

## Nomad Residence Permit Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Eligibility

#### 1.1 Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible one must be:

- 18 years and over;
- able to work remotely and independent of location, using telecommunications technologies; and
- a Third Country National, excluding EU, EEA and Switzerland. Nationals from the currently ineligible countries of (or have close ties with) Afghanistan, North Korea, Iran, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Venezuela are not eligible. Additionally, applications from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus are currently not eligible. The list of ineligible countries may be revised from time to time by the Agency, at its discretion.

Furthermore, one must prove that he/she fits under any one of the three categories hereunder:

- a. **Employed** - with an employer registered in a foreign country and has a contract of employment.
- b. **Self-Employed** - conduct business activity for a company that is registered in a foreign country and of which applicant is a partner/shareholder.
- c. **Freelance** - offer freelance or consulting services to clients whose permanent establishments are in a foreign country, and with whom the applicant has contract agreements.

Main Applicants (MAs) in all of the above employment statuses must prove they have a guaranteed source of income, as per applicable thresholds, for a minimum period of 5 months (cumulative) from the day of application. The Agency reserves the right to request



documentation showing such income. In any case, all submissions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and on their own merits.

If the prospective applicant has a contract with a foreign employer but will be offering services to a Maltese subsidiary company, the prospective applicant will not be eligible to apply for the Nomad Residence Permit.

Moreover, an applicant must have a minimum gross yearly income of €32,400.

Other eligibility criteria include a:

- a. valid travel document;
- b. valid property rental/purchase agreement covering the whole duration of the permit upon approval of application; and a
- c. valid health insurance policy upon approval of application. Note that this requirement does not apply to British nationals.

## **1.2 Can a Nomad Residence Permit holder include family members in his/her initial application?**

Yes, the Main Applicant (MA) can include family members in his/her application. The eligible dependants are:

- the spouse;
- minor children of the MA and/or spouse;
- adult children of the MA and/or spouse, which children are not married and who are principally dependent on the MA;
- adult children of the MA and/or spouse, which children are unable to cope independently due to a medical condition or disability may apply for a Permit under the same conditions, together with the MA.

Note however that in the case of a minor child for whom the applicant does not hold sole custody and who will not be accompanied by both parents in the same application, prior approval to include the dependant must be obtained from Residency Malta, as these requests are examined on a case-by-case basis.



### 1.3 Is it possible for the MA to include a dependant after effecting payment or after obtaining approval?

No it is not possible.

Newborns are the sole exception to this rule. Other dependants may be added only when an applicant is applying for renewal.

## 2. Application process

### 2.1 How do I apply and what is the application process?

The application must be made through our [online application system](#). The following [application guidelines](#) will guide you through the whole process. We recommend that this guide is read before one starts the online application process. A checklist of documentation required may be accessed [here](#).

The application will then be checked to ensure that requested documents have been submitted by one of our Nomad Client Relations and Compliance officers and a receipt of application will be issued with instructions for payment of a €300 non-refundable administrative fee for each applicant, via bank transfer. Payments should be made directly from the MA's bank account.

Once the payment is received, the processing of the application will start. Application processing is expected to take 60 working days starting from the issuance of the receipt of funds issued from our Finance Department, during which Residency Malta will conduct background checks. This does not include any processing time required for visa issuance purposes. Should the Agency have any queries, we will revert in the form of a report.

Should the application be successful a Letter of Approval in Principle is issued, and one is required to submit proof of accommodation and a health insurance policy within 30 days from the date of issuance of the Letter of Approval in Principle. Once the above is finalised, a Letter of Final Approval is issued. If an applicant requires an entry visa, he/she will be contacted by the Central Visa Unit at Identità (formerly known as



Identity Malta Agency) to guide him/her on the process. Approved applicants may be eligible to apply for the Premium Visa Service. More details can be found in Section 6 of these FAQs.

Once in Malta, the applicant is required to notify us via email to set up an appointment for the capture of biometrics.

The residence card takes between two (2) to three (3) weeks to be issued. Once issued, the applicant will be notified via email and requested to pick up the card in person from Residency Malta's offices, bringing with them their passport.

In the case of a renewal application, following the Letter of Approval in Principle, all required documents are to be submitted within 21 days prior to the expiry of the current Nomad Residence Permit.

