

Financial Investor Scheme – FAQs

(A) Eligibility

1. Who can apply?

Individuals with net personal assets (NPA) of not less than SGD 20 million may apply.

2. What is the main condition of the scheme?

The applicant shall

- (a) place in Singapore at least SGD 5 million of financial assets (“Minimum Sum”) in a designated account with a financial institution regulated by the MAS for a continuous period of 5 years (Option A) or
- (b) place in Singapore at least SGD 3 million of financial assets (“Minimum Sum”) in a designated account with a financial institution regulated by the MAS for a continuous period of 5 years and maintain a Sentosa Cove bungalow for residential purpose (Option B).

Note: MAS does not deal with applicants directly and would request that all applications be submitted through an MAS regulated financial institution in Singapore. The forms are available from the bank representatives. You may wish to refer to the list of financial institutions in Singapore

http://www.mas.gov.sg/masmcm/bin/pt1Types_and_Number_of_Banks.htm#fullbanks

3. Can the applicant’s family members also apply for permanent residence (PR) in Singapore?

Yes, the applicant may apply for permanent residency for his dependents. A dependent is defined as the main applicant’s spouse, and unmarried children under 21 years. A married child, even if he is under 21 years, is not considered a dependent and must submit an application in his own right, i.e. he must have NPA of SGD 20 million.

The main applicant may include accompanying dependents, their parents, parents-in-law and unmarried children aged above 21 years in the same application.

Dependents

If only accompanying dependents are included in the application, the Minimum Sum remains at SGD 5 million.

Parents and parents-in-law

For each parent or parent-in-law included in the application, the applicant must maintain an additional amount of SGD 2.5 million per person.

Unmarried child over 21 years

For each unmarried child aged over 21 years, the applicant must maintain an additional SGD 5 million in the account. The unmarried child over 21 years is not required to have NPA of SGD 20 million in order to qualify for the Scheme.

Illustrative Schedule of Financial Assets Commitments						
Application includes:		Assets to be committed	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
Main Applicant	}	S\$ 5 million	√	√	√	√
Spouse						
Children under 21 (unmarried, any number)						
Child over 21 (unmarried – per child)	→	S\$ 5 million				√
Father	→	S\$ 2.5 million		√	√	
Mother	→	S\$ 2.5 million			√	
Father-in-law	→	S\$ 2.5 million			√	
Mother-in-law	→	S\$ 2.5 million			√	
			S\$ 5m	S\$ 7.5m	S\$ 15m	S\$ 10 m

4. Is there an age limit?

There is no age limit imposed on the applicant as part of the scheme.

5. How are net personal assets (NPA) determined? Does MAS have any guidelines that FIs must follow?

The Scheme does not prescribe any methodology in determining the NPA. The FI should determine the NPA in accordance with its own internal processes and methods. The FI must submit Annex A of the Financial Investor Scheme Application Form - "Declaration of Net Personal Assets" and confirm to MAS that they have determined "to the best of their ability" that the applicant has at least NPA of SGD 20 million. Annex A must be signed by the highest approving authority within the FI for account opening purposes. In most cases, this would be the head of local operations, head of compliance or the head of private banking.

6. What are the consequences of any error in the NPA Declaration?

The FI must submit Annex A of the Financial Investor Scheme Application Form - "Declaration of Net Personal Assets" and confirm to MAS that they have determined "to the best of their ability" that the applicant has at least NPA of SGD 20 million.

The applicant is required to submit accurate information. As stated in point 3 under the section "Application Form Instructions" of the Application Form, "any false declarations or wilful suppression of material facts will render the application liable for disqualification." The Immigration & Checkpoints Authority's (ICA) Form 4 also states that "it is an offence under the Immigration Act to make any false statement, representation or declaration in connection with [the] application."

Point 4 under the section "Application Form Instructions" also provides that "any material changes in any of the application particulars must be submitted to the Financial Investor Scheme Secretariat for approval as soon as known by applicant."

Having a minimum NPA of SGD 20 million is a main eligibility criterion for the Scheme, and as such, any change in this regard would constitute a material change in the application particulars. The FI and/or the applicant must then submit the details of this material change to the FIS Secretariat for approval as soon as known by him..

(B) Application process

7. Must the applicant be in Singapore to apply?

No. The FI must submit the application on applicant's behalf. MAS will not deal with the applicants directly and all applicants will be requested to refer to their bankers.

