



# ST. LUCIA

## Citizenship by Investment Program

St. Lucia is a sovereign island country in the West Indies in the eastern Caribbean Sea on the boundary with the Atlantic Ocean. It covers a land area of 617 km<sup>2</sup> and reported a population of 165,595 in the 2010 census. Its capital is Castries. Blessed by nature, St Lucia has geographic and cultural riches enough to embarrass far bigger nations. Notwithstanding, it remains a down-to-earth place that wears its breathtaking beauty with nonchalance.

The history of the country has been influenced by the native Carib people as well as Africans, the British, and the French. Its official language is English; however, locals also speak French Creole. Known as the beauty of Saint Lucia, the national parks, botanical gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a volcano are the most attractive places to visitors and tourists whenever they travel to.

Saint Lucia is a member of the United Nations and several regional partnerships, including the Commonwealth of Nations, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The economy of Saint Lucia relies primarily on the sale of bananas, and the income generated from tourism, with additional input from small-scale manufacturing. Saint Lucia is one of the Windward Islands, a group of islands located off the southeast coast of North America.

Main industries: bananas, oils, beer made from malt  
GDP growth: : 3.9% (2016) 3.7% (2017); 1.5% (2018) 3.4% (2019);

Ease-of-doing-business rank: 91st (2018)

Fiscal year: calendar year

Currency: East Caribbean dollar (XCD)

Inflation (CPI): 1.992% (2018)

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## Requirements

The St. Lucia Citizenship by Investment Program is regulated by Citizenship-by-Investment Act No. 14 of 2015. § 33 of this act established the Saint Lucia National Economic Fund, which receives the qualifying contributions of donations from the program. These funds will be used by the government under the national development agenda.

The program requires applicants to make a significant economic contribution to the country. In exchange, and subject to a stringent application process and due diligence checks, the applicants and their families are granted full citizenship. The main applicant must be at least 18 years of age to qualify, meet the application requirements, and select one of the following options:

**01** Make a non-refundable contribution to the National Economic Fund (NEF) with a minimum of **US\$ 100,000**.

**02** Purchase of real estate with a minimum value of **US\$ 300,000** from an approved real estate development, which must be held for a minimum period of five years. Additional costs may also be incurred depending on the real estate developer.

**03** Participation in an approved enterprise project (as set out in the regulations) with a minimum contribution of **US\$ 3,500,000** plus the creation of no less than three permanent jobs. Alternatively, a joint contribution of **US\$ 6,000,000** (with each applicant committing a minimum of **US\$ 1,000,000**) plus the creation of no fewer than six permanent jobs.

**04** Investment in non-interest bearing government bonds of **US\$ 500,000** for single applicant, which must be held for five years.



All qualifying dependents must have a clean personal background with no criminal record and not be under any criminal investigation (other than in respect of a minor offense). A person that

is deemed a potential security risk or who is or has been involved in any activity that is likely to bring disrepute to St. Lucia shall not be approved for citizenship.



# Qualifying dependents

include:

- The applicant's spouse including those married within five years of the initial application.
- Children younger than 18 or children born within five years of the initial application.
- Adult children up to the age of 25, who are fully supported by the applicant and in full time attendance at a recognized institution of higher learning.
- A child of any age who is physically or mentally challenged and fully supported by the applicant.
- A parent of the applicant or their spouse who is over the age of 65 and habitually lives with and is fully supported by the applicant.
- A parent of any age who is physically or mentally challenged and fully supported by the applicant.







## Procedures and Time Frame

The application process should take no longer than three months from submission of the application to issuance of the certificate of citizenship, assuming there are no areas of concern with the application. Under the real estate option, the time frame may vary depending on the development.

The Citizenship-by-Investment Board, which provides oversight to a dedicated citizenship-by-investment unit (CIU), will consider an application for citizenship and its outcome may be to either grant, deny, or delay for cause. The average processing time from receipt of an application to notification of the outcome is three months. Where, in exceptional cases, it is expected that the processing time will be longer than four months, GIS will inform the applicant of the reason for the anticipated delay.

A citizenship-by-investment application will be submitted in electronic and printed form by GIS on behalf of the applicant. All applications must be completed in English.

All requisite supporting documents must be attached to an application before it can be processed by the CIU. All applications must be accompanied by the relevant nonrefunda processing and due

diligence fees for the principal applicant, their spouse, and each qualifying dependent. Where an application has been granted, the CIU will notify GIS that the qualifying funds and requisite government administration fees must be paid before the certificate of citizenship can be granted. Where an application has been denied, the applicant may, in writing, request a review by the minister.

The principal applicant must remit the required funds for the qualifying option within 90 calendar days after notice of approval of their application. In the case of the purchase of approved real estate or participation in an enterprise project, the principal applicant must pay the government administrative fees due within 90 full days after notice of approval of their application.

A successful applicant shall sign the oath or affirmation of allegiance before an attorney-at-law, notary royal, or notary public. The minister may, by order, revoke a grant of citizenship in exceptional circumstances as may be deemed necessary.

