

BLS GUIDE TO RESIDENCY & CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT

You are ready to invest and what are my next steps?

PHASE I: IDENTIFY YOUR MIGRATION GOALS, EXPECTATIONS, AND INVESTMENT CAPACITY

The immigration process varies depending on the investment programme chosen and the type of programme you choose, and also may vary in accordance with your migration goals, expectations and access to the funds.

Processing time is also a very important factor to consider: the approval of some programmes can be as fast as four weeks, three to six months, or longer.

You should start by defining your immigration goals. Why do you want to immigrate to another country?

Some possible reasons include starting a business, providing better education for your children, accessing better healthcare, safeguarding your assets, or any other reasons.

1. Ask yourself the question? Do you simply want to take advantage of global mobility that comes with having a strong second passport that provides visa-free travel to over 100+ countries?

2. Other reasons may be to avoid foreign policy blow back, or simply having a Plan B for the security of yourself and your family.

3. The next step involves setting expectations for your immigration. Having clear expectations will allow you to choose the right investment visa programme. Here are some questions that will help you set your expectations.

Do you want to become a permanent resident of the country?

Are you seeking full residency rights or a living visa is sufficient?

Is quick, fast track migration a priority for you and your family?

Do you want to maintain your business in your home country? Do you want to invest into a business in your new country of destination?

How frequent do you need to travel to your home nation to manage your business?

The most important question is to have a legitimate source of funds for a residency or citizenship to move forward with the investment programme. You or your family must need to understand the financial implication of the entire process before proceeding with the procedure.

PHASE II: COMPARE THE DIFFERENT INVESTMENT IMMIGRATION PROGRAMMES

Start by preparing a list of investment immigration programmes available. You have to consider factors such as processing time, investment amount, risk and any restrictions associated with the programme (such as travel or relocation limitations).

Compare different programmes based on factors relevant to you and your family. It will include processing period, employment opportunities (for the spouse or family members), travel restrictions, permanent residency filing and approval process, investment requirements, and any renewal guidelines associated with a programme.

Going through these phases will help applicants identify programmes that are suitable for their families, have feasible investment requirements, and offer the best opportunities. Always remember, you should only engage with an authorized immigration agent or developer at this stage.

Carry out the right due diligence. Try to speak to an investor and get first-hand experience.

PHASE III: DO I GO WITH AN APPROVED AGENT OR DIRECT TO A DEVELOPER FOR REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT

Have you ever asked yourself, why deal with an agent when you could deal directly with a developer?

Certain Citizenship programmes require the investor to make an application via an approved government agent, this is the case with Caribbean citizenship programmes. These are vetted agents that have gone through a rigorous process to obtain a licence.

There are several reasons why you should continue to engage with a reputable agent, such as local knowledge, taxation and many other factors.

If one is investing in real estate, it's also important to get a full understanding of the developers' credentials. Don't be afraid to speak to the developer.

PHASE IV: CONSULT WITH AN IMMIGRATION APPROVED AGENT / LAWYER TO PROCEED

The final step is to engage an immigration lawyer from a Government-authorized firm for your application.

Working with experienced immigration professionals has multiple benefits. These professionals can help you through the financial pre-planning, programme selection, and application process. Their experience allows them to offer solutions for investors on any potential issues the applicant might face.

Only lawyers and attorneys have the statutory right to hold your funds into escrow and maintain a professional insurance.

Lawyers and attorneys have a statutory duty to always act in your own interest and provide you all the necessary information, whether you asked for it or not.

