

Portuguese Golden Visa: The Path Forward

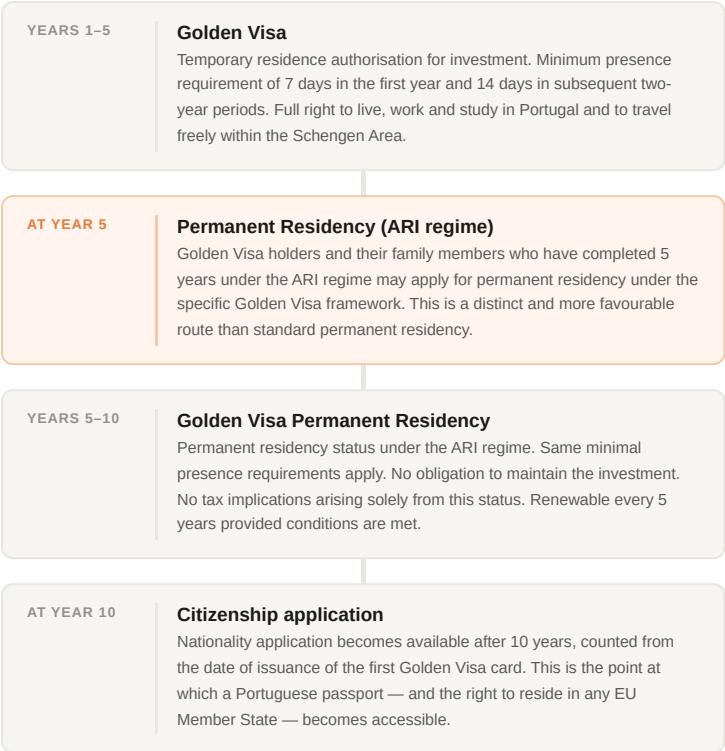
This note sets out the residency and citizenship options available to Golden Visa holders under the current legal framework, and explains why the decision to invest in Portugal remains the right one.

PUTTING THE AMENDMENT IN CONTEXT

The amendment to the Nationality Law extends the path to Portuguese citizenship. It does not affect the substance of what the Golden Visa provides: the right to live, work and travel freely within the European Union, with minimal presence requirements in Portugal. Only the path and timeline for citizenship has changed.

THE PATH AHEAD

If no relevant provisions are introduced through the secondary legislation, the expected path for current Golden Visa holders is as follows:



STANDARD PERMANENT RESIDENCY VS. GOLDEN VISA PERMANENT RESIDENCY

Golden Visa holders have a choice. They may apply for permanent residency either under the standard general regime or under the specific ARI framework. The table below sets out the key differences.

	Standard Permanent Residency	Golden Visa Permanent Residency
Minimum residence	5 years of continuous legal residence	5 years under ARI, with minimal presence requirements
Presence requirement	Effective residence in Portugal required	7 days per year (1st year); 14 days per period (subsequent years)
Absence rules	Cannot be absent more than 24 consecutive months or 30 interpolated months in 5 years	Not subject to standard absence rules
Investment obligation	None	None — investment may be disposed of upon grant
Family independence	Each family member may apply independently once eligible	Each family member acquires independent status upon grant
Portuguese language	Basic Portuguese (A2) required	Basic Portuguese (A2) required
Path to citizenship	Available after 5 years of permanent residency (i.e. 10 years total)	Available after 10 years from first Golden Visa card issuance

GOLDEN VISA PERMANENT RESIDENCY: WHAT IT MEANS IN PRACTICE

- Minimal presence**
The same 7-day minimum annual presence requirement that applies to the Golden Visa continues to apply. No obligation to relocate to Portugal.
- No tax impact**
Obtaining permanent residency under the ARI regime does not, in itself, trigger Portuguese tax residency or any additional tax obligations.
- Investment may be disposed of**
There is no requirement to maintain the original investment in order to obtain or renew Golden Visa permanent residency. This means that Golden Visa holders may dispose of their investments upon obtaining Golden Visa permanent residency.
- Family members become independent** Key point
This is a particularly important point. Upon obtaining permanent residency, each family member — including dependent children — acquires their own independent status. Children who have reached adulthood during the process are no longer dependent on their parents' Golden Visa and hold their own right of permanent residence in Portugal. This resolves one of the most practical concerns that arises as processes extend over time.
- Full Portugal and EU travel-free rights**
Permanent residency confers the right to live, work and study in Portugal on the same terms as Portuguese nationals, as well as freedom of movement within the Schengen Area.

Questions about your specific situation

The analysis above is general in nature. The implications for each client will depend on their specific timeline and family structure. We will shortly make available a dedicated scheduling link for clients who wish to discuss their individual situation with our team directly.

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