

## **Antigua and Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Programme**

Antigua and Barbuda is an independent state in the Eastern Caribbean Sea (two major inhabited islands, Antigua and Barbuda, and a number of smaller islands) and member of the Commonwealth, the United Nations, the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) and the Organisation of American States (OAS). Its about 365 beaches are a paradise and sometimes said to be one of the most beautiful places in the world. Consequently, tourism is the key economic sector of the state (60 % of the Gross Domestic Product - GDP), with sugar cane farming and finance services following immediately thereafter.

The islands were first discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493 and later became a British Settlement.

Our JEEVES GROUP CONSULTANTS LTD of Bahnhofstrasse 7, FL-9494 Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein, provides, in its capacity as authorized representative, together with the local licensed agent with whom we co-operate, an all-inclusive service to our clients including reception upon arrival in Antigua and Barbuda and accompanying the client to the various investment opportunities (properties, businesses).

### **I. Citizenship in Antigua and Barbuda:**

The Citizenship by Investment Programme for Antigua and Barbuda was established following parliamentary assent to the Antigua and Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Act which was gazetted on 11 April 2013 and has come into force on the 4 September 2013 by Order of the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda. The programme was officially launched on 10 October 2013. The key facts are as follows:

- Citizenship for the applicant and all eligible family members; deprivation of citizenship may occur if the citizen does not spend at least 5 days in Antigua and Barbuda during the period of five calendar years after having obtained citizenship and they will not be entitled to repayment of any investment, contribution or purchase price made by them in their original application for citizenship.
- Dual Citizenship is permitted and without any need for the applicant to reside in Antigua and Barbuda.
- Passports will be issued to the applicant and all eligible family members. Each passport is valid for a period of five years and will be considered for renewal subject to the recipient having spent a total of five days in Antigua and Barbuda, since gaining citizenship and within the 5 year period.

- Full Residency Status and the right to work in Antigua and Barbuda.
- Visa-Free Travel to over 130 countries. An up to date list of those countries for which visas are required can be obtained from the website the government of Antigua and Barbuda has established for the Citizenship by Investment Programme which can be found under:

<http://www.cip.gov.ag/visa-free-countries-list/>

Should a visa be required, it is also quite easy to obtain.

## II. Procedure:

- We recommend that applicants employ the services of our local licensed agent in Antigua and Barbuda to prepare and expedite their application. He reviews the application and arranges to submit the same in person along with the required payments due. He also acts as point of contact with the Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) and will be advised of the decision outcome of all applications.
- As part of the standard procedure the applicant will be subject to a thorough background check. Comprehensive and diligent completion of all the necessary forms and collection of the supporting documents is a requirement for smooth and prompt clearance. There may be occasions when additional information or documentation is requested and/or a personal interview with the applicant may be required. The CIU will notify the applicant via the local licensed agent in Antigua and Barbuda should an interview be required.
- Granting of citizenship is at the sole discretion of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, and therefore there is no guarantee that an applicant is approved. However, as most applicants are carefully screened prior to submitting an application, applications are rarely refused.
- As per the provisions of the Act, within three months of the submission of an application, the CIU notifies in writing the Agent on behalf of the main applicant, that the application has been (a) approved, (b) denied or (c) delayed for cause and is still being processed.

## II. Investment Options and the requirements linked with the same:

There are three Investment Options available whereby one of them needs to be chosen and which are herewith described briefly:

### 1. Contribution to the National Development Fund (NDF)

Minimum non-refundable amount of USD 200'000.00 for a single applicant or a family of 4 or less respectively USD 250'000.00 for a family of 5 or more. The contribution is a one-time payment to the NDF which is a non-profit fund that is subject to parliamentary oversight by way of a six monthly report to be presented to the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda in sufficient detail to allow for transparency and accountability. The fund is also audited by an internationally recognized accounting firm. It was established for the purpose of funding government sponsored projects, including public-private partnerships and approved charitable investments.

The main applicant may include spouse, dependent children and dependent parents over 65 years of age within the application with no additional NDF contribution required.

Upon submission of the application the due diligence fees and 10 % of the government processing fee are falling due. Upon receipt of a letter of approval the applicant will be asked to pay the balance of the government processing fee and his USD 200'000.00 respectively USD 250'000.00 contribution which will be paid separately to the CIU escrow account within a 30 day period and the Passport Fees.

Once received, a certificate of registration of Citizenship will be issued for both the primary applicant and their family members who will be submitted to the passport office with their passport application and any accompanying documentation. The applicant's authorized agent/representative will forward his/her/their Passports and Citizenship Certificate document to him/her/them.

On the first occasion that the applicant visits Antigua and Barbuda he can take the oath or affirmation of allegiance or he can visit an Embassy, High Commission or Consular Office of Antigua and Barbuda to fulfil the requirement to take the oath or affirmation of allegiance.

