

INFORMATION PACKAGE

Students

This information package contains information on residence permits for students from outside the European Union (EU). This information package is useful if your work includes providing advice on topics related to immigration and residence permits. For the most up-to-date version of this information package, please see our website.

Students from outside the EU must apply for a residence permit if their studies take longer than 90 days. If the student is an EU citizen, they must apply for the registration of an EU citizen's right of residence.



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For which residence permit should students apply?



Residence permit for an international student

A student must apply for a [residence permit](#) to Finland if they:

- are originally from outside the EU; and
- are arriving in Finland to study for longer than 90 days.

The residence permit is granted for the full duration of the studies if the requirements are met.

Students can study in Finland for less than 90 days without a residence permit. However, they may need a [visa](#) for a stay of under 90 days.

A [residence permit for a researcher](#) is required for postgraduate studies in a higher education institution.



Registering an EU citizen's right of residence

A student must apply for a [registration of their right of residence](#) if they:

- are a citizen of the European Union, Norway, Liechtenstein or Switzerland; and
- will be staying in Finland for over three months.

Citizens of Nordic countries register their stay with the [Digital and Population Data Services Agency](#).



Mobility notification to Finland

A student can submit a [mobility notification](#) if they have a valid residence permit for studies issued by another EU Member State and:

- their studies are covered by a Union or multilateral programme that comprises mobility measures; or
- their studies are covered by an agreement between two or more higher education institutions.

With a mobility notification, students can study in Finland for a period up to 360 days.

For which studies can international students be granted a residence permit?

Students may be granted a residence permit for exchange studies or if their studies lead to a degree or a vocational qualification. Accepted educational institutions include universities, universities of applied sciences, upper secondary schools and vocational institutes. If the studies do not require the student to stay in Finland and are mainly completed online through a remote connection, the student will not be granted a residence permit for studies.

If the studies do not lead to a degree or a vocational qualification, the student may only be granted a residence permit for studies for a justified reason.

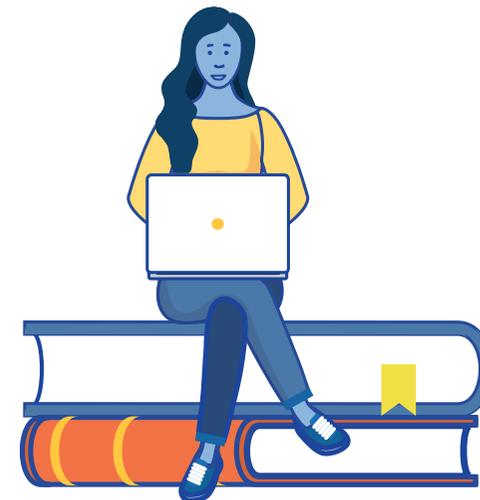
Acceptable reasons are:

- further studies to supplement vocational skills or degrees;
- further training related to work done in the country or departure; or
- special training available in Finland (e.g. training provided within the framework of education export).

Apprenticeship training

Apprenticeship training refers to education that mainly takes place at a workplace, in genuine work situations. The employer and the student sign a written apprenticeship agreement, which is a fixed-term employment contract.

For apprenticeship training, a student may be granted a residence permit for **studies if half or less than half of the duration of their studies consist of apprenticeship training**. If more than half of the duration of the studies will consist of apprenticeship training, the student will need a **residence permit for an employed person**. The duration is calculated



on the basis of the student's personal competence development plan (PCDP), which is created with the educational institution.

Learn more about apprenticeship training on the website of **[the Finnish National Agency for Education \(in Finnish\)](#)**.

First Finnish residence permit for an international student

Prepare

1. Check if you need a residence permit:

You are coming from outside the EU – Yes.

