, Iran, the UAE, and other strategic destinations. Armenia's diplomatic efforts continue to expand the passport's accessibility, with the potential for visa-free travel to the EU/Schengen region in the coming years. Additionally, Armenian citizens can benefit from 10-year U.S. B visas and access to E-2 business visas for entrepreneurs looking to expand into the United States.

- **Dual Citizenship Permitted**

Armenia allows dual citizenship, enabling Armenian citizens to hold multiple passports without renouncing other nationalities.

- **Streamlined and Cost-Effective Naturalization Process**

The process of acquiring Armenian citizenship is known for its efficiency and affordability, typically taking around four months and requiring only essential documentation. Once approved, new citizens receive their Armenian passport and national ID in a matter of days.

- **Land Ownership**

Armenian citizens have the exclusive right to own agricultural land, which is generally restricted for foreign nationals.

- **Right to Vote and Participate in Elections**

Armenian citizens have the fundamental right to vote in elections and referendums, allowing them to actively participate in the democratic process and influence governance.

- **Preferential Treatment in EAEU Countries**

As a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Armenia grants its citizens the freedom to work and live in other EAEU countries (Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan) without a work permit. Armenian citizens enjoy preferential treatment across labor laws, social protections, healthcare, taxation, and immigration policies, making it easier to expand professional and personal networks within the EAEU.

- **Government Support**

Armenia offers a variety of social programs, including government-subsidized healthcare, education, and welfare benefits for the elderly, disabled, and vulnerable citizens. Citizens also enjoy access to publicly funded schooling and higher education programs.

- **Tax Benefits**

Armenian citizenship can provide favorable tax arrangements, particularly for individuals who establish tax residence in Armenia. Benefits include the absence of capital gains tax on sale of securities, real estate, or other assets; exemptions for insurance and pension income; and zero inheritance or gift taxes. Armenia's double taxation agreements with around 50 countries can also reduce tax burdens on global income, providing a strong incentive for citizens with international income streams.

- **Citizenship Transfers to Family Members**

Armenian citizenship is easily transferred to descendants. Minor children of new citizens can automatically receive Armenian passports, and spouses, adult children and parents may be eligible to apply for citizenship. According to Armenian law, children born to Armenian citizens can obtain citizenship regardless of birthplace or residence, ensuring a durable connection to Armenia for generations to come.

Eligibility Paths and Application Processes for Armenian Citizenship

Citizenship by Descent

Armenian citizenship by descent is an option available to individuals who can demonstrate Armenian heritage, offering a streamlined pathway to citizenship. To qualify for citizenship by descent, applicants must prove their Armenian heritage through documentation. Eligibility often includes individuals who have Armenian parents and grandparents.

Step-by-Step Process

Applying for Armenian citizenship involves several steps:

1. **Document Preparation:** Submit original documents, including a passport, birth certificate, proof of Armenian descent (e.g., parent's birth certificate or certified church document), etc.
2. **Appointment Booking:** Schedule an appointment with the Migration and Citizenship Service when applying from Armenia or with the embassy in the foreign country.
3. **Application Submission:** Submit the application in person.

4. **Status Tracking:** Processing usually takes around 90 business days. Applicants can track progress online (<https://passportvisa.police.am/>) or await direct notification.
5. **Final Visit:** Upon approval, applicants must visit Armenia or an embassy/consulate to apply for and receive their passport and national ID.
6. **Military Registration (if applicable):** Males under 55 may need military registration, requiring proof of previous service, if applicable.
7. **Passport & ID Collection:** Applicants can choose regular or expedited processing. Upon final approval, they take an oath of allegiance to Armenia and collect their documents.

Citizenship by Marriage

Citizenship by marriage is a pathway available to individuals who are married to Armenian citizens. The applicant's Armenian spouse must have been an Armenian citizen for at least two years, and the couple must have maintained a legally registered marriage throughout this time. Furthermore, the applicant must have resided in Armenia for at least one year within the two years preceding the citizenship application or have a child with their Armenian spouse.

Step by Step Process

Applying for Armenian citizenship involves several steps:

1. **Document Preparation:** Submit original documents, including a passport, marriage certificate, spouse's passport, proof of at least one year of residence in Armenia, birth certificate, name change documentation (if applicable), etc.
2. **Appointment Booking:** Schedule an appointment with the Migration and Citizenship Service online when applying from Armenia or with the embassy in the foreign country.
3. **Application Submission:** Submit the application in person. Those applying via marriage need to pass a test on Armenian constitutional knowledge.
4. **Status Tracking:** Processing usually takes around 90 business days. Applicants can track progress online (<https://passportvisa.police.am/>) or await direct notification.
5. **Final Visit:** Upon approval, applicants must visit Armenia or an embassy/consulate to apply for and receive their passport and national ID.
6. **Military Registration (if applicable):** Males under 55 may need military registration, requiring proof of previous service, if applicable.
7. **Passport & ID Collection:** Applicants can choose regular or expedited processing. Upon final approval, they take an oath of allegiance to Armenia and collect their documents.

Citizenship through Armenian Parent or Child:

Armenian citizenship is available to individuals with an Armenian parent or child, providing a pathway to strengthen their familial ties and secure legal status in Armenia.

