

An Investment Migration Guide for Filipinos

Secure greater optionality by acquiring alternative residence or citizenship, providing increased flexibility, access to leading world economies, and peace of mind for your family.





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What is investment migration?

Investment migration, also known as citizenship by investment or residence by investment, allows individuals to obtain new citizenship or residence in another country by making a significant financial investment in that nation's economy. As the world is becoming increasingly interconnected, the need for greater global mobility is steadily growing.

Across the economic spectrum, families seek to gain access to business, career, educational, and lifestyle opportunities on a global scale, enhancing their travel freedom and transcending the constraints imposed on them by their countries of origin.





What is the difference between residence and citizenship by investment?

Residence by investment refers to countries that grant residence permits to individuals who make significant capital contributions to their economy. Residence by investment programs provide high-net-worth individuals with the option to relocate and the right to live, work, study, and receive healthcare in their new countries of residence.

Citizenship by investment provides investors and their families with the benefit of acquiring an alternative citizenship, which in turn gives them the right to travel freely to various destinations and to settle in another country. More than ever before, wealthy individuals are pursuing citizenship options as the most effective way to access previously unimagined opportunities.

Why are Filipinos considering investment migration?

For many Filipinos, investment migration isn't about giving up their roots — it's about securing greater opportunities, future-proofing their wealth, and ensuring their family's long-term security. As global uncertainties rise, having an alternative residence or citizenship provides a strategic advantage, offering stability, mobility, and enhanced lifestyle benefits.

Beyond just a passport, investment migration serves as a gateway to a more secure and prosperous future. It enables Filipino families to access world-class services and diversify their assets in a rapidly changing world.

By securing an alternative residence or citizenship, you can:

Secure a Plan B: Ensure your family's future by obtaining residence or citizenship

in a politically and economically stable country. Having an alternative option in countries such as Portugal, Greece, or the UAE provides peace of mind, allowing you to relocate if needed and seize global opportunities.

Access superior education and healthcare: Give your family access to top universities and medical institutions in countries such as Australia, Canada, and the UK. A second residence or citizenship ensures better education and healthcare options for future generations.

Improve global mobility: Gain visa-free access to a wide range of desirable destinations with residence or citizenship in countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Malta, or Nauru, offering much greater travel freedom than a Filipino passport.



Plan for your legacy: Investment migration isn't just about immediate benefits — it's about future-proofing your family's security. Certain programs, such as those in Malta or St. Kitts and Nevis, allow citizenship to be inherited, ensuring global mobility and stability for generations.

Increase safety and security: Relocate to countries known for their high safety standards, such as Australia, Portugal, or New Zealand. A well-regulated jurisdiction provides personal security, business continuity, and a stable environment for you and your family.

Diversify your investments: Protect and grow your wealth by accessing new markets and financial opportunities in countries such as Canada or the UK.

This allows Filipinos to reduce exposure to local risks while maximizing financial growth.

Popular options for Filipinos looking for a Plan B

For those seeking a secondary residence or citizenship as a strategic Plan B, the following countries offer stability and security:



Greece Golden Visa Program

The Golden Visa Program is considered one of the most affordable options for access to Europe, offering successful applicants and their families visa-free access to the Schengen Area.

Minimum investment: EUR 250,000 in specialized real estate

Advantages: High level of safety and security, excellent education opportunities, robust healthcare options, pathway to citizenship, and a dependable rule of law



Portugal Golden Residence Permit Program

The Golden Residence Permit Program grants visa free travel in Europe's Schengen Area and the right to live, work, and study in Portugal through various investment options. It also offers eligibility for citizenship after five years without requiring renunciation of other citizenship(s).

Minimum investment: EUR 250,000

Advantages: One of the world's most globalized and peaceful nations, strong property market, international-quality education and healthcare, and excellent lifestyle options



UAE Residence by Investment

The UAE offers residence to foreign investors, entrepreneurs, and skilled professionals, granting them the right to live in any of the seven emirates by making a significant real estate investment in the country.

Minimum investment: AED 2 million (approximately USD 550,000)

Advantages: Favorable tax regime, high quality of life, strategic location linking Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe, and the option to include a spouse and unmarried children at no extra investment



US EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program

The EB-5 Visa Program is designed for individuals who can make a significant, qualified investment that generates jobs for the US economy. Through this program, individuals and their immediate family members can obtain permanent residence in the USA.

Minimum investment: USD 800,000

Advantages: One of the most desirable business and lifestyle destinations in the world, top-tier schools and Ivy League universities, efficient route to gaining permanent residence and citizenship, minimal application requirements

Popular options for Filipinos looking for enhanced global mobility

For those seeking for greater mobility and visa-free access to top destinations, the following are attractive citizenship or residence by investment programs:



Antigua and Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Program

The Antigua and Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Program offers an excellent solution for high-net-worth families seeking access to the European and Caribbean markets, as well as visa-free access to key Asian financial centers.

Minimum investment: USD 230,000

Advantages: Visa-free travel to over 150 key destinations, attractive place to live or to own a second home, excellent air links to North America and Europe, and a tropical climate with beautiful beaches



Malta Citizenship by Naturalisation for Exceptional Services by Direct Investment

The Malta Citizenship Exceptional Services by Direct Investment allows for the granting of citizenship by a certificate of naturalisation to foreign individuals and their families who contribute to the country's economic development.

