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GHANA CITIZENSHIP

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Citizenship by Right of Abode in Ghana

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What Is the Right of Abode?

The **Right of Abode** allows eligible individuals to live in Ghana indefinitely, enter without a visa, and work without a work permit. It is granted by the **Minister for the Interior** with **Presidential approval**, in accordance with **Section 17 of the Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573)**.

This status is available to:

- Ghanaians who lost their citizenship after acquiring another nationality, and
- Persons of African descent in the Diaspora who can demonstrate a contribution to Ghana's development.

Official references:

- Ghana Immigration Service – Right of Abode
- Ministry of the Interior – Right of Abode
- Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573)

Step 1 – Confirm Your Eligibility

You may apply for the Right of Abode if you meet one of the following:

1. You are a **Ghanaian by birth or descent** who lost citizenship after naturalizing in another country; or

2. You are a **person of African descent** living abroad and can show meaningful social or economic contributions to Ghana.

Step 2 – Obtain and Complete the Application Form

- Forms are **not available online**.
- You must obtain the prescribed application form in person at the **Ghana Immigration Service (GIS)** Headquarters in **Ridge, Accra**, or any designated GIS office.

Step 3 – Prepare the Required Documents

A. For Former Ghanaians (Now Using a Foreign Passport)

- Completed application form (issued by GIS)
- Two identical passport-size photos
- Personal application letter requesting Right of Abode
- Attestation from two Ghanaians of standing (Notary, Lawyer, or Senior Public Officer) with copies of Ghana IDs
- Copy of your foreign passport (bio-data page)
- Copy of any current Ghana residence permit page
- Evidence of property ownership in Ghana (if applicable)
- Renunciation certificate or evidence showing you previously held Ghanaian citizenship
- Autobiography or brief personal history
- Birth certificate proving Ghanaian origin
- Current Ghana Police Clearance Certificate
- Copy of your valid **Non-Citizen Ghana Card**

B. For Persons of African Descent in the Diaspora

- Completed application form (issued by GIS)
- Application letter from you or your sponsor
- Two attestation letters from Ghanaians of repute (with Ghana ID copies)
- Evidence of contribution to Ghana's development (e.g., shares, investments, bank statements, proof of employment creation)
- Current Ghana Police Report
- Copy of valid Non-Citizen Ghana Card
- Company documentation if applying through a business (Company registration, Tax Clearance Certificates, SSNIT records, audited accounts)
- Medical report from the **Ghana Immigration Service Clinic**

Step 4 – Submit Your Application

Submit your completed form and documents to:
Ghana Immigration Service Headquarters
Ridge, Accra

- Tel: +233 302 224 445 / +233 302 213 401
- Email: info@immigration.gov.gh
- Postal: P.O. Box 129, Accra, Ghana

GIS conducts background verification and forwards your file to the **Minister for the Interior** for final approval.

Step 5 – Pay Applicable Fees

As of the most recent GIS schedule:

- **Ghanaians with foreign passports:** Approx. GH¢ 1,940 (about US$ 200)
- **Other nationals of African descent:** Approx. GH¢ 3,879 (about US$ 400)

Fees are **subject to change**. Always verify current charges on the official GIS website: https://gis.gov.gh/fees-and-charges/

Step 6 – Processing Time

Applications typically take around **six (6) months** to process after GIS submits its report to the Ministry.
Timelines vary by individual case.

Step 7 – Issuance of Certificate

Once approved, the Ministry issues a **Right of Abode Certificate**.
This certificate grants indefinite residence, visa-free entry, and the right to work in Ghana without a separate work permit.
It is not equivalent to citizenship but provides similar residency benefits.

Step 8 – Entry and Health Requirements

If entering Ghana for the first time:

- You must present a **Yellow Fever vaccination card**.
- The vaccine is required for entry and costs around **US $300 in the U.S.** (at CVS, Walgreens, or local health departments) and about **US $25 in Ghana.**

Step 9 – Contact Points

Ghana Immigration Service (Headquarters)

- Website: https://gis.gov.gh
- Email: info@immigration.gov.gh
- Address: Ridge, Accra, Ghana
- Phone: +233 302 224 445

Ghanaian Diplomatic Missions in the United States

Mission	City / State	Address	Phone	Notes
Embassy of Ghana	Washington D.C.	3512 International Drive NW, Washington, DC 20008	+1-202-686-4520	Main Embassy of Ghana in the U.S.
Consulate General of Ghana	New York, NY	19 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017	+1-212-832-1300	Handles visa and consular matters.
Honorary Consulate of Ghana	Little Rock, AR	1323 Broadway Street, Little Rock, AR 72202	+1-501-260-7253	Serves Arkansas / Delta Region.
Honorary Consulate of Ghana	Duluth (Atlanta metro), GA	3855 Postal Drive, Suite 100, Duluth, GA 30096	Contact Embassy for verification	Honorary Consulate serving Georgia.
Honorary Consulate of Ghana	Houston, TX	3535 Westheimer Rd., Suite 235, Houston, TX 77027	+1-713-960-1950	Honorary Consulate serving Texas.

Legal Basis

Right of Abode: **Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573)**, Sections 17–18
Administering Authority: **Ministry of the Interior / Ghana Immigration Service**

Disclaimer

This information is provided **for educational and general reference purposes only**. Always confirm details directly with the **Ghana Immigration Service** or the **Ministry of the Interior** before making any legal or travel decisions. Government policies, fees, and requirements **change frequently**, and this document may lose accuracy over time. Use only official Ghana government sources for the most current information.

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