

# Difference Between Nationality and Citizenship

There is a **Difference Between Nationality and Citizenship**, though both terms reflect the individual's relationship to the state. Citizenship is the legal recognition of membership in a nation-state, whereas nationality is hereditary membership.

The term "nationality" refers to the lineage of an individual and ancestral connections to a specific country. Citizenship, as opposed to nationality, is a legal status. It determines the rights and obligations of an individual. Here, we will explore conceptual differences between nationality and citizenship to understand these in depth.

## Key Difference Between Nationality and Citizenship

### Nationality

A person born within the territory of a state and subject to its authority obtains nationality by birth. An individual can also "inherit" nationality from one or both parents.

Nationality refers to the legal part of the identity of an individual

The nationality of an individual can neither change nor can they denounce.

Nationality represents the place of birth or the ancestry of an individual.

It is necessarily an "ethnic" or "racial" concept

An individual cannot be a national of more than one nation-state.

### Citizenship

The government will award citizenship to someone who meets the necessary legal requirements.

Citizenship is the political part of the identity of an individual. It allows them to live, work, and vote in a specific country.

Anyone can acquire citizenship of any country after complying with the legal formalities. Also, anyone can denounce their citizenship.

Citizenship represents the place of registration.

It is a "legal" concept

An individual can possess citizenship in more than one country.

## What is the Nationality?

Nationality is the status of an individual belonging to a country. The nationality of an individual is determined by where they were born. Therefore, it is essentially an ethnic and racial concept. However, nationality is a fundamental human right.

According to the "United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (1948), "everyone has the right to a nationality," and "no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their nationality."

## What is the Citizenship?

Being a member of a political community, a citizen actively participates in its affairs. An individual can earn the citizenship of a nation by completing the legal requirements of a national, state, or municipal authority. Citizens of a country are entitled to a variety of perks and privileges. Moreover, citizens shall respect the rules and regulations and defend the nation in times of crisis.

The value of citizenship is different in different countries. Citizenship can entail various rights in various countries, including the capacity to vote, hold government posts, and receive unemployment benefits, to name a few.

## Conclusion: Difference Between Nationality and Citizenship

In ordinary language, people use the phrases nationality and citizenship interchangeably. They do not, however, relate to the same concept. There are Differences Between Nationality and Citizenship. According to international law, nationality is the membership in a nation or sovereign state acquired through birth or descent. It should not be confused with citizenship - a narrower phrase commonly used to denote persons with full political rights.

Citizenship is, furthermore, the ability of an individual to be a full member of a nation-state with rights such as voting. Citizenship does not always imply nationality because one can obtain it through naturalization, registration, or other means.