

Asylum seeker: You may work only if your right to work is valid



When you find a job, you must check whether your right to work has begun and whether it is still valid.

You must tell your employer immediately if your right to work is terminated. You may be committing an offence if you are employed but do not have the right to work.

When does your right to work begin?

You are allowed to work to earn wages or other compensation as follows:

- You can start work three months after seeking asylum if you have presented a valid and authenticated passport or other travel document to the authorities.
- You can start work six months after seeking asylum if you have not presented a valid and authenticated passport or other travel document.

How long can you work for?

When you receive the decision on your asylum application, you must make sure that your right to work is still valid.

If your application is accepted,

- in most cases you can continue to work in Finland.
- Check your residence permit card or decision document that you have the right to work in Finland.

If your application is rejected,

- The decision contains information about when your right to work ends.

Right to work if the Finnish Immigration Service has issued a negative decision on 1 September 2024 or later

Your right to work is valid during the appeal period, which is 30 days from the date on which the decision of the Finnish Immigration Service was served on you.

- If you appeal against the decision to an administrative court, your right to work is valid until the decision of the administrative court has been served on you.
 - If the administrative court rejects your appeal in respect of international protection, your right to work ends on the day when the decision of the administrative court is served on you.
 - If the administrative court overturns the decision of the Finnish Immigration Service in respect of international protection and returns your application to the Finnish Immigration Service, your right to work will continue at least until the Finnish Immigration

Service issues a new decision on the matter. The decision will contain information about your right to work.

- If the administrative court rejects your appeal in respect of international protection but returns the matter to the Finnish Immigration Service for some other reason, your right to work ends when the decision of the administrative court is served on you.

If the Finnish Immigration Service has applied an accelerated procedure to your asylum application or considered your application inadmissible, your right to work ends on the day when the decision of the Finnish Immigration Service is served on you.

If your right to work has ended, it will not begin again if you apply for leave to appeal to the Supreme Administrative Court.

- If the Supreme Administrative Court returns your matter to the Finnish Immigration Service or to the administrative court for renewed consideration, your right to work begins again.
- However, your right to work will not begin again if the Finnish Immigration Service has applied an accelerated procedure to your application or considered your application inadmissible and the Supreme Administrative Court returns your matter to the administrative court for renewed consideration. In that case, your right to work has ended on the day when the decision of the Finnish Immigration Service was served on you.

Right to work if the Finnish Immigration Service has issued a negative decision on 31 August 2024 or earlier

Your right to work is determined under previous legislation. Your right to work will end when the decision is enforceable, that is when you can be removed from the country by law. The decision contains information about when the decision is enforceable and when your right to work ends.

Read more about asylum seekers' right to work on the Finnish Immigration Service website: <https://migri.fi/en/asylum-seeker-s-right-to-work>

How does a new application affect your right to work?

If you have submitted a new application, you can start working as follows:

- You can start work three months after seeking asylum if you have presented a valid and authenticated passport or other travel document to the authorities.
- You can start work six months after seeking asylum if you have not presented a valid and authenticated passport or other travel document.

The new application is an asylum application that you can submit after you have received a final decision on your previous application. If your previous decision cannot be appealed, it means it is final.

It is the employer's duty to check your right to work

Your employer has the duty to ensure that you have the necessary residence permit for an employed person or that you do not need to have a residence permit.

Your employer could be committing an offence if they deliberately or through negligence continue to employ you when you do not have the right to work.

According to the law, you do not need a certificate of your right to work

You can ask about your right to work or your employee's right to work free or charge by sending an email message to the Finnish Immigration Service. Read the instructions on the website of the Finnish Immigration Service: migri.fi/certificate-of-the-right-to-work.

The decision by the Finnish Immigration Service states when it becomes enforceable. The police are responsible for the enforcement of the decision. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration oversees employers' duty to ensure your right to work: <https://www.tyosuojelu.fi/web/en/employment-relationship/foreign-employee/the-right-to-work> In matters concerning your right to work, your employer may contact the relevant authorities for guidance.