You are coming from the EU – Register your residence

2. Check if the residence permit application for studies is the correct application for you

3. Learn about the requirements for entry into Finland and for a residence permit

4. Prepare the attachments you will need for your residence permit application

Apply

Prove your identity

7. Book an appointment for proving your identity

6. Pay for the application

5. Apply for a residence permit in Enter Finland and add the attachments to the application

Follow the processing of the application

8. Follow the processing of the application in Enter Finland and by using the Kamu chatbot

9. If necessary, add more information to your application in Enter Finland

Receive the decision

10. Receive the decision in Enter Finland

11. Receive your residence permit card

Prepare to live in Finland

14. Apply for an extended permit before your first permit expires + Any family member moving to Finland with you should apply for a residence permit

13. Check how much you can work during your studies

12. If necessary, book an appointment at the Digital and Population Data Services Agency and apply for a personal identity code as well as for registration of your address and family ties

What are the requirements?

Students can be granted a residence permit if they fulfil the requirements listed in this section. The residence permit can be granted for the full duration of the studies.

1. The student must have a study place and they must have paid any tuition fees

A student may be granted a residence permit in Finland if:

- they have been accepted to study at a higher education institution or other educational institution located in Finland and their studies will lead to a degree or a vocational qualification;
- they participate in an exchange programme between educational institutions or some other exchange programme.
- the fees charged by the higher education institution have been paid.

[Learn more about study places](#)

[Learn more about tuition fees](#)

2. The student must have sufficient financial resources for living in Finland

The student needs to have EUR 800 per month at their disposal for living in Finland.

- If the student is applying for a permit for a year or longer, they need to have at least EUR 9,600 in their bank account when they submit the application. Example: A student is arriving in Finland for five years to study for a degree. For the application, it is sufficient if the student has EUR 9,600 in their bank account.
- If the student is applying for a permit for less than a year, they need to have EUR 800 per month in their bank account. Example: A student is arriving in Finland for five months to study for a degree. In this case, the student must have EUR 4,000 in



their bank account when they submit the application.

If the educational institution supports the student's residence in Finland, they may not need EUR 560 per month

- If the educational institution provides free accommodation for the student, the student needs to have EUR 400 per month at their disposal.
- If the educational institution provides free accommodation and free meals for the student, the student needs to have EUR 270 per month at their disposal.

[Learn more about the income requirement](#)

3. The student must have health insurance

In order to get a residence permit, the student must take out private insurance that will cover their medical and pharmaceutical expenses. The insurance excess may not be more than EUR 300.

There cannot be any restrictions on the validity of the insurance. It must be valid throughout the student's entire stay in Finland. This means that the insurance cannot be a regular travel insurance that is only valid during trips that last a maximum of 90 days.

- If the student's studies in Finland take longer than a year, their insurance must be valid without a break for at least one year. The insurance must cover medical expenses up to EUR 120,000.

- If the student's studies in Finland take at least two years, their insurance must cover pharmaceutical expenses up to EUR 40,000.

The insurance must be valid when the student arrives in Finland.

If the student has a Kela card, a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or a UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC), they do not need to take out insurance. The card must be valid throughout their entire stay in Finland.



[Learn more about insurance](#)

Attachments required for the application

In the application, the student must add some of the following attachments, depending on their situation. The purpose of the attachments is to prove that the student meets the requirements set out in the application. The purpose of the general attachments is to prove that the student meets the [general requirements for entry into the country](#).

General attachments:

