

ENGLANTI

# Welcome to Finland



Basic information about moving to and living in Finland

# Moving to Finland?

## How can you get started?

When you move to Finland, this  
is what you should do first.





## Residence

**Find yourself a place to live.** You cannot be registered as living in Finland unless you have an address. You can look for rented and owner-occupied flats in newspapers and on the internet. Flats can be rented from, for example, private individuals, companies or municipalities. When you have found a residence, you should also get home insurance."



## Personal identity code and place of domicile

When you have moved to Finland, **visit your local register office.** The local register office will give you a personal identity code if you have not applied for one when applying for a residence permit. The local register office will establish whether you are eligible to register a place of domicile. When you have a place of domicile, you can use the services provided by your municipality of residence.



## Finding a job

If you do not have a job, **register as a jobseeker with a TE Office** (Employment and Economic Development Office). The TE Office will help you to find employment. Also be active yourself and seek jobs, for example, on the internet and in newspapers. You can also contact employers directly.



## Internet and telephone

**Get yourself a personal mobile telephone.** You will get a Finnish telephone number when you buy a telephone subscription in Finland. You can buy a prepaid subscription from an R-kioski convenience store, the internet or a teleoperator outlet. In Finland, you can also access many services online.





### Bank account

**Open a bank account.** In Finland, your wages or salary as well as Social Insurance Institution (Kela) benefits and allowances are paid into a bank account. You need a passport or identity card to open a bank account.



### Finnish or Swedish language

If you cannot speak a local language, **apply for a course in Finnish or Swedish.** You may have to queue for a place on a course. You can also study Finnish and Swedish on the internet. If you are a registered customer at a TE Office, they may enrol you on a course in Finnish or Swedish.



### Social security and health care

**Check with Kela if you are entitled to Finnish social security.** The main rule is that persons living in Finland on a permanent basis have the right to social security. Usually, you are entitled to Finnish social security and the National Health Insurance scheme of the Social Insurance Institution (Kela) as of the moment you move to Finland. You may also have the right to social security when you are working in Finland. In such a case, your employment must last at least 4 months (18 hours per week) and you must be paid wages or salary in accordance with the collective labour agreement. Kela will send you a decision on whether you are entitled to social security or not by post. If the decision is favourable, you will be sent your own Kela card, or health insurance card. Ask also Kela to check whether or not you are entitled to medical treatment under the health insurance in Finland and abroad.



### Tax card

**Obtain a tax card from the tax office.** Bring an identity document with you when applying for a tax card. You can apply for a tax card, when you know your wages or other income. In the future, you can order the tax card on the internet or by telephone.



## Will you need a residence permit?

### Citizens of the Nordic countries

As a citizen of a Nordic country you have the right of residence and employment in Finland. File an announcement of moving within a week from the date of moving and register personally with your local register office.

### Citizens of the EU, EEA or Switzerland

If you are a citizen of the EU, EEA or Switzerland, you do not need a residence permit. If you are to stay in Finland for more than three (3) months, you must register with the Finnish Immigration Service within three months from the date of moving and after that personally with your local register office.

### Citizens of other than EU or Nordic countries

If you intend to come to Finland for more than three (3) months, you must have a residence permit. Apply for a residence permit at a Finnish diplomatic mission before leaving your country, or at the Finnish Immigration Service if you are already in Finland. Apply for your first residence permit before coming to Finland. You can submit the application online through the Enter Finland service.

### Returnees

As a returnee, you may be issued with a residence permit if you have Finnish ancestry or close connections to Finland.

### Read more:

**Finnish Immigration Service**  
[www.migri.fi](http://www.migri.fi)

**Online service of the Finnish Immigration Service, residence permit**  
[www.enterfinland.fi](http://www.enterfinland.fi)

**Local register offices**  
[www.maistraatti.fi](http://www.maistraatti.fi)

## Where can you find help with integration, finding a job and language studies?

Integration means, for example, that you settle in Finland and gain the knowledge and skills needed for living in Finnish society. Finland provides various services that will help you with integration, finding a job and language studies. It is important that you actively promote your integration process as well.

