

Admissibility 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 the admissibility interview?

The admissibility interview examines the matters based on which the Finnish Immigration Service decides if the grounds for your application will be examined in Finland. The grounds for considering your application inadmissible are as follows:



- You have arrived from a safe country where you have been granted asylum, subsidiary protection, or otherwise sufficient protection, and you can be returned to this country (first country of asylum).
 - For unaccompanied minors, a third country may only be regarded as a first country of asylum if this is not contrary to the best interests of the child and if it is certain that the authorities of that country will take over the responsibility for the child and that the child will receive immediate and effective protection.
- You have arrived from a safe country where you can request and receive protection if the conditions are met, and you can be returned there (safe third country).
 - For unaccompanied minors, a country may only be regarded as a safe third country if this is not contrary to the best interests of the child and if it is certain that the authorities of that country will take over the responsibility for the child and that the child will receive immediate and effective protection.
- The International Criminal Court has offered you safe resettlement, which means an opportunity to settle either in an EU Member State or in a third country.
- You only submitted your application 7 working days after you were given a return decision referred to in the Return Directive.
- You have received international protection in another EU Member State.
- You have submitted a subsequent application that does not contain such new grounds based on which



- o the Finnish Immigration Service could consider that you need international protection or
 - o the earlier decision on considering your application inadmissible should be assessed differently.
- If the Finnish Immigration Service considers your application admissible, an asylum interview will be organised to ask you to explain the reasons why you are applying for international protection in Finland. The asylum interview may be held in connection with the admissibility interview reserved for you, if there is time to do so. For more information on preparing for the asylum interview, see section "If the asylum interview is held in connection with the admissibility interview".

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 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 Finnish Immigration Service about this well before the interview. If you need, you can ask an employee at the reception centre to help you. 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 persons 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 them.

What obligations do I have in the interview?

- You have a duty to cooperate and tell the truth.
- The interview gives you an opportunity to state reasons why the grounds for considering your application inadmissible cannot be applied in your case. You have the duty to participate in the interview and answer the questions yourself. Answer the questions in as much detail as you can.
- 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 the examined matters 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?

- During the interview, you must explain in your own words why the grounds for considering your application inadmissible cannot be applied to you. When you prepare in advance, it is easier for you to talk about your experiences in the interview.

- You can bring to the interview documents that are relevant to your matter and that you have not yet provided 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. For maps showing where the Finnish Immigration Service's service points are, see **migri.fi/en/contact-information**.
- Remember that the interview may take several hours. The interview may include a lunch break and other breaks if necessary. 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 Finnish Immigration Service 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.
- 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 about what will happen at the interview. The interviewer will make sure you have understood your rights and obligations listed in these instructions. 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, your justifications for why the grounds for considering your application inadmissible cannot be applied to your application will be heard.
- 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.
- 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.

If the asylum interview is held in connection with the admissibility interview

- The admissibility interview is used to examine if there are grounds for not applying the grounds for inadmissibility in your case. By contrast, the asylum interview is used to determine the grounds for international protection. The asylum interview will only be held in connection with the admissibility interview if it is clear that your application is admissible and that the reserved interpretation time is enough. The asylum interview can also be organised separately. If the asylum interview is not held together with the admissibility interview, this does not yet mean that your application will not be admitted.
- In the asylum interview, you have the duty to explain and provide an account 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.
- 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.
- The interviewer will ask you to explain 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.

What will happen after the 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 decides if your application is admissible.
- 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 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, tell the Finnish Immigration Service or the court processing the appeal about them at once. 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.