



RESIDENCE SCHEMES

GOLDEN VISA

BEST CITIZENSHIPS



CONTENTS

01

WHAT IS GOLDEN VISA?

02

BACKGROUND

03

GOLDEN VISA
PROGRAMS

04

Q&A

05

ABOUT US

WHAT IS A GOLDEN VISA?

Golden Visas ("GV") are residence by investment schemes that offer instant permanent residency in exchange for investments. The investments could be active or passive in real estate, business capital, job creation and purchase of interest free government debts (bonds, stocks, securities).

Portugal first invented the name "Golden Visa" in 2012, when ARI scheme launched for investment activity.

Golden visas also known otherwise as as "Immigrant investor programs"

As of 2020, there are more than 20 countries that have official golden visa schemes, these are listed below. Unofficially there are over 100 countries that offer visas for investment.

BENEFITS

- Instant green card and settlement,
- Access to world class education for children,
- Access to best healthcare protection,
- Highest standard of living,
- No requirement to live in the country,
- Path to citizenship if you want.
- Free movement
- Tax planning

GOLDEN VISA MARKET

\$12bn

ANNUALLY





BACKGROUND

Canada and United States operated oldest golden visa schemes in the World since 1990's. It was only after 2012 golden visas reached new heights in popularity in Europe and elsewhere.

Launch

- 1986 – Canada
- 1990 – United States
- 1994 – United Kingdom
- 2002 – Ireland
- 2009 – Bulgaria
- 2010 – Latvia
- 2012 – Portugal
- Australia
- 2013 – The Netherlands
- 2014 – Spain
- Malta
- Greece
- 2017 – Italy

How many golden visa programs are there?

Officially there are more than 20 countries that operate golden visa schemes. Unofficially more than 100 countries in the world offer visas for investments

Golden visa industry is adding on an average \$12 billion every year according to our calculations in 2020

Annual Investment

- United States (EB-5) - \$5bn
- Canada Quebec - \$2.2bn
- Australia - \$1bn
- Greece - €1bn
- Portugal - €0.7bn
- United Kingdom - £0.75bn
- Spain - €0.5bn
- Latvia - €0.1bn
- Ireland - €0.2bn

The GV industry is expanding at an unprecedented rate, due to global volatility and geo-political activities (eg. Brexit, Hong Kong protests, Pandemic etc.) driving increased demand for residency and citizenship market.

Golden visa schemes boosted revenues of Governments to recover from debts and real estate markets getting much needed boost



UNITED STATES

EB-5 IMMIGRANT INVESTOR

The EB-5 (Employment-based fifth preference) immigrant investor program dubbed as 'American golden visa scheme' is the world's most popular scheme to immigrate to the United States for wealthy foreigners.

Congress created the EB-5 Program in 1990 to stimulate the U.S. economy through job creation and capital investment by foreign investors. Regional Center Program was introduced in 1992.

The EB-5 program was reformed in Nov 2019 increasing the minimum to \$900,000 (from \$500,000)

Targeted Employment Area (TEA).
USD 900,000

High Employment Area: (HEA):
USD 1.8 million

Job Creation: Atleast 10 jobs

Waiting Time: 2 years - 5 years

US Citizenship time: 5 years

Quotas: 10,000 per year

Residence requirements:

1. Not absent for more than one year to maintain Green card.
2. Must spend 2.5 years in 5 years in the US for Citizenship

Taxation: Worldwide income



MALTA

MALTA RESIDENCE VISA (MRV)

Malta has the cheapest golden visa program in Europe. This passive scheme offers instant permanent residence status to third country nationals investing in Malta.

The MRV scheme was launched under Malta Residence and Visa Programme Regulations, 2015

Malta remains one of the best countries in the world to live, work, study and retire.

English is the official language and has world class healthcare and education system in the world.

The Maltese passport is one of the powerful EU passport in the world

Investment: EUR 125,000 (Financing Government bonds or stocks)

Real Estate: not required

Waiting Time: 6 months

Malta Citizenship: 5 years

Visa type: Permanent Residence valid for 5 years

Quotas: none

Residence requirements: none

Travel: Free movement in Schengen

Family: Upto 4th generation included

Restrictions: Afghanistan, Iran, North Korea,



GREECE

GOLDEN VISA

Greece is the most popular golden visa program in Europe.

The real estate market prices still recovering and affordable compared to other member states in the European Union. Airbnb, Tourism and Golden visa program drive the property prices in Greece.

Greece offers attractive tax regime such as VAT exemption, low property registration costs for foreign property investors makes investing in Greece more interesting.

Greece has free schooling, excellent healthcare system and the Greek passport remains powerful EU passport in the world

Investment: EUR 250,000 in Real Estate

Waiting Time: 3-6 months

Greek Citizenship: 7 years

Visa type: Permanent Residence Permit

Quotas: none

Residence requirements: none

Travel: Free movement in Schengen

Additional costs: 6-8%

VAT: exempt



PORTUGAL

ARI / GOLDEN VISA

Portugal is the 3rd safest country in the world with high standards of European living.

Portugal launched the Golden Visa scheme in 2012, since then it has become the biggest and most popular program, a major driving force of the property market in Portugal.

Wealthy Chinese, Brazilians and South Africans are the biggest investors in the Portuguese Golden Visa (PGV) scheme, snapping up luxury properties averaging 550,000€ in Lisbon and coastal areas.

Portugal offers tax exemption for cryptocurrency investors, making the country attractive for startups and fintech companies. The Citizenship time also reduced from 6 years to just 5 years.