## **2. Investment into one of the approved real estate projects:**

Investment of at least USD 400'000.00 into one of the approved real estate projects and to be held for a minimum period of five years. Payment of the government processing fees and due diligence fees is necessary, too. Two or more applicants who have executed a binding sale and purchase agreement may apply jointly for citizenship by investment provided that each applicant contributes the minimum investment of USD 400'000.00.

Beneficial ownership of real estate is permissible through a non-profit company provided that the company has issued all of its authorized shares to the applicant(s), is established and is in good standing under the laws of Antigua and Barbuda, is not an exempt or offshore entity and submits irrefutable evidence as to its beneficial ownership, which evidence shall be certified by the Registrar of Companies in Antigua and Barbuda.

The application procedure under this option involves the purchase of real estate; this can lengthen the processing time depending on the chosen property. The real estate cannot be re-sold until five years after the purchase, unless purchasing an alternate officially approved real estate property in Antigua and Barbuda.

Information on real estate in the respective governmentally approved areas and projects is available upon demand, this as the government from time to time identifies approved development areas (which means that there can be changes from time to time).

Upon submission of the application the applicant will be asked to pay the due diligence fees and 10 % of the government processing fee. On receipt of a letter of approval he/she/they will be asked to pay the balance of the government processing fee and all sums due to the developer under the sale and purchase agreement to enable title to be registered in his/her/their name and allow for implementation of the proposed real estate investment in accordance with the guidelines established by the CIU.

Once received, a certificate of registration will be issued for both the primary applicant and his family members which will then have to be submitted to the passport office with their application and any accompanying documentation.

The applicant's authorized agent/representative will advise him/her of dates available to either:

- Visit Antigua and Barbuda to collect your passport and to take the oath or affirmation of allegiance

or

- Visit an Embassy, High Commission or Consular Office of Antigua and Barbuda to collect your passport and to take the oath or affirmation of allegiance.

### **3. Investment into an eligible business:**

The two business investment options are:

- Where a person proposes to make an investment in an approved business of at least USD 1'500'000.00 on their own behalf.
- At least two persons propose to make a joint investment in such an approved business totaling at least USD 5'000'000.00, and each of those persons individually propose to contribute at least USD 400'000.00 to the joint investment an application or application for Citizenship by Investment may be submitted on his, her or their behalf through an agent.

Any potential applicant(s) under this investment option is/are advised to make contact with the Antigua & Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA) to discuss their proposal.

Once approval of the business investment has been given, the CIU will consider applications for citizenship. The application process is similar to that of the NDF, namely, upon submission of the application the applicant will be asked to pay the due diligence fees and 10 % of the government processing fees. Upon receipt of a letter of approval the applicant will be asked to pay the balance of the government processing fees and his business investment amount within a 30 day period. Due to the potential varied nature of such investments any escrow agreement will be negotiated between the parties. Transfer of the investment sums must be made within a 30 day period from issuance of an approval letter.

Once received, a certificate of registration will be issued for the both the primary applicant and their family members which will then have to be submitted to the passport office with their application and any accompanying documentation.

The applicant's authorized agent/representative will advise the applicant of dates available to either:

- Visit Antigua and Barbuda to collect the applicant's passport and to take the oath or affirmation of allegiance

or

- Visit an Embassy, High Commission or Consular Office of Antigua and Barbuda to collect the applicant's passport and to take the oath or affirmation of allegiance.

### III. Schedule of Government Fees:

#### a) For the Investment Option: The National Development Fund (NDF)

	For a single applicant	For a family of up to four persons	For a family of more than four persons
Processing fees	USD 25'000.00	USD 25'000.00	USD 25'000.00 for a family of up to four persons with incremental payments of USD 15'000.00 for each additional dependent.
Due Diligence	USD 7'500.00	USD 7'500.00 + USD 7'500.00 for spouse, USD 2'000.00 per dependent of 12 to 17, USD 4'000.00 per dependent of 18 or above	USD 7'500.00 + USD 7'500.00 for spouse, USD 2'000.00 per dependent of 12 to 17, USD 4'000.00 per dependent of 18 or above

**b) For the Investment Options: The Real Estate and Business Investment options**

	For a single applicant	For a family of up to four persons	For a family of more than four persons
Processing fees	USD 50'000.00	USD 50'000.00	USD 50'000.00 for a family of up to four persons with incremental payments of USD 15'000.00 for each additional dependent.
Due Diligence	USD 7'500.00	USD 7'500.00 + USD 7'500.00 for spouse, USD 2'000.00 per dependent of 12 to 17, USD 4'000.00 per dependent of 18 or above	USD 7'500.00 + USD 7'500.00 for spouse, USD 2'000.00 per dependent of 12 to 17, USD 4'000.00 per dependent of 18 or above

**c) Fees applicable for all options: Due Diligence and passport fees**

Principal applicant	USD 7'500.00
Spouse	USD 7'500.00
Dependent child aged 0 to 11	USD 0.00
Dependent child aged 12 to 17	USD 2'000.00
Dependent aged 18 to 25	USD 4'000.00
Dependent parent aged 65 and above	USD 4'000.00
Passport fee – each person	USD 300.00

**IV. Other costs:**

**a) Costs for processing and coordination:**

USD 50'000.00 to USD 75'000.00

**b) Separate Costs:**

They depend on the individual circumstances and the investment option chosen (see above).

