

Steps for Smooth Landing in Vaasa



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Orientation to life in
the new home
country begins even
before the move.



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Your guide for living in Finland

Information about Vaasa is found
on the infofinland.fi website in 10
languages until end of 2025

Welcome to Finland! InfoFinland is your source of information for moving and living in Finland. Check our tips on permits, jobs, housing and education & find local contact information. Let us help you make Finland your home! Tervetuloa!



STEPS TO STAY IN VAASA

V A A S A .
WELCOME
OFFICE

1

Nordic citizens: skip to number 2.

EU / EEA citizens: Register your right for residence online or at the nearest Migri (immigration office) service point for longer stays than 3 months.

Other citizens: Apply for **residence permit** in good time (earliest 3 months before) online.

When you apply for residence permit, you should also make sure to obtain a personal identity number, for a smoother start in Finland.

enterfinland.fi

Migri, Service Point in Vaasa:
Korsholmanpuistikko 45



2

Register at the Digital and Population Data Services Agency your place of residence and your permanent home address in Finland for stays more than a year (DVV will check if you meet the requirements). For temporary stays you cannot have a home municipality.

www.dvv.fi

DVV, service point in Vaasa:
Wolffintie 35 B, 2nd floor



3

Non EU/EEA/Nordic citizens: Apply for an **ID card for a foreigner at the Police**.

Strong identification with online banking credentials or mobile certificate is needed in Finland to access all e-services for government agencies etc.

asiointi.poliisi.fi/ajanvaraus-fe/en (book an appointment)

www.police.fi

Police, Vaasa:
Korsholmanpuistikko 45



4

Open a bank account and ask for internet banking credentials, as this is needed for all online services with e.g. different authorities.

You need **strong identification** at the bank, and this is where an official Finnish ID card will come handy. Usually only a basic account is possible with your own national passport identification.

Open a bank account in a bank, preferably one that has an office in Vaasa, or has webpages in English



STEPS TO STAY IN VAASA

1

Nordic citizens: skip to number 2.

EU / EEA citizens: Register your right for residence on [EnterFinland.fi](https://enterfinland.fi) or at the nearest Migri (immigration office) service point for longer stays than 3 months.

Other citizens: Apply for a **residence permit** in good time (earliest 3 months before) online and identify yourself at the nearest Finnish Embassy

When you apply for residence permit, you should also make sure to obtain a personal identity number, to have a smoother start in Finland.

enterfinland.fi

Migri Service Point:
Korsholmanpuistikko 45, Vaasa



If you are in Finland, you can book an appointment for Migri at migri.vihta.com

- EU / EEA citizens should register online on enterfinland.fi or go to the Migri service point in Vaasa after arrival.
- Non-EU/EEA citizens: Apply for a residence permit before arrival to Finland and for the whole duration of your studies. Immigration Services will make the decision based on application and decisions are based on legislation.
- A Finnish mission or VFS Application Centre may be located in a different country from where you are staying. Be prepared to apply for a visa for the country in question.
- Go to the mission, authenticate yourself, and pay the fee collected for the residence permit application.

Applications for a first residence permit

Of the positive decisions on applications for a first residence permit, 81 per cent have been issued within 30 days or less.

On 3 June 2025, there were approximately 1,893 applications for a first residence permit for studies that were waiting to be processed or being processed. Please note that your application will not be waiting to be processed before you have proved your identity.

We are currently processing ration by applicants who have proved their identity on 16 October 2024 or after this date. We may also process some older applications that are waiting for additional information, for example.

To date, 2,890 applications for a first residence permit for studies have been decided since 1 January 2025.

All degree students must fund their studies and living expenses themselves.

Ensure that you have adequate funding and enough of financial means to pay for possible tuition fees and living expenses for the entire period of your studies.

