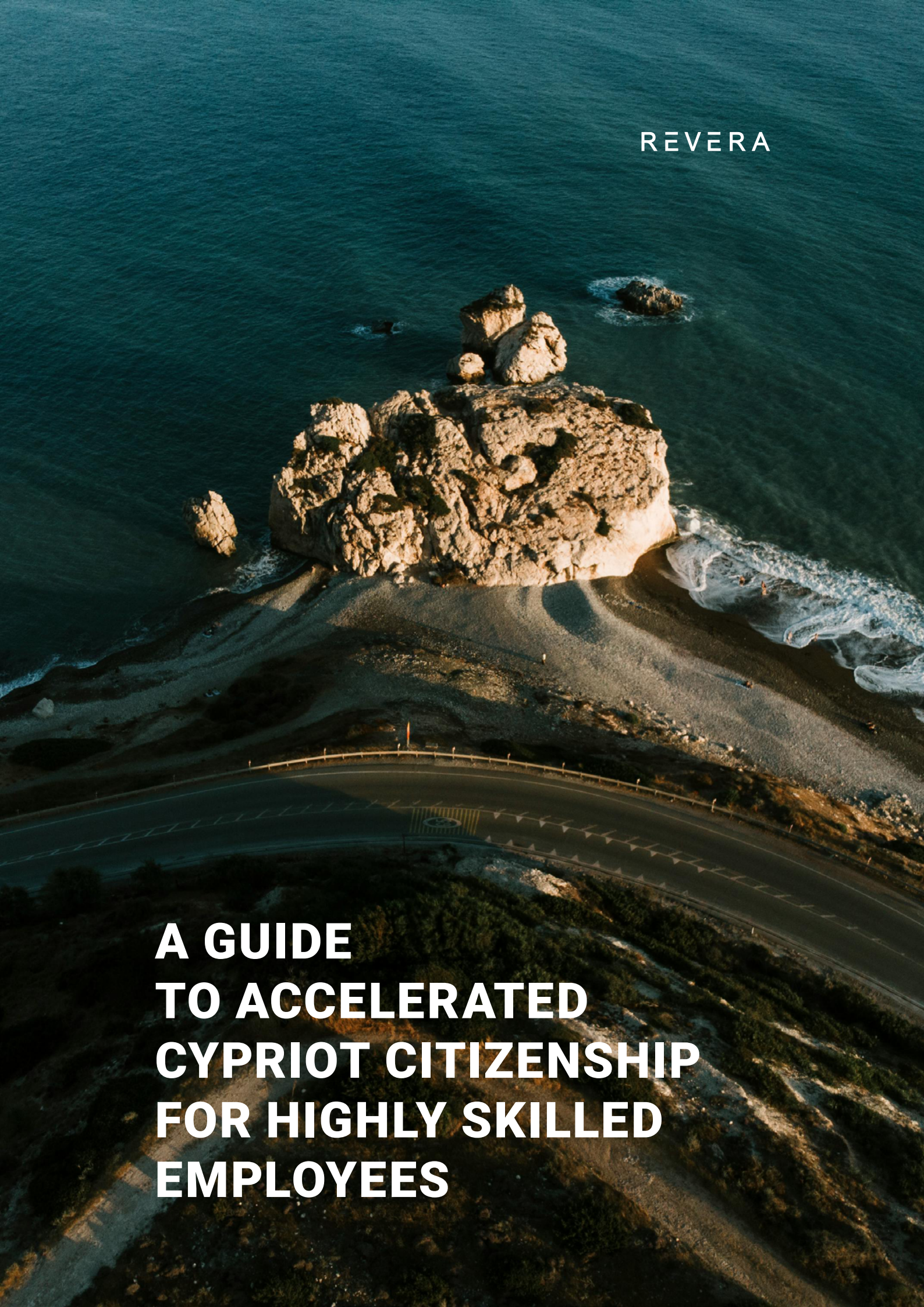


An aerial photograph of a coastal scene. In the upper half, the deep blue sea meets a large, light-colored rock formation. Several smaller rocks are scattered around the main one. Below the rocks is a dark, pebbly beach. In the foreground, a curved asphalt road with white dashed lines and a central yellow marking runs along the coastline. The road is bordered by a low wall and some greenery. The lighting suggests late afternoon or early morning, with long shadows and a warm glow on the rocks.