## **2.2 Can I engage a representative to assist with the application process?**

In cases where an applicant wishes to engage a representative to assist with the application process, a declaration is to be submitted signed by both parties and a witness. The Agency will provide a declaration template to the applicant that requires to be completed, whereby the applicant is giving his/her consent to the Agency to share application details with his representative and allowing his/her representative to be included in all correspondence. The Agency will only accept instructions coming from the MA.

## **2.3 What fees are applicable?**

The following fees apply:

- a non-refundable application fee of €300 per person, to be paid to Residency Malta Agency via bank transfer from MA's bank account;
- a fee of €27.50 for the issuance of a residency card per person, to be paid in person at Residency Malta's offices. Payments can only be made by card. Cash payments are not accepted; and
- if applicable, €300 for a Premium Visa to be paid to Identità (formerly known as Identity Malta Agency).

## **2.4 Will one be notified if the application is successful?**



Applicants will be notified of the application outcome, whether it is approved or rejected by email, via the same email address used by the applicant in the submission of his/her application. Should one change the email address, even after the approval of an application, he/she is required to notify Residency Malta Agency immediately by sending an email to [nomad.residencymalta@gov.mt](mailto:nomad.residencymalta@gov.mt)

## 2.5 Will one be notified of the reason for a refusal?

Residency Malta will conduct a background verification check on each application to ensure that the MA and any of his dependants are not, or may not be, a potential threat to national security, public policy or public health.

Due to the sensitive nature of the process of decision making the reason for refusal cannot be shared with the applicant. However, the reasons for rejection may include but are not limited to criminal records, eligibility criteria, adverse media and refusals of previous applications for a Schengen Visa.

If your application has been rejected, you can submit a fresh application 12 months from the date of the Rejection Letter issued by Residency Malta Agency.

The grant of a permit is always discretionary and nothing in the Nomad Residence Permit programme creates any obligation on the part of Residency Malta to grant a permit. The Agency's decision is final and an applicant cannot appeal this decision.

## 2.6 Can an approved application be revoked?

Yes, Residency Malta reserves the right to revoke an application after approval, should it become aware of:

- any adverse information on the MA or any of his/her dependants;
- a breach of one or more of the Programme's eligibility criteria.

## 2.7 What is the duration of a Nomad Residence Permit?



A Nomad Residence Permit is valid for one (1) year from the issuance of the residency card.

### 3. Permit renewals

#### 3.1 Can a Nomad Residence Permit be renewed?

Yes. The initial Nomad Residence Permit is issued for 1 year. The Permit may be renewed twice, for a total stay of a maximum of three (3) years at the discretion of Residency Malta Agency, subject to the applicant still being able to satisfy the programme criteria.

If you do not submit a renewal application, or the renewal application has been rejected, you may submit a fresh application 12 months after the expiry date of the preceding residence permit. When reapplying, please refer to the New Application Checklist. Note that a Nomad Residence Permit may only be renewed for a maximum of three (3) years, and previous stays on the Nomad Residence Permit will be taken into account.

#### 3.2 What are the eligibility criteria for renewal?

To be eligible for renewal, Nomad Residence Permit holders, are required to provide a bank statement showing payment transactions carried out in Malta as proof that they have resided in Malta for a cumulative period of at least five (5) months over the previous twelve (12) months.

In addition, Nomad Residence Permit holders must still satisfy the respective economic activity criteria.

#### 3.3 When does one need to apply for the Nomad Residence Permit renewal?

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application for renewal is submitted at least 2 months prior to the expiry date of their current Nomad Residence Permit. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that his/her immigration status in Malta is regular as per stipulated Immigration Regulations before submitting the application. Any applications of overstaying individuals will be refused. The receipt



of application issued to the applicant upon submission of the application for a Nomad Residence Permit is not an extension of your stay as stipulated by the immigration document in hand.

#### 4. Accommodation and residence cards

##### 4.1 Is it mandatory to submit proof of accommodation in Malta upon submission of the application?

No, it is not. Proof of accommodation is submitted after the Letter of Approval in Principle is issued. Once the chosen accommodation and its proof is deemed to satisfy the programme requirements, a Letter of Final Approval is issued to the applicant.

##### 4.2 What is temporary accommodation?

Temporary accommodation is a short-term place of stay of up to one (1) month which can be submitted upon issuance of the Letter of Approval in Principle. With one (1) month temporary accommodation a Letter of Final Approval will be issued, however, upon arrival to Malta, one must opt to secure a 1-year lease for a card to be issued. Examples of temporary accommodation include hotels and Airbnb.

