

Vanuatu Citizenship Development Support Program (DSP)



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Benefits of Vanuatu Citizenship

- Fast processing time - between 8 to 10 weeks

Vanuatu is the fastest processing of any citizenship by investment program in the world and the only one in South Pacific.

- Instant visa free or visa on arrival to more than 93 countries & territories including Hong Kong and Singapore.

You can stay up to 30 days visa free in Singapore.

- Benefits of Commonwealth countries

Commonwealth citizens are entitled to extra assistance from British Embassies if they were to face difficulty in a non-Commonwealth country whilst travelling.

- No income tax, no corporate tax, no capital gains tax, no estate tax, no wealth tax, no withholding tax, no gift tax and no other personal income taxes. Most the taxes are collected from VAT (15%) and through excise taxes.

Vanuatu is business friendly. The opportunity for new entrepreneurial options, internationalization and business expansion on a global scale.

- Safe environment for you and your family

Stable, peaceful country - Voted happiest place on earth in 2024.

- Citizenship is hereditary*

Applicant and his family enjoy full citizenship for life, which can be passed on to future generations by descent.

- Donation contribution only, no other investment required

- No physical residence requirements in Vanuatu during or after the application procedure

- There are no language competency requirements to be met by the applicant(s) when applying for Vanuatu Citizenship.

- Applicants are eligible to apply for a Vanuatu driving license, National ID and Vanuatu birth certificate* (mandatory to apply for Vanuatu passport) upon granting of Vanuatu Citizenship.

*Conditions and additional fees apply. Please refer to the FAQ.

Our Services

AJC is an advisory and accounting firm established in Vanuatu since 2003. We offer a wide range of company services, incorporation of local and offshore companies, corporate secretariat and support to investors seeking to obtain different kinds of licenses issued by Vanuatu Administrations. We also assist individuals applying for Vanuatu Citizenship under the Development Support Program (DSP).

Our clients are located all over the world including China, Hong Kong, Israel, India, Singapore, the United States, Australia, United Kingdom and Russia.

AJC is a company and trust service provider fully recognized by the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission; we are one of the only 15 approved auditors in the country.

We are therefore particularly well suited to provide you with trustable services to fulfil your Citizenship application.

The procedure to apply for citizenship under the DSP program requires a designated agent appointed by the Vanuatu Citizenship Commission.

EC HOLDINGS – a branch of AJC – has been appointed as DSP Agent to accompany you during the whole application process and successfully obtain your citizenship.

AJC offers a better, more trusted and professional services than any other service provider. Through its team of fully English/French/Bichelama trilingual advisors, our services provide you a maximum protection as we manage the money transfers through our locally based trust company.

We are definitely a trusted partner you can count on.

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Australia

Vanuatu

New Zealand

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VANUATU - Country of Opportunity

Vanuatu is a South Pacific Ocean nation made of an archipelago of 83 islands stretching 1300 kilometers.

Multiple waves of colonizers, each speaking a distinct language, migrated to the Melanesian Islands in the millennia preceding European exploration. This settlement patterns accounts for the complex linguistic found on the archipelago to this day. The British and French settled on the islands during the 19th Century and called the newly formed country "New Hebrides". In 1906, they agreed to an Anglo-French Condominium, which administered the islands until independence in 1980, when the new name of Vanuatu was adopted.

Population

308,000 (September 2024 estimate).
Population Growth rate 2.40%.

Economy

Primarily based on small-scale agriculture, which provides a living for about two thirds of the population, especially livestock farming which is the second target for growth.

A small light industry sector caters to the local market.

Tax revenues come mainly from VAT, excise and transaction taxes.

Fishing, offshore financial services and tourism are also another source of revenue for the country with an estimated 116,000 visitors in 2018. Australia, New Zealand and China are the main source of tourists and aid.

In 2018, revenues from citizenship sales have become the single largest source of revenue in Vanuatu today, overtaking revenue generated from VAT for the first time.

