

dren under 16 (name/surname/patronym, birth date, citizenship), addresses in Armenia and country of origin, passport number and information, notice about changes in permanent residency, date of application completion, signature, a 3x4 photo posted to the right top region of application

- ▶ 35x45 mm photo (3x)
- ▶ Passport (notary translated) and its copy
- ▶ Documents proving need to receive or renew residency. For temporary residents, this can be for training, schooling, work, marriage, as a family member of a resident or citizen, or for business purposes. For permanent residents, this could include proving the existence of a close relative with residency or citizenship, work, business activities, or if the person has resided in Armenia for 3+ years.
- ▶ Health certificate (can be taken at any polyclinic)
- ▶ Receipt of payment

The decision about granting temporary or permanent residency is made by the Migration and Citizenship Service of Armenia, jointly with the National Security Services, within 30 days. A notice will be sent to the applicant. Once granted, the holder has the right to live in Armenia, as well as exit and enter the country. A renewal should be applied for **30 days before the expiration date**.

#### ▶ WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO OBTAIN SPECIAL RESIDENCY IF I AM ARMENIAN?

As of 1994, Armenia issues a special residency passport (88x125mm, 12 page) to foreign citizens of Armenian ancestry. It is for a 10-year period and exempts the bearer from visa costs when travelling to Armenia. It provides full protection by the law and all rights and obligations of Armenian citizens, as well as most benefits, with the exception of the right to vote or run for office. Furthermore, those with the special residency passport are exempt from military service. To apply, you will need to submit the necessary documentation to either an embassy or consulate when outside Armenia, or through the Passport and Visa Department – aka OVIR. The processing time can take between 3 and 6 months, though it has been known to take up to 9 in some cases. Renewal applications should be made 30 days before the expiration date.

You will need:

1. Application addressed to the head of Passport and Visas department of the Police of the RA
2. Application-questionnaire and a copy of it (3 copies)
3. Documents confirming the legality of residence in the territory of the Republic of Armenia (entry visa, residence card, passport of special residence of the RA and the note on entering the RA made by the border control service in the identity document) /4 copies/
4. One of the documents confirming Armenian ethnicity (4 copies)
  - a. Baptism certificate issued by churches, attested by the embassy or consulate with a note that the baptized person or his / her parent is an ethnic Armenian
  - b. A document confirming Armenian ethnicity issued by the competent authorities of a foreign state and certified by an Apostille or attested by the consulate
  - c. Another document substantiating Armenian ethnicity attested by the embassy or consulate
  - d. Birth certificate of a parent (grandfather, grandmother, sister or brother) or other identity document with a note of Armenian ethnicity. The birth certificate or other identity document

of a sister or brother establishing nationality can be a document confirming nationality if brother's or sister's Armenian nationality is conditioned by the nationality of their joint parent e. Along with the documents mentioned in paragraph "d" of this sub-clause, is also submitted a document substantiating the kinship of the person issued by the competent state bodies

A passport, birth certificate containing a note on Armenian ethnicity are also documents confirming Armenian ethnicity.

5. Passport and travel documents, notarized and translated into Armenian and copies of these documents (3 copies)

6. 6 color photos - 35 x 45 mm

7. Receipt certifying payment of the state duty

Those over the age of 16 can apply for special residency. The children of special residents who are under 16 may receive special residency for free.

**NOTE:** You should book an appointment for applying for any type of residence permit on the [website of Migration and Citizenship Service](#).

#### ▶ CAN I OBTAIN RESIDENCY IF I AM NOT OF ARMENIAN DESCENT?

Yes, you can apply for both 1 year and 5 year residency. Normally, these are granted based on your circumstances, as mentioned above. The 1-year is temporary, while the 5-year is considered permanent. You become eligible for citizenship three years after your initial issuance. Foreign citizens enrolled in an Armenian school or university are issued a temporary residence permit. Employees with a signed employment agreement are also eligible for a temporary residency. You are not allowed to work without a permit and it may result in both penalties and visa revocation.

**PRO TIP:** You can refer to this [step-by-step guidance](#) on how to get one or five year residence permit in Armenia.

#### ▶ BENEFITS OF AN ARMENIAN PASSPORT

After three years of residence in Armenia, or if you are of Armenian descent, you may apply for citizenship, thus becoming eligible for a travel passport. Ranked 66th [in the world](#), the Armenian passport allows for visa-free travel to 80 countries, including Russia, most of the CIS, and Iran. You are allowed dual citizenship and need not renounce your original one. Residency alone gives you the right to do business, work, study, or simply retire in Armenia. Residents may also invite foreigners. Though a citizen must serve in the military, residents alone are not obligated.