HOW CAN I BECOME A GREEK CITIZEN?

*(Simplified instructions on the acquisition of Greek citizenship)**

	WHO CANNOT APPLY?	WHEN CAN I MAKE THE APPLICATION?	WHAT DOCUMENTS ARE NEEDED?	WHERE DO I APPLY?	HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?	HOW LONG SHOULD I WAIT FOR A DECISION, ACCORDING TO THE LAW?
For citizens of non-EU countries	• Those that don't have a residence permit or only possess temporary permits • Those that have been convicted into sentences of more than 6 months, for certain types of crimes, or for more than 1 year, for crimes that have been committed intentionally.	• After 7 years of permanent and legal residence in Greece • After 3 years of permanent and legal residence in Greece provided that I'm married with a Greek citizen and have a child with him/her. • After 3 years of legal and permanent residence if I have an underage child that holds the Greek citizenship (not applied to those who acquired the citizenship because they attended a Greek school) • After 3 years of legal and permanent residence in Greece, if I am a refugee or have been recognized as a stateless person by the Greek authorities.	• A "declaration of Naturalisation" at the municipality of my residence. • An application of Naturalisation • A residence permit of the following types as: a) Long-term residence permit or second generation one, b) for spouses of Greek or EU citizens, or a parent of an underage Greek citizen, c) a political refugee, or with subsidiary protection, d) as a stateless person • Passport • If I have been born abroad, a birth certificate, authenticated and translated into Greek/ If I have been born in Greece, a Greek birth certificate. • Personal tax audits for recent years. • Social security number (A.M.K.A.) • Other document proving my relations to Greece and the Greeks	At the Directorate of Civic Status of the Decentralised Administration of the area where I reside	• 700 euros for the first - time application • 200 euros for the second application and for all those that may follow • 100 euros for the first application and for all those that may follow, if I am a refugee or a stateless person	1 year (in practice 2-4 years)

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For citizens of EU countries	• Those that don't hold a registration certificate or a permanent residence certificate of a EU citizen • Those that have been convicted into sentences of more than 6 months, for certain types of crimes, or for more than 1 year for intentionally committed crimes.	After 3 years of permanent and legal residence in Greece	• A "Declaration of Naturalisation" at the municipality of my residence. • An application of Naturalisation • Registration certificate or a permanent residence certificate of EU citizens, provided by the immigration departments of the Greek Police • Passport • If I have been born abroad, a birth certificate, authenticated and translated into Greek/ If I have been born in Greece, a Greek birth certificate • Personal tax audits for recent years. • Social security number (A.M.K.A.) • Other document proving my relations to Greece and the Greeks	At the Directorate of Civic Status of the Decentralised Administration of the area where I reside	100 euros for the first time application and all that will follow	1 year (in practice 2-4 years)
For co-ethnic Greeks from Albania, Turkey, and successor states of the former USSR, who hold a Special Identity Card (EDTO)	• Those that don't hold a Special Identity Card for co-ethnic Greeks (E.D.T.O.) • Those that have been convicted into sentences of more than 6 months, for certain types of crimes, or for more than 1 year for crimes that are committed intentionally. • Those that don't live permanently in Greece	Whenever	• An application of Naturalisation • Special Identity Card for co-ethnic Greeks (E.D.T.O.) • Passport • a birth certificate, authenticated and translated into Greek • a family status certificate (family civil registry) authenticated and translated into Greek.	At the Directorate of Civic Status of the Decentralised Administration of the area where I reside	100 euros	1 year (in practice 1-2 years)

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For co - ethnic Greeks residing in successor countries of the former USSR	Those that are not co-ethnic Greeks	Whenever	• An application of Naturalisation or a Special Identity Card for co-ethnic Greeks (E.D.T.O.) • Passport • Birth certificate of the applicant and his/her parents, authenticated and officially translated • Marriage certificate of the parents, authenticated and officially translated • Other documents that prove my Greek ethnic heritage (conscription id, citizenship certificate, consular passport, documents of the soviet authorities containing ethnic designation etc)	At the Greek consular office, mandated to serve the area where I reside	No fee	Not specified
For co-ethnic Greeks from ex-USSR successor countries who have settled in Greece before 2 May 2001, or are parents or children of co-ethnic Greeks that have already acquired the Greek citizenship	Those that have arrive to Greece after 2 May 2001 and are not parents or children of co-ethnic Greeks that have acquired the Greek citizenship	Whenever	• An application of Naturalisation • Passport • Birth certificate of the applicant and his/her parents, authenticated and officially translated • Marriage certificate of the parents, authenticated and officially translated • The decision for acquisition of Greek citizenship of my parent (applies to the children of co-ethnic Greeks) and a recent family status certificate of the parent, from the municipality of his/her registry • Other documents that prove my Greek ethnic heritage (conscription id, citizenship certificate, consular passport, documents of the soviet authorities containing ethnic designation etc.	At the Directorate of Civic Status of the Decentralised Administration of the area where I reside	No fee	Not specified

