



IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

## **MALTA FACT SHEET**

### **1. Basic info**

Capital:	Valletta
Population:	403,000
Area:	316 km <sup>2</sup>
Language:	Maltese
Currency:	Euro (EUR)
Unemployment rate:	5,8%

### **2. General conditions of entry and visa information**

To enter Malta you must possess:

1. A valid passport;
2. Proof that you have the means to sustain yourself;
3. Proof of your accommodation.

Visas are processed by the Immigration Authorities within the Malta Police Force. Visas will then be issued by the Consular authorities located in migrants' origin countries, if the request was filed from one of these offices.

A foreigner entering Malta must have a valid travel document, as well as a visa or residence permit.

#### **Visa types**

Maltese authorities may issue three types of visas. The visa type is indicated on the visa sticker in a special section and marked with the letters A, B, C

This fact sheet was prepared within the framework of the AENEAS 2006 project: Capacity Building, Information and Awareness Raising Towards Promoting Orderly Migration in the Western Balkans funded by the European Union and co-funded by the Swiss Federal Office for Migration and the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, the Government of Liechtenstein and the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs/Italian Development Cooperation.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



Federal Office  
for Migration  
and Refugees



GOVERNMENT  
OF LIECHTENSTEIN

### Airport transit visa - A

This visa enables those foreigners who are required to have it to stay in the international transit area of an airport while awaiting their connecting flight, but does not permit entry into the country.

Note: Citizens of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia do not need an Airport transit visa when the pass through Malta.

### Transit visa - B

This visa entitles a foreigner travelling from one country to another to transit through the Schengen territory.

A transit visa may only be issued if the alien proves that he or she is permitted to enter the next country of destination after his or her stay in Schengen territory. A transit visa may be issued for single or double transit and, exceptionally, multiple transits, provided that no transit through the country exceeds the number of days determined in the duration of stay section of the visa sticker. Transit visas may statutorily not exceed 5 days.

### Short-term visa - C

This visa entitles a foreigner to enter and stay in the Schengen territory for tourist, business, personal or any other visits or similar purposes of entry. A short-term visa may be issued for single, double or multiple entries into the country where neither a single uninterrupted stay nor the collective duration of a number of successive stays may exceed 90 days within a period of six months, starting from the day of first entry.

Based on the Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements between the EU and **Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia**, citizens of these countries continue to require the Schengen visa C to enter Malta; however they benefit from a reduced visa handling fee (EUR 35 instead of EUR 60). Many categories of applicants (family members of legally resident nationals, students and pensioners, journalists etc) may also now obtain visas free of charge. For certain categories of persons, e.g. businessmen, students and journalists, the documentation requirements will be simplified. Certain categories of frequent travellers (including businessmen, journalists, students, representatives of civil society) will be granted multi-entry visas with long periods of validity and diplomatic passports holders will be exempted from the visa obligation.

See details on:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0085:0095:EN:PDF> (for Albania)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0097:0107:EN:PDF> (for Bosnia & Herzegovina)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0125:0135:EN:PDF> for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0137:0147:EN:PDF> for Serbia

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0109:0119:EN:PDF> for Montenegro

### **Where do I apply?**

If a Maltese Embassy/High Commissioner or Consulate exists, you have to contact the Honorary Consul, who, though cannot issue the visa, may assist you in the procedure. Furthermore, you may request a visa by downloading the Visa Form (<http://www.mfa.gov.mt/images/files/file/Visa%20Application%20French.pdf>) and faxing it, with a copy of the passport and other requested documents to the Commissioner of Police in Malta. In case of approval, you must present the letter to the airline before leaving to Malta. The relevant visa will be issued upon arrival at the Airport.

List of Maltese diplomatic missions and consular posts where you can submit your visa application:

ALBANIA (*Tirana*)  
Embassy of Austria

Rruga Frederik Shiroka Nr. 3, Tirana  
Tel: (+355/4) 274 855 / 856  
Fax: (+355/4) 233 140

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (*Sarajevo*)  
Embassy of Austria  
Dzidzikovac 7, BiH-71000 Sarajevo  
Tel: (+387/33) 279 400 / 419  
Fax: (+387/33) 668 339

MONTENEGRO (*Podgorica*)  
General Consulate of Italy  
Ulica Djordja Vasingtona, 83, 81000 Podgorica  
Tel.: 00381 81 234 661, 00381 81 234 662  
Fax: 00381 81 234 663

SERBIA (*Belgrade*)  
Embassy of Italy  
Bircaninova Ulica, 11  
Tel.: 0038111 3066100  
Fax: 3249413

Dr BRANCO VUKMIR, *Hon. Consul*  
Pavlinoviceva Str. 4, 10000 Zagreb  
Tel: 00385 (1) 390 0515  
Fax: 00385 (1) 390 0575  
email: [maltaconsul.zagreb@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsul.zagreb@gov.mt)

### **3. Immigration for employment purposes**

#### **a) conditions of entry and stay of foreign workers (including types of work permits and work visas and requirements, and responsible authorities)**

##### **Work Permits**

##### **Government Policy**

All foreign nationals require a work permit to work in Malta. In respect of foreigners, the Government maintains a restrictive policy and employment licences are granted only in exceptional circumstances.

