

Applying for a residence permit in Finland

Congratulations on your study place in Finland!

This letter is for you who need a residence permit in Finland. Start preparing your application immediately after receiving your acceptance letter. The entire process may take several months.

How do I know if I need a residence permit in Finland?

You will need a residence permit in all other cases, except:

- If you are a citizen of an EU Member State, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland. However, you may need to apply for EU-registration. For more information, please see our website migri.fi/i-am-an-eu-citizen.
- If you have been granted a residence permit on the basis of studies by some other EU Member State than Finland and if you are covered by a programme or an agreement specified in the Finnish act on residence permits for students. You can carry out part of your studies in Finland for a period up to 360 days. You must submit a mobility notification to the Finnish Immigration Service. For instructions, please see migri.fi/mobility-notification-to-finland.
- If you plan to study in Finland for 90 days or less. However, you may need a visa. For information on visas, please see the website of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland um.fi/frontpage.

This is what you should do to apply for a residence permit

- Apply for your residence permit abroad, not in Finland.
- Create an account in the online service enterfinland.fi. Fill in the application form for studies. Fill in your name as it is in your passport, your contact details and the date you plan to arrive in Finland. Next, collect the mandatory appendices listed on pages 2 and 3.
- Submit your online application.
- Visit a Finnish mission (embassy or consulate) in person for identification and fingerprinting. Contact the embassy or consulate in advance to book an appointment. All Finnish embassies and consulates are listed at finlandabroad.fi/frontpage. If there is no Finnish diplomatic mission in your country, check on the finlandabroad.fi -website which embassy or consulate you need to contact. Please note that the Finnish Immigration Service cannot influence at which Finnish embassy or consulate you should handle your matter. The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs makes this decision.
- Your application will be processed only after you have visited a Finnish embassy. Also, the estimated processing time of your application starts from the day you visit the embassy.

Important to remember:

- The application process is longer if you submit an incomplete application.
- We process all residence permit applications for studies as urgent.
- If your application is approved, you will get a biometric residence permit card. The card is manufactured in Finland and delivered to the Finnish embassy. It is not possible to speed up the delivery of the card or to collect the card from Finland. You cannot come to Finland without the residence permit card.
- We recommend that you do not acquire airline tickets in advance in case you do not receive a decision before your flight to Finland.

The mandatory appendices

If your documents are not in Finnish, Swedish or English, have them translated into one of these languages by an authorized translator. Take the originals of your documents with you to the embassy. For more information about the appendices, please see migri.fi/residence-permit-application-for-studies.

1. Study place

- Acceptance letter from a Finnish education institution.
- If your acceptance letter was sent to you by e-mail, include the forwarding email from the Studyinfo.fi service or the school in Finland.

2. Health insurance

- If your studies in Finland last two years or more, your insurance must cover medical expenses up to at least 40,000 euros.
 - After arriving in Finland, apply for a home municipality at your local registry office to be entitled to public health care.
- If your studies last less than two years, your insurance must cover both sickness and accident related medical expenses up to at least 120,000 euros.
- Your insurance must be valid throughout your entire stay in Finland. If you plan to study in Finland for at least a year, take out the insurance for a minimum of one year.
- Make sure that there are no restrictions to the number of days within the period of validity. Please note that travel insurances are often valid for up to 90 days per trip and we do not accept these.
- Acquire an insurance document indicating the following information:
 - Your personal details
 - Period of validity of insurance
 - Geographical area in which your insurance is valid
 - Insurance coverage
 - Insured amounts

- Amount of deductible, or a mention that there is no deductible
- **Do not terminate your insurance.** Otherwise you will be responsible for any costs yourself.
- For information about insurance providers that offer international health insurance for students, please see migri.fi/insurance.

3. Sufficient funds

- You must have 13,440 euros for two years (=560 euros per month) as a bank deposit or as a scholarship or grant. If you only want the residence permit for one year at a time, you must have 6,720 euros.
- A bank statement from your own bank account from the past three months: Make sure that the statement indicates you as the account owner. A shared account or a written guarantee of sponsorship from a private person is not accepted.
- A certificate of a scholarship granted by a state, an organisation or an educational institution. The certificate must indicate the recipient, amount and duration of the scholarship. A bank statement is not necessary if the scholarship fully covers the requirement.

4. Tuition fees

- If you pay your tuition fee before arriving in Finland, please attach documentation of the paid fee.
- If you pay the tuition fee only after arriving in Finland, please attach documentation of necessary means for paying the tuition fee. You cannot use means reserved for your support to pay the tuition fee.
- If you have been partially or entirely exempted from paying tuition fees or have received a scholarship, you have to present a certificate from the educational institution of this.

5. A passport and a passport photo

- Please remember that you must have a passport that is valid throughout the time your residence permit is valid. If you are applying for a residence permit for two years, your passport has to be valid at least for two years.

How to follow the progress of your application:

- Log in to your Enter Finland account.
 - Use the Kamu chatbot on Migri.fi to check how your application is proceeding. Kamu will check the progress of your application among other submitted applications with the same case type and processing basis. For more information, please see migri.fi/chat1.
 - Follow our updates on application queues at migri.fi/customer-bulletins.
 - Please note that telephone or email inquiries will not speed up the process.
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