8. Can the application be initiated abroad?

No. The FI must submit the application in Singapore.

9. Can the applicant remain in Singapore during the application process?

Yes, if the applicant obtains a social visit pass. If the applicant has received an Approval in Principle (AIP) letter, he will be provided a 3 month Social Visit Pass when he enters Singapore if he shows the immigration officer the AIP letter.

10. Why is there a need to complete two application forms, the MAS FIS form and the ICA Form 4?

The Scheme is administered by MAS. MAS will make an initial assessment on the applicant's eligibility under the Scheme before making a recommendation to ICA.

The applicant must also be satisfactorily assessed by ICA in addition to MAS' assessment under the Scheme.

11. Why does the applicant need to complete a form titled Form 4 - Application for an Entry Permit to enter Singapore?

An application for an Entry Permit under Form 4 is part of the application process by which non-Singaporeans apply to be Singapore Permanent Residents (SPRs).

12. Does each accompanying family member of the applicant need to complete Form 4?

Yes. The only exception to this is for unmarried children under 21 years who may have applied for PR together with the main applicant.

13. How does an accompanying infant child sign the Form 4? Is a thumbprint on the form required? Or can the parent sign on the child's behalf?

The parent can sign on the child's behalf.

14. What are the documents that must be submitted together with the application?

- Net Personal Assets (“NPA”) Declaration (Annex A)
- Assets Under Management (AUM) Declaration (if using existing monies) (Annex B)
- Undertaking Between Applicant and Financial Institution (Annex C)
- Immigration and Checkpoints Authority of Singapore (“ICA”) Form 4 (Application for an Entry Permit to enter Singapore). Please note that :
- Any unmarried child below the age of 21 years may be included in the main applicant’s Form 4.
- Any accompanying spouse, parent(s), parent(s)-in-law and/or children above the age of 21 years must individually submit a Form 4.

Supporting Documents

For each applicant and accompanying family member, original copies of the documents listed below shall be presented for sighting by MAS officers. Two photocopies of these documents shall be submitted to MAS. These photocopies must be certified true: by a Notary Public or a Commissioner for Oaths in Singapore or at a Singapore overseas mission / embassy or by an Authorised Signatory from an MAS-regulated Financial Institution. In addition, official English translations shall be provided.

- Passport or relevant Travel Document
- Birth Certificate
- Identity Card (if any)
- Change of Name Certificate of applicant, e.g. Deed poll (if any)
- Marriage Certificate (if any)
- Divorce or Death Certificate in respect of Applicant’s previous marriage (if any)
- Custody papers for Applicant’s Children (if any)
- Passport-sized photograph(s) of the applicant(s) to be pasted on ICA Form 4.

In addition, we would request a brief 1 page write-up from the bank representative or supporting documents in lieu (e.g. company brochure, internet link with the main applicant’s name as director) describing the main applicant’s business or source of wealth.

15. **Can the FI (instead of MAS) certify as “true copy” the photocopies of the applicant's personal documents? This means that MAS will not have sight of the original documents.**

Yes. However, MAS will only accept the first photocopy of the original document and this must be duly signed by a Notary Public or a Commissioner for Oaths in Singapore or at a Singapore overseas mission / embassy or by an Authorised Signatory from an MAS-regulated Financial Institution i.e. MAS will not accept photocopies of “certified true copies” of the original document.

16. **In filling up Form 4 Part D - Particulars of Applicant's Parents and Applicant's Children, if any of the family members is deceased, should the applicant still fill in the information but indicate “deceased”?**

Yes, particulars such as Name, Date of Birth and Sex will still need to be filled in.

17. **What if one member of the family wants to apply for PR at a later stage?**

Applications from accompanying family members may be submitted subsequent to the initial application. Upon approval of such application(s), the duration of the re-entry permit granted will be equal to the remainder of the validity period of the main applicant's re-entry permit. If there is a resulting increase in the minimum asset to be maintained (e.g. adding on an unmarried child of above 21 years), a separate AUM declaration with the new amount must be submitted.

18. **Is it necessary to have a sponsor? If not, can we assume that no signature is required on that page of Form 4?**

The requirement for local sponsor is optional; however, applications accompanied by sponsors usually facilitate security screenings. Every page on Form 4 must be signed.