Such work permits are issued to employers wishing to engage foreigners for a determined period and for a specific purpose, ONLY after it has been ascertained that every effort has been made to engage a suitable Maltese citizen.

##### **Conditions for the Issue of a Licence**

- a) Applicants for an employment licence must first secure an offer of employment from an employer in Malta;
- b) Applicants must possess a specialist skill or qualification of which there is a shortage in Malta;
- c) There must be a significant demand in a particular field e.g. qualified nurses, tourist guides with particular language skills, construction workers etc.

A work permit is issued by the Director of Labour subject to the above prerequisites and upon the request of a potential employer.

## Documentation Required

The following documentation should accompany your application for an employment licence:

- a valid passport,
- a certificate of good conduct;
- a letter of employment including a full job description by the prospective employer.

Application form: [http://www.education.gov.mt/resources/forms/application\\_work%20permit.pdf](http://www.education.gov.mt/resources/forms/application_work%20permit.pdf)

## Validity & Renewal

Employment licences are normally issued valid for one year. Licenses valid for up to three years may also be applied for at the express request of the employer and provided sufficient justification is given. Licences may be renewed thereafter where a request to that effect is justified.

## Residence Permit

A residence permit is automatically granted with the approval of a work permit for you and your spouse/husband. However, this does not entitle the spouse/husband to work or automatically qualify for an employment licence unless demand for work is felt in the respective field.

## Indefinite licences

Where a foreign national is an investor in the manufacturing or financial services sector and holds substantial shareholding (40%) in the enterprise, the relative licence may be issued indefinitely.

### b) labour market sectors experiencing shortages

Many employers are resorting to foreign labour because of shortages in many sectors, such as tourism, IT, medical and manufacturing.

### c) job search websites

[www.etc.gov.mt](http://www.etc.gov.mt) – This governmental website provide information for job seekers.

[www.eures.com.mt](http://www.eures.com.mt) - Official EURES Malta website

<http://www.jobinmalta.com>

<http://www.prlmalta.com/vacancies.html>

## 4. Immigration for study purposes

### a) conditions of entry and stay for students (student visa, residence permits, right to work if applicable)

In addition to the visa application form, a valid travel document and two passport-size photographs, applicants need to produce the following documentation:

- a valid return ticket, or a certificate of a reserved and prepaid journey,
- proof of subsistence funds

- a letter of acceptance from the educational institution indicating admission and details on course being undertaken,
- hotel reservation or a confirmation from a private home or institution

The diplomatic mission and consular posts will verify such declarations, where such checks are necessary.

You also need a valid Travel Medical Insurance to cover any expenses which might arise in connection with repatriation for medical reasons, urgent medical attention and/or emergency hospital treatment. The insurance must be valid throughout the Schengen Member States and cover the entire period of your stay. The minimum insurance coverage must be of € 30,000.

## **b) list of main universities and colleges**

**The University of Malta** (Maltese L-Università ta' Malta)

<http://www.um.edu.mt/> - is the highest educational institution in Malta. It offers undergraduate Bachelor's Degrees, which last between three and five years, and postgraduate Master's Degrees that last two years full-time.

**Gan Frangisk Abela Junior College** <http://www.jc.um.edu.mt/>

**MCAST** (Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology) <http://www.mcast.edu.mt/>

**De La Salle College** <http://www.dlsmalta.org/>

## **c) foreign students' programmes where applicable**

### **Practical Traineeships for Foreign Students of Natural and Technical Sciences, Agriculture and Forestry (IAESTE)**

For application deadlines, please contact the IAESTE National Committee in Malta.