Investment: EUR 350,000 in Real Estate

Waiting Time: 3-4 months

Portugal Citizenship: 5 years

Visa type: Permanent Residence Permit

Quotas: none

Residence requirements: 7 days

Travel: Free movement in Schengen

Additional costs: Around 10%

VAT: exempted for rehab properties



UNITED KINGDOM

TIER1 INVESTOR VISA

The United Kingdom is the most attractive countries in the world to do business, live, work and study for HNW investors.

UK offers red carpet welcome for super wealthy being the fastest golden visa scheme in the world, with entry clearance approvals in just 2 weeks.

UK has the best education system and top universities in the world (eg. Oxford, Cambridge)

Accelerated settlement for £5 million in just 3 years and £10 million in just 2 years.

Investment: GBP £2m in bonds, loan or share capital

Waiting Time: 1-3 weeks

UK Citizenship: 5 years

Visa type: Entry clearance (40 months)

Quotas: none

Residence requirements: 9 mon/yr

Settlement: After 5 years (ILR)

Travel: UK/Ireland CTA

UK Citizenship: After 5 years

Passive investments: do not qualify



IRELAND

IMMIGRANT INVESTOR PROGRAM

Ireland emerged the most popular investment migration destinations for HNWI since Brexit vote.

Ireland is the business friendly country attracts major investments due to low corporate taxes also attract several tech companies to Ireland.

Ireland offers investment based residency to HNWIs and UHNWIs through the Irish immigrant investor programme at half the price of UK tier1 investor scheme.

Ireland is a EU member state but has opted out of the schengen area. The demand for irish passports sky rocketed since Brexit

Investment: EUR 500,000 (donation)
or EUR 1m investment funds

Waiting Time: 6 months

Irish Citizenship: After 5 years

Visa type: Stamp 4 (PR status)

Quotas: None but limited application window

Residence requirements: 1 day

Settlement: Immediate

Passive investments: do not qualify

Education discount: EUR 50,000

Conditions: Financing or Loans not allowed. Prove minimum net worth of €2 million



SPAIN

GOLDEN VISA (LAW 13/2013)

Spain is the most visited country in the world and a powerhouse of European economy. The Spanish Sun is a magnet for many wealthy families buying a property in Spain.

The Spanish GV scheme is very popular with Russians, Chinese and South American property buyers. The most popular locations of buying property are Barcelona, Madrid and Costa del Sol.

Spanish passport is also highly respected and powerful EU travel document with free access to 180+ countries in 2018.

Spain offers accelerated citizenship path for nationals from Spanish speaking countries.

Investment: EUR 500,000 in real estate

Waiting Time: 1-2 weeks

Spain Citizenship: After 10 years

Visa type: Residence permit (1 year)

Quotas: None

Residence requirements: None

Permanent Settlement: 5 years

Travel: Free movement in Schengen

Additional costs: around 10%



CANADA

QUEBEC IMMIGRANT INVESTOR

Canada offers the best quality of living, stable government, world class health care and education most ideal country for HNWI population.

Canada is a diverse multicultural country with strong economy. Some of the best universities in the world are in Canada.

The Quebec Immigrant Investor Program is most popular path to become a permanent resident in Canada. Priority application processing given for french speakers.

Once approved the applicant may choose to reside in any province of their choice.

Investment: CAD 260,00 (financing Govt bonds)

Waiting Time: 40 months

Canadian Citizenship: After 3 years

Visa type: Green card

Quotas: 1800 per year

Residence requirements: None

Settlement: Immediate

Application fee: CAD 15,496

Net worth: Prove net assets of at least \$2,000,000 whose lawful origin

FAQ

What is a Golden visa?

Golden visas are residence by investment schemes with an optional path to naturalize for citizenship in the future.

What is the difference between visa and residence permit?

Visas are short term validity (less than 90 days). Residence permits are issued for long term (more than 3 months). Another difference is visas can only be extended through the embassy in your home country, whereas residence permits can be extended at immigration offices.

What are the benefits of permanent residency?

New life, new country, children can study in the best universities, high quality living, free movement, opportunity to invest in real estate.

What is the validity of permanent residence cards?

5-10 years

Which is the cheapest golden visa program?

1. Malta
2. Greece

Which is the best golden visa program?

1. United States
2. United Kingdom
3. Greece
4. Portugal
5. Malta

Can the permanent residence issued under golden visa be revoked?

yes, if you dont live enough (absent for a long time) or if you dont maintain investments.

Are there any background checks?

Applicants must produce criminal record certificate, health certificate and explain source of funds

Are there any restrictions?

Nationals of certain countries cannot apply depending on the program. Contact us explaining your nationality and country of living.

Are there any language tests for citizenship?

Yes, most countries will require you to be fluent in their language, pass language and citizenship tests.



BEST CITIZENSHIPS

CITIZENSHIP AND RESIDENCE PLANNING PLATFORM

Best Citizenships (BC) is a first citizenship and residence planning platform assisting HNW clients since 2011.

We work with trusted Govt approved service providers in the industry offering the best professional advice. We make it easier, faster and cheaper for clients investing in CBI and RBI schemes.

Since we are a platform we do not advise our clients directly. We are compensated by our partners and we do not charge any fee to our clients.

Best Citizenship is a platform (think of it like Airbnb) directly connecting investors and service providers for the immigration industry.

Using our platform is free of charge. We do not charge any fee. You can compare every program, Use our free tools and wealth of information in our website to make the right decision

We work with trusted law firms, real estate developers and Governments through our Yellow network of Startups.

We advise more than 1000 HNW investors and families every year.

We are featured in news media, research papers and several books

WWW.BEST-CITIZENSHIPS.COM

