



OUSHENG

Belgium / Residency and Citizenship for Investors

Belgium is located in Western Europe and bordered by France, the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg, and the North Sea. Although small, it is densely populated and has a population of about 11 million. With a highly developed economy, a skilled workforce and an ideal geographical location in the industrial heartland of Europe, Belgium has long been a centre of business and investment. It is possible for investors and entrepreneurs to acquire residency in Belgium, provided they make a significant investment.

Belgium is one of founding members of the European Union and is home to the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. Belgium is also a member of the Eurozone, NATO, OECD and WTO, and a part of the trilateral Benelux Union, along with the Netherlands and Luxembourg. Belgium is also a part of the Schengen Area. Brussels, the capital of Belgium, hosts several of the EU's official seats as well as the headquarters of major international organizations such as NATO.

Belgium also has an advanced and highly developed economy. Belgium has a high rate of GDP, high labour productivity and high exports per capita. Although Belgium is highly industrialised, the service sector accounts for the lion's share of national product. Industries include engineering and metal products, motor vehicle assembly, transportation equipment, processed food and beverage, chemicals and others. By conventional measures, Belgium has a very high quality of life, and ranks above average in terms of income and wealth, work-life balance, housing, civic engagement, education and skills, subjective well-being, health status, jobs and earnings, and personal security.

Applicants and their families are then free to live and work in Belgium and avail of all the benefits of a high-income and high quality of life country. Residents may travel freely around the 26-member Schengen area and may qualify for citizenship after the required period of residence and subject to naturalisation conditions. Belgium truly is a wonderful second residency opportunity.





Eligibility for Application

1. Applicants must be aged 18 years or over.
2. Applicants must have a clear criminal record, as evidenced by a police clearance certificate from the relevant policing authority.
3. Applicants should have exceptional business experience and be in an excellent financial situation. References should be supplied to satisfy this condition.
4. Non-EU/EEA citizens need to prove ties with Belgium. This can be satisfied by establishing a Belgian company.

Residency for Investors

The Belgium programme is suited to entrepreneurs and business investors who want to start a European company in Belgium. Residency is offered to investors who form a business and provide employment in Belgium. The minimum investment required is €350,000.

Foreigners and non-EU nationals can apply for a residence permit under the investor or business category, which usually involves either investing in an existing Belgian business or incorporating a new Belgian company with a Belgian office address. As a director of company, investors and entrepreneurs can easily qualify for the Belgian residence permit under paid activity. It takes 3-4 months to get the residence permit issued to investors who form their own company.

The Belgium Business Residence Program (BBRP) has no minimum residency requirements and does not require you to stay or live in Belgium, but investors and entrepreneurs can still apply for permanent residence or citizenship after a five year residence period. This is especially advantageous to investors who have businesses in other countries and who wish to visit Europe visa-free, without any physical residency requirements.

Residence for investors in Belgium is considered on a case-by-case basis, although it seems an investment of at least €350,000 to €500,000 is needed. Payments are made in stages; the first year can easily cost up to €200,000 the second year can cost up to €100,000, and so on. We therefore, ask our clients to have at least €300,000 to €350,000 prior to starting the Belgian programme. Most of the fees associated with Belgian programme are business expenses; legal fees, rent, accounting expenses, taxes, employee social contributions etc.

Core Advantages

- Belgium is a French, Flemish, German and Dutch speaking country and is ideally placed in the heart of Europe. Belgium also has a very high rate of English proficiency.
- Residents of Belgium may travel freely in any of the 26 Schengen member states visa-free, for stays of up to 60 days.
- There are no language requirements and no physical residency requirements, so long as a suitable investment is made or a suitable business venture undertaken.
- Permanent residency can be acquired after 5 years of living in Belgium. Citizenship may also be applied for. Although there is a language requirement for naturalisation, there are no restrictions on dual citizenship.
- No specific business experience is needed for the programme.
- Belgium has an excellent health system and a highly-regarded education system.
- The programme is open to nationals of any non-EU/EEA state.
- Family members, including a spouse and dependent children, may accompany the investor to Belgium.



Naturalisation

It usually takes about 5 years to receive citizenship and a passport from the Belgian authorities. Usually a citizenship application can be submitted after 5 years of residence in Belgium but it usually takes 6 years to receive a passport because of lengthy processing times. Applicants are required to satisfy the language requirement in French, German or Dutch when applying for citizenship. The Belgian passport grants full EU citizenship, which means the bearer is entitled to travel, live, study and work anywhere in the EU.

Core Advantages

- Belgium is a member of the European Union. Investors and their families are free to live, work, study and do business in any EU member state and in Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland. The Belgian passport is one of the most valuable passports in the world and Belgian passport holders enjoy visa-free entry to 156 countries and territories.
- Although applicants must prove a measure of integration and prove proficiency in one of Belgium's three languages, there are no restrictions on dual citizenship and previous citizenships do not need to be revoked.
- Belgium has excellent health services and a world-class education system. New citizens may access

these services on the same footing as any other EU citizen.

- The family of the applicant can also receive Belgian citizenship, and the citizenship can be passed hereditarily.

Eligibility for Application

1. Applicants must produce a birth certificate, translated and notarised if necessary.
2. Applicants must have resided in Belgium legally for at least 5 years and must be registered in the population register.
3. Applicants must show adequate knowledge of at least one of the official languages of Belgium - Dutch, French or German.
4. Applicants should show satisfactory integration in, and engagement with, Belgian economic life and society.

The Freedom of a Belgian Passport

Belgium has visa-free, visa-on-arrival, or e-visa arrangements with 156 countries and regions, including all EU member states, Australia, Canada, India, the USA, South Africa, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Belgian citizens may travel, live, work and study in any of the EU member states, without restrictions.





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As part of Kylin Prime Group, Ousheng Capital is an investment portfolio management company, and an AIFM investment manager of regulated funds. Ousheng Capital provides a range of services for investors with regard to overseas investment, asset placement and global residency solutions. Our professional and dedicated team has many years of successful experience in fund management, legal advisory, and the provision of investment opportunities for globally-minded investors. Through our combination of industry-specific expertise and deep local knowledge, we are able to provide investors with a uniquely professional, tailored and reliable service.

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