IAESTE Malta

c/o Faculty of Engineering

University of Malta

Phone: 00 351 (0) 3290 2106

Fax: 00 351 (0) 343 577

E-Mail: [info@iaeste.org.mt](mailto:info@iaeste.org.mt)

Internet: <http://www.iaeste.org.mt/home.html>

## **5. Residence**

Residence permits are issued to third country nationals who have been authorized to reside in Malta for a specific purpose. This purpose could be:

- Employment
- Self-employment
- Economic self-sufficiency
- Retirement
- Study
- Long-term residence
- Other reasons

### **Employment / Self-Employment / Study / Health Reasons**

The applicant has to present the necessary documents in support of his/her claim - copy of a work permit for employment, copy of work permit/trading licence for self-employment, confirmation of enrolment in a higher education establishment for study purposes and hospital or medical certification in the case of health reasons, amongst other documents, especially those indicated in the application form itself.

## **Economically Self-Sufficient Persons / Pensioners / Retired Persons**

In the case of such persons a residence permit would be granted if the person concerned has, at least, a minimum annual income of €13,976.24 in Malta. The amount would rise to €16,305.61 if applicant is married. Furthermore a sum of €2,329.37 is added in respect of every dependent child. Thus a married person with two children - who should be **under** 18 years of age - should have an income of €20,964.36. It should be noted further that the amounts indicated above are **exclusive** of the accommodation (which should be of an adequate standard) expenses.

Furthermore, persons falling under these categories have to produce also evidence of health insurance for themselves and members of their families, if applicable. This requirement has to be complied with also by persons holding a residence permit issued by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue (CIR). The latter persons, however, need not submit documentary evidence about income and accommodation.

## **Partners**

Consideration is given to applications in respect of non-Maltese partners of Maltese citizens or of third country nationals as long as:

- the Maltese citizen or third country national concerned can provide documentary evidence attesting to a regular and stable income of at least €8,665.27 (minimum wage + 20%)
- documentary proof is provided that the partnership has been subsisting for at least two years.
- documentary evidence is provided regarding health insurance in respect of all risks normally covered for Maltese nationals.

## **Humanitarian / Other Cases**

If sufficient proof is produced to substantiate applicant's claim that his/her request should be considered from a humanitarian aspect or on other grounds, the Department will give due consideration to such a request. In the case of a favourable consideration, a residence permit will be issued to applicant.

## **Family Members**

See section on Family reunification.

## **Long-term resident status**

An applicant for long-term resident status **must** provide documentary evidence:

- legal and continuous residence in Malta for five years immediately prior to the submission of the application
- proof of stable and regular resources sufficient to maintain himself/herself and the members of his/her family (equivalent to the national minimum wage + 20%)
- proof of accommodation regarded as normal for a comparable family in Malta and which meets the general health and safety standards in force in Malta.
- health insurance in respect of all risks normally covered for Maltese nationals for himself/herself and the members of his/her family.

Furthermore, they are required to submit a letter giving their history since they first arrived in Malta. This letter should include information on the grounds on which they came to and remained in Malta, their employment history since then, the current and previous premises occupied by them, family members, if they are living with them in Malta, and any other information which could be useful in the consideration of their request for long-term resident status.

For more information check [http://www.mjha.gov.mt/departments/citizen/urp\\_3cn.pdf.pdf](http://www.mjha.gov.mt/departments/citizen/urp_3cn.pdf.pdf)

Application for a residence permit by a Non-EU/EEA citizen:

- who is employed
- who is self-employed
- who is studying at an educational establishment
- who is economically self-sufficient
- who is retired
- who is in Malta for other purposes

[http://www.mjha.gov.mt/departments/citizen/cea\\_20.pdf.pdf](http://www.mjha.gov.mt/departments/citizen/cea_20.pdf.pdf)

Department for Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs  
3, Castille Place  
Valletta CMR 02  
Telephone No.: 2200 1800  
Telefax No.: 2200 1830  
E-mail address: [citizenship@gov.mt](mailto:citizenship@gov.mt)

## **6. Asylum Procedure**

All applications for recognition of refugee status are processed and determined by the Office of the Refugee Commissioner.

A person who is seeking asylum in Malta may apply to the Commissioner for a declaration and attend an interview within one week. An interview shall be conducted in private and, where necessary, with the assistance of an interpreter. The Commissioner will examine any application for refugee status and shall recommend the acceptance of the application to the Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment. If the Commissioner recommends the acceptance of the application, the Minister responsible for immigration shall make a declaration stating the eligibility of the refugee or appeal against such recommendation.

Asylum seeker is allowed to enter or remain in Malta pending a final decision of his/her application. He/she shall also have access to state education and training in Malta and to receive state medical care and services. An asylum seeker cannot seek employment or carry on business unless with the consent of the Minister; he/she has to reside and remain in the designated place and has to report at specified intervals to the immigration authorities.