A TE Office (Employment and Economic Development Office) or your local municipality may draw up an initial assessment for you to determine, for example, your education, work experience and language skills. If you need support with your integration, after the initial assessment the authorities will draw up an integration plan for you. The integration plan must be drawn up no later than three (3) years from when you were issued with your first residence permit, or your right of residence was registered.

If necessary, the TE Office or municipality will refer you for integration training. The training includes studies in the Finnish or Swedish language and an introduction to Finnish society, culture and working life. Other studies and on-the-job training may also be provided.

The TE Office, Kela or your municipality may establish whether or not you are entitled to unemployment benefits or income support during your integration training.

### Read more:

**Employment and Economic Development Office (TE Office) services**  
[www.te-palvelut.fi](http://www.te-palvelut.fi)

*Check also the services provided by your local municipality*

**Studying languages**  
[www.kotisuomessa.fi](http://www.kotisuomessa.fi)  
[www.finnishcourses.fi](http://www.finnishcourses.fi)

## What if you get sick?

You can use public health care services if you have a place of domicile in Finland. In addition, many workplaces provide occupational health care services for their employees. If you are without a place of domicile, Kela may examine whether or not you are entitled to public health care services. If you are not entitled to them, you can make an appointment at a private clinic.

If you are permanently domiciled in Finland, in most cases you will be covered by the National Health Insurance scheme of the Social Insurance Institution (Kela), and can obtain reimbursement for medicines and costs arising from the use of private health care services. You can also obtain reimbursement for medical treatment given in a foreign country. In addition, you can apply for a European Health Insurance Card from Kela.

If you have mental health problems, you can ask for help at your local health centre.

If you need urgent assistance, you can contact the nearest emergency clinic of a health centre or hospital.

### Read more:

**Kela**

[www.kela.fi](http://www.kela.fi)

**Finnish Association for Mental Health**

[www.mielenterveysseura.fi](http://www.mielenterveysseura.fi)

**Crisis service for foreigners:**

**Telephone +358 (0)9 4135 0501**

## In case of emergency

In Finland, the emergency number is 112. Call the number only in the case of a real emergency, when someone's life, health, property or the environment is at risk. If necessary, the emergency centre can seek assistance from an interpreter service.

## **Read more:**

**Basic information about Finland**

[www.lifeinfinland.fi](http://www.lifeinfinland.fi)

**Infopankki – Finland in your language**

[www.infopankki.fi](http://www.infopankki.fi)

**Housing**

[www.asuminen.fi](http://www.asuminen.fi)

**Local register offices**

[www.maistraatti.fi](http://www.maistraatti.fi)

**Finnish Immigration Service**

[www.migri.fi](http://www.migri.fi)

**Kela**

[www.kela.fi](http://www.kela.fi)

**Tax Administration**

[www.vero.fi](http://www.vero.fi)

**Public employment and economic services**

[www.te-palvelut.fi](http://www.te-palvelut.fi)

**Language studies**

[www.kotisuomessa.fi](http://www.kotisuomessa.fi)

[www.finnishcourses.fi](http://www.finnishcourses.fi)

**Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland**

[www.formin.fi](http://www.formin.fi)

**Studying in Finland**

[www.studyinfinland.fi](http://www.studyinfinland.fi)

**Online public services**

[www.suomi.fi](http://www.suomi.fi)

**Public Service Info**

[www.kansalaisneuvonta.fi](http://www.kansalaisneuvonta.fi)

**Telephone +358 (0)29 5000**



Ministry of Economic Affairs  
and Employment of Finland

Kotouttaminen.fi  
Integration.fi



Infopankki.fi

Basic information about Finland is an information package produced by the Centre of Expertise in Immigrant Integration at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, prepared in collaboration with Infopankki. Version 1/2018.