Travelling to Vanuatu

You can fly to Port Vila's Bauerfield International airport (VLI) directly from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Solomon, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea.

The islands offer scuba diving at coral reefs, underwater caverns and wrecks such as the WWII-era troopship SS President Coolidge. Hiking trails ascend active volcanoes such as Mt Yasur. Other popular activities include rain forest ecotours, kayaking and deep-sea fishing, plus relaxing at resort sand spas.

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The Development Support Program (DSP)

In January 2017, the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu has launched the Development Support Program (DSP) for the purpose of raising funds to support infrastructure and promoting economic development of Vanuatu.

The DSP is a provision enacted by the Vanuatu Government under the Citizenship Act with the powers conferred on the Prime Minister. Candidates may apply for Vanuatu Citizenship by contributions to the Government of Vanuatu of **USD138,375 (¥19,871,834 JPY)** for single applicant and up to **USD196,250 (¥28,277,134 JPY)** for a family of 4 members*.

It is possible to include extra dependents** in an application, additional charges apply.

The nationality acquired is regarded as Ni-Vanuatu and the citizenship is hereditary. Those applying for and receiving Vanuatu Citizenship under the DSP program have the full rights to reside and work in Vanuatu at all times. The passport is valid for a period of 10 years and renewable upon expiry.

*Family applications include 2 married adults and 2 children under the age of 18 years.

Costs

**Definition of dependents is available in the F.A.Q.

Fees are set by law and are variable depending on the number of persons included in the application. The citizenship fees are advertised in USD but at the moment, payments can only be processed in JPY by the National bank of Vanuatu.

Please find hereafter the fees for different cases (quotes are available on demand for other scenarios) in JPY:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| • Single applicant: | ¥19,871,834 JPY |
| • Married couple: | ¥23,173,600 JPY |
| • Married couple with 1 child under 18 yo: | ¥25,775,367 JPY |
| • Married couple with 2 children under 18 yo: | ¥28,277,134 JPY |
| • Married couple with 3 children under 18 yo: | ¥32,032,900 JPY |
| • Extra dependents (18-25 or parents 50+ of age) | ¥1,154,000 JPY |

These fees include:

- VFIU fee (an initial invoice is sent for this step and the balance of the citizenship fees are invoiced separately).
- Government prescribed fee.
- Citizenship application fee
- Certificate fee
- Vanuatu birth registration fee
- Passport fee
- Commissioner for Oath fee
- DHL fee

Our bank requires the main applicant's last 6 months certified bank statements for their compliance checks.



