



You were granted a residence permit in Finland

The Finnish Immigration Service has accepted your application for asylum. This means that you have been given a residence permit in Finland for a fixed term.

Inform your legal counsel and a reception centre employee of this immediately

Your legal counsel and the reception centre are not automatically informed of your decision.

It is important that you tell someone at the reception centre that you have been granted a residence permit. The reception centre employee will be able to guide you on what will happen next.

Tell your legal counsel that you have received a decision by the Finnish Immigration Service.

A residence permit card is enclosed in the decision

The residence permit proves your right to be in Finland. The validity of your residence permit is recorded on the card.

Do not lose your residence permit card. If your card goes missing, book an appointment at a service point of the Finnish Immigration Service, and a new card can be issued for you. The new card is subject to a fee.

When living in Finland, you must have a valid travel document

According to Finnish law, you must have a valid travel document. When you have a travel document, you can travel out of Finland and return to the country.

- **If you have been granted refugee status or secondary protection in Finland**

If you have been granted a refugee status or secondary protection in Finland, you can keep the passport of your home country or, alternatively, obtain a refugee travel document or an alien's passport. You are not allowed to hold both a passport of your home country and a travel document issued by Finland. If you still have a passport issued by your home country, you must hand it to the Finnish Immigration Service when you receive the refugee travel document or alien's passport.

If you do not hold a passport issued by your home country, you must apply for a refugee travel document or an alien's passport.

- If you have been granted asylum, you can receive a refugee travel document,
- If, on the other hand, you have been granted subsidiary protection, you can get an alien's passport. These applications are subject to a fee.

Please take into account that if you acquire a passport from your home country after you have been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection, this can lead to the revocation or cancellation of your refugee status or subsidiary protection.

▪ **If you have received a residence permit on other grounds**

If the grounds of your residence permit are something else than refugee status or subsidiary protection, you must have a valid passport of your home country or you must apply for one.

You can be granted an alien's passport if you cannot be granted a passport by the authorities of your home country, if you are stateless, or there are other special reasons for issuing an alien's passport for you. In such cases, the Finnish Immigration Service will assess whether an alien's passport can be granted to you. The application is subject to a fee.

Your decision indicates if you have a right to work

Your right to work in Finland is indicated on your decision. You can also check your residence permit card.

You will become a resident of a municipality

The reception centre employee will invite you to a meeting and provide you advice on how to move in to a municipality. They can also help you to find a home. You can also look for a home independently. Discuss your plans with an employee at the reception centre.

When you move to a municipality, you have to be in contact with certain authorities, such as the Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela), the Employment and Economic Development Office (TE office) and The Digital and Population Data Services Agency. After you move, you are no longer a customer of the reception centre. Your services, including health and social services, will be provided by the municipality.

You can study without a separate permit

You can apply to start studies and accept a study place. You do not need a separate permit to pursue studies.

You can also apply for an identity card from the police

You can submit an application for an identity card to the Licence Services at a police station. The identity card is an official form of identification in Finland.

It will make it easier for you to take care of your affairs in Finland. You will need an identity card to open a bank account in Finland, etc. The application is subject to a fee.

Please note that the refugee travel document and alien's passport are not official forms of identification, even when they do not indicate that the individual's identity has not been confirmed. You will find out more about confirming the identity of an individual on the website of the Finnish Immigration Service: migri.fi/en/identity-not-verified.

Your family member can now apply for a residence permit in Finland

The definition of a family member eligible to apply for a residence permit in Finland, is laid down in Finnish law. The preconditions of granting a residence permit in Finland depend on the type of residence permit you have been granted. The application is subject to a fee.

If you have been granted refugee status, please take into account that the Finnish legislation includes deadlines that will affect the income requirement applied to your family member. If you have been granted refugee status in Finland, there will be detailed instructions enclosed in the decision informing you of this and on how your family member(s) can apply for a residence permit in Finland.

More information about applying for a residence permit for a family member is available on our website at: migri.fi/en/moving-to-finland-to-be-with-a-family-member.

Remember to renew your residence permit

To be able to continue living in Finland after your current residence permit expires, you must apply for an extension of your residence permit once your current permit expires.

Always submit the application online if this is possible. See our website for more instructions: migri.fi/en/extended-permit

When you have filled in the application, make an appointment at one of our service points for identification or to submit your application. The online service for making appointments is available on our website: migri.vihta.com.

Please make sure in advance that you have all the required documents with you when you visit the service point. More information about appointments at the service point is available on the website of the Finnish Immigration Service: migri.fi/en/handling-matters-at-a-service-point.

▪ If you have been granted refugee status or secondary protection

If you have been granted refugee status or secondary protection, you may be eligible to a permanent residence permit immediately after your first permit. You must have lived in Finland for at least four years for this to be possible.

More information about permanent residence permits is available on our website at: migri.fi/en/permanent-residence-permit.

If you are applying for an extended permit or a travel document and your contact details change, please inform the Finnish Immigration Service

You must always inform the Finnish Immigration Service of your contact details and their changes when your application is being processed at the Finnish Immigration Service. It is possible that the Finnish Immigration Service sends mail to your home address when your application is being processed or a letter is sent to you to inform you of a delivery that has arrived and that should be picked up at a certain pick-up point.

If you have submitted your application online, you can make changes to your contact details online using the Enter Finland service at: enterfinland.fi

If you have submitted a paper application, please inform us of any changes to your contact details on a form available on our website at: migri.fi/en/notify-us-of-changes. Please send the form to the Finnish Immigration Service by post or take it to one of our service points during its opening hours. Place the form in an envelope and drop it in the mailbox at the service point.

In some situations, your refugee status or subsidiary protection can be revoked or cancelled

Your refugee status or subsidiary protection can be revoked and your residence permit cancelled if, for example, you travel to your home country or obtain a passport issued by your home country.

Your refugee status or subsidiary protection can be cancelled if you have provided the authorities with false or misleading information that has influenced the decision.

When considering the decision to revoke or cancel these statuses, the Finnish Immigration Service will find out if grounds exist for your residence permit. In this context, the Finnish Immigration Service will also assess the need to deport you from the country and impose a prohibition of entry on you.

Committing an offence can provide grounds for reconsideration of your refugee status or subsidiary protection. This reconsideration can lead to your refugee status or subsidiary protection being revoked or cancelled and to your deportation.

You can apply for a Finnish citizenship at a later date

You can apply for a Finnish citizenship when you have lived in Finland consecutively for four or five years. The required term of residence depends on the grounds on which a residence permit has been granted to you and if your Finnish or Swedish skills are at an adequate level. Your identity must be reliably established before you can obtain Finnish citizenship. You must also be



able to support yourself financially in Finland. Committing an offence or offences can lead to the refusal of citizenship.

More information available

- on the website of the Finnish Immigration Service: migri.fi/en/asylum-in-finland
- Film by Finnish Immigration Service: "Myönteinen päätös": migri.fi/en/videos-for-asylum-seekers