Step-by-Step Process

1. **Document Preparation:** Applicants must provide original documents based on their eligibility. Required documents include the applicant's passport, birth certificate and, depending on the basis for application:
 - **Through an Armenian Parent:** Parent's passport and birth certificate.
 - **Through an Armenian Child:** Child's passport and birth certificate.
2. **Appointment Booking:** Schedule an appointment with the Migration and Citizenship Service online when applying from Armenia or with the embassy in the foreign country.
3. **Application Submission:** Submit the application in person and pass a test on Armenian constitutional knowledge.
4. **Status Tracking:** Processing usually takes around 90 business days. Applicants can track progress online (<https://passportvisa.police.am/>) or await direct notification.
5. **Final Visit:** Upon approval, applicants must visit Armenia (or an embassy/consulate) to apply for and receive their passport and national ID.
6. **Military Registration (if applicable):** Males under 55 may need military registration, requiring proof of previous service, if applicable.
7. **Passport & ID Collection:** Applicants can choose regular or expedited processing. Upon final approval, they take an oath of allegiance to Armenia and collect their documents.

Citizenship by Naturalization

Armenia offers a pathway to citizenship for foreign nationals through naturalization, provided they have legally resided in Armenia for at least three years prior to their citizenship application and can fill out the biographic form and pass the test on knowledge of Armenian Constitution in Armenian.

Step-by-Step Process

1. **Document Preparation:** Required documents include the applicant's passport, birth certificate and residence permit in Armenia for the past three years.
2. **Appointment Booking:** Schedule an appointment with the Migration and Citizenship Service online when applying from Armenia.
3. **Application Submission:** Submit the application in person and pass a test on Armenian constitutional knowledge.

4. Status Tracking: Processing usually takes around 90 business days. Applicants can track progress online (<https://passportvisa.police.am/>) or await direct notification.

5. Final Visit: Upon approval, applicants must visit Armenia or an embassy/consulate to apply for and receive their passport and national ID.

6. Military Registration (if applicable): Males under 55 may need military registration, requiring proof of previous service, if applicable.

7. Passport & ID Collection: Applicants can choose regular or expedited processing. Upon final approval, they take an oath of allegiance to Armenia and collect their documents.

Citizenship by Exceptional Services

Armenia provides a unique pathway to citizenship through Citizenship by Exceptional Services for individuals who make a significant contribution to the country's economy, culture, or society.

Step-by-Step Process

Applications through the exceptional services pathway are handled in an expedited manner, as the Prime Minister's Office has the authority to present candidates directly to the President. Each application is evaluated based on various factors, including investment size and economic impact, charitable contributions and social benefits, etc.

Required Documents

Applicants must submit a valid passport, birth certificate and official documentation of their qualifying contribution.

Responsibilities of Armenian Citizens

- 1. Duty to Obey Armenian Laws and Regulations:** As members of the Armenian society, citizens are required to adhere to all national laws and regulations, contributing to the rule of law and social order.
- 2. Participation in National Defense, if Applicable:** Individuals granted citizenship before the age of 27 may be required to serve in national defense. Those acquiring citizenship between the ages of 27 and 37 can pay a fee to be exempt from service, while citizens over the age of 37 are not obligated to serve. This policy underscores a commitment to the country's sovereignty and security.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Do I need to renounce my current citizenship after I get Armenian citizenship?

Armenia allows dual citizenship, meaning individuals can hold citizenship in Armenia alongside another nationality. However, it is essential to verify the laws of the current country of citizenship, as some nations do not permit dual citizenship. When applying for Armenian citizenship, you should disclose any existing citizenships.

2. Is there a language requirement for citizenship applicants?

Language proficiency is required for individuals applying for citizenship through naturalization. This may include completing forms in Armenian and passing a test on the Armenian Constitution.

3. What should I do if my citizenship application is rejected?

If an application for Armenian citizenship is denied, the applicant may appeal the decision in court. Additionally, individuals can reapply for citizenship after one year from the date of rejection.

Why Choose Vardanyan & Partners

Experience and Expertise

Vardanyan & Partners is renowned for its extensive experience in Armenian law, particularly in guiding clients through complex residency, citizenship, business registration, and work permit processes. With a strong track record of success in more than 1,500 cases, the firm has helped clients from different countries and backgrounds secure their legal status in Armenia, establish businesses, and navigate the nuances of Armenian immigration law. Our team of highly qualified attorneys combines local expertise with a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by international clients.

Fast and Fluent Communication

Vardanyan & Partners prioritizes clear and responsive communication to create a smooth, transparent experience for each client. The firm's team is fluent in Armenian, English, and Russian. To enhance accessibility, all essential documents are provided in two languages.

Adhering to a 24-hour response policy, Vardanyan & Partners ensures timely replies to all inquiries, whether by email, phone, or messaging platforms.

Secure Payments

Our firm offers secure transactions with multiple payment options tailored to client preferences, maintaining complete transparency with no hidden fees.

Commitment to Excellence

At Vardanyan & Partners, commitment to excellence is the foundation of every client interaction. The firm is dedicated to providing the highest standard of legal services, ensuring clients receive clear, honest advice and practical solutions. This commitment extends to maintaining transparency throughout the process, promptly addressing concerns, and delivering successful outcomes that meet or exceed client expectations. Vardanyan & Partners' dedication to client satisfaction and legal excellence has established them as a trusted partner in Armenian immigration law.

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