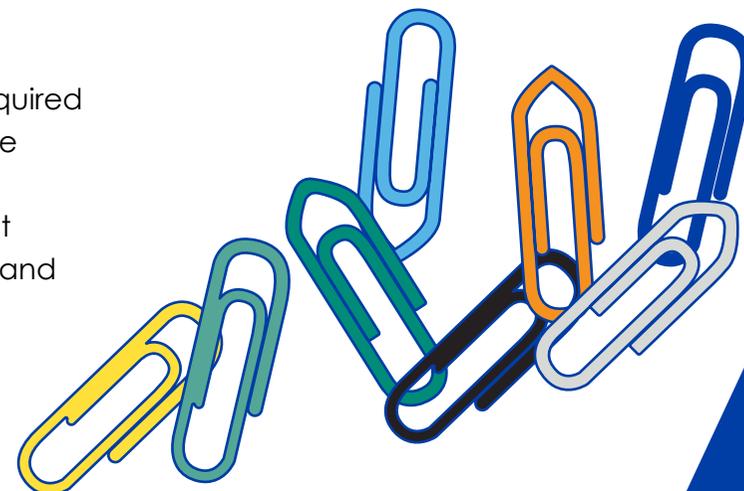
- a valid passport (presented by the student when they submit the application)
- Passport photo complying with the [photo guidelines issued by the police](#), or a photograph retrieval code received from a photo shop
- a colour copy of the information page of the passport and any other pages containing markings
- [an account of legal residence in the country where the student submits the application](#)
- [form MP 1](#) (if the student is already in Finland and applies for their first residence permit)

Application-specific attachments

- certificate of acceptance or attendance from a [Finnish educational institution](#)
- [documentation of income](#). For example, bank statements covering the past three months.
- [certificate of insurance](#)
- [documentation on paid tuition fee or scholarship](#)
- previous degree certificates (not required from degree students and exchange students)
- potential certificates of employment (not required from degree students and exchange students)

If the student is a minor, they must also add to the application:

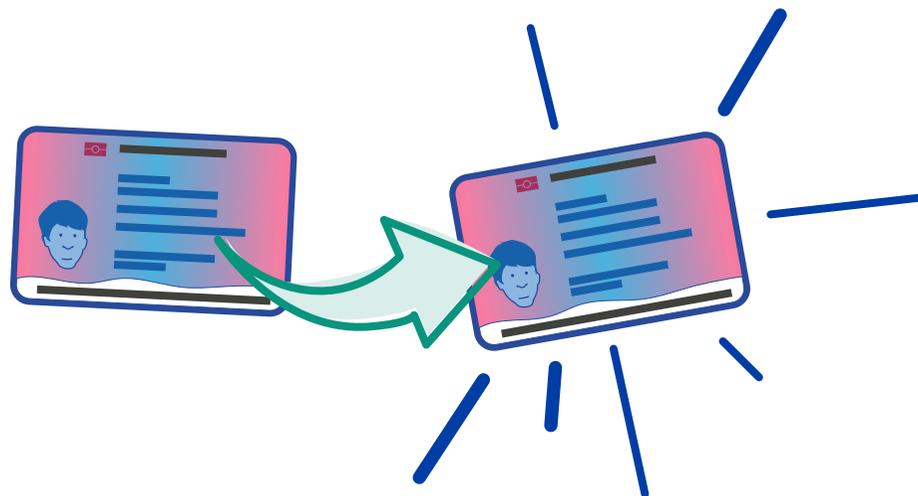
- a birth certificate
- a [guardian's consent](#) for moving to Finland



Extended permit for an international student

If the student does not graduate in the expected time, they may be granted an **extended permit to finish their studies**. The student must provide documentation of the duration of the remaining studies so that they can be granted an extended permit for the duration of the remaining right to study. The student may also apply for a shorter permit.

The student must attach to their application documentation of the reasons why they have not made enough progress in their studies. If the student is writing a thesis, for example, they can attach a statement from their supervisor.



Requirements

The requirements for being granted the permit are otherwise the same as for the **first residence permit for studies**, but the student may use their earned income for meeting the **income requirement**. They can prove that they meet the income requirement by attaching an employment agreement and a pay statement from the past three months to their application.

Right to work

If the student submits their application late, they may not work until a new residence permit is granted.

Role of the educational institution in applying for a residence permit

If a student arrives in Finland for an educational programme including mobility measures in line with the act applicable to the student ([719/2018](#)), such as a double degree programme, we recommend including a mention of such a programme in the acceptance letter. In that case, the name of the programme is marked on the student's residence permit card.