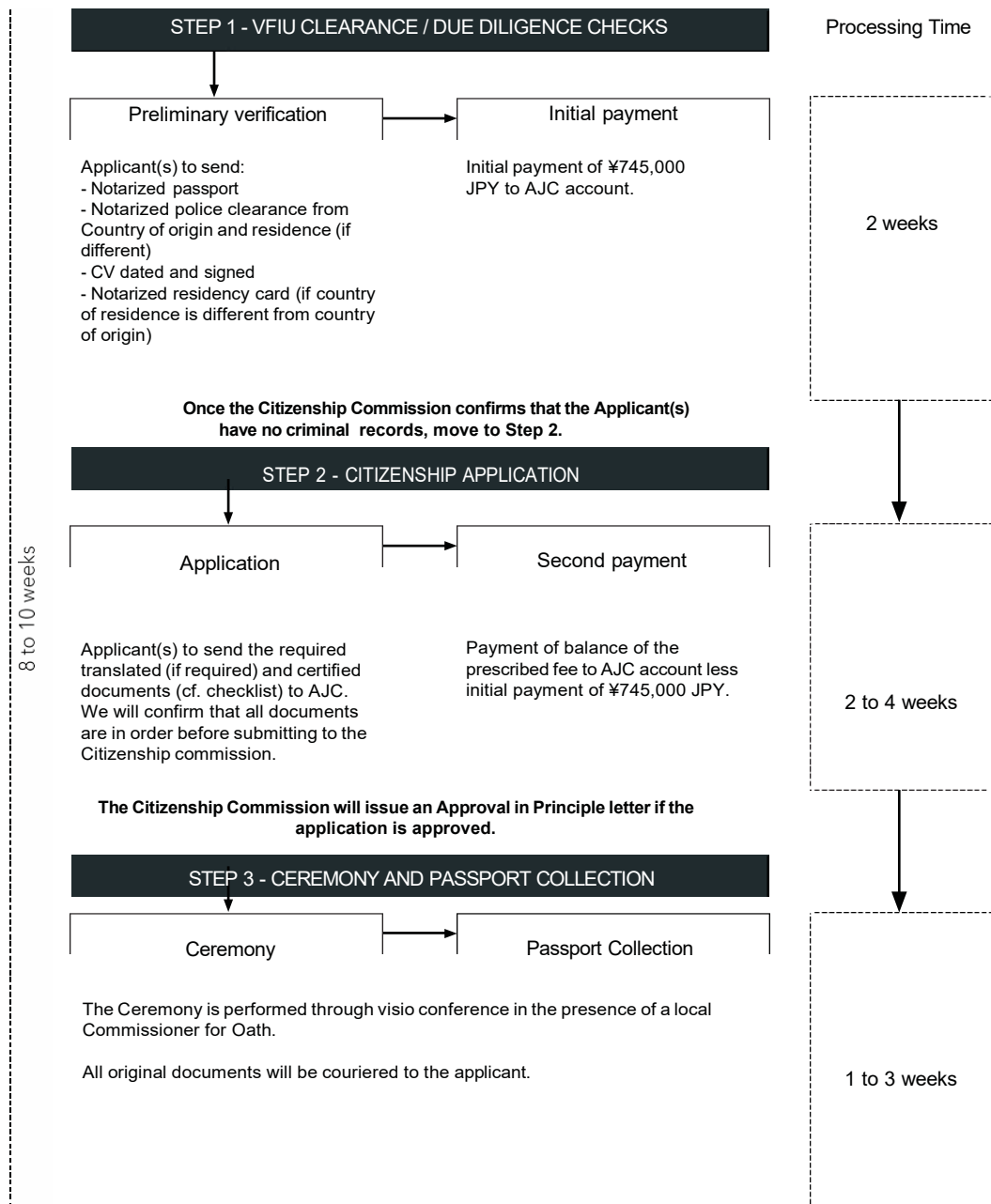
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Process

The process is relatively simple and straight forward once all the required documents are received. It usually takes about 8 to 10 weeks to complete the full process. We will assist you all along the way to make sure all documents provided are compliant with the Citizenship Commission requirements to avoid any delay with your application.

There are no language competency requirements to be met by the applicant(s) when applying for Vanuatu Citizenship.

There is no obligation to visit or live in Vanuatu before or during the application process.



Application

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The Applicant(s) must not have any criminal records and must be fit and proper person(s) to be eligible to apply to the DSP.

- All documents can be scanned to us. No originals required.
- All documents are to be translated into English if applicable, and translations to be certified.
- All documents are to be certified as indicated by a Public Notary, Justice of Peace, Commissioner for Oaths or Solicitor.

1. VFIU CLEARANCE

Documents to be provided for each individual included in the application:

- Certified valid passport
- Certified police clearance dated less than 6 months of the country of origin and country of residence (if different) - (N/A to children under 12 years old)
- CV signed and dated confirming education and employment history (N/A to children under 18)
- Certified residency card (if country of residence is different from country of origin)

Upon receipt of the above documents, we will circulate an Agreement for services for execution along with our initial invoice of ¥745,800 to complete the 1st step.

Please note that the fee of ¥745,000 is non-refundable if any adverse information is found against the Applicant(s)



2. APPLICATION FOR CITIZENSHIP

Additional documents may be required or requested.

