

RESIDENCY PERMIT APPLICATIONS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **How do I apply for a Residency Permit?**

2. If you have purchased a property on Eden Island, you automatically qualify to apply to the Seychelles Government for a Residency Permit.
3. Application must be made within a period of 90 days from the date of occupation of the property that has been transferred into your name.
4. Application may be made in respect of:
 5. natural persons for up to six co-owners, their spouses and issue; or
 6. a legal entity for up to six natural persons nominated and declared by the legal entity as having a beneficial interest therein, together with their spouses and issue. As the application is open to only six members (and their respective families), the members will have to decide amongst themselves who will apply.

7. **What fees are payable when I make my application for residency?**

8. Professional Fee : USD 1,000;
9. Processing Fee : SCR 1,000; and
10. Permit Application Fee : SCR 150,000.
11. The Professional Fee is payable for compiling the application, uplifting your original documents from the relevant Government Department (where it was submitted for your sanction application) and for uplifting your Transfer Deed from the Land Registry.
12. The Processing Fee is payable to the Immigration Division for processing the application.
13. When the application is approved, you are to deposit the SCR 150,000 Permit Application Fee.
14. **In what currency must the fees be paid?**
15. The Professional Fee of USD 1,000 must be paid in US Dollars upfront into a designated account, details of which will be provided to you.



16. The Processing Fee of SCR 1,000 must be paid in Seychelles Rupees to Mr KB Shah who is the notary in Seychelles. After receipt thereof, Mr Shah will submit a completed application form, together with the relevant fees payable, to the Seychelles Immigration Department. The account details, into which payment must be made, will be provided to you at the time of application.
17. The Permit Application Fee of SCR 150,000 is payable to the Seychelles Government in Seychelles Rupees upon approval of the Residency Permit. This amount must be paid to Mr KB Shah who will provide a cheque therefor in favour of the Seychelles Government.
18. **What documents am I required to submit in order to apply for residency?**
19. The following documents must be submitted:
20. an Application Form which is signed in duplicate (complete one Application Form per family);
21. all the documents mentioned in the Application Form namely:
22. two full face, passport photos of all persons mentioned in the Application Form;
23. certified copies of the birth certificates of all persons mentioned in the Application Form. A full birth certificate must be provided for issue, reflecting the names of the parents;
24. a certified copy of a Marriage Certificate (if married);
25. documentary evidence of divorce or legal separation (if applicable);
26. two character references from persons of high standing for the Main Applicant and his/her spouse;
27. a Police Clearance Certificate for the Main Applicant and his/her spouse from all countries in which they have resided, either individually or jointly, for more than 3 months;
28. an indication if you hold more than one nationality and certified copies of all certificates of citizenship you hold;
29. details of each passport if you hold more than one;
30. a Medical Certificate for all persons mentioned in the application which are over the age of 18, including the results of an HIV test (which must be negative) a chest X-ray (to check for TB), and a written confirmation by a doctor that the person does not suffer from any contagious diseases;
31. proof of ownership of property on Eden Island (a copy of your Transfer Deed); and

32. in the case of a legal entity, a declaration by that entity confirming that the Applicant has a beneficial interest in that entity.

33. Where any of the documents listed above were previously submitted with the sanction application, it will not be necessary to provide those documents again. These can be inserted from the records we have on file.

34. **What happens if I have already submitted documents for my sanction application, must I resend them for the residency application?**

It is not necessary to provide documents that have been previously submitted for your sanction application, as we will arrange to have these uplifted.

35. **Who must obtain a police clearance certificate and how can one be obtained?**

36. It is necessary to provide a police clearance certificate for every adult person that will be included on the application (ie the Main Applicant and his/her spouse). This must be obtained from the Applicant's current country of residence.

37. If South African, the Applicant may apply at any South African police station. The cost related to such application is approximately ZAR59.00 per person. Upon payment, a receipt will be issued after which the police station will post the application to the Name Clear Centre. However, it is advisable for Applicants to rather courier the information to the Name Clear Centre themselves. If we are copied with the receipts and passports or IDs of Applicants, we will follow up with the Name Clear Centre approximately three weeks after the application was made. The document can then be collected and couriered to us.

38. **What happens if I am a citizen of more than one country?**

It is necessary to provide details of each country for which the Applicant holds citizenship.

39. **Why are copies of my divorce documents needed?**

The reason for requesting the divorce documents is so that the Seychelles Government has this information on file if, in future, an ex-spouse attempts to make an application based on the fact that he/she is married to an existing resident.