Minimum investment: EUR 600,000 (excluding real estate fees)

Advantages: Visa-free travel to around 190 key destinations, access to a reputable financial center, a desirable location for living or owning a second home with a splendid climate, friendly people, low crime rate, and excellent air links



Nauru Economic and Climate Resilience Citizenship Program

The Nauru citizenship program offers an alternative and safe passport to travel on with visa-free access to a number of desirable destinations, including some of the world's most important financial, educational, and business hubs, while supporting the island's sustainable development.

Minimum investment: USD 130,000

Advantages: Cost-effective second citizenship, visa-free access to strategic destinations such as Ireland and the UK, family inclusivity, no minimum stay or visit requirements, and supports climate crisis solutions in the South Pacific



St. Kitts and Nevis Citizenship by Investment Program

St. Kitts and Nevis has one of the strongest passports among all the Caribbean citizenship programs and allows citizenship on the basis of an investment and/or a direct contribution to the state as a means of developing the country.

Minimum investment: USD 250,000

Advantages: Prime second-home destination with strong air links to Europe and North America, citizenship by descent available to future generations, pristine beaches and tropical landscapes, and visa-free access to over 150 countries

Popular options for Filipinos looking to relocate

Filipinos wanting to relocate for a better quality of life and diverse economic opportunities often consider the following programs:



Australia National Innovation Visa Program

The National Innovation Visa program is a streamlined pathway to permanent residence for highly skilled and talented academics, global researchers, innovative investors and entrepreneurs, as well as world-renowned athletes, artists, and entertainers.

Minimum investment: No financial contribution

Advantages: High standard of living, strong economy, top-notch healthcare and education systems, safe environment, and no age limit on applications



Canada Start-Up Visa Program

The Start-Up Visa Program allows foreign entrepreneurs the opportunity to create an innovative business in Canada and apply for permanent residence.

Minimum investment: Innovative start-up business

Advantages: High quality of life, multicultural and tolerant environment, excellent healthcare and education, robust economy, and easy access to the USA



New Zealand Active Investor Plus Visa Program

The Active Investor Plus Visa allows applicants to live, work, and study in New Zealand indefinitely by making a substantial investment in the country.

Minimum investment: NZD 5 million

Advantages: Political, social, and economic stability, high standard of living with an outdoor lifestyle, strong economy, and top-tier education options



UK Innovator Founder Visa Program

The Innovator Founder Visa is for individuals with business experience and sufficient funds to start a new UK business. It grants three years of leave, with the option to extend or apply for permanent residence.

Minimum investment: Innovative, scalable business

Advantages: Permanent residence possible after three years, access to a vast economy, world-renowned schools and universities, attractive tax regime, and a high quality of life

Frequently asked questions from Filipino clients

1. Can I obtain citizenship in another country while continuing to live in the Philippines?

Yes, most citizenship programs allow dual citizenship, giving you the flexibility to remain in the Philippines while holding a second citizenship.

2. How many days do I need to stay in another country to maintain residence or citizenship?

Requirements vary by program. Some programs require only a short visit (as little as one day), while others may require a more extended stay.

3. Can my citizenship be passed on to future generations?

Yes, some programs allow citizenship by descent for descendants of citizenship by investment citizens. Eligible programs include Malta, St. Kitts and Nevis, and others.

4. Can my spouse, children, or parents be included in my application, or do they need separate applications?

Most programs allow families to apply together under a single application. The best approach depends on your family composition. We recommend consulting a client advisor to determine the most suitable program.

5. How will these programs affect my tax obligations?

Taxation varies by program, so we recommend consulting a tax professional for personalized advice. For instance, if you invest in countries such as Greece or Portugal but continue to reside in the Philippines and do not relocate, your tax residence typically remains unchanged.

6. How will I be taxed on offshore investments and property?

Taxation depends on the country and specific investment. We always recommend seeking advice from a tax professional. Should you require a referral, we would be happy to assist.

7. What is the holding period for my investments, and can I transfer funds back to the Philippines?

The holding period varies by program and investment type. In most cases, investors must maintain their investment to retain residence rights. Once citizenship is granted, funds can typically be transferred to a bank of your choice.





Your journey with Henley & Partners

- 1 We advise on the best program for you and your family
- 2 We onboard you as a *Henley & Partners* client
- 3 We assist you with the entire application process
- 4 You are granted your new residence or citizenship rights
- 5 We will continue to support you

Why Henley & Partners

With over 25 years of institutional experience, *Henley & Partners* is by far the largest residence and citizenship advisory firm in the world. Through the provision of bespoke residence and citizenship by investment solutions, we have helped thousands of individuals and families, their advisors, and many sovereign states to generate value. Our outstanding people and systems provide a world-class advisory service underpinned by strict confidentiality, data security, and limited transaction risk.

- 60+ Offices worldwide including Manila, Philippines
- 25+ Years leading the sector
- 40+ Investment migration options
- 25,000+ Clients advised including thousands of successful American investors
- 15+ Government advisory mandates
- USD 15 billion+ FDI raised



Contact us today for a
private consultation

As the industry pioneer, *Henley & Partners* is best placed to guide you and your family on your residence and/or citizenship journey. For more information on the various programs, we have available call +63 2 8669 2771 or e-mail philippines@henleyglobal.com

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