##### 4.3 Can a residence card be issued on a temporary address or on a PO Box address?

No, a residence card cannot be issued on a temporary address or on a PO Box address. The residence card can only be issued upon submission of proof of a one (1) year accommodation in a residential property prior to the biometrics appointment.

##### 4.4 Can one co-habit with someone and what documentation does one have to submit?

Yes, this is acceptable. One will need to provide a signed copy of the contract (can be both lease or purchase) stating the lessee/owner's name and a declaration from the person he/she is co-habiting with.

Co-living properties should comply with sanitary, planning and Housing Authority regulations. To ensure that these standards are being met, Residency Malta Agency reserves the right to request further documentation if deemed necessary. This documentation may include,



but is not limited to utility bills, Housing Authority registration certificates, compliance certificates and photos of the property.

#### 4.5 Can one lease a property and what documentation does one have to submit?

Yes, one can lease a property. One will need to provide a signed copy of the lease agreement clearly stating the applicant's name and the following rental declaration form:

<https://identita.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Deregistration-of-Address-Form.pdf>

#### 4.6 Can one stay with someone who has a purchased property and what documentation does one have to submit?

Yes, one can stay with someone who has a purchased property. One will need to submit a signed copy of the purchase agreement clearly stating the owners' name and a declaration from the owner(s).

#### 4.7 Can one stay in their own purchased property and what documentation does one have to submit?

Yes, one can stay in their purchased property. A signed copy of the purchase agreement clearly showing the applicant's name would need to be submitted.

#### 4.8 Is it acceptable to reside in a hostel?

No, it is not acceptable to reside in a hostel.

#### 4.9 Is it acceptable to reside in a marina on a yacht or boat?

No, it is not acceptable to reside in a marina or boat.

#### 4.10 Is it acceptable to reside in a caravan?

No, it is not acceptable to reside in a caravan.

#### 4.11 How long should the duration of the accommodation be?





The minimum duration of the proof of accommodation required for a card to be issued is twelve (12) months.

## 5. Residence cards and change of address

### 5.1 Is the residence card issuance date based on the start of the lease agreement?

No, but the lease agreement should cover the validity of the Nomad Residence Permit.

### 5.2 Can one change their address after the card is issued?

Yes, one can change their address once the card is issued.

### 5.3 Can one apply for a change of address online?

No, one will need to book an appointment with the Nomad Client Relations and Compliance at Residency Malta within 10 working days after the change of address and bring the required documentation physically to our offices. Failing to notify the Agency of a change of address may lead to the revocation of the said permit.

### 5.4 What documentation is required for a change of address?

One is required to bring Form N3, the new lease/purchase agreement, a passport and a payment of €27.50 which must be paid by card.

### 5.5 What happens in the event of a stolen card?

The Nomad Residence Permit holder is to bring Form N3, the current lease/purchase agreement, a local police report and a payment of €27.50 must be paid by card at Residency Malta.

### 5.6 How long does it take to receive a new card?

Cards usually take between two (2) to three (3) weeks to be issued. Once the new card is issued, the Nomad Residence Permit holder will be contacted by our Nomad Client Relations and Compliance team for card



collection. Where applicable, the previous card will need to be returned during the card collection appointment.

## 6. Visas and Residence Permits

### 6.1 If one is already in Malta on a valid visa, does he/she need to apply for an entry visa?

If a person is in Malta with a valid visa, they do not require a further entry visa, and they can directly book an appointment for the capture of biometrics. However, it is recommended to ensure that their visa covers at least thirty (30) calendar days on the day of application.

### 6.2 Which nationalities require an entry Visa?

Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burma / Myanmar, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Third country nationals hailing from Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Pakistan or Sri Lanka must be in possession of an airport transit visa when passing through an EU airport international transit area.

These guidelines may change from time to time.

### 6.3 What process should one follow if he/she requires an entry visa?



Following the receipt of the Letter of Final Approval, if the approved applicant requires an entry visa he/she will be contacted by the Central Visa Unit at Identità (formerly known as Identity Malta Agency) in order to receive information about the visa application process. The applicant may also be eligible to apply for the Premium Visa Service.

Once an entry visa is acquired, an applicant can enter Malta within the stipulated timeframe indicated on the Letter of Final Approval and upon arrival, he/she will need to notify Residency Malta Agency via email [nomad.residencymalta@gov.mt](mailto:nomad.residencymalta@gov.mt) to book a biometrics appointment.

