

## Applying for a residence permit in Finland

Congratulations on your study place in Finland!

This letter is for you who need a residence permit in Finland. Start preparing your application immediately after receiving your acceptance letter. The entire process may take several months.

### How do I know if I need a residence permit in Finland?

**You will need a residence permit in all other cases, except:**

- If you are a citizen of an EU Member State, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland. However, you may need to apply for EU-registration. For more information, please see our website [migri.fi/i-am-an-eu-citizen](https://migri.fi/i-am-an-eu-citizen).
- If you have been granted a residence permit on the basis of studies by some other EU Member State than Finland and if you are covered by a programme or an agreement specified in the Finnish act on residence permits for students. You can carry out part of your studies in Finland for a period up to 360 days. You must submit a mobility notification to the Finnish Immigration Service. For instructions, please see [migri.fi/mobility-notification-to-finland](https://migri.fi/mobility-notification-to-finland).
- If you plan to study in Finland for 90 days or less. However, you may need a visa. For information on visas, please see the website of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland [um.fi/frontpage](https://um.fi/frontpage).

### This is what you should do to apply for a residence permit

- Apply for your residence permit abroad, not in Finland
- Create an account in the online service [enterfinland.fi](https://enterfinland.fi). Fill in the application form for studies. Fill in your name as it is in your passport, your contact details and the date you plan to arrive in Finland. Next, collect the mandatory appendices listed on page 2.
- Submit your online application.
- Visit a Finnish mission (embassy or consulate) in person for identification and fingerprinting. Contact the embassy or consulate in advance to book an appointment. All Finnish embassies and consulates are listed at [finlandabroad.fi/frontpage](https://finlandabroad.fi/frontpage). If there is no Finnish diplomatic mission in your country, check on the finlandabroad.fi -website which embassy or consulate you need to contact. Please note that the Finnish Immigration Service cannot influence at which Finnish embassy or consulate you should handle your matter. The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs makes this decision.
- Your application will be processed only after you have visited a Finnish embassy. Also, the estimated processing time of your application starts from the day you visit the embassy.

## Important to remember:

- The application process is longer if you submit an incomplete application.
- We process all residence permit applications for studies as urgent.
- If your application is approved, you will get a biometric residence permit card. The card is manufactured in Finland and delivered to the Finnish embassy. It is not possible to speed up the delivery of the card or to collect the card from Finland. You cannot come to Finland without the residence permit card.
- We recommend that you do not acquire airline tickets in advance in case you do not receive a decision before your flight to Finland.

## The mandatory appendices

If your documents are not in Finnish, Swedish or English, have them translated into one of these languages by an authorized translator. Take the originals of your documents with you to the embassy. For more information about the appendices, please see [migri.fi/residence-permit-application-for-studies](https://migri.fi/residence-permit-application-for-studies).

### 1. Study place

- Acceptance letter from your exchange program.

### 2. Health Insurance

- If your studies last less than two years, your insurance must cover both sickness and accident related medical expenses up to at least 120,000 euros.
- Your insurance must be valid throughout your entire stay in Finland.
- Make sure that there are no restrictions to the number of days within the period of validity. Please note that travel insurances are often valid for up to 90 days per trip and we do not accept these.
- Acquire an insurance document indicating the following information:
  - Your personal details
  - Period of validity of insurance
  - Geographical area in which your insurance is valid
  - Insurance coverage
  - Insured amounts
  - Amount of deductible, or a mention that there is no deductible
- **Do not terminate your insurance.** Otherwise you will be responsible for any costs yourself.
- For information about insurance providers that offer international health insurance for students, please see [migri.fi/insurance](https://migri.fi/insurance).

### 3. A passport and a passport photo

- Please remember that you must have a passport that is valid throughout the time your residence permit is valid.

### 4. If you are under 18 years of age

- Attach a written consent for you to move to Finland from both your parents or guardians to your application.

### How to follow the progress of your application:

- Log in to your Enter Finland account.
- Use the Kamu chatbot on Migri.fi to check how your application is proceeding. Kamu will check the progress of your application among other submitted applications with the same case type and processing basis. For more information, please see [migri.fi/chat1](https://migri.fi/chat1).
- Follow our updates on application queues at [migri.fi/customer-bulletins](https://migri.fi/customer-bulletins).
- Please note that telephone or email inquiries will not speed up the process.