



BELIZE TOURISM BOARD

Qualified Retired Persons Incentive Program



About the Program

Belize is currently recognized as a top tourist destination and is also considered to be a great spot for Retirees looking for a country to settle down where they can find both a relaxed way of life and constant adventure. Hence the development of the Qualified Retired Person Incentive Program (QRP). The Program was developed in the 90's to open doors for anyone forty-five years or older with a pension or annuity to retire in this Central American-Caribbean paradise along with his/her spouse and children. With the distinctive benefits that come with being in Belize, mainly being English speaking and having a warm climate, Belize has developed a "Permanent Tourist" sector. Retirees whose income allows for self-sustainability help to add to Belize's economy. The benefits of Belize's QRP Program for the individual and the country are significant. As stated by International Living "Belize has one of the world's best retiree programs".

Qualifications

- ✚ Any Retired Person who is forty-five (45) years or older.
- ✚ Must be a citizen or legal permanent resident from a Commonwealth country, United States or any other country not specified; but may not be Belizean.
- ✚ Must be the beneficial recipient of a pension or annuity from a source outside of Belize with a periodic payment of at least two-thousand (\$2,000.00) USD dollars a month from a pension or business investment outside Belize.
- ✚ Can provide a written undertaking to deposit the above amount in a bank, society, credit union or licensed financial institution in Belize.
- ✚ Must have a clean criminal history and pass the background security clearance check by the Ministry of National Security.
- ✚ Must be able to remain in the country for a consecutive period of at least 30 days in a year.
- ✚ Satisfies all other requirements as set out by the Regulations of the Act.

Restrictions

Retired Persons (Incentives) Act – Chapter 62, Revised Edition 2011

1. No Qualified Retired Person or his dependents shall engage in any form of gainful employment of business investment in Belize while in the program.
2. The Qualified Retired Person shall be deemed to be a non-resident as defined by the International Financial Services Act and Regulations.

3. The period of time the QRP is in the program shall not contribute to the application of Permanent Residency under the Immigration Act due to the Non-Resident status.
4. The QRP and their dependents will not be able to vote in Belize.
5. The QRP applicant must not have a criminal record.
6. The QRP and their dependent shall abide by all the other laws and regulations of Belize.
7. The QRP Card expires on December 31st of each year and must be renewed on an annual basis for a fee of Fifty Belize Dollars (BZD \$50.00)
8. THE QRP must visit the country annually for at least thirty (30) consecutive days out of the year.
9. Dependents above the age of 18 and under 23 must present a school enrollment certificate or letter.
10. All benefits provided by this program will be exclusively used by the Qualified Retired Person or their dependents.

Benefits and Incentives

All privileges, exemptions and regulations herein included are governed by the Retired Persons (Incentives) Act, Chapter 62, Revised Edition 2011, and the ACT will serve as the basis for all purposes of interpretation.

1. QRP Resident

The Qualified Retired Person will receive a QRP Resident Card issued by the Belize Tourism Board and shall be entitled to multiple entries into the country as well as the right to remain in Belize with their dependents for as long as they continue to be a part of the QRP Program. This means that the QRP does not need to renew their tourist visa every 30 days at the Immigration Office.

2. Duty Exemptions

All persons who have been designated as a Qualified Retired Person shall be entitled, on first entering Belize, to import the below items duty and tax exempted within the first year of acceptance into the program. Numerous entries are permitted with the one-year period however complete shipping list must be submitted to the BTB 3 weeks prior to importation for each entry.

- a. **Personal/Household Effects** – Qualified Retired Persons under the program can qualify for duty and tax exemptions on new and used personal and household effects as determined by the Belize Customs Department. A list of all items with corresponding values that will be imported must be submitted with the application.
- b. **Personal Transportations** – Qualified Retired Persons under the program can qualify for duty

b. Personal Transportations – Qualified Retired Persons under the program can qualify for duty and tax exemptions on the purchase of the following modes of transportation for personal use. This can include one (1) vehicle, one (1) boat, and/or one (1) air craft that is not substitutable.

i) Motor Vehicle – A personal use motor vehicle can be an SUV, Pickup, Car, Motorcycle, ATV, or Golf Cart. **The model of vehicle cannot be older than five years in order to qualify for duty and tax exemption.** The regulations grant QRPs the right to purchase new vehicles duty exempted every 3 years once they have properly sold or disposed of the previous vehicle.

ii) Light Aircraft - A light aircraft is considered to be less than 17, 000 kg. The QRP is required to have a valid Private Pilot license to fly in Belize. This license can be obtained by passing the requirements set by the Belize Civil Aviation. If the QRP already possesses an international pilot's license, it must first be validated by the Civil Aviation Department in Belize.

iii) Boat - Any vessel that is used for personal purposes and for pleasure will be accepted under this program. Trailers and outboard motors must be imported along with the vessel and cannot be imported separately.