We also recommend including our [customer instructions](#) in the acceptance letter.

If a student from outside the EU and the EEA has a residence permit in another Member State, they may travel to Finland if they are studying in an educational programme including mobility measures. For more information, see the instructions for [submitting a mobility notification](#).

The Finnish Immigration Service uses the information in the Koski data resource when checking the progress of the studies, for example.

Information on students in educational institutions reported to the Finnish Immigration Service

We recommend delivering to the Finnish Immigration Service lists of the students who have not started their studies.

The notifications can be sent to: migri@migri.fi.

Inquiries about processing times

Information on residence permit applications is mostly provided exclusively to the applicant. The easiest way for the applicant to monitor the status of their application is in the Enter Finland service. The applicant may also receive [automated messages](#) on the status of their application. The educational institution may receive information on a residence permit application in writing by sending e-mail to opiskelijat.luka@migri.fi.



Working and internships during studies

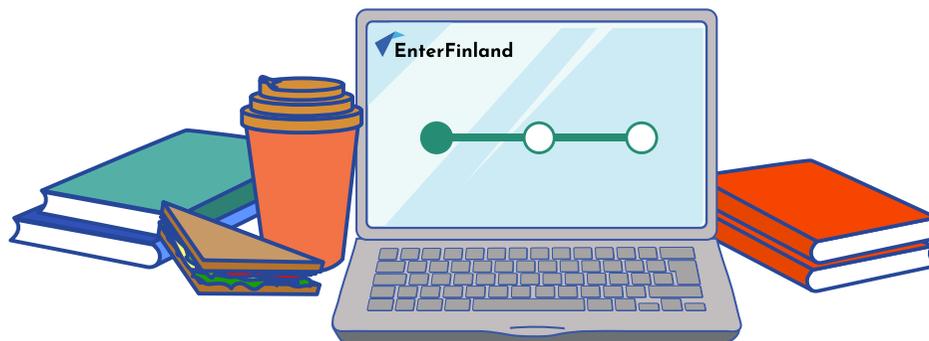
A student who has been granted a residence permit for studies is allowed to work in paid employment for a maximum of 30 hours per week. The weekly working hours may be exceeded in some weeks as long as the average by the end of the year is 30 hours per week. Students cannot work without restrictions during holidays or at the times when the educational institution offers no instruction. The 30-hour weekly limit applies to the entire year.

A student is allowed to engage in employment without restrictions if the employment consists of practical training or diploma work as part of a degree. In other words, practical training or diploma work is not included in the 30-hour weekly limit.

in average
30
h / week



Waiting for a residence permit decision



See the application pages for the average processing times of different application types. The processing time varies based on the amount of additional information required for the application. The processing time may be longer if:

- we need to ask the employed person for further information; or
- the employed person has not filled in the application sufficiently.

When there are changes in the processing of the application, the Finnish Immigration Service sends automated messages to the applicant

[See the website of the Finnish Immigration Service for information on when messages are sent to the applicant.](#)

Learn more on the website of the Finnish Immigration Service:

When do we start counting the processing time?

What affects the processing time?

Residence permit card

If a student is granted a residence permit, they will receive a residence permit card. Where the student's residence permit card is sent depends on where they submitted their residence permit application.



If they submitted their application in Finland:

Once a decision has been issued, the card will be sent to their nearest service point within two weeks. A student will receive a notification on how and where the card can be collected.

If they submitted their application outside Finland:

The card will be delivered via the Finnish embassy

[Learn more on the Residence permit card page](#)

Renewal of residence permit card

A residence permit card is valid for up to five years. This is due to the fact that the card's chip contains biometric identifiers that expire in five years. You can only renew your residence permit card in Finland.

If a student renews their card in Enter Finland, they may not need to visit a service point and can save time

If a student renews their card in Enter Finland, they may not need to visit a service point. To avoid a visit, the student must log on to their existing Enter Finland account using Finnish online banking credentials, for example, add an electronic passport photo retrieval code to the application and pay for the application before submitting it.