Residence permit for studies

Fixed-term residence permits:

- **A residence permit** is valid for a given time period. The A permit is **continuous** residence permit, which means that it is intended for someone who moves to Finland for a longer period, e.g. if you come to Finland to complete a higher education degree.
- **B residence permit** is a **fixed-term** permit that is valid for a given time period. The B permit is intended for **temporary** residence in Finland.
- Check that you have all the necessary attachments and information before you begin.
- If other attachments are required, this will be indicated in the application. If there is a tuition fee for your studies but you have not yet paid the tuition fee, you must show evidence of sufficient funds to pay the tuition fee + supporting your living in Finland.

www.enterfinland.fi

1. a valid passport
2. a certificate of acceptance from a Finnish educational institution
3. a clarification on income
4. a clarification on tuition fee or scholarship, if applicable
5. a certificate of health insurance.



English | Suomi | Svenska

Login



Home – First residence permits – **Student**

Studying in Finland

This residence permit application is for you if you are coming to Finland to study at a Finnish educational institution at which you have already been accepted as a student. If you are an EU national, you do not need to apply for a residence permit. You can travel to Finland and register your right of residence instead.

The studies must lead to a degree or vocational qualification. Applicable educational institutions include universities and universities of applied sciences, vocational education institutions and, in the case of exchange students, any of the above and upper secondary schools. In special cases, a residence permit for study may be issued for studies other than those described above (e.g. exchange studies).

In Finland you must take responsibility for supporting yourself. It is difficult for a student to find work in Finland. Before you come to Finland, make sure that your finances will be sufficient for the entire period of your studies. Read more about the sufficient funds here: [Income requirement for students](#).

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2

If you already received your social security number with your residence permit, fill in the *Application for a municipality of residence* -form online for stays more than a year. After that go in person to identify yourself at DVV and finish registration.

<https://dvv.fi/en/international-moving>

More information:

<https://dvv.fi/en/foreigner-registration>

www.dvv.fi

DVV, Vaasa service point:
Wolffintie 35 B, 2nd floor



**DIGITAL AND
POPULATION DATA
SERVICES AGENCY**

- A permanent address is registered and you will then have your **HOME MUNICIPALITY** in the population data system. For temporary stays under one year, one cannot have a home municipality. If a student is registered as permanently living in Finland, also their family members can be registered as such, even if the residence permit is not valid for longer than a year.
- When you have your permanent address registered in Vaasa, all the City of Vaasa services are open to you (e.g. daycare, school) + other governmental and regional services (e.g. health and social services).

STEPS TO STAY IN VAASA

3

Strong identification with Suomi.fi authorization is needed in Finland in all e-services (registrations, tax and employment matters etc.). For this you need internet banking credentials. First apply for an **official ID card at the Police**. asiointi.poliisi.fi/ajanvaraus-fe/en (book an appointment)

www.poliisi.fi

Police, Vaasa:
Korsholmanpuistikko 45



After you are in the *Population Data System* (dvv.fi) → Apply from the Police an Alien's identity card (prices from €63)
poliisi.fi/en/how-to-apply-for-an-identity-card

STEPS TO STAY IN VAASA

4

Open a bank account and ask for internet banking credentials, as this is needed for all online services with e.g. different authorities.

You need **strong identification** at the bank, and this is where an official Finnish ID card will come handy. Usually only a basic account is possible with your own national passport identification.

Select identification method



Certificate card



Mobile certificate



OP Bank Group

Nordea

Nordea

Danske Bank

Danske Bank

Handelsbanken

Handelsbanken

ÅLANDSBANKEN

Ålandsbanken



S-pankki

Aktia

Aktia

POP Pankki

POP Pankki

Säästöpankki

Säästöpankki

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Oma Säästöpankki

Online banking credentials

- Proves your identity online. Examples: online resident permit application, doctor appointment, student ID card in mobile app and online shopping.

Another option: mobile certificate

- Will prove your identity online with your mobile number. Apply with your subscription from your mobile operator.
- Mobile certificate is much safer than internet banking credentials for identification.
- To get the Mobile Certificate, you need a Finnish personal identity code (HETU) registered in the Population Information System and a registered permanent address in Finland.
- Option not possible with prepaid sim-card.

