



## AMBASSADE DES PHILIPPINES PARIS

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### BALIKBAYAN PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET

The **Balikbayan Program**, as instituted by Republic Act 6768 (amended by Republic Act 9174) was launched by the Philippine Government “under the administration of the Department of Tourism to attract and encourage overseas Filipinos to come and visit their motherland.”

#### Who falls under the BALIKBAYAN Program?

By legal definition a *balikbayan* is:

- A Filipino citizen who has been continuously out of the Philippines for a period of a least one (1) year from the date of last departure;
- A Filipino overseas worker, or
- A former Filipino citizen with foreign passport and members of his/her family. The term “family” shall mean the spouse and the children of the *balikbayan* (who are not *balikbayan* in their own right) who are traveling to the Philippines with the *balikbayan*.

#### What are the documents to be presented to show proof of BALIKBAYAN status?

1. For Filipino citizens who have been continuously out of the country, you would need to show your Philippine passport showing date of last departure,
2. For former Filipino citizen with foreign passport, you need to present your foreign passport and any of the following:
  - Previous Philippine passport, or
  - Foreign Naturalization papers to show former Filipino citizenship

#### Who else can avail of the BALIKBAYAN Program?

Family members of the *balikbayan* can go to the Philippines without having to apply for a visa, provided they are traveling together with the *balikbayan*, pay immigration fees, and observe and comply with immigration rules and regulations. In addition to showing their foreign passport, a family member must present the following:

- A Birth Certificate (with English translation) or Report of Birth filed at the Embassy, in case of children;
- A Marriage Certificate (with English translation) or Report of Marriage filed at the Embassy, in case of spouse, and
- Adoption papers (proof of adoption) in case of legally adopted children.

According to the Bureau of Immigration, the *Balikbayan Privilege* can be availed of by the foreign member of a *balikbayan's* family EVERY TIME they enter the Philippines with the *balikbayan* (former Filipino/dual citizen) AND NOT ONLY ONCE A YEAR.

Please note that only family members of *balikbayans* from France and the other countries that enjoy the no-visa entry for 30-day stay may avail of the *balikbayan* privilege and be able to stay in the Philippines for a period of one (1) year without having to apply for a temporary visitor's visa. All other nationals must secure entry visas prior to their travel to the Philippines.

If a *balikbayan* has used his/her privilege and stayed in the Philippines for one year, he/she may apply for an extension of stay for multiples of two months up to one additional year by paying the appropriate fees at the nearest Bureau of Immigration office.