## Dual citizenship

There are no restrictions on dual citizenship in Saint Lucia.

## Taxation

### Personal income tax

	ST. LUCIA Tax Resident	ST. LUCIA Non-resident
Condition	More than 183 days/ year in the country	Less than 183 days/ year in the country
Dividends Tax	Subject to personal income tax varying from <b>10% to 30%</b>	St. Lucia-source income only
Withholding Tax (Dividends / Interest / Royalties)	Tax exempt	
Inheritance, Estate, and Gift Taxes	No tax applied	
Capital gains from the selling of shares	No tax applied	

### Residential property tax

The property tax rate for residential property is 0.25% of the open market value. Residential property owners have been granted a three-year exemption from property tax for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

**V.A.T. standard rate:** 12.5%. There is also a 0% rate charged on certain goods and services.

**V.A.T. reduced rate:** 10% applies in respect of the hotel sector and related services.

### Corporate/Company tax

Type of Entities	Corporate Income Tax
Resident entities	30%
Overseas entities	St. Lucia-source income only. The gross amount of such income is liable to 25% withholding tax (WHT), while WHT of 15% applies to interest.



- Visa-free or visa-on-arrival travel to 145 destinations, including Europe's Schengen Area, Hong Kong, Singapore, the UK, and many others.
- No residence or visitation requirements.
- Attractive program and processing costs.
- Dual citizenship recognized.






























## Visa Free Travel

With the 31st rank of Passport Index, Saint Lucia passport will let you freely travel the world without a time-consuming visa and monetary challenge. Enjoy your freedom, global mobility and access to 145 visa-free countries, including the Schengen area of the European Union, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Singapore and many more!

### ASIA












































(\* Visa on arrival \*\* eTA)

 Afghanistan	 Indonesia ✓	 Mongolia	 Sri Lanka ** ✓
 Bangladesh * ✓	 Japan	 Myanmar	 Taiwan ✓
 Bhutan	 Kazakhstan	 Nepal * ✓	 Tajikistan
 Brunei	 Kyrgyzstan	 North Korea	 Thailand
 Cambodia * ✓	 Laos * ✓	 Pakistan ** ✓	 Timor-Leste * ✓
 China	 Macau * ✓	 Philippines ✓	 Turkmenistan
 Hong Kong ✓	 Malaysia ✓	 Singapore ✓	 Uzbekistan
 India	 Maldives * ✓	 South Korea ✓	 Vietnam

\* Refer to the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

## EUROPE

(\* Visa on arrival \*\* eTA)

 Albania	 Finland ✓	 Lithuania ✓	 San Marino ✓
 Andorra ✓	 France ✓	 Luxembourg ✓	 Serbia
 Austria ✓	 Germany ✓	 Malta ✓	 Slovakia ✓
 Belarus	 Gibraltar ✓	 Moldova ✓	 Slovenia ✓
 Belgium ✓	 Greece ✓	 Monaco ✓	 Spain ✓
 Bosnia and Herzegovina ✓	 Greenland ✓	 Montenegro ✓	 Sweden ✓
 Bulgaria ✓	 Hungary ✓	 Netherlands ✓	 Switzerland ✓
 Croatia ✓	 Iceland ✓	 North Mac...	 Ukraine
 Cyprus ✓	 Ireland ✓	 Norway ✓	 United King... ✓
 Czech Rep... ✓	 Italy ✓	 Poland ✓	 Vatican City ✓
 Denmark ✓	 Kosovo ✓	 Portugal ✓	
 Estonia ✓	 Latvia ✓	 Romania ✓	
 Faroe Islan... ✓	 Liechtenste... ✓	 Russian Fe...	



## AFRICA






















(\* Visa on arrival \*\* eTA)

 Algeria	 Egypt *	 Malawi	 Sierra Leone * ✓
 Angola	 Equatorial ...	 Mali	 Somalia * ✓
 Benin	 Eritrea	 Mauritania * ✓	 South Africa
 Botswana ✓	 Eswatini (S... ✓	 Mauritius ✓	 South Sudan
 Burkina Faso	 Ethiopia	 Mayotte ✓	 St. Helena * ✓
 Burundi	 Gabon	 Morocco	 Sudan
 Cameroon	 Gambia ✓	 Mozambique * ✓	 Tanzania ✓
 Cape Verde... * ✓	 Ghana	 Namibia	 Togo * ✓
 Central Afri...	 Guinea	 Niger	 Tunisia ✓
 Chad	 Guinea-Bis... * ✓	 Nigeria	 Uganda * ✓
 Comores Is... * ✓	 Kenya ✓	 Reunion ✓	 Zambia ✓
 Congo (De...	 Lesotho ✓	 Rwanda * ✓	 Zimbabwe ✓
 Congo (Rep.)	 Liberia	 Sao Tome ...	
 Cote d'Ivoir...	 Libya	 Senegal ✓	
 Djibouti	 Madagascar * ✓	 Seychelles * ✓	



























## OCEANIA

(\* Visa on arrival \*\* eTA)