***NOTE:** All personal/household effects **MUST** be imported within the one (1) year period that begins upon approval. All belongings should be brought in within this time frame.*

3. Tax Exemption

- A Qualified Retired Person shall be exempted from the payments of all taxes and duties on all income or receipts which accrue to the QRP from a source outside of Belize.
- Tax breaks with no Capital Gains tax
- Low Taxes on the purchase of land and on Property taxes

4. English Speaking – only English speaking country in Central America

5. Good Educational System – easy enrollment in our educational systems

6. Constant sub-tropical Climate - Temperatures in Belize range from 50°F to 95°F with an annual mean of 79°F. November to January are traditionally the coolest months with a 75°F average and May to September are the warmest at about 81°F average.

7. Easy access to land for development and construction of a retirement home – Purchasing and development of land can be done easily through the many Real Estate Agents countrywide.

8. Close proximity to the United States and Mexico – only two hours away from major states such as Houston, Miami, Atlanta, and Dallas.

9. **Strong and Stable Belize Dollar** – stable currency pegged to the US Dollar at a conversion of a 2:1 Ratio. It is \$2 BZD for every \$1 USD.
10. **Abundance of natural resources** – Belize is home to a rich collection of flora and fauna. Our subtropical rainforests are home to some of the world's most recognizable endangered species such as the Jaguar, Tapir, Manatee, Keel-Billed Toucan, and Scarlet Macaw just name a few.
11. **Breathtaking sceneries** – Whether you choose the North, South, East, West or the Islands, Belize is home to many beautiful landmarks and destinations.
12. **Friendly people** – Large melting pot of different ethnicities such as the Garifuna, Mestizos, Mennonites, Creole, Mayas, Chinese, etc.
13. **Belize is a peaceful Nation**

Offense and Penalty

- ✚ In the event the QRP ceases to meet any of the qualifications as set out in the regulations, they shall lose his entitlement to all the exemptions and privileges received through the program.
- ✚ Any person who knowingly makes any false declaration or entry in order to qualify for, or retain any exemption or privilege granted under the Retired Persons (Incentives) Act, Chapter 63, Revised Edition 2011, commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00)

Disposal of Duty Free Items

- ✚ If for whatever reason a qualified retired person decides to sell, gift, lease or otherwise dispose of the approved means of transportation or personal effects to any other person or entity within Belize, all duties and taxes must be paid by that person or entity to the proper authorities.
- ✚ Qualified Retired Persons must note that only after 3 years, and after successfully proving that the vehicle that was previously imported into Belize has been legally passed on or disposed of, will another concession be granted to import another vehicle.

Application Process



Each application for the Retirement Program will be processed by the Belize Tourism Board in collaboration with the Ministry of National Security and the Department of Immigration and Nationality.

Persons interested in the Program must submit completed application to the Belize Tourism Board with the following supporting documents.

1. **Birth Certificate** - a clear copy of a birth certificate for the applicant and each dependent
2. **Marriage Certificate** – a marriage certificate must be provided if married and spouse is dependent.
3. **Authentic Police Report** – An authentic police/criminal record from the applicant’s last place of residency. **(No older than 6 months)**
4. **Passport** – Clear copies of complete passport (including all blank pages) of applicant and all dependents that have been certified by a Notary Public. The copies must have the passport number, name of principal, number of pages and the seal or stamp of the Notary Public.
5. **Proof of Income**
 - a. An official statement from a bank or financial institution certifying that the applicant is the recipient of a pension or annuity of a minimum of Two Thousand United States Dollars (USD \$2,000) per month.
 - b. A statement from a financial institution, bank, credit union or building society in Belize certifying that the applicant’s investment or deposit will generate the sum, of a minimum of Twenty Four Thousand United States Dollars (\$24,000) per year.
6. **Medical Examination**- Applicants should undergo a complete medical examination including an HIV Test. A copy of the medical certificate must be attached to the application. **(Not older than 3 months)**
7. **Photos** – Four recent frontal and four recent profile passport size photographs should be provided by the applicant and each dependent.

Note: All documents listed are also required by each dependent with the exception of the proof of income. All applicants are subject to a background check to be carried out by the Ministry of National Security.

