

Checklist: before moving to Finland

1. Residence permit or right to reside in Finland

For clarification on whether you need to apply for a residence permit or register your right to reside in Finland (EU citizens), please visit the [Finnish Immigration Service's \(Migri\) web page](#). Migri's pages are always up to date and very informative and easy to use.

The Application Finder that helps you determine what type of permit or registration you should apply for. You can access the application finder by navigating to 'I want to apply' or through the following link: <https://migri.fi/en/i-want-to-apply>

Once you have determined what type of permit you need, there will be clear instructions on what personal documentation you need for the application process. The registration of EU citizens' right to reside should be done within three months after arriving in Finland. Residency permits are normally applied for before moving.

The following documents are practically always required:

- Passport or a valid identity card (that includes a photograph of the holder)
- Birth certificate
- Marriage certificate (if applicable)
- NB! You must obtain an authorized translation for all documents that are in a language other than Finnish, Swedish or English. Please remember to check the requirements regarding interpretation, translation and legalisation: <https://migri.fi/en/interpretation-translation-and-legalisation>

The application can be completed and submitted electronically through the e-service EnterFinland: <https://enterfinland.fi/eServices/account/login>. You can create an account by registering valid e-mail address. Next, the applicant must visit a Finnish mission (embassy or consulate) abroad or book an appointment at a service point in Finland. The application cannot be processed before the applicant's identity has been verified. When applying for a residence permit, make sure to book an appointment with the right embassy or service point well in advance. Normally an applicant applying for a residence permit, registration of right of residence or for citizenship is required to visit a Finnish mission (embassy or consulate) or one of the service points of the Finnish Immigration service in Finland within three months from submitting the application in the online service Enter Finland.

An overview of the different stages of the application process can be found on Migri's webpage: <https://migri.fi/en/application-processing-stages>

2. Personal identity code

You can apply for a Finnish personal identity code when applying for your residence permit. For EU citizens and persons not needing a residence permit can obtain the personal identity code once arriving in Finland (see Checklist: after arriving in Finland). For more information on the personal identity code, please see the following links:

- Migri: <https://migri.fi/en/personal-identity-code>
- Digital and Population Data Services Agency: <https://dvv.fi/en/population-information-system>

3. Health insurance and the European Health Insurance card

Before moving to Finland, it might be a good idea to procure health insurance from your home country for the first months of your stay since it might take a while before you are covered by the Finnish social

security and entitled to the Finnish low cost health system and Kela benefits (<https://www.kela.fi/web/en>).

As an employee you are entitled to Hanken's occupational health care, but this do not include all type of health care and e.g. dental care or hospital stays are excluded.

The European Health Insurance Card is a free card that gives you access to medically necessary, state-provided health care during a stay in EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and the UK. You are eligible for a card if you are insured or covered by a state social security number in any of the EU member states or above-mentioned countries. The European Health Insurance card only covers *necessary* medical treatment and a health insurance from your home country might therefore be needed for the first few months.

- [How to apply for a card](#)

There is also the possibility of getting an international health insurance for the first few months of your stay in Finland. If you want a private health insurance in Finland, you can procure one once you are covered by the Finnish social security.

3. Family members

If your family members are moving to Finland with you, you need to make sure they also have a residency permit or right to reside in Finland. The application for family members' residency permits can be submitted with your own application. The registration of EU citizens' right to reside can be done for the whole family once you arrive. If you and your family members are not citizens of the same country, make sure you check the requirements for each person. Passport or a valid identity card (that includes a photograph of the holder) and birth certificates for all family members moving to Finland are required.

A health insurance for family members is important for the first few months since the application for social security coverage usually takes a while to go through. Family members are also not covered by Hanken's occupational health. It is also good to bring medical records like the children's record of vaccination to make sure they are getting the appropriate care in the future.

Education from pre-primary to higher education is free of charge in Finland and the educational system offers education for all. For more information, please visit the homepage of the [Ministry of Education and Culture](#). For more information on possibilities for education in the capitol region or the Vaasa region, please contact humanresources@hanken.fi.

5. Importing to Finland

Are you planning on importing personal belongings, motor vehicles or pets? Please check the Finnish Custom's guidelines and regulations on <https://tulli.fi/en/private-persons/moving>. ExpatFinland might also offer some useful advice on importing and customs duties: https://www.expat-finland.com/moving_to_finland/importing_and_customs.html

6. Accommodation

It is a good idea to start looking for accommodation well in advance. Incoming faculty and scholars have the opportunity to seek accommodation at [Töölö Towers](#), a joint dormitory providing accommodation for those who are coming for a shorter stay or need a place to live while looking for long term accommodation. The department secretary can contact Töölö Towers to check prices and availability according to your needs and wishes. [Forenom](#) apartments are another option for temporary accommodation. You can ask the department secretary for more information. [Airbnb](#) is also a popular choice.

Other useful links:

- Oikotie: <https://asunnot.oikotie.fi/vuokrattavat-asunnot> (in Finnish only)
- Vuokraovi.com: <https://www.vuokraovi.com/> (in Finnish only)
- Sato: <https://www.sato.fi/en>
- Vuokralaiset.fi lists several websites for rental apartments: <https://www.vuokralaiset.fi/in-english/how-to-find-a-rental-apartment/>
- There are several Facebook-groups for finding apartments for rent, e.g. 'Rooms/apartments for rent in Helsinki', 'Helsingin vuokra-asunnot', 'Vuokra-asunnot Helsinki, Vantaa, Espoo', and 'Vuokra-asunnot pääkaupunkiseutu'.

[Read more about accommodation in Finland here](#)

7. Other important documentation and useful links:

- At [Infopankki's website](#) you can find further information and checklist for those moving to Finland.
- [International House Helsinki](#) provides a wide variety of information and public authority services to newcomers in the Helsinki area. At the international house you can e.g. register as a resident, submit your Kela application and apply for a tax card.
- The Social Insurance Institution of Finland [Kela](#). Please remember to bring any necessary documentation, such as medical prescriptions and medication descriptions for yourself + family members moving with you.
- [Bank Account](#)
- [Personal ID card](#) might be handy, especially for non-EU citizens. Since most services are handled online in Finland, strong identification is required in many cases. In order to identify yourself, a Finnish passport. For more information, see [Strong identification for e-services](#).
- [Tax card](#)
- Information on [driving license](#) and [exchanging a foreign driving licence for a Finnish licence](#)