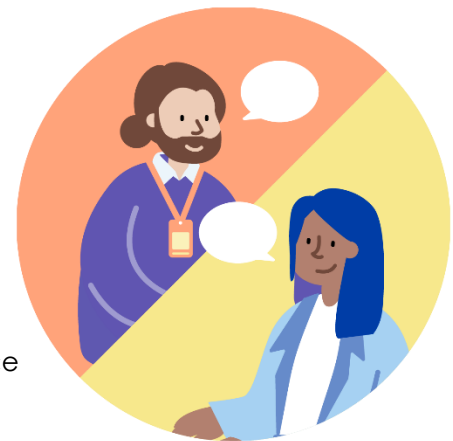


Asylum interview

You have been invited to an interview by the Finnish Immigration Service. Please read carefully these instructions that explain your rights and obligations during the interview. If you have any questions about these instructions, an employee of the Finnish Immigration Service can answer them at the beginning of the interview.

What is an asylum interview?

- An asylum interview is an official meeting with an employee of the Finnish Immigration Service. At the interview, you must explain in detail the reasons why you are applying for international protection in Finland and why you cannot return to your home country.
- The interview only deals with the application for international protection. If you have family members in Finland, you can apply for a residence permit on the basis of family ties. You must submit a separate residence permit application and pay a fee for it.



Where, when and how is the interview organised?

- You have received an invitation to the interview together with these instructions. It tells you where, when and how your interview is organised.
- The interview will be recorded, and you may ask for a copy of the recording if you wish. The recording is made in case there is a need to investigate any irregularities, and the Finnish Immigration Service will not share it with outsiders.
- There may be a CCTV camera that records video in the interview room.
- A protocol is drawn up of the interview.
- Anything you say in the interview is confidential. Nothing you say will be disclosed to outsiders except to the authorities relevant to the processing of the matter, who have the right to obtain information specified in the law.
- If your interview is organised via a video connection, this is stated in the invitation. For more information about meetings organised via video connection, see the Finnish Immigration Service's website **migri.fi/turvapaikanhakijan-asiointi**.



- You cannot change the date of the interview without a good reason. If you are sick on the day of the interview, tell the Finnish Immigration Service about it at once. If necessary, the reception centre will help you with this. You must give a justified reason or information about the illness provided by a nurse or doctor at the reception centre to the Finnish Immigration Service as soon as possible, or no later than 1 week after the date of the interview. If you are absent from the asylum interview without a justified reason, your application will be considered withdrawn and the processing of your case will end.

Who is present at the interview?

Only the persons invited to the interview, and other persons accepted in advance by the Finnish Immigration Service, can come to the interview. The people present at the interview are an employee of the Finnish Immigration Service (the interviewer) and, depending on the situation, an interpreter, a counsel, a representative, a guardian or a support person, if you have requested a support person for the interview and they have been given permission to participate in the interview. For more information about the participants' roles, see the Finnish Immigration Service's website migri.fi/turvapaikanhakijan-asiointi.



What rights do you have in the interview?

- You have the right to use a counsel at the interview. The counsel will participate in the interview in the way they think is best.
- If you are an adult asylum seeker, you must find the counsel yourself. If you do not bring a counsel to the interview, the interview will go ahead without a counsel.
- If you are an unaccompanied minor, your representative will always be present at the interview. If you need a counsel, your representative will find one for you for the interview. If you do not have a representative, your parent or guardian in Finland will be present at the interview.
- An interpreter will be present in the interview. The interpreter's job is to translate everything that is said in the interview, without taking sides. The interpreter will either be there in person, or a phone connection or video link can be used for the interpretation.
- If you have a justified reason to ask that the interpreter or interviewer is a woman or a man, tell an employee of the reception centre about this well before the interview. The reception centre will send your request to the Finnish Immigration Service. The Finnish Immigration Service will assess if the reason is justified. If you are in a detention unit or some other institution, tell a worker at the unit about this. If you are an unaccompanied minor, ask your representative for help.
- The interviewer and other parties present in the interview have a duty of secrecy. This means that they may not tell any outsiders about what we talk about in the interview. However, matters you tell us at the interview may have an impact on the processing of your family member's application. In these cases, we will take such information into account in your family member's case. However, we can keep information secret from

your family member if giving the information to them would put you or your loved one at risk or harm you. You can tell us what you think about this in the interview.