Income from Pension or other Sources



1. Retired pensioner is that person who qualifies under the program and receives a monthly income of not less than US\$2000.00 through a pension or annuity that has been generated outside of Belize.
2. Certification
 - a. When a company grants a pension, that company has to prove that it has been in operation for at least 20 years by submitting proof of registration.
 - b. The company that grants the pension shall certify that the pension of no less than US\$2000.00 per month will be forwarded to a reputable financial institution within Belize. This letter must be signed by the manager president, or by a legal representative of the company.
 - c. Certification by a Certified Public Accountant independent of the company:
 - i. Stating the date the company was established
 - ii. Verifying the authenticity of the above mentioned letter
 - iii. Certifying that the applicant in favor of the beneficiary is of no less than US\$2000.00 per month
 - d. The applicant must present two (2) bank references from the company that is sending the pension.
 - e. The company granting the pension must present a document outlining its pension scheme.

Note: Requirement “b”-“d” could be omitted where the company sending the pension is considered to be a Fortune 500 Company.

Fee Structure

1. A Non-Refundable application fee in the sum of one-hundred and fifty (\$150.00) USD dollars payable to the Belize Tourism Board must be submitted to the application.
2. A program fee in the sum of one-thousand (\$1000.00) USD dollars payable to the Belize Tourism Board must be submitted upon acceptance into the program.
3. Upon acceptance into the Program, a fee of two-hundred (200.00) USD dollars must be paid to the Belize Tourism Board for the issuance of the Qualified Retired Persons Residency Cards.
4. Each dependent is required to a program fee of seven-hundred and fifty (\$750.00) USD dollars to enter the program.
5. The yearly renewal of the card is fifty (\$50.00) BZD Belize dollars.

Note: All payments must be made payable to the Belize Tourism Board and be in the form of US Cash or US Cashier's Check with the exception of the renewal of the QRP Card that can be paid in Belize Dollars (BZD).

QUALIFIED RETIRED PERSON APPLICATION FORM



**Belize Retired Persons Incentives Act
Chapter 62 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011**

Please complete all the required information and kindly note that your application will not be accepted if outstanding information, documents/attachments or fees.

QRP ID Number:					For Official Use Only	
Application Type:	RENEWAL				QRP Filing Number:	
					TDMS Number:	
Cashier Receipts						
If Renewal, state year of last renewal:		Application Payment:				
Number of years in program:		Final Payment				
Personal Information						
Applicant's Name: <small>(Print Name as on Passport)</small>	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name			
Date of Birth: <small>(dd/mm/yyyy)</small>			Age:			
Place of Birth:			Gender:	Male	Female	
Passport Number:			Issue Date : <small>(dd/mm/yyyy)</small>			
Place of Passport Issue:			Expiry Date : <small>(dd/mm/yyyy)</small>			
Nationality:			Other Nationalities:			
Overseas Address:						
Address in Belize:						
Home Phone Number:						
Cell Phone Number:						
Email Address:						
Marital Status:	Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed		
Number of Dependents applying:			<small>(Must be reflected in dependent forms)</small>			
Financial Institution(s) of pension funds:						
Educational Background						
Primary Education:			Year Completed:			
Secondary Education:			Year Completed:			
Tertiary Education:			Year Completed:			
Additional:			Year Completed:			
Primary Language Spoken:						
Other Languages Spoken:	<small>(State proficiency)</small>					
Agent Information (If Applicable)						
Agent's Name:						
Agent's Phone Number:						
Agent's Email:						

QUALIFIED RETIRED PERSON APPLICATION FORM



*One Form must be filled for each Dependent

Dependent #: _____

RETIREE ID Number :		Relationship to Retiree:	
DEPENDENT ID Number :		For Official Use Only	
Application Type:		QRP Filing Number:	
NEW	RENEWAL	TDMS Number:	
		Cashier Receipts	
If Renewal: state year of last renewal:		Application Payment:	
Number of years in program:		Final Payment	
Personal Information			
Dependent's Name: <small>(Print Name as on Passport)</small>	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Date of Birth: <small>(dd/mm/yyyy)</small>		Age:	
Place of Birth:		Gender:	Male Female
Passport Number:		Issue Date : <small>(dd/mm/yyyy)</small>	
Place of Passport Issue:		Expiry Date : <small>(dd/mm/yyyy)</small>	
Nationality:		Other Nationalities:	
Overseas Address:			
Address in Belize:			
Home Phone Number:			
Cell Phone Number:			
Email Address:			
Educational Background (If Applicable)			
Primary Education:		Year Completed:	
Secondary Education:		Year Completed:	
Tertiary Education:		Year Completed:	
Additional:		Year Completed:	
Primary Language Spoken:			
Other Languages Spoken:	<small>(State proficiency)</small>		
Dependent's Signature			
Date: <small>(dd/mm/yyyy)</small>			
Signature: <small>(parent to sign on behalf of minor)</small>			

Please read CAREFULLY. Ensure that you have all items before submitting.