Banking services

- Basic bank account with national passport / EU ID card.
- Strong identification is needed to open a bank account with internet banking credentials. If you come from outside EU / EEA countries:
 - apply for official ID card from the Police
- EU citizens can open a wide bank account with a passport.
- Choose a bank:
 - That preferably has an office in Vaasa
 - That preferably has service and webpages in English

.. A FEW MORE STEPS

(depending on your situation, i.e. not necessary)

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WELCOME
OFFICE

5

If you are employed and have a work contract, you need a tax card from the Finnish Tax Administration for paying taxes. Give this to your employer and tax will be deducted from your salary.

www.vero.fi



6

Register at the Employment Services if you are an unemployed jobseeker (* Only if your stay in Finland is continuous or permanent, and not e.g. for studies).
Integration training / language studies (Finnish or Swedish) provided as labour market training to support integration and employment goals.

www.JobMarket.fi

Employment Services in Vaasa:
Wolffintie 35

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7

If you need social benefits, **apply for entitlement to health and social security at the Social Insurance Institution KELA**

www.kela.fi

KELA office in Vaasa:
Tammipiha service point
Teräksenkuja 1

Kela|Fpa 

8

STUDENTS: Health and Social Services for students at Finnish Student Health Services

- General health services (including psychiatric nurses)
- Mental health services (psychologist and psychiatrist)
- Oral health services

www.yths.fi/
Or
<https://en.osterbottensvalfard.fi/>

 F · S · H · S
FINNISH STUDENT HEALTH SERVICE

FAMILY MEMBERS: The Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia



6 Register as unemployed jobseeker if..

- You are NOT a fulltime student, i.e. a spouse moving to Finland.
- you have a residence permit, which allows you to work in Finland.
- You are seeking full-time work.
- You are able to work and prepared to accept a job.
- Only after you have registered as a jobseeker, you can apply for e.g. unemployment benefits from **Kela or your unemployment fund**. Unemployment benefits include:
 - ☐ earnings-related daily unemployment allowance
 - ☐ basic unemployment allowance
 - ☐ labour market subsidy

Everyone can
create a job
applicant
profile at
[JobMarket.fi](https://www.jobmarket.fi)

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- As a student from non-EU/EEA countries, you need to have a private health insurance due to immigration policies. A private health insurance does not exempt you from paying the Student Healthcare Fee.
- Kela is the Finnish health and social insurance institution. They provide state social security for those living in Finland.
- International students are usually not covered by the Finnish social security scheme, and thus not entitled to e.g. the financial aid for students by KELA. Students should be covered socially by their home countries, if such a scheme is available (e.g. European countries).
- **All students that are pursuing a degree in Finland need to pay a student health care fee of €35.60/term (before November 15).** This entitles you to use the **FSHS –Finnish Student Health Services** as much as you need, with no service charges. The fee is paid to Kela, on behalf of the Student Healthcare Services (YTHS). More information on www.kela.fi/healthcare-fee-for-students-in-higher-education.
- The exception to paying the Kela healthcare fee is if you have social security coverage from another EU/EEA country, Switzerland, Great Britain or Northern Ireland. You do not have to pay the fee, but you can still use FSHS services. However, in such cases you should contact Kela.
- When a student is granted a home municipality through DVV, also their family members will be registered with a permanent address. Therefore, family members apply for entitlement to the Finnish health and social security with form Y77, *Notification –moving to Finland* + *Kela card application* to have access to health services of the municipality. Kela decides.
- You can show the Kela card e.g. at a hospital or health service as ID, and for prescription medicine at the pharmacy. However, you can always use any ID, such as national passport at the Health Services.



Societal benefits for family members to students

14

- You may qualify for some financial aid, if you meet the following requirements:
 - You have arrived in Finland for some other reason than to study, e.g. employment or family ties and you have been granted a continuous (A) residence permit or an EU residence permit for third-country nationals (P-EU or P-EY) or a residence card (agreement between the EU and the UK).
 - If you work in Finland for more than 10 hours/week, you might be eligible to some benefits.
- Social benefits for e.g. family members might include:
 - ☐ Child benefits
 - ☐ Unemployment allowance
 - ☐ Housing allowance
- If you are a citizen of a Nordic / EU / EEA country, or the family member of such a person, you only have to register your right of residence at DVV or Migri or present your residence card.

