



PAPUA NEW GUINEA
IMMIGRATION & CITIZENSHIP SERVICE AUTHORITY
Citizenship Act 1975

**CITIZENSHIP
AND
DUAL CITIZENSHIP GUIDE**

27 MARCH 2017 (v.1.0)

Preface

With the passage of amendments to the Constitution and the Citizenship Act in 2016, Dual Citizenship is now a reality for Papua New Guinea Citizens. Several other avenues to gain citizenship have also been opened or clarified.

This citizenship and dual citizenship guide provides an overview of the pathways to becoming a PNG citizen, as well as how to seek approval for dual citizenship with the currently prescribed countries: Australia, Fiji, Germany, New Zealand, Samoa, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu.

The decision to seek citizenship or dual citizenship is an important one and should be carefully considered. This guide together with further information on our website seeks to answer many frequently asked questions. If you still have questions about citizenship or dual citizenship as it relates to your circumstances you are also welcome to contact the Citizenship Team (citizenship@immigration.gov.pg).

Solomon Kantha

ACTING CHIEF MIGRATION OFFICER

27 MARCH 2017

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Current PNG Citizens

Seeking approval for dual citizenship with a prescribed country (over 19 years old)

- This pathway is for PNG citizens, over 19 years old, seeking approval for dual citizenship with a prescribed country: Australia, Fiji, Germany, New Zealand, Samoa, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu.
- If you are a PNG citizen who holds dual citizenship **your rights are limited under PNG's Constitution** (Sections 50, 51 & 65). Dual citizens do not have the right to vote in elections, hold public office positions or acquire freehold land. Dual citizenship may also have implications in the other country for which citizenship is held.
- Application fee: K5,000
- Further information and the application form (*PNG Citizen request to hold dual citizenship*) is available at www.immigration.gov.pg

Note: If you were PNG citizen and obtained citizenship with another country without dual citizenship approval, you will have automatically lost your PNG citizenship. In this case you (former PNG citizen) will need to apply for: resumption of your PNG citizenship, or PNG citizenship by naturalisation (long term resident, investor or sportsperson), or PNG citizenship by descent (parent/grandparent) or PNG citizenship by marriage.

Current PNG Citizens

Seeking approval for dual citizenship with a prescribed country (18-19 years)

- This pathway is for PNG citizens, 18-19 years old, who are seeking approval to hold dual citizenship with a prescribed country: Australia, Fiji, Germany, New Zealand, Samoa, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu.
- PNG citizens can legally hold dual citizenship up to the age of 19 years. At this point they are required to:
 1. Renounce citizenship of the other country for which they hold citizenship;
or
 2. Seek approval for dual citizenship with a prescribed country (Australia, Fiji, Germany, New Zealand, Samoa, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu); or
 3. Renounce their PNG Citizenship.

PNG citizenship is automatically lost if options 1 or 2 are not undertaken by the age of 19 years.

- Application fee: K2,000
- Further information and the application form (*PNG Citizen request to hold dual citizenship*) is available at www.immigration.gov.pg

Current PNG Citizens

Registration of PNG citizenship within 12 months of overseas birth

- This pathway is for PNG citizens to register the overseas birth of their child. This must be undertaken within 12 months of the child's birth. The definition of 'child' refers to both biological and legally adopted children.
- Application fee: nil
- Further information and application form (*Registration of overseas birth*) is available at www.immigration.gov.pg

Former PNG Citizens

Seeking resumption of PNG citizenship

- This pathway is for former PNG citizens who:
 1. were PNG citizens either on Independence Day (16 September 1975) or by descent, or by naturalisation (long term residency, sportsperson or investor); and
 2. have resided in PNG as a non-citizen for the five years prior to this application.
- Special circumstances (marriage) – where an applicant lost PNG citizenship due to marriage and the marriage has permanently broken up, applicants can apply for resumption of citizenship:
 - a) If residing in PNG when the marriage broke up – applications can be lodged three years from the marriage permanently broke up.
 - b) If residing outside of PNG when the marriage broke up – applications can be lodged three years after returning to PNG to reside in the country.
- Special circumstances (child) - where a child (under 19 years of age) has previously lost their PNG Citizenship the Minister may grant citizenship where he is satisfied that it is in the best interests of the child to do so. In this case, the mandatory five-year residency requirement does not apply.
- Applicants can also seek approval to hold dual citizenship with a prescribed country: Australia, Fiji, Germany, New Zealand, Samoa, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu. Without dual citizenship approval, this option would require renunciation of all other citizenships as part of the applicant's PNG Citizenship ceremony.

- If you are a PNG citizen who holds dual citizenship **your rights are limited under PNG's Constitution** (Sections 50, 51 & 65). Dual citizens do not have the right to vote in elections, hold public office positions or acquire freehold land. Dual citizenship may also have implications in the other country for which citizenship is held.
- The application fee:
 - K500 - if seeking resumption of citizenship only
 - K5,500 - if seeking resumption of citizenship and approval for dual citizenship over 18 years old
 - K2,500 - if seeking resumption of citizenship and approval for dual citizenship under 18 years old
- Further information and the application form (Request for *Resumption of PNG Citizenship*) is available at www.immigration.gov.pg