- As a rule, the documents concerning you must be kept secret.
- If you are an unaccompanied minor, the Finnish Immigration Service can trace your parent or other actual guardian, which means that we look for them. Your actual guardian means the person who took care of you in your home country. To do this, we will only use the information that is necessary for tracing this person. When the Finnish Immigration Service traces this person, we will make sure that it will not put you or your loved ones at risk or harm you. In the interview, the Finnish Immigration Service will ask you about your view on tracing the person and request information that may be helpful in tracing.

What obligations do I have in the interview?

- You have a duty to cooperate and tell the truth.
- You have the duty to explain and provide accounts of all the reasons why you have applied for international protection. Answer the questions in as much detail as you can.
 - If you refuse to answer questions without a justified reason and the interview fails to obtain enough information about your asylum grounds for this reason, your application will be considered withdrawn, and the processing of your case will end.
- If you do not tell the truth, it may have a negative impact on your application. Tell us the truth and do not leave out any information that is relevant to your application.
- Please note that if you give false information, or keep the correct information secret, a permit that has been given to you may be later taken away. It will also make it more difficult to process your other matters.
- The interviewer will help and guide you to talk about your grounds by asking questions. They may also include sensitive and difficult matters. It is also in your interest to talk about things that are difficult. They may be very important for your application.
 - If it is difficult for you to talk about something, you can mention it to the interviewer. It is important that you talk about anything related to your application, as the decision will be based on the information you gave during the interview.
- If the interviewer notices irregularities or inconsistencies in the things you say, you will get an opportunity to clarify the matter.
- Your personal information will be checked at the interview. The personal information is mostly based on documents. If you want to change your personal information after the interview, you will need a passport or some other official proof of identity.
- The Finnish Immigration Service saves your personal information and the grounds for your application in the Case management system for immigration matters, which is an official register.

- Giving false personal information to an authority or providing false information to be recorded in an official register are punishable offences. In Finland, persons who are aged 15 or older have criminal liability.

How can I prepare for the interview?

- In the interview, you must state the grounds for applying for international protection in your own words. You can prepare for the interview by writing down important dates and names. When you prepare in advance, it is easier for you to talk about your experiences in the interview.
- Bring to the interview any documents related to your application that you have not yet submitted to the Finnish Immigration Service. Prepare to shortly explain how the documents relate to your grounds for asylum. The documents may include identity documents, other documents issued by the authorities, medical certificates, press articles and publications related to the things you say. The documents are also important because, in connection with your application for international protection, it will be assessed if you meet the grounds for a residence permit on other grounds, such as on a discretionary basis on humanitarian grounds.
- Before the interview, read all the instructions and brochures that you have received from the authorities.
- Make sure you arrive for the interview on time. The reception centre will tell you how to get to the place. If you are an unaccompanied minor, the reception centre will make sure that you can get to the interview. If you have a parent or guardian in Finland, your guardian is responsible for making sure that you can get to the interview.
- Remember that the interview may take several hours. You will have a lunch break and other breaks during the day if you need them. You can ask for a break at any time. Bring a packed lunch or lunch money and any medicines you may need during the day with you.
- You may not take your children with you unless they have been invited to the interview. If you need somebody to look after your child during the interview, tell your reception centre about this well before the day of the interview.
- If you have special needs for the interview, for example because of your health, tell the reception centre about them straight away. For example, you can request assistance due to your disability or health problem, or support if you are a victim of trafficking in human beings. If you are an unaccompanied minor, ask your representative for help. If you are in a detention unit or some other institution, tell a worker at the unit about this. Your reception centre, representative or detention unit may contact the Finnish Immigration Service about this before the interview.
- The interview will not be organised if the Finnish Immigration Service finds that you are unable to participate in it due to permanent reasons that you cannot control. In this case, too, you can submit additional information to the Finnish Immigration Service in writing.

