

Do You Meet These Requirements to Apply for Singapore PR?



In Singapore, the permanent resident (PR) status automatically opens doors to a wide array of benefits that are elusive to foreigners. When it comes to such privileges, PRs are second only to citizens in a country with one of the highest standards of living in the world. It is no wonder then that the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) annually receives thousands of applications. Hence, to stand out from the crowd, any applicant must first begin by familiarising themselves with the ICA's PR application requirements. Read on to find out if you meet any of them.

The application process for Singapore permanent residence is one that is highly rigorous and thorough. To begin with, in order to be eligible for PR, you must be able to meet at least one of the following five main requirements:

- Family Ties: Spouse, Child of Singapore citizen or PR / Aged Parents of Singapore citizen
- Work Visa Holders: Employment or S Pass holders
- Education: Student enrolled in a Singaporean educational institution
- Economic Contributions: Foreign investors in Singapore; Foreign Artistic Talent Scheme

Meeting at least one of these requirements unlocks a door towards applying for PR. However, the ICA assesses all applications, rather than the sum of its parts, making it easy for an applicant who is more than eligible for PR to face rejection. That is why there must be an equal focus on the fifth miscellaneous set of requirements. Let's take a closer look at all of them for an idea of where you currently stand.

PR Application for Spouse, Child, Aged Parent

The first PR application eligibility requirement involves direct family members of any current citizen or permanent resident. In general, the ICA tends to value applicants who form an integral part of a family unit involving either a citizen or PR. This is a highly desirable trait due to the high likelihood of their ability to contribute to the nation while seamlessly integrating with the general populace. Hence, any of the following individuals may be able to apply for PR:

- Applicants who are legally married to Singapore Citizen or PR;
- Unmarried child or children of Singapore Citizen or PR;
- Aged parents of Singapore Citizen.

If you are a citizen or PR whose family members meet any of the above requirements, you may be pleased to learn that they are eligible to apply for PR. You may then be able to sponsor their stay in the country as a permanent resident.

Eligible for Singapore PR through Work Visa

The second requirement involves eligibility through a work visa, mainly applicable to residents who are currently permitted to stay in the country to work. This falls under the Professional, Technical Personnel and Skilled Workers Scheme (PTS Scheme), which opens a door leading to permanent residence to professionals who hold relevant work visas. Residents who are eligible for PR via the PTS Scheme are exempted from National Service (NS).

However, not every work visa holder is eligible for Singapore PR. Under this category, only those who hold an Employment Pass, S Pass, or Personalised Employment Pass will be considered by the ICA. Hence, residents who are here on any work visas, including the various Work Permit will not be eligible unless their employer sponsors their application for at least an S Pass.

Eligible for Singapore PR as a Foreign Student

The third requirement involves international students who wish to apply for PR. Among all potential applicants, international students who study in Singapore are some of the most

highly likely to succeed when applying for PR. Recent figures revealed by the Ministry of Manpower show that the success rate is approximately 80% for international students who applied for PR on their own merit from 2008 to 2017. Moreover, 18% from this figure also eventually met with success when applying for citizenship by the end of 2017. These figures are exceptionally high, particularly given the PR application success rate for spouses. Do note that male applicants who are granted PR as an international student must serve National Service when they turn 18. And under the Foreign Student scheme, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Students who plan to apply for PR must have lived in Singapore for over 2 years at the time of the application.
- The individual must have passed at least one national examination, including the PSLE or GCE 'N', 'O', or 'A' Level. Alternatively, they must be enrolled in the Integrated Programme (IP).

Eligible for Singapore PR via Other Schemes

In a bid to draw talent to the country, the government has recently established a couple of PR application schemes. This includes the Global Investor Programme (GIP) and Foreign Artistic Talent Scheme (ForArts Scheme).