19. **How long does the application process take? How will the applicant be informed of the outcome?**

The processing of each application takes about 4 months. Applicants will be informed directly by ICA. If successful, applicants will receive a letter informing them of approval in principle.

20. **What must the applicant do after he receives the Approval in Principle (AIP) letter?**

The AIP is valid for 6 months, within which time the applicant must fulfill conditions prescribed in the letter, including, where required, the commitment of the Minimum Sum and a medical examination.

The applicant must furnish to MAS the undertaking and the confirmation from the financial institution that the Minimum Sum has been committed. MAS will in turn confirm to ICA that this is in order. The medical examination need not be conducted in Singapore but the date of the report(s) should not be more than 3 months before completion of final formalities for permanent residence.

Forms for the medical examination will also be forwarded by ICA to the applicant at the same time as the AIP letter.

Completion of formalities for permanent residence

Upon MAS' confirmation that the Minimum Sum commitment has been met, ICA will issue a letter informing the applicant of the approval of the application. This letter is valid for 12 months within which the applicant must present himself and family members at ICA to complete formalities. These will include submission of the medical reports, payment of processing fees (please see next item), issuance of the Entry Permit, application of re-entry permits (REP) and registration for identity cards.

For more details and arrangements with ICA, applicants may wish to refer to http://app.ica.gov.sg/serv_pr/per_res/app_for_pr.asp or contact :

10 Kallang Road
ICA Building
Singapore 208718
(Next to Lavender MRT station)
Tel: 6391 6100
Fax: 6298 0843 / 6298 0837
Website: <http://www.ica.gov.sg>
Email: ica_feedback@ica.gov.sg

21. When does permanent residence begin?

Permanent residence begins on the date of issuance of the Entry Permit.

The EP card will carry the same date as the REP (if this is applied for on the same day). Should the applicant apply for REP on another day, the date of issuance of the REP will be different from the EP.

PRs are required to apply for REPs for the purpose of traveling in and out of Singapore. A valid REP enables the PRs to return to Singapore as a permanent resident. The PR can continue to reside here as a PR even after the expiry of his REP so long as he does not travel out of Singapore.

22. Is there a charge for the application process?

There is a fee of SGD 200 for the Minister (Home Affairs)'s certificate. The fee for an Entry Permit is SGD 100 and the fee for a Re-Entry Permit is SGD 10 per year. For foreigners requiring a visa, the visa fee is SGD 20 per issue.

A fee of SGD 50 is charged per identity card.

Payment is made by NETS.

(C) **National Service Liability**

23. Who is liable for NS?

On reaching 16 years of age, male children of permanent residents and who are also permanent residents themselves, are liable for NS. A Singapore citizen or Singapore PR that is liable for National Service must serve National Service. Main applicants who are granted Singapore PR status as the first generation under the Financial Investor Scheme are exempted from NS. Male children who are granted SPR status under their parents' application are liable for NS upon reaching 16 years old.

Male ex-Singapore Citizens and ex-Singapore Permanent Residents who are granted SPR status are liable to be called up for NS regardless of the type of Singapore PR status they are granted. Do note that the scheme is not intended to interfere with any NS requirements in Singapore. To confirm NS liability, please write to:

Central Manpower Base
3 Depot Road
#03-07
Singapore 109680

(D) **Commitment and maintenance of Financial Assets (including Sentosa Cove bungalows)**

24. What is meant by financial assets and are there any limitations on which are permissible?

Footnote 2 of FIS Term & Conditions sets out the broad categories of financial assets which must be placed with the financial institution. Financial assets can include bank deposits, capital market products, collective investment schemes, premiums paid in respect of onshore life insurance policies and other investment products.

Footnote 2 is not meant to be prescriptive list. The objective is that the SGD 5 million must be booked and managed in Singapore by a financial institution that is regulated by the MAS. With the multitude of investment products in the market, financial institutions are advised to be guided by this objective in their assessment of what constitutes eligible financial assets.

25. "Other investment products" is rather vague. Can MAS elaborate what this category of financial assets might be?

MAS does not prescribe a list of financial assets, recognizing that the types of investment products available in the market could extend well beyond any list. Generally, MAS would accept financial assets that are managed and booked by a financial institution regulated by the MAS.

26. Can the applicant qualify for the scheme using existing investments in financial assets?

Yes.

