

Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs
Republic of Latvia
Ciekurkalna 1. līnija 1, k-3,
Rīga, Latvija, LV-1026

.....
www.pmlp.gov.lv
pmlp@pmlp.gov.lv
tel. 67209400

.....
Consultations:
pskn@pmlp.gov.lv
tel. 67829844
tel. 67219674



Pilsonības un migrācijas lietu pārvalde



EIROPAS SAVIENĪBA
Patvēruma, migrācijas un
integrācijas fonds

TAKE ACTION AND GET IT!



Latvian citizenship

The brochure provides information about the acquisition of Latvian citizenship under the naturalisation procedure



BENEFITS

of becoming a Latvian citizen

- ✓ Voting;
- ✓ Establishing political parties;
- ✓ Performing diplomatic and consular service;
- ✓ Participating in the external and internal defence of the state;
- ✓ Holding the positions of state civil servant, sworn advocate, notary, land surveyor, etc.;
- ✓ Visa-free travel to several foreign countries;
- ✓ By becoming a citizen of Latvia, a person simultaneously acquires the citizenship of the European Union.

A person **MAY BECOME** a citizen of Latvia under the naturalisation procedure if the person



has reached the age of 15;



has been permanently residing in Latvia for not less than the last 5 years (a citizen of another country has a permanent residence permit in Latvia for a period of 5 years) and can prove it with documents;



is fluent in Latvian;



knows the text of the National Anthem, the basics of the history and culture of Latvia, and the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia;



has a legal source of income.

Children under the age of 15 may simultaneously be naturalised together with the person without additional state fee.

Persons who have been convicted of criminal offences, are associated with terrorism, actively participate in an anti-state or criminal organisation, have not paid administrative fines or have not fulfilled other payment obligations to the state, or are subject to other restrictions specified in Section 11 of the Citizenship Law shall not be admitted to the citizenship of Latvia. For more information about the restrictions, please visit the homepage of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs



To begin the naturalisation process, the person should contact any regional division of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (hereinafter – the OCMA), present a valid personal identification document (passport or ID card) and

SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS

- ✓ an application;
- ✓ certification of the person’s permanent place of residence in Latvia for the last 5 years (for example, employer’s statement regarding employment, a certificate from the State Social Insurance Agency, a statement from an educational institution, a document proving that the person has conducted economic or financial activities in the territory of Latvia during a specific time period, etc.);
- ✓ a document regarding a legal source of income (for example, employment certification letter, a pension certificate, a certificate from the State Social Insurance Agency on receiving a benefit, a certificate from an educational institution on receiving a scholarship, etc.);
- ✓ one photograph (3 x 4 cm);
- ✓ a receipt confirming payment of the state fee or the state fee must be paid at OCMA;
- ✓ if the person is a citizen of another country, a non-conviction certificate issued in the country of the current citizenship must be submitted with a translation;
- ✓ if a child under the age of 15 is simultaneously naturalised with the person, a document confirming the child’s permanent residence in Latvia must be submitted.



STATE FEE

for submission of an application for naturalisation

Standard rate EUR **28,46**,

reduced rate EUR **4,27**

The reduced state fee is paid by:

- pensioners;
- disabled persons of groups II and III;
- students of general and vocational educational establishments certified by the state;
- full-time students of higher educational institutions certified by the state;
- members of low-income families or low-income individuals living separately;
- unemployed persons registered with the State Employment Agency;
- members of families with three or more minor children.

The following persons are exempt from paying the state fee

- victims of political repressions;
- disabled persons of group I;
- orphans and children left without parental care;
- persons admitted to state and municipal social care institutions.

