

SAINT LUCIA ECONOMIC CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME

GUIDANCE NOTES

Legal Framework

Saint Lucia's Economic Citizenship Programme is governed by the:-

- ❖ Citizenship by Investment Act No: 14 of 2015 (the Act);
- ❖ Citizenship by Investment Regulations, No: 89 of 2015 (the Regulations); and
- ❖ Guidelines published by the Unit (the Guidelines).

The Act provides for the establishment of the programme under which a person can apply for citizenship of Saint Lucia upon satisfaction of the requisite qualifying investment and other requirements under the Act and the Regulations. The Act established the Citizenship by Investment Board (the Board), to co-ordinate the administration and operation of the Citizenship by Investment Programme (the Programme).

The Act also established the Citizenship by Investment Unit (the Unit) to be responsible for the general administration of the Programme which includes the processing of all applications under the Programme.

Application

Any person who -

- (a) is at least 18 Years of age; and
- (b) meets the application requirements

may apply to be registered as a citizen of Saint Lucia.

Any person who is a qualifying dependant of an applicant may apply along with that applicant as a dependant applicant.

A qualifying dependant is –

- (a) a spouse of an applicant;
- (b) a child of the applicant or of his or her spouse who is less than 18 years of age;
- (c) a child of the applicant or of his or her spouse who is no more than 25 years of age, who is fully supported by the applicant and is in full time attendance at a recognised institution of higher learning;
- (d) a child of the applicant or his or her spouse, of any age who is physically or mentally challenged and fully supported by the applicant;

- (e) a parent of the applicant or of his or her spouse above the age of 65 years who habitually resides with and is fully supported by the applicant; and
- (f) a parent of any age who is physically or mentally challenged and fully supported by the applicant.

Applications, which can only be submitted by an authorised agent, must be in the prescribed form, and must be accompanied by:-

- (a) all requisite documentation and information;
- (b) a non-refundable Government processing fee;
- (c) a health certificate by a medical practitioner with respect to each applicant and dependant;
- (d) a police certificate from the applicant's country of residence;
- (e) a banker's reference;
- (f) the details and evidence of the proposed qualifying investment;
- (g) authenticated English translation where applicable;
- (h) a sworn affidavit of support of each dependant;
- (i) official transcripts or written confirmation from a recognised school, university or college of the dependant's enrolment and attendance at such school, university or college at the time of the application, where applicable; and
- (j) a sworn affidavit to declare financial resources of at least US\$3,000,000.00 and supporting documents in respect of the declared financial resource and source of funds.

Disqualified Persons

Any person who –

- (a) provides false information;
- (b) has been convicted of a criminal offence except where the offence is a minor traffic offence;
- (c) is the subject of a criminal investigation;
- (d) is considered to be a potential National Security risk;
- (e) is involved in any activity likely to cause disrepute to Saint Lucia;
- (f) has been denied a visa to a country with which Saint Lucia has visa-free travel and has not subsequently obtained a visa to that country.

The Decision Process

After considering the application, all supporting documentation and requisite reports, the Unit will recommend a suitably qualified applicant for citizenship to the Board.

The Board, after consideration of the application, will grant, deny or delay for cause, the application. The Board will notify the applicant in writing of the decision.

Every successful applicant must attend in person, a Saint Lucia Embassy, High Commission or Consulate, to take the oath and/or affirmation of allegiance.

An applicant who is granted citizenship by investment enjoys all the rights of a citizen and is also subject to the laws of Saint Lucia.

Passports

Upon the grant of citizenship, the applicant (and dependants where applicable), will apply for a Saint Lucian Passport.

Government Fees

Applicants must pay the due diligence and background checks fee in the sum of US\$7,500.00 in respect of the applicant and US\$5,000.00 in respect of each dependant over the age of 16 years. Additionally, there is a non-refundable processing fee of US\$2,000.00 in respect of the applicant and US\$1,000.00 in respect of each dependant.

Where the applicant elects the qualifying investment of an approved real estate or enterprise project investment, there are non-refundable administrative fees as follows:-

❖	Applicant	...	...	...	...	...	...	US\$50,000.00
❖	Dependants 18 years and over					...	...	US\$35,000.00
❖	Dependants under 18 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	US\$25,000.00

Qualifying Investments

An applicant must satisfy at least the minimum investment in one of the following:-

- (a) The Saint Lucia National Economic Fund;
- (b) An approved real estate project;
- (c) An approved enterprise project
- (d) Non-interest bearing Government Bonds.

(i) Saint Lucia National Economic Fund (the Fund)

Where the applicant elects to make the contribution to the Fund to qualify, the contribution requirements are as follows:-

Applicant alone	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	US\$200,000.00
Applicant with spouse...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	US\$235,000.00
Applicant with spouse and up to 2 dependants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	US\$250,000.00
Each additional dependant of any age	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	US\$25,000.00

(ii) Investment in an approved real estate project (Real Estate)

On approval of an application by means of an investment in an approved Real Estate, the minimum investment of US\$300,000.00 plus the applicable administrative fee referred to above is required. Before citizenship is granted, the applicant must:-

- (a) execute a binding purchase and sale agreement for the investment in the Real Estate; and
- (b) ensure that any outstanding balance of the agreed purchase price is placed in an approved irrevocable escrow in Saint Lucia, within 30 days of receiving an approval.

The beneficial ownership of the investment through a company established and maintained under the laws of Saint Lucia is allowed. The investment cannot be sold or transferred for a period of at least 5 years after the granting of citizenship.

(iii) Investment in an Approved Enterprise Project (an Enterprise)

On approval of an application by means of an investment in an Enterprise, the following minimum investment is required:-

- ❖ One applicant US\$3,500,000.00 plus the creation of at least 3 permanent jobs; or
- ❖ More than one applicant in a joint investment US\$6,000,000.00 plus the creation of at least 6 permanent jobs; each applicant to contribute a minimum of US\$1,000,000.00

The following are approved Enterprise projects:-

- ❖ Specialty Restaurants
- ❖ Cruise ports and marinas
- ❖ Agro-processing plants
- ❖ Pharmaceutical products
- ❖ Ports, bridges, roads and highways
- ❖ Research institutions and facilities
- ❖ Offshore universities

(iv) Investment by purchase of non-interest bearing Government Bonds (Bonds)

On approval of an application by means of an investment in Bonds, the following minimum investment is required:-

Applicant alone	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	US\$500,000.00
Applicant with spouse...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	US\$535,000.00
Applicant with spouse and up to 2 other dependants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	US\$550,000.00
Each additional dependant of any age	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	US\$25,000.00

The Bond must:-

- ❖ be registered and remain in the name of the Applicant;
- ❖ remain in a 5 year holding bond from the date of first issue; and
- ❖ not attract a rate of interest

for the duration of the Bond.

Why Choose Saint Lucia

- A Saint Lucian passport provides visa-free travel to more than 100 countries, including the Schengen States, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Singapore and many others.
- No requirements to travel to Saint Lucia during the application process.
- No educational or managerial experience required.
- Fast processing.
- No taxes for non-residents.
- No physical residency requirements.
- Saint Lucia recognises dual citizenship so you can retain your current nationality.

- Saint Lucia is a member of the Commonwealth, which entitles citizens to certain privileges in the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries.
- Saint Lucia is an attractive place to live and own a second home, with excellent air /travel connections to North America, Canada and Europe.
- Reasonable minimum investment level requirements.
- Reasonable processing and administration fees

Comparative Costs

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