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For persons who have a co-ethnic Greek ancestor	Those that reside permanently abroad and cannot be regarded as Greeks	Whenever	• An application of Naturalisation • A "Declaration of Naturalisation" before the Consul • Criminal history report (criminal record certificate) from my country of origin, authenticated and translated into Greek • Passport • Birth certificate of the applicant authenticated and officially translated • Documents that prove my relationship to the Greek ancestor	At the Greek Embassy or consulate of the area where I reside	120 euros (The cost may rise depending on the consular fees)	1 year (in practice 1-2 years)
For persons who have an ancestor who was Greek citizen (designation /assertion of citizenship)		Whenever	• Registry of the ancestor to Greek municipal records • Documents that prove my relationship to the Greek ancestor	At the Greek Embassy or at the Directorate of Civic Status of the Decentralised Administration of the area where I reside	If the application is submitted to a Greek Embassy there is a 100 Euros consular fee	18 months

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For people who have attended a school that implements the Greek mandatory curriculum	• Those that don't have a residence permit or have only a temporary one • Those who have been convicted to sentences that are above 6 months, for certain types of crimes, or to more than 1 year for crimes that have been committed intentionally • Those who have completed 6 or 9 school years while they where minors and now they are over 21 years old • Those who have completed 6 or 9 school years after their 23rd birthday • Those that have completed 6 or 9 school years after being 18y.o. and before they become 23y.o., but there has been 3 years since they have finished their school studies • When more than 3 years have passed since the date of graduation from a Greek university (AEI or TEI).	After I successfully conclude 9 school years at the Elementary and Secondary education level, or After concluding 6 school years at the Secondary education level or When having graduated both from a Greek High School (Lykio) and a Greek University (AEI or TEI)	• Declaration – Application for acquisition of Greek citizenship • School attendance certificate issued by the Peripheral Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education. • Residence permit • If I have been born abroad, a birth certificate, authenticated and officially translated into Greek. • If I have been born in Greece, the municipal birth registration. • Passport • An optional "Solemn Declaration" about the adaptation into the Greek language of my name and surname. It applies only to those who are over 18 and wish to make that change.	At the Directorate of Civic Status of the Decentralised Administration of the area where I reside	100 euros	• 6 months if I'm under 18 years old at the time of the application submission (in practice 1 year - 18 months) • 1 year if I'm over 18 at the time of the application submission (in practice 1 year - 18 months)

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For those who have been born in Greece and have attended a school that implements the Greek mandatory curriculum	• When neither of the parents' holds a residence permit or they hold only temporary residence permits • When neither of the minor's parents has been living in Greece for more than 5 years with a residence permit, before the minor's birth, nor has been residing in Greece with a residence permit for more than 10 years in total, before and after the birth of the minor .	From the enrolment in the 1st grade of the elementary school.	• Declaration – Application for acquisition of Greek citizenship • The Greek municipal birth registration. • The marriage certificate of the parents, authenticated and translated into Greek, or, if the marriage took place in Greece the municipal marriage registration. • The parents' residence permits. At least one of the parents must hold one of the following permits that are issued: for long term residence, for second generation, for indefinite period, for 10 years, for refugees, for persons with subsidiary protection status, for stateless persons and for EU citizens • The passports of the parents, officially translated. • Certificate of the child's enrollment and attendance of the 1st grade of the elementary school. It is issued by the School's Director.	At the Directorate of Civil Registry of the Decentralised Administration of the area where I reside	100 euros	6 months (in practice about 1 year)

**The present codification of the citizenship processes has been made by the Greek Ombudsman, with the cooperation of the Citizenship Directorate of the Ministry of Interior. It is a summary of the pertinent legislation and for this reason it does not include all the special cases, exceptions and transitional regulations that exist. For more information you should contact the local Directorates for Civil Registry of the Decentralized Administration*