Rejected asylum seekers have the right to appeal with the Appeals Board against the negative recommendation; (b) the right to consult the UNHCR and to have legal assistance throughout the appeal procedure; and (c) at the appeal stage. The Refugee Act, 2000, states that the Refugee Commissioner may recommend that, in spite of the fact that a person does not satisfy the requirements to be recognized as a refugee, such person should be granted temporary humanitarian protection in Malta.

## **7. Family reunification**

A third-country national is entitled to apply for family reunification subject to the following conditions:

- he/she is holding a residence permit valid for a minimum period of one year; and
- he/she has reasonable prospects of obtaining the right of permanent residence.

Asylum seekers, and persons residing on grounds of temporary or subsidiary protection are not entitled to family reunification.

The following family members are eligible for family reunification:

- A spouse (at least 21 years of age)
- unmarried minor children including children adopted in a manner recognized by Maltese law;

An application for entry and residence shall be application submitted to the Director of the Department for Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs, Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs by the residence permit holder.

The family members can be granted a first residence permit of at least one year's duration which can be renewable, provided that the duration of the residence permits granted to the members of the family, in principle, does not extend beyond the date of expiry of the original residence permit. The sponsor and the family members may be required to attend, and successfully complete, courses in the Maltese language.

The family members of the sponsor are entitled, in the same way as the sponsor, to:

- access to education;
- access to employment and self-employed activity, subject to the work permit requirement for the first year (subject to assessment of the labour market)
- access to vocational guidance, initial and further training and retraining.

Upon the expiry of a period of five years' residence in Malta and provided that the family member has not been granted a residence permit for reasons other than family reunification, the spouse or the child who has reached majority shall be entitled, upon application, to an autonomous residence permit.

Application form [http://www.mjha.gov.mt/departments/citizen/cea\\_23.pdf.pdf](http://www.mjha.gov.mt/departments/citizen/cea_23.pdf.pdf)

## **8. Health Care System**

In Malta, the Government provides a comprehensive health services to all residents that are free. This health service is funded from general taxation. All residents have access to preventive, investigative, curative and rehabilitative services in Government Health Centres and Hospitals. Persons with a low income are 'means tested' by the Department of Social Security. If they qualify for assistance, they receive a card which entitles them to free pharmaceuticals. Moreover, a person who suffers from one or more of a specified list of chronic diseases (e.g. rheumatoid arthritis) is also entitled to receive free treatment for his/her ailment, irrespective of financial means.

The Government delivers primary health care mainly through eight Health Centres that offer a full range of preventive, curative and rehabilitative services. Community nursing and midwifery services are provided by the Malta Memorial District Nursing Association (MMDNA) on a contract basis.

The Government's Health Centre system works side by side with a thriving private sector and many residents opt for the services of private general practitioners and specialists who work in the primary care setting.

There are numerous pharmacies and chemists throughout the islands, though they have no recognizable symbol by which to identify them. They keep normal shopping hours, from 08:30 or 09:00 until 13:00hrs and then 16:00hrs to 19:00hrs.

## **9. Social insurance system**

Malta's current social welfare system is the result of the development of a set of laws over several decades. National insurance contributions and benefits are the backbone of social welfare, aimed at reducing the financial hardships of sickness, disability, injury, old age and unemployment.

Malta's social welfare is carried out by the Department of Social Security located in Valletta. National insurance is collected by the taxation department, but the fund is administered by the social security authorities. The health and housing divisions also play an instrumental role in providing medical care and housing support.

The department of social security is presently divided into 5 main branches:

- Contributory Benefits Division
- Non-contributory Benefits Division
- Benefit Fraud and Investigations Directorate
- Customer Care & International Relations
- Finance & Administration

The department deals with assistance in claims for all types of benefits as well as providing general advice and information. The actual assessment of claims of the majority of the benefits and the general administration of the organization is dealt with centrally from the department's head office.

Social Security Department  
38 Ordinance Street,  
Valletta - CMR 02.  
Telephone: 25903000  
Fax: 25903001

## **10. Housing**

Rental accommodation is mostly privately owned. When looking for accommodation, there are real estate brokers specializing in rented accommodation. The local newspapers have extensive rental columns on a daily basis. There are also weekly newspapers which publish classified advertisements inserted by property-owners in search of potential renters.

Internet search facilities are on the increase. The main property agents have a rental section on their sites.

Rental contracts are usually for 5 years with a maximum of 10 years. However these can be brought down to 3 years or as negotiated with the owners. Agents' service charge is 10% of first years' rent plus VAT.