REVERA

**A GUIDE
TO ACCELERATED
CYPRIOT CITIZENSHIP
FOR HIGHLY SKILLED
EMPLOYEES**

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Contents

Introduction	3
The Advantage of Accelerated Citizenship for Highly Skilled Employees in Cyprus	4
Eligibility for the Accelerated Citizenship Program	5
The 8-Month Accelerated Citizenship Examination Process: Step-by-Step	6
Potential Reasons for Rejection of Application for Naturalisation	8
Key Documents Required for Accelerated Citizenship	9
Benefits of Acquiring Cyprus Citizenship	10
Why Choose REVERA Cyprus for Citizenship Assistance?	11
Conclusion	12

Introduction

Cyprus has introduced an attractive citizenship program that allows highly skilled professionals employed in Cyprus to obtain Cypriot citizenship in approximately 4 years and 8 months, subject to payment of an acceleration examination government fee (as described below). In this article, we outline the key benefits, eligibility criteria, and the step-by-step process for securing Cyprus citizenship through employment.

The Advantage of Accelerated Citizenship for Highly Skilled Employees in Cyprus

The streamlined process enables employees with the specific qualifications and expertise to secure citizenship in as little as 8 months, making it an attractive option for talented individuals to migrate to Cyprus. While many EU countries have strict naturalization rules, lengthy residency requirements, and delays in examinations, Cyprus provides a clear and efficient pathway to European citizenship, allowing you to obtain it within 4 years and 8 months of residency on the island by paying an accelerated examination government fee of €5,000. The main requirement is the knowledge of the Greek language, meaning that if you can speak Greek and are integrated into Cypriot society, you fulfil one of the main requirements to become a Cypriot national.

Eligibility for the Accelerated Citizenship Program

To qualify for the 8-month accelerated citizenship process, certain criteria must be met. As a **highly skilled employee**, you must have the following:

a. Valid Residence Permit

Eligible applicants must hold one of the following permits: BCS in the categories of Director, Specialist, or Key Personnel; MEU1; MEU2, MEU3; UKW1, UKW2, UKW3 or FR Family Reunification permit.

b. Greek language proficiency

1. Applicants must hold a B1 or A2 level certificate to be eligible to apply for the accelerated citizenship program.
2. Applicants must also hold a Certificate of the Basic Elements of Contemporary Political and Social Reality of Cyprus, with a minimum grade of 60%, which is equivalent to answering at least 14 out of 25 multiple-choice questions correctly.

c. Legal Stay and Residency Requirements

Holders of a B1 level certificate must have a total of **1460** days of legal residency in Cyprus.

Holders of an A2 level certificate must have a total of **1825** days of legal residency in Cyprus.

The 365 days (which are included in the total days above) preceding the submission of the citizenship application, must not exceed 90 days of stay outside of Cyprus during that period.

d. Accommodation

To ensure a more favorable review of your application and to determine your intention to remain in the Republic after acquiring citizenship, it is recommended to provide a title deed. Nevertheless, rental agreements are also accepted.

The 8-Month Accelerated Citizenship Examination Process: Step-by-Step

Here's an overview of the process.

■ Step 1: Application Submission to Migration Department

Once all the required documents are prepared and appropriately certified, stamped, translated, or apostilled as per each applicant's case, we will submit the application to the Migration Department and obtain the submission receipt. Please note that it is essential to ensure that all required documents are properly gathered, and nothing is missing in order to facilitate a smooth application process and avoid the frustration of back-and-forth communication with the migration officer, whether directly or through a representative.

■ Step 2: Review and Approval

Within two to three months after submitting the citizenship application, the Migration Department will reach out to schedule an interview, which may vary in length depending on the individual case. The interview will explore key aspects such as your personal background, ties to Cyprus, language proficiency, family connections, and knowledge of the country's culture, and political landscape. The department will assess your level of integration into Cypriot society. Additionally, you will be asked to elaborate on your relationships with Cypriots and provide details about the three Cypriots who signed your citizenship application. Through your responses, it is essential to demonstrate a genuine intention to make Cyprus your permanent home after acquiring citizenship.

During the period of your application review, your representative should continuously monitor the progress of your application to ensure everything is proceeding smoothly and ready to address any clarifications or additional information the examiner may need, as well as respond promptly if further investigation or concerns arise.

Your representative must be available at all times to provide any necessary documentation or explanations, **ensuring the citizenship case remains active and free of doubt.**

Following the interview, within the 8-month timeframe, you will receive a letter from the Migration Department confirming whether you have been successfully naturalized as a Cypriot citizen or, if your application was unsuccessful, providing the reasons for rejection granting you the right to appeal the decision in court.