## V. Documents required for the Application:

1. Application for Registration as a Citizen of Antigua and Barbuda (Form AB1)
2. Photograph & Signature Certificate (Form AB2)
3. Medical Certificate (Form AB3) including original results of HIV test (HIV test is required for all persons applying for citizenship including children). Note that the HIV test results must not be older than 3 months.
4. Certified copy of your current passport(s) showing name, photo, citizenship/nationality, date and place of issue, expiry date, passport number, issuing country and signature.
5. Certified copy of your current national identity card(s)
6. Eight original passport-size color photos of yourself taken within the past 6 months. The photos must be
  - A full front close up view of the head and shoulders with the head covering 70 % to 80 % of the photograph, ears showing and hairline visible above the forehead
  - Without sunglasses. Tinted prescription glasses may be worn as long as eyes are still visible
  - Show you looking straight at the camera, your eyes open, no hair in your eyes and without any head covering
  - Taken against a plain white background without shadows
  - Be taken with a neutral expression (not laughing or frowning) with your mouth closed
  - A true image and not altered in any way, with a plain, light colored background, clear, sharp and in focus
  - Approximately 35 x 45 mm in size, of good quality color and on high quality paper
  - The photos must be the same in all aspects, and one of the photos must be certified. One of the eight photographs must be attached to form AB2 and one to form AB3.
7. Original excerpt of full birth record or certified copy of full birth certificate (i. e. a birth document that also includes your parent's details, or a household register, family book etc.)
8. All applicants aged 18 and older must provide an original police certificate from any country where they have lived for more than 6 months over the past 10 years, and all countries of citizenship. The only exception is if the applicants can provide satisfactory evidence that they have did not reside in a country of citizenship.

Police certificates must be less than six months old at the time you lodge your application. If a police certificate is not available, a separate statutory declaration must be provided, detailing the attempts made to obtain a police certificate. It should also state whether the applicant (and any accompanying family members have been found guilty, convicted of, or charged with offences against the law in that country). The statutory declaration should be supported by other information attesting to your character.



In some countries the police authorities will only send this certificate directly to the foreign government requesting the certificate. In this case, the certificate should be sent to the following address:

Citizenship by Investment Unit  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, ABI Financial Centre  
Redcliffe Street  
St. John's  
Antigua and Barbuda

Certain other countries will require a Police Certificate Request Letter from Antigua and Barbuda. The Licensed Agent handling the applicant's file can obtain this from the CIU and forward it to the applicant for submission to the relevant police authorities.

Applicants should request their police certificate prior to making their application for Citizenship.

9. Certified copy of military records(s) (if applicable)
10. Certified copy of proof of name change (if applicable, i.e. deed poll, adoption papers etc.)
11. Any documents required as evidence, explanation or otherwise in support of any of the answers given or statements made in this form

**The following forms and documents are required only from the main applicant:**

12. One Investment Confirmation/NDF Escrow Agreement (Form AB4)
13. **In case of the real-estate option:** copy of duly executed real-estate contract (Purchase and Sales Agreement), copy of duly executed escrow agreement. If closing on the property has already taken place, evidence of title transfer (either deed or certificate of title) and confirmation of all funds having been deposited in escrow account
14. One Agent Form (Form AB5)
15. One original bank reference letter issued by an internationally recognized bank, not older than six months
16. One original professional reference (e.g. from an attorney, Notary Public, chartered accountant, or other professional of similar standing), not older than 6 months
17. One original document of evidence of residential address (e.g. certified copy of a recent utility bill or bank statement showing full name and address, or written confirmation from a bank, attorney, chartered accountant or Notary Public), not older than 3 months

18. The following documents are required **only if applicable**

- Original excerpt of marriage record or certified copy of marriage certificate(s) (if applying jointly with partner)
- Certified copy of divorce document(s) (if applicable)
  
- A sworn affidavit of support for each dependent (excluding spouse) over 18 years of age
  
- Written confirmation from an accredited university or college of further education confirming the applicant's enrolment where a dependent aged 18-25 years is in full time education and applying with the main applicant

#### **VI. Certification requirements:**

Where a document is required to be produced in support of the application for Citizenship by Investment, it must be certified and authenticated in accordance with the law of the jurisdiction from where the document originates.

The person certifying the document must provide the following information; **full name in capitals, the capacity in which the person is acting, residential or business address, telephone number and e-mail address.**

Where a notary public certifies a document to be a true copy of the original, that document must be authenticated by:

- a) An apostille in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 abolishing the requirement for legislation for foreign public documents, in the case of a jurisdiction that is a party to that convention.
- b) Validation of the certificate of the notary public by the appropriate government department in the case of a jurisdiction that is not a party to that convention.

## VII. In case of questions:

In case of questions please get in touch with

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