Principal candidate's required documents

	Signed Nomination Form
	Copy of National ID
	Birth certificate / or approved option
	Medical Certificate
	1 Color photo (40mm x 50mm) - JPEG file
	Asset report confirming assets > US\$ 250,000 in the main Candidate's name
	Bank reference / letter of Good Standing
	Employment confirmation or company's registration if self-employed
	Marriage certificate (for couple or family application only)
	2 professional referees to confirm the good character of the Candidate
	Degree / Diploma
	Proof of current residential address dated less than 3 months

Required documents for Spouse

	Signed Nomination Form
	Copy of National ID
	Birth certificate / or approved option
	Medical Certificate
	1 Color photo (40mm x 50mm) - JPEG file
	Proof of current residential address dated less than 3 months (utility bill, bank statement etc.)

Required documents for dependent children under 18-year-old

	Signed Nomination Form
	Copy of National ID
	Birth certificate
	Medical Certificate
	1 Color photo (40mm x 50mm) - JPEG file

Dependent resident 18 to 25 years and 50 years plus

	Signed Nomination Form
	Copy of National ID
	Birth certificate
	Medical Certificate
	1 Color photo (40mm x 50mm) - JPEG file
	Degree or Education certificate - if available
	Student card or any proof of studies for dependent aged 18 to 25 years

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3. PAYMENT OF FEES

There are 2 payment options once we confirm that all documents are in order:

- 100% of the prescribed fee processed in one payment. If the application is declined, AJC / EC Holdings will process the refund of 75% of the prescribed fee, less bank fees*.
- 25% of the prescribed fee paid on submission of the application to the Citizenship Commission, and the balance of 75% to be paid upon receipt of the Approval in Principle from the Citizenship commission within 30 days.

Payments are processed to AJC / EC Holdings trust accounts to offer applicants more security.

***Please note that 25% of the prescribed fee is retained by the Vanuatu Government and non-refundable if the Citizenship Commission declines the application.**

4. CEREMONY & ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS

Once the application is approved in principle, the Applicant(s) need to perform an Oath of Allegiance.

The Ceremony is performed through visio conference in the presence of a local Commissioner for Oath.

AJC / EC HOLDINGS VANUATU handles the logistic of the Ceremony.

It is now required to obtain a Vanuatu birth certificate / registration prior to applying for a Vanuatu passport.

The Vanuatu birth certificate contains the same information as the Applicant(s) original birth certificate, and it is delivered automatically with a Vanuatu national ID.

Once the birth Certificate & National ID are issued, we will courier the original document to the applicant.

Note:

Please be informed that the passport office has recently changed its application procedures. All DSP applicants will now be issued biometrics passports. To facilitated this process, three additional enrolment stations have been designated in addition to Port Vila. Appointments are required at all locations, and we will assist clients in securing these appointments.

The available enrolments stations are:

- Hong Kong Consulate – operational
- Dubai Consulate (Currently on hold due to the ongoing war in the middle east)
- Noumea Consulate (Currently on hold, pending confirmation from the Passport Office)

LIST OF COUNTRIES

Detailed list of visa requirement for Vanuatu Passport*

Countries	Visa requirements	Duration
Angola	Visa Not required	30 days
Antigua and Barbuda	Visa Not required	180 days
Bahamas	Visa Not required	90 days
Barbados	Visa Not required	180 days
Belarus	Visa Not required	30 days
Belize	Visa Not required	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Visa Not required	90 days
Botswana	Visa Not required	90 days
Costa Rica	Visa Not required	90 days
Dominica	Visa Not required	90 days
Dominican Republic	Visa Not required	90 days
Ecuador	Visa Not required	90 days
El Salvador	Visa Not required	90 days
Eswatini	Visa Not required	30 days
Fiji	Visa Not required	120 days
Gambia	Visa Not required	90 days
Grenada	Visa Not required	90 days
Guatemala	Visa Not required	90 days
Haiti	Visa Not required	90 days
Honduras	Visa Not required	90 days
Hong Kong	Visa Not required	90 days
Ireland	Visa Not required	90 days
Israel	Visa Not required	90 days
Jamaica	Visa Not required	
Kenya	Visa Not required	90 days
Kiribati	Visa Not required	90 days
Kosovo	Visa Not required	90 days
Lesotho	Visa Not required	90 days
Malaysia	Visa Not required	30 days
Mauritius	Visa Not required	90 days
Micronesia	Visa Not required	30 days
Moldova	Visa Not required	90 days
Montenegro	Visa Not required	90 days
Nicaragua	Visa Not required	90 days

