# Acquiring citizenship of Armenia

This post addresses the most frequently asked questions associated with the process of acquiring citizenship with focus on obtaining citizenship by Armenian origin (descent).

## Grounds for acquisition of Armenian citizenship.

According to the Armenian legislation, any capable person (for incapacitated persons the law provides a separate regulation) who has reached the age of 18 can apply for citizenship of the Republic of Armenia. The following general requirements of acquiring Armenian citizenship are established:

* legal residence in Armenia for the last 3 years,
* good knowledge of Armenian,
* acquaintance with the Constitution of Armenia.

In addition to the general procedure, the law also establishes simplified procedures for obtaining citizenship in certain cases. Particularly, the procedure is simplified for certain category of persons:

1. for ethnic Armenians,
2. for persons who have special merits to the RA and incapacitated persons whose guardian is a citizen of the RA,
3. for spouses of Armenian citizens, who prior to submitting an application for citizenship of the RA, has been married to a citizen of the RA for the last two years (the marriage should be registered in accordance with the procedure established by law) and during these two years, have lived in the RA for at least 365 days or has a child who is a citizen of the RA,
4. for children of former Armenian citizens or who were born in the RA (they must apply within 3 years after reaching adulthood – 18 years),
5. for persons who have abandoned the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia after 1 January 1995 upon his or her request,
6. for persons recognized as refugees in the RA or stateless persons residing in the RA.

**In the cases established from the third to the sixth points above, the requirements of legal residence and knowledge of Armenian do not apply.**

**Furthermore, in the first two cases the citizenship of the RA may be granted without any of the three requirements.**

Nevertheless, it should be noted that at the moment a legislation draft is being discussed (not adopted yet) which is aimed at changing the procedure for obtaining citizenship based on Armenian origin which will relatively complicate the process. It is planned to establish as a mandatory requirement the circumstance of residing or staying in the Republic of Armenia on a legal basis for at least 60 days during the last 2 years.

## Documents necessary for acquisition of citizenship.

Regarding the package of the necessary documents for acquisition of RA citizenship based on Armenian origin, the following would be required:

1. Application-questionnaire filled out in Armenian (the application is presented as Attachment to this Blog).
2. Passport of the foreign state, apostilled or legalized\* together with a notarized translation of only the pages with a photo and personal data of a person into Armenian (front page spread).
3. Photos 3.5x4.5 color, matte - 6 pcs.
4. Birth certificate and its copy. In case that the person was not born in Armenia, the certificate needs to be apostilled or legalized.\*
5. marriage certificate and its copy; (only if the applicant is married and carries the surname of the spouse,)
6. spouse's passport, apostilled or legalized\* and its copy;
7. A document confirming the payment of the state fee, in the amount of 1000 AMD.
8. **A document confirming Armenian origin (either of them):**
* **A baptism certificate issued by the church establishments referred to in Government Decision N 1390 with an indication on the Armenian origin of the baptised person or the parent thereof; the certificate must be approved by the RA embassy or consular institution in a foreign country: depending on the status of the church that has issued the certificate, a further certification by the dioceses/church establishment listed in Government Decision N 1390 is needed, where it is mentioned that the church belongs to that diocese/church establishment. If the Church is Apostolic, instead of the previous document, it can also be submitted a document issued by Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin Armenian Apostolic Church confirming that the church belongs to one of the dioceses listed in the Government decision.**
* **A document approved by an apostille or consular certification, certifying Armenian origin, issued by the competent authorities of a foreign state.**
* **Other documents confirming Armenian origin, approved by the diplomatic mission or consular office of the Republic of Armenia in foreign countries.**
* **Birth certificate of a parent (grandfather, grandmother, sister, or brother) or other identity document with a note of Armenian origin. Another document certifying Armenian origin may be a birth certificate of a brother or sister with whom there is a joint parent, if the Armenian origin is due to the Armenian origin of their joint parent.**

Along with the documents provided for in the previous paragraph, a document issued by the competent state bodies substantiating the kinship (i.e. how the family member who has the Armenian origin is related to the applicant) of the given person shall be submitted.

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| \* IMPORTANT: All the official documents that are issued by foreign state authorities shall be either apostilled or legalized. Particularly, if the respective country is a member to Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents, **also known as the Apostille Convention,** the document shall be apostilled. If the country is not a member to the Apostille Convention, the documents shall be legalized. Subsequently, these documents shall be translated into Armenian and verified by a notary. |

## Procedure of granting the citizenship.

The documents shall be submitted by the applicant **personally**, there are 2 possible options:

* submission of the documents to the embassy or consular office of the RAin a foreign country or
* submission of the documents in the RA to the competent authority.

Citizenship of the RA is granted and terminated by presidential decree. The state fee for the acquisition of citizenship of the RA is charged **1000 AMD.**

As for the deadlines, in accordance with the amendments made to the law, from June 22 of 2022, the deadline for consideration of applications is **90** working days.

If the applicant has harmed, or there are reasonable suspicions that may harm, by their activities, the state security and public safety, public order, public health and morals, others’ rights and freedoms, honour and good reputation, the application may be rejected. Furthermore, a rejection of an application for getting the RA citizenship does not need to be substantiated.

In case of rejection, the application may be submitted again after one year of the day of rejection according to the proceedings provided by the law.