



# RIGHTS ATTACHED TO THE BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

## REFUGEE

**Residence:** A residence permit is issued for 3 years. Renewal of residence permit is automatic upon request. Residence permits are issued by Identity Malta against payment of the annual fee.

**Travel:** A Convention Travel Document is granted enabling refugees to leave and return to Malta without a visa. This document is issued by the Malta Passport Office upon request and is valid for three years.

**Employment:** Access to employment both as employees and self-employed workers. The employment license is valid for 12 months and is renewable against payment of the annual fee. Applications at JobPlus offices.

**Education:** Access to free of charge and compulsory education until the age of sixteen. After secondary school, students may enroll for post-secondary education. Refugees may also apply to enroll at the University of Malta and they are treated as all other third-country national applicants in terms of application procedures, fees and stipends. They may also apply for waiver of fees.

**Healthcare:** Access to state medical services free of charge under the same conditions as Maltese citizens.

**Social benefits:** Refugees are entitled to same benefits as a Maltese national (e.g. Children's Allowance, Social Benefits Pension Benefits, Rent Subsidy, Social Housing, Unemployment Assistance)

**Family Reunification:** Refugees are entitled to family reunification<sup>1</sup>.

**Housing:** Refugees may request to remain in an open reception center after being granted protection. They are also allowed to apply to Maltese Housing Authority programme for alternative accommodation known as & "Government Units for Rent", provided they have been residing in Malta for 12 months and have limited income and assets. They can apply for Rent Subsidy.

**Long-term residence:** Access to long-term residence permit after 5 years (refugees are required to have stable and regular resources, appropriate accommodation, sickness insurance and they must pass an integration test).

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<sup>1</sup> See FACTSHEET NO 16 "FAMILY REUNIFICATION"



**Citizenship:** May apply to be naturalized after 10 years living in Malta, subject to conditions (being employed, renting a place, good character, clean police conduct, knowledge of English or Maltese).

**Integration support:** No structured programme offered by the State, with ad hoc initiatives by some public entities and active support by NGOs (e.g. language classes, employment assistance, etc.).

## SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION

**Residence:** A residence permit is issued for 3 years. Renewal of residence permit is automatic upon request. Residence permit is issued by Identity Malta against payment of the annual fee.

**Travel:** An Alien Passport is granted enabling subsidiary protection beneficiaries to leave and return to Malta without a visa. This document is issued by the Malta Passport Office upon request and is valid for three years.

**Employment:** Access to employment both as employees and self-employed workers. The employment license is valid for 12 months and is renewable against payment of the annual fee. Beneficiaries of subsidiary protection are not eligible for certain kind of jobs as in police or military.

**Education:** Access to free of charge and compulsory education until the age of sixteen. After secondary school, students may enroll for post-secondary education. Refugees may also apply to enroll at the University of Malta (they are treated as all other third-country national applicants in terms of application procedures, fees and stipends).

**Healthcare:** beneficiaries of subsidiary protection are only entitled to core medical services, being emergency, life-saving, public health, affecting human dignity, etc...

**Social benefits:** Social benefits are limited to core benefits: Social Assistance. Also eligible for contributory benefits if they are employed and paying social security contributions.

**Family Reunification:** Not entitled.

**Housing:** SP beneficiaries may request to remain in an open reception center after being granted protection.

**Long-term residence:** Access to long-term residence permit after 5 years (they are required to have stable and regular resources, appropriate accommodation, sickness insurance and they must pass an integration test).



**Citizenship:** May apply to be naturalized but applications will only be considered after 20+ years living in Malta, subject to conditions (being employed, renting a place, referee, good character, clean police conduct, knowledge of English or Maltese).

**Integration support:** No structured programme offered by the State, with ad hoc initiatives by some public entities and active support by NGOs (e.g. language classes, employment assistance, etc.)

*Comments on Practice: Access to citizenship for refugees and subsidiary protection beneficiaries is at the entire discretion of the Minister and no written policy regulating the process is available.*