

GOT A GRANDPARENT? GET A PASSPORT

7 COUNTRIES THAT OFFER

CITIZENSHIP THROUGH ANCESTRY



Got A Grandparent? Get A Passport—7 Countries That Offer Citizenship Through Ancestry

Published by Live and Invest Overseas

Calle Dr. Alberto Navarro, El Cangrejo, Casa #45, Panama City, Panama

Publisher: Kathleen Peddicord

Editor: Kaitlin Kalashian

Copyright © 2024 Live And Invest Overseas. All rights reserved. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without the express written consent of the publisher. The information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but its accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

www.liveandinvestoverseas.com

Every country grants citizenship differently. This creates confusion but also opportunities for second, even multiple citizenships and passports.

Nationality laws aren't known for their simplicity, but the options for gaining second citizenship can be broken down, big picture, into two categories—active and passive. The active approach requires some action on the part of the recipient... maintaining legal residency, marrying a local, or investing in real estate, for example.

Passive citizenship, on the other hand, is a matter of birthright, either *jus soli* (right of the soil), *jus sanguinis* (right of blood), or a combination of the two.

About 16% of the world's countries, nearly all of them in the western hemisphere, grant *jus soli* citizenship. If a child is born in the territory of one of these countries, say, the United States, Argentina, Mexico, or Canada—boom—he or she is a citizen of that country.

Most of the rest of the world grants *jus sanguinis* citizenship. Rather than as a result of country of birth, citizenship is passed through blood relation. That is, the parents' citizenship(s) determines the child's.

So, if a child is born in a *jus soli* country... say, Canada... to parents from *jus sanguinis* countries... say, a Thai mother and an Irish father... right out of the womb, the newborn would have *jus soli* citizenship from Canada and *jus sanguinis* citizenships from Thailand and Ireland. Lucky kid.

Many countries in the Old World extend *jus sanguinis* rights deeper into the bloodline, beyond parents. With these programs (usually referred to as citizenship by descent or ancestry programs), grandparents, great grandparents, and, in some cases, the deepest family roots you can dig up can qualify you for citizenship.

Although ancestral citizenship is a birthright, it's not completely passive, as you must apply and prove the qualifying family ties before citizenship is granted. Nevertheless, for those who qualify, citizenship through ancestry is the easiest, quickest, and cheapest route to a second citizenship and passport.

Below we highlight seven *jus sanguinis* countries that offer citizenship through ancestry.

Each country is a member of the European Union, meaning that your best bet for an EU passport and the right to live and work in the 27 member countries might be to research your family history.

Again, it is possible to gain citizenship through ancestry in many countries. The seven we detail below are notable because, again, they are EU-member nations; holding a passport for one of these nations comes with benefits. In addition, the processes to obtain citizenship in these countries, as detailed below, serve as examples for how this process can work in general.

Got A Grandparent? Get A Passport—7 Countries That Offer Citizenship Through Ancestry

Ireland

Planning a trip to Brazil? Americans need a visa; Irish nationals do not. Thinking you'd like to live or work in the EU? Good luck, my fellow American. No problem, though, dear citizen of the Emerald Isle. Interested in traveling in the Middle East? In some countries, your blue passport with the eagle on the cover might be a liability, but your red one with the harp on the front won't raise anybody's eyebrows. The luck of the Irish...

For a country of almost five million, Ireland's overseas presence is remarkable. In the United States alone, nearly 35 million souls claim some Irish descent.

The worldwide number is estimated around 70 million.

Ireland recognizes these far-flung sons and daughters with one of the best ancestral citizenship programs around.

If any of your parents or grandparents were born in Ireland, congratulations, you're entitled to Irish citizenship and an EU passport. All you have to do is enter your birth into the Register of Foreign Births and apply for a passport.

You may also be eligible through your great-grandparents, but only if your parent became an Irish citizen by descent before your birth. Because of a change in the law, you might still be eligible if your parent wasn't a citizen but was recorded in the foreign births registry before June 30, 1986, and you were born after July 17, 1956.

