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LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, March 2, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Malta Citizenship by Merit](#) is a discretionary legislative framework governed by the provisions of Subsidiary Legislation S.L.188.06. It is an independent process and is neither a continuation of, nor an alternative to, any former framework.

Immigrant Invest explains how Malta citizenship by merit works and what applicants should consider before proceeding.

Legal foundation and core principle

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‘Malta’s merit-based framework demonstrates Europe’s shift towards contribution-driven naturalisation,’

says Julia Loko, investment programmes expert at Immigrant Invest



Malta citizenship by merit

Malta grants citizenship by merit under the Maltese Citizenship Act. The law allows the authorities to approve applications on a discretionary basis when an individual provides measurable benefit to Malta or to humanity. There is no automatic right to citizenship and no guaranteed outcome. Each case is examined individually.

Malta grants citizenship by naturalisation in accordance with the Maltese Citizenship Act and Subsidiary Legislation 188.06. The competent authorities may approve a request where an individual demonstrates exceptional merit as

defined under the applicable statutory provisions.

Each request is examined individually. The granting of citizenship remains a discretionary act of the Maltese authorities. The concept of exceptional merit is interpreted within the legal

framework and assessed with reference to documented contribution and compliance with statutory requirements.

Eligibility requirements

Applicants must first meet strict integrity standards. Malta applies multi-layered Due Diligence, including verification of criminal records, sanctions screening, and source-of-wealth analysis. Background transparency and a strong reputation are fundamental conditions.

The core of the application is proof of exceptional contribution. Entrepreneurs may present projects that create jobs or introduce advanced technologies to Malta, such as launching a digital company that hires local professionals and works with Maltese institutions.

Researchers can provide patents, publications, or partnerships with Maltese universities and research centres. Philanthropists may outline long-term support for healthcare, education, or social initiatives aligned with national priorities. The focus is on sustainable impact rather than one-off donations.

Residence is another key element. Applicants must obtain and hold a valid residence permit in Malta.

Close family members can be included, subject to the same compliance checks. A spouse and minor children are generally eligible, while dependent adult children or parents may qualify depending on circumstances.

Timeline and processing

The process begins with obtaining Maltese residence. This stage allows the applicant to establish a documented presence and start implementing elements of the planned contribution.

A central document in the procedure is the Proposal Letter. This structured submission outlines the applicant's background, achievements, and intended contribution to Malta. It explains how the proposed activities align with national interests and provides supporting evidence. The Proposal Letter functions as a comprehensive case file rather than a simple form.

Malta conducts rigorous Due Diligence at several levels. Authorities examine personal history, business activities, financial background, and reputational risks. Independent checks verify the authenticity of documents and assess potential compliance concerns. This strict review safeguards Malta's international standing.

After Due Diligence, the case is evaluated on its merits. Authorities consider the scale, feasibility, and sustainability of the proposed contribution, as well as the strength of the applicant's integration. If approved, citizenship is granted by naturalisation and formalised through an oath

of allegiance.

The overall timeline depends on the complexity of the case and the quality of preparation.

Who Malta citizenship by merit is for

Requests for naturalisation by merit may be considered where an individual demonstrates exceptional merit in areas such as entrepreneurship, science, research, philanthropy, culture, sport, or other fields recognised under Maltese law.

Each request is assessed individually based on documented contribution, compliance with statutory requirements, and the discretion of the competent authorities.

About Immigrant Invest

Immigrant Invest provides administrative support services relating to residence and citizenship matters, including document preparation and coordination in accordance with Maltese law.

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