## **11. Recognition of diplomas**

Malta is a member of ENIC-NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centres, [www.enic-naric.net](http://www.enic-naric.net)), which is a network of national centres that aims to improve academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study in European Union (EU) member states, EEA countries and associated countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Malta-NARIC ([www.education.gov.mt](http://www.education.gov.mt)) also aims to provide information and advice in consultation with other bodies on the comparability of international and Maltese qualifications.

Malta Qualification Recognition Information Centre (Malta QRIC)  
Ministry of Education  
Room No 328  
Great Siege Road  
Floriana  
Phone: +356 21 240419  
Fax: +356 21 239842  
E-mail: [qric.malta@gov.mt](mailto:qric.malta@gov.mt)

Application form: [http://www.education.gov.mt/edu/assess\\_qualification\\_form.pdf](http://www.education.gov.mt/edu/assess_qualification_form.pdf)

## **12. Support services offered to migrants by public agencies, NGOs, trade unions, hotlines**

**Phillips County Domestic Violence Program (Malta)** - + (406) 654-2090/Hotline 654-1100

### **SOS Malta**

[www.sosmalta.org](http://www.sosmalta.org)

SOS Malta, a Maltese-registered NGO set up in 1991, aims at aiding people experiencing times of crisis and empowering them by providing support services and opportunities to implement development and change in their country to ensure a better quality of life.

Valletta Office:  
Address: Dar L-Emigrant, Castille Place  
Town: Valletta  
Post code: VLT01

Telephone: +356 21240255  
Fax: +356 21240022  
Email: [info@sosmalta.org](mailto:info@sosmalta.org)

### **Third Country National Support Network Malta (TSN Malta)**

is a non-profit organization dedicated to bridging the gap between newcomers, cross-cultural groups, and mainstream society in Malta through information, education, and training. They offer a variety of services that help immigrants integrate into Maltese society and Maltese to learn more about and appreciate cultural diversity.

Tel: + 356 21244123  
e-mail: [tsn@mrc.org.mt](mailto:tsn@mrc.org.mt)  
[www.mrc.org.mt](http://www.mrc.org.mt)

### **Jesuit Refugee Service Malta**

<http://www.jrsmalta.org/>

JRS Malta serves and lobbies for the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and forcibly displaced people in Malta.

Email: [info@jrsmalta.org](mailto:info@jrsmalta.org)

## **13. Acquisition of citizenship/nationality**

Double citizenship is permitted in Malta.

Children of Maltese citizens acquire Maltese citizenship **by birth**.

### **By marriage**

The foreign spouse of a Maltese citizen may acquire Maltese citizenship by marriage after 5 years of marriage. Residence in Malta is not required.

- Widows and widowers of a Maltese citizen (where the spouse died within the first 5 years of marriage) may apply for Maltese citizenship by marriage 5 years after the date of the marriage to their deceased spouse.
- Persons separated from a Maltese spouse may still apply for Maltese citizenship by marriage provided they lived together for 5 years

### **By registration**

Due to amendments to the Maltese Citizenship Act which came into force on 1 August 2007, it is now possible for all persons of Maltese descent to obtain Maltese citizenship by registration.

A person only has to provide documentary evidence such as birth, marriage & death certificates to be registered as a citizen. This documentation must show direct descent from an ancestor born in Malta of a parent who was also born in Malta. If a person has parents, grandparents, etc. that are alive and are also direct descendants themselves, they will also have to make applications (direct line cannot be broken).

The Maltese citizenship can be acquired **by naturalization** if:

- You are a former citizen of Malta;
- You were born abroad to Maltese parents who are returned migrants;
- You were born in Malta, you hold a foreign citizenship, and at least one of your parents is a citizen of Malta;
- You were born to parents who were non-Maltese but one of whom or both subsequently acquired Maltese citizenship;
- You were born abroad and you are of Maltese descent.

It is possible 'to become eligible' to acquire Maltese citizenship by naturalisation after 5 years of legal residence in Malta. In practice applications are only given a favourable consideration to persons who were born in Malta, have resided there for more than 18 years, have a Maltese parent, or based on humanitarian grounds.

For more information, you can contact:

The Department for Citizenship and Expatriate Affairs, 3, Castille Place, Valletta, tel. 356/250868;

free toll number: 0800772258

e-mail: [citizenship@gov.mt](mailto:citizenship@gov.mt).

<http://www.mjha.gov.mt/departments/citizen/forms.html>

#### **14. Other useful contacts and information**

Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs

<http://www.mha.gov.mt/home.html>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<http://www.foreign.gov.mt>

Ministry of Social Policy

<http://www.msp.gov.mt>

Ministry of Education

<http://www.education.gov.mt>