

Residency in Mauritius

Residency in Mauritius can be attained by the following means: incorporating a Category 1 Global Business Company, the Integrated Resort Scheme and under the recently enacted law "The Business Facilitation Act" 2006, permanent resident status will be granted to any non-citizen investor, self employed or retired persons within the limits set by the law.

A. Category 1 Global Business Company

A Category 1 Global Business Company (GBL1) incorporated under the laws of Mauritius is entitled to working permits for two of its expatriate staffs. Each of these can also entail the residency for the expatriate and his family.

B. Real Estate Development Scheme: Integrated Resort Scheme (IRS) and Real Estate Scheme (RES)

The Integrated Resort Scheme (IRS) has been introduced to attract high net-worth non-citizens including retired persons who are looking for an alternative place of residence to invest a minimum of US\$ 500,000 in the acquisition of a luxury villa on a plot of land up to 0.5276 hectares (5276 m²) or 1.25 arpents.

The sum of US\$ 500,000 includes the fixed duty of US\$ 70,000 payable for registration of the immovable property. Any person who wishes to apply under this scheme must address his application to the Managing Director of the Board of Investment (BOI). The person must also fill in the relevant forms to apply for status of resident in respect of himself, his spouse and dependents. The amount of investment has to be transferred in US\$ and the transfer made through any reputable bank listed in the banking Almanac recognized by the Bank of Mauritius.

The Real Estate Scheme (RES) allows the construction of luxury villas which can be sold below the US\$ 500,000 threshold, and the foreigner purchasing a property under this scheme will be granted permanent residency provided they buy a property worth at least US\$ 500,000.

C. Permanent Residence Status

The Business Facilitation Act 2006 facilitates the setting up of businesses and the acquisition of properties by foreigners. Any application shall be processed within three working days.

Under this Act, An occupational permit will be granted to any non-citizen, investor, self employed, professional or a retired non-citizen for a period of three years upon registration with the Board of Investment (BOI) as per following criteria:

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Table 1: Criteria for registration with the BOI for an occupation permit/Residency in Mauritius

1. Investor	Annual turnover exceeding 3 million rupees
2. Self-employed	Annual income exceeding 600,000 rupees
3. Professional	Monthly salary exceeding 30,000 rupees
4. Retired non-citizen	Annual transfer of at least 40,000 US\$ or its equivalent in convertible foreign currency

Permanent resident status for a period of ten years will be granted after three years of occupational permit to any investor, self employed after satisfying the criteria set below:

Table 2: Criteria for eligibility for Permanent Resident Permit

1. Investor	Annual turnover exceeding 15 million rupees
2. Self-employed Non-citizen	Annual income exceeding 3 million rupees
3. Professional	Monthly salary exceeding 150,000 rupees

Any retired non-citizen holder of a residency permit, shall at the expiry of a period of three years of his residence permit, and upon satisfying the criteria set in table 1 and on application made, be granted the status of permanent resident.

Upon obtaining the permanent resident status, they will be eligible to buy residential property not only under the IRS/ RES scheme but any villa, apartment, penthouse etc in Mauritius.

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