

Residency in Cyprus for EU Citizens

The way in which European citizens can move between Member States is similar to that in which a *national* of a member state can move around or change their place of residence inside their own country. In essence:

- European citizens have **the right to enter, reside and remain in the territory of any other Member State** for a period of **up to three months** simply by presenting a valid passport or national identity card: no other formality is required. If they intend to remain for a period exceeding three months, a **residence permit** must be obtained. The conditions for granting a residence permit depend on the status of the citizen (employed or self-employed person, student, retired or inactive person). For information on applying for EU residence in Cyprus see below.
- Any EU citizen can **take up an economic activity in another Member State** either as an employed or self-employed person. In this case, he/she will be issued a residence permit by simply presenting an identity document (passport or ID) and proof of employment or self-employment.
- If a citizen wants **to reside in another Member State without exercising any activity or to study**, he/she can do so provided he/she can prove (and in the case of students, declare) that:
 - he/she has sufficient financial resources not to become a burden for the host Member State's social assistance system and
 - that he/she is covered by a sickness insurance policy. He/she must also prove that he/she has sufficient financial resources and sickness insurance for each member of his/her family who is entitled to reside with him/her.
- **Family members, irrespective of their nationality, have the right to accompany and establish** themselves with a European citizen who is residing in the territory of another Member State. Family members who can enjoy rights under Community law include the spouse, minor (under 21) or dependent children, and dependent ascendants, though in the case of students only the spouse and dependent children enjoy this right. If the family members are not EU citizens, they may be required to hold an entry visa by the Member State where they intend to accompany the EU citizen. The Member State should grant them this visa free of charge and with all associated facilities.

British Nationals who wish to reside in Cyprus for more than 3 months are required to apply for a temporary residence permit (sometimes known as a “yellow slip”) through the local immigration office of the Ministry of the Interior using form MEU1A. A fee is payable but the permit does not need to be renewed. A permanent registration certificate can be applied for after 5 consecutive years of residence using form MEU3A.

Note that each form has an appendix which gives **clear** instructions in English specifying the documents an applicant needs to produce to the immigration authorities based on the type of residency that they are requesting e.g. retired, working, etc.

Addresses of immigration offices are given below:

Larnaca – Larnaca Police Station, Piale Pasia, Larnaca (Tel. 24-804 242);

Limassol – Limassol Police Station, Kyrillou Loukareos, Kakos Centre, Limassol (Tel. 25-805 200);

Nicosia – Nicosia Police Station, Parodos Leoforou, RIC, Nicosia (General Information: Tel. 22-802 334, Registration: Tel. 22-802 348);

Paphos – Paphos Police Station, Ypolohagou N.Papageorgiou, Polykatikia, PA.SY.DI First Floor, 8011 Paphos (Tel. 26-806 200).

Alien Registration Cards (previously brown/pink) are no longer valid. The British High Commission has been advised that people with the old style cards will need to change them for the new 'yellow slips'. Many British nationals have already paid for these, but never received them. We would encourage them to take this up with either the local issuing immigration office, or, if they receive no response to take it up with the [Cyprus Ombudsman](#).

The Office of Commissioner of Administration (Ombudsman)

Era House

2, Diagorou Street

1097 Nicosia

Tel. No.: 22 405500

Fax. No.: 22 672881

e-mail: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.cy

Alternatively, you can contact the [Citizens' Signpost Service](#) (CSS), a team of **independent legal experts** providing free and personalised advice on your rights in the EU within **a week** of your request. You can expect CSS to:

- **clarify the European law** that applies in your case
- explain how you can exercise your EU rights and **obtain redress**
- signpost you to a body that can offer **further help** if needed.

CSS can also advise on problems you may have as a **consumer**.

The website '[Your Europe - Citizens](#)' provides detailed practical **information** on your **rights** and **opportunities** in the EU and its internal market plus **advice** on how to exercise these rights in practice. For example, you can learn more about living, working and studying in another EU country.

British High Commission

Nicosia

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