Please note! It is important that the student updates the login method of their existing account where they applied for their previous permit instead of creating a new account. After submitting the application, Enter Finland will tell the student whether they need to visit a service point. Learn more about the options of renewing the card on the [Renewal of residence permit card page](#). Learn more about using online banking credentials to log in to Enter Finland on the [Identification page](#).

Mobility notification for international students to Finland

If a student has a valid residence permit for studies issued by another EU Member State and if their studies are covered by

- a Union programme that comprises mobility measures or
- multilateral programme that comprises mobility measures or
- an agreement between two or more higher education institutions,

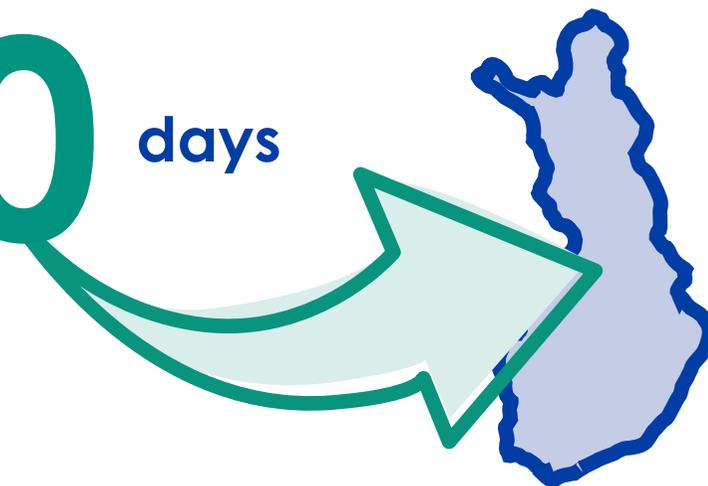
they have the right to carry out part of their studies in Finland.

With a mobility notification, students can study in Finland for a period up to 360 days.

If the student's studies are not covered by a programme or an agreement mentioned above or if they want to study in Finland for more than 360 days, they must apply for a [residence permit](#) in Finland.

[Learn more about a mobility notification to Finland.](#)

360 days



After graduation

A residence permit to look for work or to start a business and
a residence permit for person with a degree completed in Finland

After graduation

If a student has completed a degree in Finland, they can apply for:

- [a residence permit to look for work or to start a business](#), if they are not yet employed
- [a residence permit for person with a degree completed in Finland](#) if they are employed.

Residence permit to look for work or to start a business

After graduation, students may apply for a [residence permit for work or to start a business](#) if they are not yet employed. The permit can be applied for within five years of the expiration of the student permit. The permit can be granted for up to two years.



max.
2
years



Requirements

1. The student must have or have had a residence permit for studies or a residence permit for a researcher.
2. They must have studied and completed a degree in Finland.
3. They must not have found a job.
4. The student has sufficient financial resources for living in Finland
 - The student needs to have at least EUR 800 per month at their disposal to pay for housing, meals and other expenses. They must have sufficient funds for the period of time for which they are applying for a permit. For example, if the student is applying for a permit for two years, they must have EUR 19,200 at their disposal.

Residence permit application for person with a degree completed in Finland



After graduation, a student can apply for a [residence permit for person with a degree completed in Finland](#) if they already have a job. Even if the student has left Finland after graduation and has graduated several years ago, the degree makes them eligible for a work-based residence permit. There are no time limitations between graduating and applying for a work-based permit.

Requirements

1. They must have studied and completed a degree in Finland.
2. They must have a signed employment contract or a binding job offer.
3. They must receive a sufficient salary for their work: [Check the sum on our website](#).

Additional information

Residence permit for international students

Role of the educational institution in applying for a residence permit

EU registration of students

Residence permit for a researcher

Student's family members

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