#### **6.4 What is the Premium Visa Service?**

The Premium Visa Service is the process of applying for a National D Visa against an additional charge of €300 payable to Identità (formerly known as Identity Malta Agency) which includes the visa and courier services. This is a door-to-door service, hence there is no need to visit an embassy of Malta to be issued with an entry visa. For further information kindly contact the Central Visa Unit on [visa.identita@gov.mt](mailto:visa.identita@gov.mt)

#### **6.5 Are all successful Nomad Residence Permit applicants requiring an entry visa eligible to apply for the Premium Visa Service?**

The Premium Visa Service is not available to all jurisdictions. Hence, it is important to verify with the Central Visa Unit on [visa.identita@gov.mt](mailto:visa.identita@gov.mt) whether one is eligible or not.

#### **6.6 If one does not require a visa to enter Malta, how shall he/she proceed?**

Following the Letter of Final Approval which has a validity of 90 days, the approved applicant will be required to travel to Malta for the capture of biometrics. If he/she does not require an entry visa to Malta, he/she can enter Malta as per Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code). Upon arrival, he/she will need to notify Residency Malta Agency via email [nomad.residencymalta@gov.mt](mailto:nomad.residencymalta@gov.mt) to book an appointment for the capture of biometrics.



### **6.7 Whilst an application is in process, would an applicant automatically receive a visa extension?**

The Nomad Residence Permit does not provide an automatic extension to one's visa. If the allowed period of stay is set to expire, prior to full approval for the Nomad Residence Permit, he/she is required to exit the Schengen area in line with the visa obligations.

It is one's responsibility to make sure he/she does not overstay and hence it is recommended that all applications, including the non-refundable fee, must be submitted to the Agency at least 60 days in advance prior to the expiry of the allowable stay period. The Agency is not responsible for any overstaying by, and the possible consequences to, the applicant.

In case of a travel ban, Residency Malta Agency is not responsible for the lifting of any travel bans.

### **6.8 Can a Nomad Residence Permit holder travel within the Schengen Area?**

As long as the Nomad Residence Permit is valid, the holder is free to travel within the Schengen Area for a maximum of 90 days in a rolling 180-day period.

### **6.9 What is the difference between a Single Permit and a Nomad Residence Permit?**

A single permit authorises third-country nationals to legally reside and take up employment in Malta for a defined period, which may be further renewed at the discretion of Identità (formerly known as Identity Malta Agency), as per Subsidiary Legislation 217.17 of the Laws of Malta – Single Application Procedure for a Single Permit as regards Residence and Work and a Common Set of Rights for those Third Country Workers legally residing in Malta Regulations.

On the other hand, the Nomad Residence Permit enables holders to retain their current employment based in another country whilst legally residing in Malta.



#### 6.10 Is it possible to have a Single Permit (or any other permit) and a Nomad Residence Permit?

It is not possible to hold two statuses at a time. Hence if one has a Single Permit (or any other permit) and he/she applies for the Nomad Residence Permit, upon card issuance, other permits are automatically revoked and vice-versa.

#### 6.11 Does the Nomad Residence Permit lead to long-term residency or citizenship?

No, the Nomad Residence Permit does not lead to any sort of permanent/long-term residency or citizenship.

#### 6.12 Is it possible to transfer from the Nomad Residence Permit to the Malta Permanent Residence Programme?

The Nomad Residence Permit does not lead to the Malta Permanent Residence Programme (MPRP). They are two separate residence programmes. A Nomad Residence Permit holder can submit an application for the MPRP through one of the licensed agents listed on the Residency Malta website and if approved he/she would need to renounce the Nomad Residence Permit. [Link to Agents' List.](#)

### 7. Health Insurance Policy

#### 7.1 Is it mandatory to submit a health insurance policy upon submission of application?

Should the application be successful, and a Letter of Approval in Principle is issued, applicant will be required to submit a health insurance policy. If this policy is deemed to satisfy the programme requirements, a Letter of Final Approval is issued.

Note: British nationals are not required to submit a health insurance policy.

#### 7.2 Can one submit his/her foreign health insurance policy, or is s/he required to purchase one from a Maltese insurance agency?



If the foreign health insurance policy meets the requirements to support one in any medical assistance or hospitalisation in Malta, then the applicant can present this health insurance for the programme requirements. Otherwise, the applicant is required to purchase a local health insurance.