 American S...	 Kiribati ✓	 Niue ✓	 Tonga * ✓
 Australia	 Marshall Isl...	 Northern M...	 Tuvalu * ✓
 Cook Islands ✓	 Micronesia ✓	 Palau Islan... * ✓	 Vanuatu ✓
 Fiji ✓	 Nauru	 Papua New...	
 French Poly... ✓	 New Caled... ✓	 Samoa * ✓	
 Guam	 New Zealand	 Solomon Is... * ✓	


























## CARIBBEAN

(\* Visa on arrival \*\* eTA)

 Anguilla ✓	 British Virgi... ✓	 French Wes... ✓	 St. Kitts an... ✓
 Antigua an... ✓	 Cayman Isl... ✓	 Grenada ✓	 St. Maarten ✓
 Aruba ✓	 Cuba ✓	 Haiti ✓	 St. Vincent ... ✓
 Bahamas ✓	 Curacao ✓	 Jamaica ✓	 Trinidad an... ✓
 Barbados ✓	 Dominica ✓	 Montserrat ✓	 Turks and ... ✓
 Bonaire; St.... ✓	 Dominican ... ✓	 Puerto Rico	 US Virgin Is...



















## AMERICAS

(\* Visa on arrival \*\* eTA)

 Argentina ✓	 Colombia ✓	 Guyana ✓	 Suriname ✓
 Belize ✓	 Costa Rica ✓	 Honduras ✓	 United Stat...
 Bermuda ✓	 Ecuador ✓	 Mexico	 Uruguay
 Bolivia * ✓	 El Salvador ✓	 Nicaragua ✓	 Venezuela ✓
 Brazil	 Falkland Isl...	 Panama ✓	
 Canada	 French Gui... ✓	 Paraguay	
 Chile ✓	 Guatemala ✓	 Peru ✓	

## MIDDLE EAST

(\* Visa on arrival \*\* eTA)

 Armenia * ✓	 Iraq	 Oman	 Turkey
 Azerbaijan	 Israel ✓	 Palestinian ... ✓	 United Arab...
 Bahrain	 Jordan * ✓	 Qatar	 Yemen
 Georgia	 Kuwait	 Saudi Arabia	
 Iran * ✓	 Lebanon	 Syria	

# St. Lucia Citizenship by Investment Process Timeline

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	PHASE 5	PHASE 6
4 days	1 month	2 weeks	1 week	2-3 months	1 month
Preparation Time (approx. 1 month)		Citizenship application Processing Time (approx. 3 - 4 months)			
<p>Pass initial due diligence checks and engage GIS to proceed with application.</p> <p>First deposit payment.</p> <p>Receive Citizenship Application Package</p>	<p>Collect required documents, and complete all government forms.</p> <p>And (if applicable),</p> <p>Select qualifying real estate</p>	<p>Upon completion of application documents, GIS will do a thorough review before submission.</p> <p>During this phase, GIS will request for the application fees to be paid in full, government submission fees and any other fees that may apply.</p>	<p>Funds received will be remitted to the escrow account and our local agent will liaise with the local Government throughout the rest of the application.</p> <p>Under the Real Estate Option, GIS will include the signed Sales &amp; Purchase agreement of selected property into the application.</p>	<p>Local Government Unit will conduct due diligence checks on all applicants and revert with the outcome of the application.</p> <p>The outcome can be one of these three followings:</p> <p>1) Approved 2) Deny 3) Delay of Cause</p>	<p>In the case of an Approval, GIS will request the remaining fees of your application, (in which):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Making the necessary contributions to the National Economic Fund (NEF), or</li> <li>2) Paying the remaining balance of the purchased Real Estate, or</li> <li>3) Making the necessary contributions in an approved Enterprise Project, or</li> <li>4) Investing in non-interest bearing government bonds.</li> </ol> <p>Following that, the Client will: Receive Citizenship documents: Certificate of Naturalization, Permanent Resident Card (if applicable) and a passport.</p>
Payment 1		Payment 2			Payment 3
<p>US\$ 15,000 of GIS Application fee (50%) - Deposit payment</p> <p>US\$ 10,000 deposit of Investment Fee*</p>		<p>GIS application fee: US\$ 15,000</p> <p>Due diligence fee: US\$ 7,500</p> <p>Government processing fee: US\$ 2,000</p> <p>Government administration fee (for approved enterprise project investment &amp; real estate purchase): US\$ 50,000</p>			<p>US\$ 100,000 fund contribution to the NEF OR US\$ 300,000 real estate investment OR US\$ 500,000 investment in non-interest bearing government bonds OR US\$ 3,500,000 contribution in an approved enterprise project *(minus the deposit fee at payment 1)</p>

\* These fees are subject to change. All fees quoted are in US dollars.

\*This document should be used as a guide only. The payments above are valid for one applicant.



*Global Immigration Services (GIS) is a global leader in Global Residence, Citizenship, Alternative Investment and Private Client services around the world. This is accomplished through a bespoke service experience, which simplifies complexity and is supported and sustained by long-term relationships. We commit to delivering a superior service experience to our clients on each and every engagement. Our people, processes and products will help you get the most from their international business.*

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