Non PNG Citizens

Seeking PNG citizenship by Marriage

- This pathway is for applicants who:
 - are legally married to a PNG citizen; and
 - have resided in PNG for at least 12 months in the 3 years prior to making an application for citizenship.
- Applicants can also seek approval to hold dual citizenship with a prescribed country: Australia, Fiji, Germany, New Zealand, Samoa, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu. Without dual citizenship approval, this option would require renunciation of all other citizenships as part of the applicant's PNG Citizenship ceremony.
- If you are a PNG citizen who holds dual citizenship **your rights are limited under PNG's Constitution** (Sections 50, 51 & 65). Dual citizens do not have the right to vote in elections, hold public office positions or acquire freehold land. Dual citizenship may also have implications in the other country for which citizenship is held.
- Application fee:
 - K10,000 – application for Citizenship by Marriage
 - K15,000 - application for Citizenship by Marriage and approval for dual citizenship.
- Further information and the application form (*Request for Citizenship by Marriage*) is available at www.immigration.gov.pg

Non PNG Citizens

Seeking citizenship by descent

- This pathway is for applicants who:
 1. have a parent or grandparent who is or was a PNG citizen (or was qualified to be a PNG citizen if they had survived to Independence Day – 16 September 1975); and
 2. have resided in PNG for at least 12 months in the 3 years prior to making an application for citizenship.
- Applicants can also seek approval to hold dual citizenship with a prescribed country: Australia, Fiji, Germany, New Zealand, Samoa, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu. Without dual citizenship approval, this option would require renunciation of all other citizenships as part of the applicant's PNG Citizenship ceremony.
- If you are a PNG citizen who holds dual citizenship **your rights are limited under PNG's Constitution** (Sections 50, 51 & 65). Dual citizens do not have the right to vote in elections, hold public office positions or acquire freehold land. Dual citizenship may also have implications in the other country for which citizenship is held.
- Application fee:
 - K10,000 – application for citizenship by descent
 - K15,000 – application for citizenship by descent and approval for dual citizenship (over 19 years old)
 - K12,000 – application for citizenship by descent and approval for dual citizenship (under 19 years old)
- Further information and the application form (*Request for Citizenship by Descent*) is available at www.immigration.gov.pg

Non PNG Citizens

Seeking PNG citizenship by naturalisation (long term residency)

- This pathway is for applicants who have resided in PNG for more than 8 years at the time of lodging an application for citizenship.
- Applicants can also seek approval to hold dual citizenship with a prescribed country: Australia, Fiji, Germany, New Zealand, Samoa, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu. Without dual citizenship approval, this option would require renunciation of all other citizenships as part of the applicant's PNG Citizenship ceremony.
- If you are a PNG citizen who holds dual citizenship **your rights are limited under PNG's Constitution** (Sections 50, 51 & 65). Dual citizens do not have the right to vote in elections, hold public office positions or acquire freehold land. Dual citizenship may also have implications in the other country for which citizenship is held.
- Application fee:
 - K10,000 – application for naturalisation (long term residency)
 - K15,000 - application for naturalisation (long term residency) and approval for dual citizenship (over 19 years old).
- Further information and the application form (*Request for Citizenship by Naturalisation – long term residency*) is available at www.immigration.gov.pg

Non PNG Citizens

Seeking citizenship by naturalisation (investor)

- This pathway is for applicants who have the resources, capital, commitment and credentials to invest in PNG's economy to create employment and impart skills to PNG citizens.
- Applicants can also seek approval to hold dual citizenship with a prescribed country: Australia, Fiji, Germany, New Zealand, Samoa, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu. Without dual citizenship approval, this option would require renunciation of all other citizenships as part of the applicant's PNG Citizenship ceremony.
- If you are a PNG citizen who holds dual citizenship **your rights are limited under PNG's Constitution** (Sections 50, 51 & 65). Dual citizens do not have the right to vote in elections, hold public office positions or acquire freehold land. Dual citizenship may also have implications in the other country for which citizenship is held.
- Application fee:
 - K10,000 - application for citizenship by naturalisation (investor)
 - K15,000 - application for citizenship by naturalisation (investor) and approval for dual citizenship.
- Further information and the application form (*Request for Citizenship by naturalisation - investor*) is available at www.immigration.gov.pg

Non PNG Citizens

Seeking citizenship by naturalisation (eminent sportsperson)

- This pathway is for applicants who are likely to win one of the three highest medals or honours representing PNG in a regional or global sporting event.
- Applicants can also seek approval to hold dual citizenship with a prescribed country: Australia, Fiji, Germany, New Zealand, Samoa, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu. Without dual citizenship approval, this option would require renunciation of all other citizenships as part of the applicant's PNG Citizenship ceremony.
- If you are a PNG citizen who holds dual citizenship **your rights are limited under PNG's Constitution** (Sections 50, 51 & 65). Dual citizens do not have the right to vote in elections, hold public office positions or acquire freehold land. Dual citizenship may also have implications in the other country for which citizenship is held.
- Application fee:
 - K10,000 - application for citizenship by naturalisation (sportsperson)
 - K15,000 - application for citizenship by naturalisation (sportsperson) and approval for dual citizenship.
- Further information and the application form (*Request for Citizenship by naturalisation - sportsperson*) is available at www.immigration.gov.pg

Non PNG Citizens

Persons who have been found to be a refugee by the PNG Government:

- Can apply for citizenship by naturalisation (long term resident, investor or sportsperson) or Citizenship by Marriage at no fee.
- Applications for dual citizenship attract the standard fee (K5,000).

Contact:

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Authorised by:

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