**7.3 If one keeps his/her foreign health insurance policy, what destination(s) does it have to cover to be sufficient?**

The health insurance policy must state that it provides cover in Malta.

**7.4 What does the health insurance policy need to cover?**

It is important that the health insurance policy chosen covers in-patient and out-patient and a minimum overall limit of €30,000 per person. The policy should cover both the applicant, and where applicable, all the dependants in Malta.

**7.5 Is a travel insurance accepted?**

No, a travel insurance is not acceptable.

**7.6 Is a Nomad Residence Permit Holder entitled to free health care?**

No, a Nomad Residence Permit Holder is not entitled to free health care, unless one is a British national.

**7.7 How long should the duration of the health insurance policy be?**

The health insurance policy must provide cover for one (1) full year and must cover the validity period of the residency card. As a matter of example, if your residency card has been issued on 1st Feb 2023, the health insurance policy must cover the period from 1st Feb 2023 up to 31st January, 2024. The health insurance policy must cover inpatient, day care and outpatient and must be paid in advance.

The health insurance policy, receipt of purchase and the table of benefits are all required to be submitted to the Nomad Client Relations and Compliance department on [nomad.residencymalta@gov.mt](mailto:nomad.residencymalta@gov.mt). Prior to purchasing your health insurance policy you may consult with our Nomad Client Relations and Compliance team for further guidance.



**7.8 Are health insurance policies with monthly payments considered acceptable?**

No, they are not acceptable. Eligible policies are those with premiums covering a full year, paid in advance. A receipt for this payment may be requested.

## **8. General**

**8.1 Is a Nomad Residence Permit holder entitled to collect a pension in Malta?**

No, the Nomad Residence Permit holder is not entitled to a pension in Malta.

**8.2 Is a Nomad Residence Permit holder entitled to social benefits in Malta?**

No, the beneficiary is not entitled to social benefits in Malta.

**8.3 Can Residency Malta Agency request additional documents?**

Yes, Residency Malta Agency, reserves the right to request any additional documents in addition to those listed in the New Application Checklist, Renewal Application Checklist, and under the relevant sections of this document.

**8.4 Can a Nomad Residence Permit holder offer his/her service to individuals/ companies registered in Malta?**

No, a Nomad Residence Permit holder, including also his/her dependants cannot offer their services or be engaged in any economic activity with employers/companies based/registered in Malta. Third-



country nationals offering services to companies registered and based in Malta would need to renounce their Nomad Residence Permit and apply for a residence permit on the basis of employment and/or self-employment in Malta. Residency Malta reserves the right to revoke the Nomad Residence Permit should it become aware of such activity being undertaken by a holder of the Nomad Residence Permit. Queries pertaining to work permits should be addressed to Identità (formerly known as Identity Malta Agency) on [enquiries.identita@gov.mt](mailto:enquiries.identita@gov.mt)

#### 8.4 Can there be any travel restrictions to enter Malta?

Travel restrictions may apply, from time to time, as per national guidelines issued by the Government of Malta.

#### 8.5 Can one bring a pet?

As long as a pet meets the requirements for entry, then it can join permit holder in Malta. For more information about the movement of pet animals into Malta, visit <https://agricultureservices.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/travelPet.aspx> (

#### 8.6 How is the internet connection in Malta?

Malta enjoys 5G network nationwide and has over 400 free public Wi-Fi hotspots across the country. Malta also has the widest fibre broadband coverage within the EU with speeds ranging from 1000 Mbps to 2000 Mbps. Additionally, numerous catering and hospitality establishments provide access to free Wi-Fi to their customers. Digital nomads can just plug-and-play from anywhere they fancy.

#### 8.7 Where can Digital Nomads stay in Malta?

The largest community of expats and digital nomads tend to live in tourist areas like Sliema and St. Julian's and the outskirts like Gzira. If one is looking for a more rural atmosphere however, then it is worth considering other towns and villages where nomads can enjoy a more local experience.





For more peace and tranquillity and the slowmad experience, the island of Gozo is ideal. One can enjoy a slower place of life, and activities like diving, swimming, water sports, trekking and dining.

### **8.8 Is there a digital nomad community in Malta?**

For nomads working from Malta, the combination of an efficient business climate, excellent infrastructure and a relaxed holiday environment offers a unique and magical experience. For these reasons, but not only, Malta has been attracting digital nomads from the EU for some years now and an active community has grown organically. There are also nomad associations, co-working and co-living hubs which organise regular networking events.

ENDS

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