Step 3: Oath of Allegiance and Issuance of Naturalization Certificate

Once approved, we will assist you in visiting the District Court of Nicosia to take the oath of allegiance. Following that, we will accompany you to the Migration Department to submit the necessary documents for the issuance of your ID and passport. The ID may take up to two weeks to be issued, while the passport can be issued on the same day.

Potential Reasons for Rejection of Application for Naturalisation

A citizenship application may be rejected for, but not limited to, the following reasons:

- Lack of a BCS permit during the last two years of residency in Cyprus before submitting the citizenship application (applies to third-country nationals).
- Gaps in residency duration
- Insufficient or undeclared income
- No property ownership
- Demonstrated disloyalty or disregard for the Republic through actions or statements
- Recognition or acceptance of the occupied territories.
- Illegal entry, damage, or interference with property belonging to a lawful owner in the occupied territories.
- Conviction in Cyprus or abroad for a serious criminal offense punishable by at least 5 years in prison.
- Being wanted by EUROPOL or INTERPOL for a serious criminal offense.
- Subject to international sanctions or listed in sanctions registers
- Pending criminal charges in Cyprus or abroad for an offense punishable by at least 3 years in prison.
- Illegal entry, stay, or violation of any legal restrictions in Cyprus.
- Considered a threat to public order and national security.

Key Documents Required for Accelerated Citizenship

The application requires several critical documents to ensure the process runs smoothly. These include:

- **Copy of Valid Passport:** along with copies of passport pages with arrival and departure stamps from the republic.
- **Original birth certificate (according to the country of issuance, apostilled)**
- **Original Criminal Record Certificate issued by Cyprus Police**
- **Copy of Valid Residency Permit**
- **Certificate** of the Basic Elements of the Contemporary Political and Social Reality of Cyprus.
- **Certificate** of Greek language knowledge at level **A2** or **B1**.
- Copies of financial resources, such as payroll evidence, employment contract, social insurance, income tax, bank accounts, or any other evidence that can prove the income. (For the entire duration of your legal residency in Cyprus).
- Certificate confirming that the company you work for as a highly skilled employee is registered in the foreign companies register. (The company owner or any other legal representative should reach out to the BFU to obtain this certificate).

Benefits of Acquiring Cyprus Citizenship

Becoming a Cypriot citizen offers a wealth of advantages. Some key benefits include:

- **Access to the EU:** As an EU citizen, you will enjoy free movement across all member states.
- **Dual citizenship:** Accepted
- **Tax Incentives:** Cyprus has one of the most competitive tax regimes in Europe, making it an ideal destination for entrepreneurs and investors.
- **Family Benefits:** Your spouse and children under 18 can also be included in the citizenship application. Cypriot citizenship is inherited, and grandchildren may also be eligible for citizenship.
- **Global Mobility:** Cyprus allows you to travel visa-free to over 170 countries worldwide.
- **Entry with the Cypriot ID card to non-EU countries:** Georgia, Serbia, Moldova, Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine.
- **In the near future,** it is expected that Cypriot nationals will be able to travel to the United States without a visa through the Visa Waiver Program (VWP).

Why Choose REVERA Cyprus for Citizenship Assistance?

At REVERA Cyprus, we have extensive experience assisting highly skilled professionals in Cyprus, starting with obtaining residency and work permits, securing permanent residency permits, and ultimately acquiring Cyprus citizenship. We ensure a smooth, hassle-free process from start to finish, keeping clients informed and updated at every step. Our guidance extends to helping clients successfully navigate the process of obtaining Cyprus citizenship. Our firm offers:

- **Expert Legal Advice:** We provide personalized guidance to ensure your application meets all requirements.
- **Efficient Process Management:** We streamline the documentation and submission process to help you achieve citizenship within the 8-month timeframe.
- **Comprehensive Support:** From gathering documents to submitting your application and handling communication with authorities, we manage every step of the process.
- **Family Applications:** We ensure that your spouse and children are included in the application, providing a smooth transition for the whole family.

If you're considering applying, contact us for a consultation today.



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Conclusion

Obtaining Cyprus citizenship in just 4 years and 8 months is a unique opportunity for highly skilled professionals seeking to enhance their global mobility and secure a future in the European Union. With the proper legal guidance, this process can be smooth and efficient.

Disclaimer: This guide is for informational purposes only. REVERA is not an immigration authority and does not make decisions regarding citizenship. Our role is to provide guidance on documents and assist in their preparation. The final decision on citizenship is made by the relevant immigration authority based on document review and an interview.