

How to get latvian citizenship by descent?

Due to Latvian immigration, a large number of people with Latvian heritage now live outside of Latvia. Significant waves of Latvian migration occurred in the 19th and 20th centuries. Communities in the US, Australia, and Canada make up the bulk of this diaspora.

Applying for Latvia citizenship isn't easy. Like any citizenship by descent program. It is advised to pay special attention to the documents that will be submitted to verify the application before submitting one for Latvian citizenship by descent category.

Contradictory information about an applicant's ancestor is frequently found in archival documents. It might be difficult to complete the necessary steps to gain dual citizenship in Latvia, and numerous things are frequently forgotten. It is crucial and necessary to confirm the validity of the original document or the veracity of the derivative of the document prior to submitting an application for Latvian citizenship by descent.

Previously, applicants needed to be born before October 1, 2014, to be able to apply for citizenship. Based on the Latvian Citizenship Law (Section 2, Paragraph one, Clause 2) children born after 2014 can apply for Latvian citizenship if their ancestors had Latvian citizenship in 1940 when the war started.

It's the principle of continuity when the law allows for children under age 7 to apply for citizenship together with their parents because they continue to receive the same rights on citizenship as parents.

Afterwards, the further from 1940 than an ancestor leaves Latvia, the smaller the chances of restoring citizenship. With this in mind, they could still be entitled to dual Latvian citizenship. So, while applying for citizenship may be doable, there is some risk that needs to be taken into account.

Another point is: if the applicants' ancestor holds Russian citizenship or fled to Russia, applying on the basis that their ancestor held Latvian citizenship or Latvian citizenship as a descendant of Latvian exiles is insufficient. The fact that their ancestors left Latvia due to the USSR or German occupation rule must be proven.

So basically it is possible to have a double citizenship, if certain conditions are met:

- Double citizenship is possible for persons who have acquired citizenship of another state, that is part of the European Union, European Free Trade Association, NATO or Australia, the Brazil Federative Republic or New Zealand or have received permission from the Cabinet of Ministers to maintain citizenship of Latvia.

- Direct ancestors had Latvian citizenship (i.e., citizens of Latvian republic 1918-1940).
- Ancestors left during the occupation (June 14, 1940-May 4, 1990).

And another important detail about the process. The preparation of the application typically takes 1-3 months (the actual time mostly depends on how fast you can get the necessary documents from your country of residence). The Office of Citizenship and Migration may need six months to process the application. Therefore, I would suggest that after starting the process, you can anticipate receiving your Latvian citizenship in roughly 6 to 9 months.