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Countries	Visa requirements	Duration
Palestinian Territories	Visa Not required	
Panama	Visa Not required	90 days
Peru	Visa Not required	180 days
Philippines	Visa Not required	30 days
Russian Federation	Visa Not required	90 days
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Visa Not required	90 days
Saint Lucia	Visa Not required	42 days
Singapore	Visa Not required	30 days
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Visa Not required	90 days
Suriname	Visa Not required	90 days
Tanzania	Visa Not required	90 days
Trinidad and Tobago	Visa Not required	
Uganda	Visa Not required	90 days
Zambia	Visa Not required	90 days
Zimbabwe	Visa Not required	90 days

***This list is updated on a regular basis.**

You can refer to this link for latest updates:

-> <https://www.passportindex.org/passport/vanuatu/>

FAQ

1. Restricted countries

Any citizen of the following countries is excluded from the program:

Iran
Iraq
North Korea
Syria
Yemen

This country list is subject to change at any time.

Exemptions:

The commission may accept applications from restricted countries if the applicant shows that he or she:

- (1) has not resided in the restricted country for the past 5 years;
- (2) and provides evidence of permanent residency abroad.

2. Birth certificate

The birth certificate is mandatory.

In case a birth certificate cannot be provided, the applicant can ask a solicitor to issue a notarial certificate confirming his/her date and country of birth and the parents birth details.

3. Second ID

It can be a national ID, a driver license, or any other documents with a photo and confirming the ID.

If any of these documents are not available, a bank reference letter confirming the identity or a statement from a lawyer confirming the identity of the person and including a photo, full name, date of birth, nationality.

4. Asset proof

The asset report will serve to justify that the applicant has the funds into his/her bank account or assets in his/her name (minimum of US\$250,000). It can be a bank statement, equity report compiled by an accounting firm etc.

5. Bank reference

The bank reference is a letter of Good Standing issued by the Applicant's main bank, confirming his/her and good run of accounts.

6. Payment of fees

The full amount needs to be transferred by the applicant to AJC / EC Holdings account as the Government will request a proof of the said payment.

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7. Website

Vanuatu Development Support Program (DSP) can be verified under this link:
<https://vancitizenship.gov.vu/>

8. Who is responsible for filling forms?

The Applicant is responsible for completing the forms but we can assist if any queries.

9. Is it possible to add dependents after granting citizenship to the main applicant?

Yes. Additional fees apply.

10. Does a newborn child receive citizenship automatically?

Yes. Vanuatu citizenship is granted for life and it will be passed onto your children and future generations. A Vanuatu passport can be issued for the newborn child. One of the parents will need to provide a copy of his/her Citizenship certificate, certified copy of his/her Police clearance if the one we have on file is dated less than 6 months and a certified copy of his/her passport if the one we have on file is expired in addition to the regular documents required for a dependent child.

Additional fees apply. Please feel free to contact us to obtain a quote.

11. Is it important to be officially married or civil Spouse can apply for citizenship?

Yes, only official marriages are recognized.

12. Is it possible to include children from previous marriages into an application?

Yes. "Children" means:

A natural or adopted son or daughter of an Applicant or his or her spouse who is or between the age of 18 and 25 years

13. How long is the VFIU clearance valid for?

The initial VFIU clearance is valid for 6 months. Beyond this timeframe, if the application is incomplete or the full payment has not been received, the initial payment of ¥787,800 JPY paid will be forfeited.