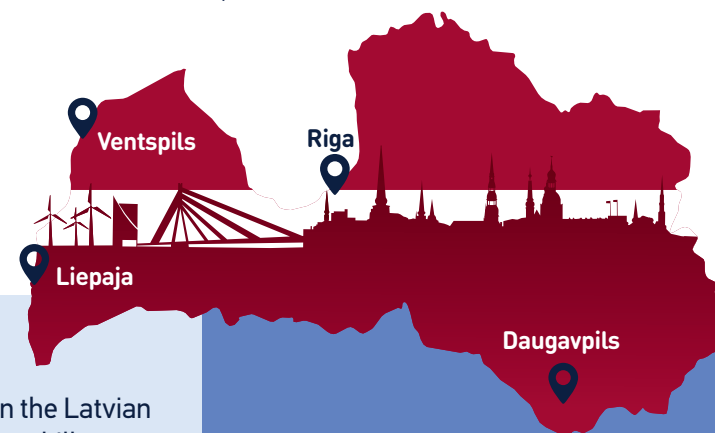
Details for payment of the state fee:

Beneficiary: Valsts kase TRELlV22
 Registration No: 90000050138
 Account No: LV19TREL1060140919600
 Purpose of payment: Valsts nodeva par naturalizācijas iesnieguma iesniegšanu

Within two months after submitting the application, the person has to take the required

TESTS

The tests can be taken in Riga, Daugavpils, Liepaja and Ventspils.



During the test of fluency in the Latvian language, the following skills are evaluated

- listening,
- reading,
- writing,
- speaking.

The necessary level of skills – to be able to understand the heard texts on everyday topics; to read and understand texts on various topics; to be able to write simple texts; to talk about everyday topics.

Each language skill is evaluated separately.

If any of the Latvian language skills are not passed, the test can be repeated no earlier than in three months. In this case, only the skill that was not passed the previous time will be tested.

During the test of knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, of the text of the National Anthem, of the basics of history and culture of Latvia, the person must:

- recite or write the National Anthem;
- answer questions about the history and culture of Latvia;
- answer questions about the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia.

Each part is evaluated separately.

If this test is not passed, it can be repeated no earlier than in a month. Only the part of the test that was not passed the previous time should be retaken.

Check out the OCMA e-tool to test your knowledge.

www.pmlp.gov.lv

BENEFITS/ EXEMPTIONS

- ✓ The Latvian language test is not required if not earlier than five years prior to submitting the application:
 - the person has completed higher education in Latvian;
 - the person confirmed their knowledge of Latvian in the centralised Latvian language exam, when graduating from primary school and receiving a total score of at least 50%, when graduating from secondary school and receiving a total score of at least 20%.
- ✓ No testing of writing skills in Latvian is required if a person has reached the age of 65.
- ✓ If a person has received a basic education in Latvian, having studied more than half of the basic education program in it, they are exempt from taking tests.

 The following benefits are provided for persons with disabilities:

- disabled persons of group I, disabled persons of group II with advanced psychiatric illness, disabled persons of group II or III with deafness or bilateral deafness, as well as children with a diagnosed disability are exempt from any tests;
- persons with disabilities of groups II and III who do not have a right (left) hand or a right (left) palm are exempt from the Latvian language writing skills test;
- persons with vision disabilities of groups II and III are exempt from the Latvian language writing and knowledge test;
- persons with speech disabilities of groups II and III are exempt from the Latvian language speaking skills test;
- persons with hearing disabilities of groups II and III are exempt from the Latvian language listening and speaking skills test;
- disabled persons of groups II and III with other disorders may receive reliefs based on their application and pursuant to findings by the State Medical Commission for the Assessment of Health Condition and Working Ability, in accordance with the decision taken by the Head of the OCMA.

ADMISSION TO CITIZENSHIP



After passing the test, the OCMA will review the application, and if the person's compliance with the provisions of the Citizenship Law is established, the person will be invited to pledge loyalty to the Republic of Latvia.



If the person is a citizen of another country, they will receive a letter that guarantee of Latvian citizenship, after which they will need to submit a document on renouncing their current citizenship.



According to the Citizenship Law, dual citizenship may be held with another member state of NATO, the European Union and the Free Trade Association, as well as with Australia, New Zealand and Brazil.



The decision on admission to the citizenship of Latvia by naturalisation is made by the Cabinet of Ministers.



Following the admission to the citizenship of Latvia, the person will be informed and, within one month, will have to obtain an identification document of a citizen of Latvia in any regional division of the OCMA.