27. What are the consequences of having an incorrect investment in an asset that is not an eligible financial asset for the purposes of the Scheme?

The applicant is required to submit accurate information. As stated in point 3 under the section "Application Form Instructions" of the Application Form, "any false declarations or wilful suppression of material facts will render the application liable for disqualification." The Immigration & Checkpoints Authority's (ICA) Form 4 also states that "it is an offence under the Immigration Act to make any false statement, representation or declaration in connection with [the] application."

Point 4 under the section "Application Form Instructions" also provides that "any material changes in any of the application particulars must be submitted to the Financial Investor Scheme Secretariat for approval as soon as known by applicant."

Maintaining the minimum sum of SGD 5 million of financial assets is a main eligibility criterion for the Scheme, and as such, any change in this regard would constitute a material change in the application particulars. The FI and/or the applicant must then submit the details of this material change to the FIS Secretariat for approval as soon as known by him.

28. Can the applicant take a loan to invest in the financial assets?

No.

29. Can the applicant place investments with any institution?

They can place the investments with any financial institution regulated by MAS.

30. Must the account be in the name of the main applicant?

Yes.

31. Can the account be jointly held?

Yes, but the joint account must be held by the main applicant and any immediate family members. There is no double-counting, meaning that the SGD 5 million in the joint account can only be used for one application under FIS.

32. Can the designated account be in the name of a trust?

Yes, provided the applicant meets the terms and conditions of the scheme, the designated account may be in the name of a trust for which the applicant is the sole settlor. The financial institution must confirm that the applicant is the sole

settlor of the trust. At least SGD 5 million of financial assets must be settled in the trust.

33. Can the designated account be in the name of a company?

Yes, provided the applicant meets the terms and conditions of the scheme, the designated account may be in the name of a company as long as the applicant has 100% beneficial ownership of the shares and exercises effective control of the company.

34. What if applicant qualifies for the Scheme using existing investments in financial assets held in a non-bank financial institution?

Existing financial assets placed with a financial institution (FI) can be included as part or all of the Minimum Sum.

The applicant need not transfer investments to a bank. He may choose to place the financial assets with another financial institution regulated by the MAS. However, the institution with which the applicant holds these assets must open a designated account to hold the investments for a continuous period of 5 years. The applicant must also ask the financial institution to write to MAS to confirm that at least SGD 5 million in financial assets has been set aside in a designated account for the purposes of complying with the Scheme and that the applicant has net personal assets of SGD 20 million. This confirmation must be submitted together with the application to MAS. The applicant must also ensure that the institution agrees to undertake the reporting requirements to MAS.

35. What if the applicant changes bank/financial institution?

If the minimum sum is withdrawn, the bank must inform MAS within 7 working days as per normal procedures. The new bank must submit all bank specific documents including Annexes A, B and C afresh. Upon approval of such application for change of financial institution, the duration of the re-entry permit granted will be equal to the remainder of the validity period of the main applicant's re-entry permit.

36. When must the applicant commit the Minimum Sum?

The commitment of Minimum Sum can come after ICA's AIP. The AIP is valid for 6 months within which the applicant must fulfill conditions prescribed in the letter, including, where required, the commitment of Minimum Sum and medical examination before final approval can be given. The applicant may choose voluntarily to commit the money earlier and need not wait till the AIP to do so with the understanding that the ICA has not approved his application up till that point.

37. What are the retention requirements on the Minimum Sum?

The applicant must place the committed financial assets in a designated account with the FI for a continuous period of 5 years, commencing from date of issuance of entry permit.

The applicant must obtain an undertaking from the financial institution to observe and abide by the reporting requirements in respect of the designated account (the Financial Investor Scheme Undertaking).

(A similar undertaking is required between the applicant and SCPL if a Sentosa Cove bungalow is to be included as part of the Minimum Sum.)

A Trustee may undertake reporting requirements on behalf of each financial institution.

38. Can the applicant withdraw assets?

Only dividend, capital gains and/or interest income with respect to the financial investment may be withdrawn.

39. How does the minimum sum asset maintenance change when
i) a child sponsored under the scheme reaches 21
ii) a child above 21 gets married
iii) a parent or child passes away
iv) Main applicant or any sponsored persons gains citizenship?

If a sponsored child reaches 21 or gets married, there is no need to increase the minimum sum as long as the person(s) in question relies on the scheme to maintain his/her PR.

