

URUGUAYAN CITIZENSHIP AND URUGUAYAN PASSPORT

Permanent residents of Uruguay may apply for citizenship considering three years of proven history and relationship that link them to the country if filed as a couple or five years for those who are single.

One important thing to bear in mind is that the clock starts ticking from the day you first arrived in the country to file for residency (and not on the day you obtain resident status).

The process takes 6 to 8 months on average to obtain the citizenship.

Requirements

When filing for citizenship, the applicant must provide:

- a) Birth certificate in Uruguayan format: An official copy of the one you used for the residency procedure is valid, and we can obtain it for you at the Civil Registry.
- b) Certificate with Migration Movements: This is a certificate that the National Migration Office (NMO) issues, stating that you are a Uruguayan Permanent Resident. It is called "Certificado de llegada" and we get it for you.
- c) Proof of Residence and Social Insertion: You must prove that you have resided in Uruguay and that you are part of the community you live in. To achieve this, you should be able to show some of the following documents (this list enumerates some common examples):
 - Document from for any business activity you have in the country.
 - Evidence of Medical Records. Usually, the Electoral Court requires two certificates prepared by two different doctors and/or dentists, which must state the instances when you were assisted.
 - Evidence of a job or pension in Uruguay
 - Bank statements showing your bank movements.
 - Deeds showing the ownership of a property in Uruguay, or lease contracts that prove that you have a home.
- d) Proof of Identity: You must present two witnesses who can attest to who you are (the two witnesses must be Uruguayan citizens, at least 25 years old and they must have known you for more than 3/5 years). The witnesses cannot be relative, employees, lawyer or notaries

- e) Proof of economic support: you can use the proof of income used for the residency or capital/assets that you use to support your living.

The Process

The process starts with a visit to the Electoral Court to discuss your specific case. Once you gather all the necessary documents, you submit them to the EC and a hearing is scheduled (with a specific date and time), usually within days of filing the request.

At the scheduled hearing, the applicant and the two witnesses must answer a brief verbal questionnaire, in Spanish. The questions are usually related to: - Name; - Marital status; - Nationality; - Age; - Address; - Country of origin and country where the applicant resided prior to entering Uruguay; - Income.

Next, the EC analyzes the documents you filed, and within 6 to 8 months grants the applicant with citizenship by issuing a “Carta de Ciudadanía” (proof of citizenship).

With the “Carta de Ciudadania”, you will immediately be able to get your **Uruguayan Passport**.