What happens at the interview?

- First, the interviewer will tell you what will happen at the interview. The interviewer will make sure you have understood your rights and obligations listed in these instructions. If necessary, the interviewer will inform you of your rights and obligations. If you do not understand something, ask.
- The interviewer will ask if you and the interpreter understand each other. If you do not understand the interpreter, say so.
- The interviewer will check if there have been any changes to your health. After this, the interviewer will review your personal information and may ask about your background information.
- Listen carefully to the interviewer's instructions.
- Next, you will be asked about why you had to flee your home country and why you cannot go back there. The interviewer will encourage you to explain in your own words and in detail the reasons why you are seeking international protection. If necessary, the interviewer will also guide you to describe matters relevant to your application.
- Once you have explained the reasons for your application, the interviewer will ask you questions to clarify the important matters.
- The interviewer may also ask you more detailed questions about your home area or other issues important to the processing of your matter.
- If there is a question you do not understand, tell the interviewer. The interviewer will explain the question to you.
- The duration of the interview varies. You can request a break at any time during the interview.
- In the interview, you can give the Finnish Immigration Service information that may affect the decision in your case. For example, if you are suspected of an offence in Finland or if you have been convicted of an offence in this country, this may affect the processing of your case at the Finnish Immigration Service. If necessary, the Finnish Immigration Service will give you an opportunity to state your opinion about the matter during the interview.
- A protocol will be drawn up of the interview. The interviewer will check the protocol with you in part or in full if the Finnish Immigration Service thinks this is necessary. If the protocol is not checked with you in full at the interview, you will be given a date by which you can submit additions or corrections to it. You will receive a copy of the protocol for yourself.



- At the end of the interview, you will receive instructions that contain links to more information about such matters as submitting information to the Finnish Immigration Service and voluntary return to your home country. You can also access the links through these QR codes:



migri.fi/en/processing-of-asylum-applications



voluntaryreturn.fi/en/front-page

- It is important that you give all the grounds for your application at the interview. If there are new grounds later, or you would like to add new information to your grounds, you must tell the Finnish Immigration Service or the court processing your appeal about them at once.

What will happen after the interview?

- The aim is to complete the interview in the time reserved for it. If the interview is not finished, it will continue on another day. In this case, you will receive a new invitation to an interview.
- You can send additional information for your application until you receive a decision on your application. Please note that the Finnish Immigration Service may not be able to take additional information sent after the deadline into account in its decision. Send the additional information in writing.
- The Finnish Immigration Service will process your application and decide if you can be granted international protection or a residence permit on other grounds, such as a discretionary basis on humanitarian grounds or because you have become a victim of trafficking in human beings.
- The Finnish Immigration Service will make a decision on your matter based on the information you gave in the interview, other documents presented and country information. The Finnish Immigration Service may also use public sources to look for information that supports its decision.
- If necessary, the Finnish Immigration Service may obtain reports on the authenticity of your documents from your home country. The authorities will not hear about it, and there will be no risk to you or your loved ones.
- If your application is rejected, you may be sent away from Finland ('denied admittance') and prevented from entering Finland and other Schengen countries ('entry ban').
- You can apply for voluntary return to your home country at any stage of the asylum process. If your application for international protection is rejected or you withdraw it, you have the right to apply for support for voluntary return. This support is provided on certain conditions, which will be checked when you apply for it. Ask for more information at your

reception centre, or see the contact information for assistance for voluntary return on the Finnish Immigration Service's website:



migri.fi/en/return

or

voluntaryreturn.fi/en/front-page

- If you wish to appeal the decision, you will find the appeal instructions attached to the decision.
- If you applied for international protection with your spouse, minor children or an adult dependant, you will usually receive a joint decision, unless the Finnish Immigration Service considers that there is a good reason to make separate decisions in your matter. During the interview, the interviewer will ask you if you have any reasons why you would like to receive separate decisions.
- If you have new grounds for asylum later, report them to the Finnish Immigration Service or the court processing the appeal as soon as you can. If you do not bring up new information or grounds as soon as you can, it is possible that they will not be examined if you submit a later application based on them.