If a parent of child passes away, Bank can write in and MAS will determine case by case the amount of minimum asset maintenance to reduce by. A new AUM declaration will have to be submitted.

Upon gaining citizenship, the duty to maintain the minimum sum ceases since the scheme is designed only for PRs and the person enjoys all the privileges of citizenship. The Bank is to write in for approval to withdraw in such cases and ICA will be informed (If the main applicant withdraws, it means that the scheme will cease and all dependents will have to reapply on their own merits).

40. What are the reporting requirements that the financial institutions must undertake?

The financial institution must report to MAS within 7 working days of any transfers or withdrawal of financial assets. (Please refer to Annex C – “Undertaking Between Applicant and Financial Institution” for more details.)

41. What happens if the aggregate value of investments in the designated accounts falls below the Minimum Sum?

The applicant will not be required to top up the value of the Minimum Sum if the value falls for reasons of market performance.

42. Can other real estate property be included as a financial asset?

Sentosa Cove bungalows purchased for purely residential purposes are the only real estate property that would be considered for the purposes of PR application under FIS.. The applicant will have to apply under Option B.

(E) Employment

44. Can successful applicants work in Singapore?

Yes, the applicant and members of his family included in the same application form, including his accompanying dependents, his parents, parents-in-law and unmarried children aged over 21 years can take up employment in Singapore upon grant of permanent residence status.

(F) Renewal of re-entry permit (extension of permanent residence status after first five years)

45. What happens after the scheme ends 5 years? Can the applicant maintain his PR?

The applicant may by then qualify as a citizen or as a PR under any of the other grounds ICA accepts to grant PRs. In these cases, the main applicant need not comply with the scheme any more and the scheme lapses. If the applicant wants to rely on the scheme to maintain his PR, he will have to reapply and comply with the conditions as they stand at the point of reapplication. The new application will be reassessed on its merits.

46. Does the applicant need to be bound by the scheme upon successful renewal of the re-entry permit?

No. The applicant need not comply with the scheme after successful renewal of his application unless he relies on the scheme for reapplication.

(G) Becoming a Singapore citizen

47. Where can I find more information on PR and REP application?

Additional information on immigration and citizenship matters can be found on ICA's website:
www.ica.gov.sg
http://app.ica.gov.sg/serv_citizen/citizenship/app_citizen.asp

The two specific weblinks pertain to FAQs on PR and REP application

1) FAQ on PR application:
http://app.ica.gov.sg/serv_pr/per_res/app_for_pr_faq.asp

2) FAQ on REP application:
http://app.ica.gov.sg/serv_pr/per_res/app_for_rep_faq.asp

48. Does MAS facilitate application for citizenship?

Yes, but only if the applicant applies for citizenship during the first 5 years of permanent residence. Upon request, MAS can provide inputs on the applicant's compliance record.

49. How long should entrant stay before becoming a Singapore Citizen?

Applicants may apply for citizenship after residing in Singapore as a PR for 2 years. Absences from Singapore due to official business may be treated as residence for purposes of citizenship application on a case by case basis.

Applicants who are granted citizenship during the 5-year retention period will no longer need to comply with the terms and conditions of the Scheme.

Questions specific to Option B

50. Must the bungalow be ready for occupation before applicant obtains his/her permanent residence?

No

51. What if the applicant already owns a Sentosa Cove bungalow?

If the Sentosa Cove bungalow is used purely for residential purposes, the applicant may use it to qualify under Option B. For purposes of the Scheme, applicant must produce original copy plus two photocopies of the land titles for the properties owned in Singapore.

52. Can the applicant rent out his/her Sentosa Cove bungalow on a long term or short term basis?

No, the bungalow can only be used for residential purposes.

53. What happens if the applicant wishes to sell his/her Sentosa Cove bungalow but wants to retain permanent residence?

The main applicant will need to commit additional funds into his designated account and satisfy the conditions under Option A.

54. Can the applicant mortgage his/her Sentosa Cove bungalow and use the proceeds to invest in financial assets?

Yes, only if the mortgage proceeds are booked and managed in Singapore and the rule on investments applies to the mortgage proceeds as they do to the Minimum sum.

Please see the FAQs on ICA's website.

Any further enquiries relating to the inclusion or retention or any on-going obligations relating to Sentosa Cove bungalows must be directed to Sentosa Cove Private Limited.