To add your birth in the Foreign Births Registry, apply online at <http://www.dfat.ie/> and send your printed application and the following official or officially certified copies of supporting documentation to the nearest Irish embassy or consular office, or, if you reside in Ireland, to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin.

From your Irish born grandparent:

- 1 Marriage certificate (if applicable)
- 2 Original divorce decree (if divorced) and current marriage certificate (if remarried)
- 3 Declaration of alienage (if Irish citizenship was ever renounced)
- 4 Certified/ notarized copy of passport or death certificate
- 5 Deed pole (if they have had a name change) must be valid for two years
- 6 Full, long form [civil Irish birth certificate](#) or baptismal registers if born after 1864

From the parent from whom you are claiming Irish descent:

- 1 Marriage certificate (if applicable)
- 2 Original divorce decree (if divorced) and current marriage certificate (if remarried)
- 3 Declaration of alienage (if Irish citizenship was ever renounced)
- 4 Certified/Notarized copy of passport or official I.D.
- 5 Deed pole (if they have had a name change) must be valid for two years
 - Three documents proving use of new name (bank statements, utility bills)
- 6 If deceased, a certified copy of the death certificate
- 7 Full, long form civil birth certificate

From you:

- 1 Full, long form civil birth certificate
- 2 Marriage certificate (if applicable)
- 3 Original divorce decree (if applicable) and current marriage certificate (if remarried)
- 4 Deed pole (if you've had a name change) must be valid for two years
 - Three documents proving usage of new name (bank statements, utility bills)
- 5 Notarized/Certified copy of passport or official I.D.
- 6 Three documents with proof of address (bank statement, utility bill, phone bill etc.)

Total registration fees are less than \$300. The registration process takes about five months. Once registered, you're an Irish citizen and can apply for a passport.

Italy

Italy's citizenship through ancestry program is similar to Ireland's but contains a bias in favor of paternal lineage.

If either of your parents were born in Italy, you have a right to Italian citizenship.

However, if you're using your mother to qualify, you have to have been born in 1948 or later (Italian law did not permit women to pass on citizenship until that year).

You can use any of your Italian born grandparents as well, but, again, your mother or father would have to have been born in 1948 or later since your grandmother could not pass on citizenship before then.

Below are the grandparent categories. There are categories for great-grandparents as well, again favoring the male side. That is, it's easiest if your great-grandfather from Italy had a son who is your grandfather who had a son who is your father.

Here are particular qualifying scenarios:

- Your father was born in the United States. Your paternal grandfather was born in Italy and was an Italian citizen at the time of your father's birth.
- Your mother was born in the United States. Your maternal grandfather was born in Italy and was an Italian citizen at the time of your mother's birth. You were born after Jan. 1, 1948.
- Your father was born in the United States. Your paternal grandmother was born in Italy and was an Italian citizen at the time of your father's birth. Your father was born after Jan. 1, 1948.
- Your mother was born in the United States. Your maternal grandmother was born in Italy and was an Italian citizen at the time of your mother's birth. Your mother was born after Jan. 1, 1948.

The best place to start is your local Italian consulate, where you'll be able to get answers to your questions and details on the procedure to follow.

Hungary

“The Republic of Hungary bears a sense of responsibility for the fate of Hungarians living outside its borders and shall promote and foster their relations with Hungary.” So says the country's Constitution.

In keeping with this mandate, the Hungarian government, in 2011, liberalized its existing citizenship by ancestry program (inaugurated in 1993) to not only descendants of Hungarian parents and grandparents but descendants of all Hungarians. This creates a path to citizenship for ascendants from the defunct Austro-Hungarian Empire, which ceded two-thirds of its territory and one-third of its Hungarian speaking population under the 1920 Treaty of Trianon after World War I.