If the applicant wishes to pursue the application, a new VFIU screening will be mandatory along with a new payment of ¥745,000.

14. What are the reasons for rejection of citizenship application?

We have never experienced any rejection after obtaining the VFIU clearance. But the final decision is at the Citizenship Commission's discretion.

15. Can individuals who are not working apply for citizenship?

Yes, as long as the proof of asset is under the main applicant's name.

16. Does the Citizenship Commission request additional documents?

They can. But we have never experienced that. The documents listed by AJC are usually sufficient.

17. How can payments be processed?

Is cryptocurrency accepted?

At this stage, Bitcoins/Cryptocurrency would be considered on a case-by-case basis, and subject to a 15% surcharge if approved by AJC Management.

Is it possible for THIRD PARTIES to pay for the candidate's application?

Yes, as long as the applicant can justify cash/assets of US\$250,000 minimum in his/her name. But assets cannot be under the Third Party's name.

The Third-Party Individual will have to provide a copy of his/her certified passport along with a letter confirming why he/she is paying on behalf of the applicant (confirm the relationship) and provide last 6-month Bank statements from where the transfer will be initiated.

In what currency can payment be made?

The Vanuatu Citizenship Commission only accepts JPY at the moment.

How long does it take for the funds to be cleared by the bank?

Our bank will undertake due diligence & compliance checks once funds are received. This procedure may take between 3 to 5 days before the bank releases the funds into our account. We will then forward the payment to the government account.

18. What are the timelines of each step?

- VFIU and other due diligence checks: 2 weeks.
- Citizenship application: There are two (2) sittings of the Citizenship Commission per month (mid-month and end of month), and the granting of the citizenship is officially announced 1 or 2 days after meetings. Therefore, the decision is usually rendered between 2 and 4 weeks from the date of submission.
- Passport application: it usually takes 1 to 3 business days to issue the passport.

20. Can I change my name?

No, it is no longer possible since June 2022 for dual citizenship holders to apply for a name change.

21. Can I obtain a Vanuatu driving license?

If you are already holding an international driving license, yes. You will be able to have the same category of vehicles on your Vanuatu driving license. The driving license is valid 3 years and renewable. The Applicant must be physically present in the country for the first application not the renewals.

The total cost is US\$600 + tax

22. Can I apply for a Vanuatu birth certificate and National ID card?

Yes. A Vanuatu birth Certificate is required for the application of a Vanuatu passport, along with a National ID.

The total cost is US\$1,500 + tax

23. What is the impact on the Vanuatu Citizenship since the country lost its visa waiver with EU?

The Applicant still holds Vanuatu Citizenship. The slight difference is that EU is not automatically granting tourist visas on arrival to Vanuatu citizens anymore. The process of obtaining a Schengen visa is quite simple and requires a few supporting documents such as ticket, bank statements, proof of accommodation etc. The applicant needs to provide biometric data to the French Embassy based in Port Vila. When granted for tourism or business purposes, you can stay up to 90 days in every six-month period starting from the date of entry and move freely in the Schengen member countries as there are no border controls within the Schengen zone. AJC can assist with the application of a Schengen visa

24. I obtained Vanuatu citizenship through the DSP Program. Now that the program doesn't offer visa-free travel to Europe or UK, is there any plan from the Government to reimburse investors?

Vanuatu citizenship still holds high value for various reasons despite not offering any more tourist visas to the EU zone and UK. Vanuatu citizenship still grants its holder's easy automatic access to Hong Kong, Singapore, Israel, Russia, and many other nations.

25. Is there any chance that the EU reverts on its decision and grants the visa waiver again?

The Vanuatu Government is working closely with the EU to reinstate the visa waiver, with the lobby of most of the DSP Agents. That is to say, it is difficult at this stage to assess the EU's position.



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