

# Residence permit for an entrepreneur

A residence permit for an entrepreneur is intended for you if you plan to become an entrepreneur in Finland. You usually need to register your business in the Trade Register maintained by the Finnish Patent and Registration Office before you can be granted a residence permit for an entrepreneur.

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## You are an entrepreneur if you are, for example

- a private entrepreneur who has a so-called individually-owned business (toiminimi)
- a partner in a general partnership
- a general partner in a limited partnership (not a silent partner)
- a shareholder in a managerial position (Managing Director or member of the Board of Directors) working in a limited liability company.

## To apply for a residence permit for an entrepreneur, you must meet the following requirements

- You are an entrepreneur and you have a Business ID
- Your business operations are profitable and your means of support is secured by the income from your business
- You have registered your business in the Finnish Patent and Registration Office

If a residence permit for an entrepreneur is not suitable for you, you can check which residence permit is right for you using the Application Finder at [migri.fi/en/i-want-to-apply](https://migri.fi/en/i-want-to-apply).

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## For your residence permit application, you also need

- a valid passport accepted by Finland
- a passport photo complying with the photo guidelines issued by the Finnish police
- colour copies of the passport page containing personal data and of all passport pages that contain notes
- document showing that you are legally staying in the country where you submit the application
- legalised translations of documents.
- attachments related to your business operations, such as a business plan, proof of professional qualifications, and proof of financial resources

See the complete list of required attachments at [migri.fi/en/entrepreneur](https://migri.fi/en/entrepreneur).

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You can apply for a residence permit for an entrepreneur only if you have your own Business ID. If you are a freelancer or working through an invoicing service company, it is not possible to apply for this permit.

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You cannot get a residence permit only because you own a company. You must also work in the company in Finland.

The application will be processed in two stages: first, an Economic Development Centre will assess whether your business operations are profitable, after which the Finnish Immigration Service will process your application.

## How to apply for a residence permit for an entrepreneur

### 1. Fill in the application and add your documents.

Apply for a residence permit online at [enterfinland.fi](https://enterfinland.fi).

### 2. Pay for your application.

Pay for the application with a credit card or Finnish online banking credentials when submitting your application. You can also pay for the application when you visit a Finnish mission to prove your identity.

### 3. Visit an embassy or consulate to prove your identity.

Book an appointment at a Finnish mission (embassy or consulate) and visit to prove your identity. Read more about visiting Finnish missions on our website [migri.fi/en/handling-your-matters-at-a-finnish-mission](https://migri.fi/en/handling-your-matters-at-a-finnish-mission).

### 4. Wait for the decision.

We will contact you if necessary. You can also track the progress of your application in your Enter Finland account.

You will receive emails and text messages about the progress of your application and any possible requests for additional information.

### 5. After arriving in Finland:

- Be prepared to prove to the border authorities that you still meet all the requirements for the residence permit.
- Apply for a municipality of residence and personal identity code from the Digital and Population Data Services Agency.
- Remember to apply for an extended permit before your first permit expires through the Enter Finland service at [enterfinland.fi](https://enterfinland.fi).

Read more about the residence permit for an entrepreneur at: [migri.fi/en/entrepreneur](https://migri.fi/en/entrepreneur)



Maahanmuuttovirasto  
Migrationsverket  
Finnish Immigration Service



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