Furthermore, Hungary's new program, known as Simplified Naturalization, makes it quicker and easier than before to qualify by removing the original program's constitutional knowledge test and the one-year residency requirement before naturalization. Citizenship, once the application is processed and approved, is now granted immediately, and residency is never required.

The only remaining catch, then, is to demonstrate knowledge of the Hungarian language, a potentially deadly catch as it's commonly regarded as one of the most difficult languages to learn (not to mention a relatively useless one). But fret not, dear potential Hungarian, we've heard of applicants with no prior Hungarian language skills passing the test after just a few language lessons. As former Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjen puts it, "anyone linked to the Hungarian culture and who speaks the language some level can get Hungarian citizenship." That said, the application process is entirely in Hungarian.

Being a criminal or a threat to national security are other potential catches, but hopefully the language requirement will give you more trouble.

Since the expansion of the program in 2011, over 670,000 applicants from 65 nations have successfully applied and taken their oath of citizenship. Most have come from Ukraine, Romania, and Slovakia where large populations of ethnic Hungarians have remained since the Treaty of Trianon. Hundreds of U.S. citizens have likewise been successful.

Approximately 1.5 million U.S. citizens are eligible. Former New York Governor George Pataki has expressed interest in claiming Hungarian citizenship through his paternal grandfather who was born in Austria-Hungary in 1883 and immigrated to the United States in 1908. The governor would be eligible to apply for a second passport as well, regardless of resident status.

If you believe you can prove you have even a few drops of Hungarian blood (and can pass the language test), you can apply for citizenship at any Hungarian embassy or consulate. Work with them from the beginning. You'll need your normal personal identification and supporting documents, all with Hungarian translations, as well as the documents proving your relationship to your ancestor and your ancestor's relationship to Hungary. For the ancestor, anything goes... passports, IDs, marriage certificates, death certificates, military documents, church birth certificates, baptism papers, rectorial certificates, Hungarian military service ID's... that kind of stuff. Try to get your hands on as many of these documents as possible, so you can prove your case quickly and easily. If you have your ducks in a row, you could be a Hungarian citizen in less than six months.

Poland

Overseas descendants from Poland are eligible for citizenship through ancestry. But not all qualify, the main condition being that the grandparent would have to have had Polish citizenship, an impossibility before 1918, the year modern Poland was established and began offering citizenship.

In other words, your Polish ancestor must have emigrated from Poland after 1918; otherwise your ancestor is considered a Polish national, not a citizen.

So, you must have your ancestor's citizenship papers if you want to get your own. If you have them, contact the nearest Polish consulate for information on how to apply for "Confirmation of Possession or Loss of Polish Citizenship," which will certainly require lots of paperwork and patience. Consular offices are dreadfully understaffed.

You don't, however, need to know Polish.

Greece

Greeks believe in bloodlines as well. You're eligible for Greek citizenship if you have at least one biological parent or grandparent of Greek origin.

The name of the game is Find As Many Supporting Documents As You Can—birth, marriage, and death certificates; baptismal records, IDs, passports, even college records... extra points for a Greek municipality certificate certifying the ancestor's birth and municipality number.

A common concern with Greek citizenship is military service. Males 19 to 45 can circumvent the requirement by maintaining foreign resident status (possible as a Greek national), which permits up to six months of residency in Greece per year. Anything beyond six months automatically renders the citizen a permanent resident and may require up to 15 months of military service.

Portugal

Portugal began granting citizenship to foreign-born grandchildren of Portuguese citizens in 2006. Some knowledge of Portuguese is required for qualification. In addition, Portugal grants citizens of Brazil the right to apply for Portuguese citizenship after three years of legal residency, half the normal requirement.

Spain

To qualify for the new standards of Citizenship by Origin in Spain, you must be an eligible case. Here's a breakdown of the four eligible cases.