(*) Documents required for renewal.

- *Completed Application Form**
- Birth Certificate of Applicant** - Copies must bear the seal or stamp of a Notary Public **(Includes Dependents if any)**
- Marriage Certificate**- Copies must bear the seal or stamp of a Notary Public **(If married and spouse is a dependent)**
- Original Police Record**- A record or certificate from the applicant's last place of residence detailing whether or not the applicant has a criminal record **(Must not be older than six (6) months) (Include Dependents if any)**
- Passport Pages** - Clear copies of complete valid passport (including all blank pages) of applicant. The copies must have (i) the bio data page including the passport number and name of principal, (ii) number of pages and (iii) bear the seal or stamp of a Notary Public. **(Include Dependents if any)**
**For the renewal application, please provide copies of the complete passport as above.*
- Proof of Income**
 - An official statement from a bank or financial institution certifying that the applicant is the recipient of a pension or annuity of a minimum of Two Thousand United States Dollars (USD \$2000) per month.
 - A Financial Statement from a financial institution, bank, credit union, or building society in Belize certifying that the applicant's investment or deposit will generate the sum, of a minimum of Two Thousand United States Dollars (USD \$2,000) per month or the equivalent of Twenty-Four Thousand United States Dollars (USD \$24,000)
**For Renewal Application, please provide a copy of the bank statement showing the deposits totaling USD\$24,000 for the previous year.*
- Medical Examination** - Applicants should undergo a complete medical examination including an HIV test. A copy of the medical certificate must be attached to the application. (Must not be older than three (3) months) - **(Includes Dependents if any)**
- Photos** - Four (4) frontal and four (4) profile passport sized photographs that have been recently taken of the applicant. **(Includes Dependents if any)**
** For Renewal Application, provide a recent passport sized photograph*
- * Copy of the current License, Registration and Insurance documents if you have imported an approved means of transportation (motor vehicle, boat, and/or light aircraft) under the Retired Persons (Incentive) Act.
- * Submit expired Retired Persons Authorization Card upon receipt of a renewal card.

Terms and Conditions

1. Qualified Retired Persons must adhere to the procedures cited by the Customs and Excise Department for the importation of all personal effects and approved means of transportation. Approved means of transportation must not be older than five (5) years at the time of importation.
2. Qualified Retired Persons are not allowed to seek employment or work for a pay while participating in this program.
3. Qualified Retired Persons within this program must inform the Belize Tourism Board of any changes stated on the application form. Failure to do so may result in revocation of an applicant's status.
4. Qualified Retired Persons must adhere to all existing Laws of Belize, in addition to the Retired Persons (Incentives) Act, Chapter 62 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011.
5. All benefits provided by this program apply exclusively to the Qualified Retired Persons and his or her approved dependents.
6. The Belize Tourism Board has the authority to carry out any investigation with respect to the validity of any documents provided by the applicant under this program.
7. Participants within this program must inform the Belize Tourism Board prior to leaving country indefinitely so that the assets purchased on this program can be liquidated.
8. All documents presented to the Belize Tourism Board become the property of the Board.
9. The applicant shall not have pending criminal matters in any jurisdiction at the time of application.
10. Applicants must present a listing with all necessary information with regards to his or her dependents. If the applicant has a dependent over eighteen and in school, then he or she must present a proof of enrollment from that institution.
11. Qualified Retired Persons must submit a yearly local bank statement showing compliance with the financial requirements of the program.
12. Qualified Retired Persons must spend an equivalent of one (1) month in Belize annually to maintain their status as a qualified Retired Person.

Signatures:		
I hereby confirm the that all information provided are accurate and I accept the above terms and conditions as they pertain to the Belize Retirement Incentives Program		
Signature of Applicant:	Date:	
	Name in Block Letters:	
Signature of Witness:	Date:	
	Name in Block Letters:	
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY		
Director of Business Development & Registrar of Hotels		
Date:		
QRP Status:	Approved	Rejected