

The naturalisation

Luxembourgish legislation regarding the acquisition of nationality has gone through many changes over the past decade. One of these was that the principle of multiple nationality was introduced by the Act of October 2008. If you want to acquire Luxembourgish nationality and the country of which you are already a national allows you to do so, you will not lose your nationality of origin. A second change was the introduction of some elements of ‘the right of the soil’ (citizenship by birth) in 2017: if your child is born in Luxembourg, s/he may apply for Luxembourgish nationality as soon as s/he turns 12 years old and will be granted it automatically on the day when s/he comes of age. For children born after 2013, one of the parents must also have legally resided in Luxembourg for at least 1 year before their birth.

Now, we are going to discuss how to obtain nationality by naturalisation. There is an alternative, somewhat simplified procedure to acquire it: the option. This is possible in 10 cases, which will be presented in detail in another video.

In order to apply for naturalisation, one must have legally resided in Luxembourg for at least five years. This stay does not necessarily have to be continuous, but you must have resided in Luxembourg uninterruptedly in the year before you apply. In addition, you must have a certain level of Luxembourgish and must pass the assessment. This examination includes a **spoken test** (A2 level) and a **listening test** (B1 level). It is organized by the National Institute of Languages (INL).

You must also complete the ‘Vivre ensemble au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg’ (Living together in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg) course, which includes 24 hours of teaching. Alternatively, you must pass the relevant examination. Finally, you must meet the conditions of good repute, that is to say, you cannot have lied or committed fraud to obtain the nationality. You also cannot have been sentenced to more than one year in prison or to more than two years with a suspended sentence.

To apply for naturalisation, visit the civil registrar’s office in your commune of residence and submit:

- ✓ a copy of your birth certificate and that of your under-age children, if you have any since they will automatically obtain the nationality with you;
- ✓ a copy of your passport or other proof of identity and that of your children;
- ✓ your curriculum vitae. The template to be used can be downloaded from the website of the Ministry of Justice;
- ✓ a certificate proving that you have passed the Luxembourgish language examination;
- ✓ a certificate proving that you have completed the ‘Vivre ensemble au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg’ (Living Together in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg) course or that you have passed the examination;
- ✓ a police record or police records from the country/countries where you have been living in the last 15 years.

Your file will be examined by the Ministry of Justice, which will take a decision within 8 months. Naturalisation takes effect on the date of the ministerial order that grants you the nationality.

For any further questions on the procedure, please call 8002 1000, a dedicated hotline set up by the Ministry of Justice. Advisors are available from Monday to Friday during business hours.