40. **Who in my family must apply for a medical certificate and is different information required for adults and children?**

41. A medical certificate is required for all members of the family, but the results of the HIV and TB tests are only required in respect of adults (ie persons 18 years and older).

42. Medical certificates for all adults must include the results of an HIV test (which must be negative), a chest X-ray (to check for TB), and written confirmation by a doctor that the person does not suffer from any contagious diseases. These tests are not applicable to children.

43. **Do I need passport photos for all members of my family?**

Yes, passport photos must be provided for all adults and children.

44. **What happens if my partner and I live together but are not married?**

45. Unfortunately, common law marriages are not recognised for the purposes of Residency Permits, and both partners must apply separately. However, both partners must hold a share in, or be co-owners of, the Eden Island property in order to qualify for residency as a result of a purchase on Eden Island.

46. It is at the discretion of the Immigration Division whether the partner of an owner of a property on Eden Island will be granted a Residency Permit solely on the strength of the partnership. It is also at the discretion of the Immigration Division whether such partner will qualify for the Eden Island concessions.

47. Where the Main Applicant and his/her partner are not married, the partner may not be included in the Main Applicant's application.

48. **What happens if I cannot submit my application for residency on time?**

Please let us know if you intend making a residency application and we will request an extension of the time period on your behalf.

49. **How long will the approval of the residency application take?**

The time frame for approval depends on the capacity of the Department of Immigration. The Department of Immigration has requested that we, together with Mr KB Shah, compile and submit applications on behalf of Eden Island property owners in order to streamline this process.

50. **What is the process after the residency application has been approved by the Immigration Division?**

Once the Immigration Division has approved the application the SCR 150,000 Permit Application Fee has to be paid. This fee must be paid to Mr KB Shah who will draw a cheque in favour of the Seychelles Government.

51. For how long is the Residency Permit valid and may I apply for citizenship in the Seychelles?

52. The Residency Permit is valid for 5 years after which it must be renewed and payment be made again.

53. There is no option available to apply for citizenship on the strength of a Residency Permit, although this may be considered in future. All applications for citizenship must be made on its own merit and as a separate application.

54. What concessions will be granted to me as an Eden Island property owner?

55. Certain concessions have been granted to Eden Island property owners. These are mainly financial concessions, for example, the current fee for the Residency Permit is SCR 150,000 for both the Main Applicant and his/her spouse. This would ordinarily be SCR 150,000 for the Main Applicant, SCR 75,000 for his/her spouse and SCR 25,000 per minor dependent child.

56. Normally, if a Residency Permit holder resides in the Seychelles for more than one month in any year, he/she is required to:

57. keep a deposit with a bank in Seychelles or provide a bank guarantee to the Director General of Immigration, of not less than SCR 20,000; and

58. within 14 days of each anniversary of the issue of the Residency Permit, advance evidence to the satisfaction of the Director General of Immigration that he/she has brought into Seychelles for his/her own use, foreign exchange through the Central Bank of Seychelles of an amount of not less than SCR 100,000.

However, if an Applicant applies for a Residency Permit as a result of being a property owner on Eden Island, the principles set out in 16.2.1 and 16.2.2 will not apply to him/her.

59. If my application for residency is approved, what implications will this have in respect of tax?

Only income or remuneration generated within the Seychelles (for example, income tax, companies tax, etc) shall be taxed in the Seychelles. No other taxes will be levied.

60. What happens if I do not want to obtain a Residency Permit and merely wish to stay in the Seychelles?

61. An individual is granted a document at the airport upon arrival, containing permission to remain in the Seychelles for one month. No visa is required and no charge is payable. However, the individual must be in possession of an "out-bound" ticket.

62. The individual may renew or extend this permission for a further period of two months at no charge. Permission is therefore effectively granted for three months at no charge.
63. If the individual wishes to stay for an additional period of three months, a fee will be payable. Once an individual has been in the Seychelles for an uninterrupted period of six months, he/ she must leave the country (even for only a day) before they will be granted permission to remain on the basis set out above.
64. Each visit is considered to be a separate event, and the cumulative number of days that an individual spends in the Seychelles per year is not considered. The individual may therefore continually exit the country and return again.
65. The above permission to remain in the Seychelles is granted at the discretion of the Immigration Division.
66. **If I do not apply for residency now, may I apply for residency in the future?**

You may apply for a Residency Permit outside of the period granted to Eden Island property owners to make such application. However, you will not have the benefit of the concessions that have been granted by the Seychelles Government to Eden Island property owners.