- Grandkids of Spanish ladies who wedded non-Spanish residents prior to the Constitution of 1978 and were conceived in Spain.
- Children of those who acquired Spanish nationality by birth, who were unable to become Spanish citizens when the law came into force because at that time, they were not over 18.
- Grandchildren of Spanish nationals who left the country and lost their Spanish citizenship after gaining citizenship to another country during migration.
- Spanish nationals' grandchildren who were eligible to obtain it and lost it because they did not express their intention to maintain it after they were overage.

Spain also has a Historical Memory Law which reduces its normal 10-year residency requirement to just two years for citizens of Latin American countries.

Further Live And Invest Overseas Resources

“Diversify or Die Broke” is the philosophy of Lief Simon, Live and Invest Overseas’ resident Offshore Investment Guru. Lief Simon has been living and doing business around the world for the last 20 years. He shares his insights with subscribers to his *Simon Letter*, as well as with members of his VIP subscription service *Global Property Advisor*. The Wealth Building and Diversification Kit includes invaluable advice on banking, tax, residency, citizenship, asset-protection, international business, and offshore investing.

More details below...

Simon Letter

Simon Letter shares the secrets of offshore investment guru, editor Lief Simon, showing you how to bulletproof your financial future. *Simon Letter* is an email newsletter covering the latest in offshore topics to help you internationalize your life. It is sent out once per month, directly to your email inbox. *Simon Letter* keeps you up-to-date and informed on all of your various opportunities out there—and there are many—presenting you with a buffet of options. An upgraded, more in-depth version of the free *Offshore Living Letter*, *Simon Letter* is your key to protecting the future of you, your family, and your assets through internationalization and offshore diversification. [Learn more here.](#)



Lief Simon's Global Asset Protection And Wealth Summit

This ultimate offshore event is the best way for you to learn how to take control of your financial future. Over three information-packed days, you'll connect with the experts who represent the gold standard in today's offshore world. Lief Simon's personal contacts will give you personalized advice to position yourself for a world of new opportunities, while preserving everything you've earned so far. Our team of international experts will show you exactly how you can maximize your tax savings, protect your assets, acquire a second residency or a second passport, open bank accounts overseas... and much, much more. We'll even coach you through your own personal strategy if you'd like a one-on-one consultation with any of our hand-chosen experts. [Learn more here.](#)



Lief Simon's Wealth And Diversification Kit

This kit is the next best thing to our live event, Lief Simon's Global Asset Protection and Wealth Summit. With the Wealth Building and Diversification Kit, you'll not only be handed a comprehensive roadmap to the offshore world... you'll also get the help you need to build your own personal plan, tailored to your specific needs and lifestyle desires. This is the best resource you're going to find available anywhere to help you design and follow through on the offshore plan and strategy that suits you best. [Learn more here.](#)



Global Property Advisor

A portfolio of international real estate holdings should be an important part of your diversification strategy. First, if you're an American, it is one of two assets you can hold offshore without triggering a reporting requirement. Secondly, depending on where you invest, you're diversifying your assets into other currencies... protecting yourself from any potential dollar crisis in the United States. And perhaps most important, international real estate can become the most lucrative and stable investment of your portfolio holdings. Lief Simon's *Global Property Advisor* service informs you where and how to buy, when to exit, and how to take your profits, following a proven strategy for building real wealth that lasts. Lief has led his readers to a number of remarkably profitable investments in markets from Croatia to Mexico... from Argentina to the coast of Spain... from Romania to Honduras... Now he shares his most promising finds and his unique and extensive experience with members of his *Global Property Advisor*. [Find more here.](#)

GLOBAL
PROPERTY ADVISOR

YOUR 6 FREE BUNDLES ARE PENDING

FREE: PICK THE TOPICS THAT MATTER TO YOU



Right now, you can pick and choose from among 6 bundles which include research reports, country guides, and video workshops

Choose the one that best fits your needs... or try them all... These bundles include dispatches from experts in the field covering everything from tax-saving strategies to tips on finding a new home abroad... Again, these reports are all 100% free for you—no purchase necessary!

Head here now to check them all out