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Early childhood education in Vaasa

- Integration in Finnish or Swedish language. Families may choose.
- All information on early childhood education and e -application form for daycare can be found on www.vaasa.fi/en/living/early-childhood-education-and-schools/early-childhood-education/
- Preschool is mandatory 1 year before primary school and begins the year the child turns 6 years of age. More information and application www.vaasa.fi/en/living/early-childhood-education-and-schools/preschool-education/
- You may contact City of Vaasa coordinator for early childhood education if further questions on varhaiskasvatus.palveluohjaus@vaasa.fi

Daycare fees depends on a family's income.
If no income –free of charge.

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Basic and secondary education

- Primary and lower secondary education lasts for 9 years, 7 – 16 years of age. Compulsory education applies to all 6 – 18-year-olds.
- 14 Finnish and 5 Swedish basic educational schools. 1 governmental school for Swedish teacher's training, Vasa Övningsskola. Also private schools Vaasan kristillinen koulu and Vaasa Rudolf Steiner school.
- Teaching for children with other mother tongue: preparatory basic education approx. 1 year.
- Special educational line: e.g. English or bilingual teaching. Watch the video presentation of the special English educational line: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sh8npzAon14>
- More information about basic education www.vaasa.fi/en/living/early-childhood-education-and-schools/basic-education/
- General upper secondary lead to matriculation examination and vocational upper secondary education and training leads to vocational qualification. www.oph.fi/en/education-system

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All basic education and secondary education in Finland is free of charge



Joining basic education

17

- It is best to contact City of Vaasa basic education even before arriving to Finland.
- Finnish prepatorial teaching kati.nuojua@edu.vaasa.fi
- Swedish prep teaching: ann-sofie.nygard@edu.vaasa.fi
- Bilingual line/English line english.team@edu.vaasa.fi
(Recommended only if planning to stay temporarily in Finland)
- **Health check up** for children from outside EU/EEA countries at the Welbeing Services before the child is allowed to enter school premises. Send an e-mail to soster.mava@ovph.fi as soon as possible, even before arriving to Finland, because it might take at least 2 weeks to get an appointment.

In your e-mail you must state the following information:

- ☐ The child's name, gender and social security number (or date of birth, if your child does not yet have a Finnish social security number).
- ☐ Your home address (in Finland), phone number, mother tongue and nationality.
- ☐ Also state that you need to book a time for blood tests and x-ray so that your child would be allowed to start school in Finland.

Most services are closed or have very limited service in July, so contact in June or from August.

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Useful links

vaasa.fi The City of Vaasa

vaasa.fi/en/activities-and-nature/ Activities and Nature

vaasa.fi/en/events/ Events in the region

vaasa.fi/lifti Bus journeyplanner / **Waltti Mobile app**

vaasankirjasto.finna.fi Vaasa City Library

vaasa.fi/alma Adult Education Centre Alma

vaasa.fi/en/housing-consultation/ Housing Consultation

voas.fi The Student Housing Foundation in Vaasa

pikipruukki.com/en/web/en/ Pikipruukki housing company

Public authorities:

migri.fi, enterfinland.fi Immigration Services

dvv.fi Digital and Population Data Services Agency

police.fi The Finnish Police

tax.fi Tax Administration

jobmarket.fi Employment Services. Vacancies.

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Relocating to Vaasa Checklist

Before moving:

- ☐ Passport and residence permit (non-EU -citizens)
- ☐ Apply for housing
- ☐ Flight and/or train ticket
- ☐ Electric plug adaptor (type C and F)
- ☐ Money: Euro, €. Bring enough cash to get by, in case Debit/Credit cards do not work.
- ☐ Clothing: There are 4 seasons in Finland. Have clothing to suit the season you are arriving, e.g. warm autumn jacket, woollen sweaters, socks. Prepare to buy proper winter shoes and jacket in Finland.

Families:

- ☐ Day-care application to City of Vaasa online
- ☐ Contact school coordinator at City of Vaasa.
- ☐ Non EU/EEA natives: E-mail Welfare County soster.mava@ovph.fi for health check up for children

After moving:

- ☐ Open a Finnish mobile number
- ☐ EU –residents: register your right of residence at Migri
- ☐ Registration of address to the population register / receive personal identity code at DVV.
- ☐ Non-EU/EEA natives: Apply official ID card at the Police
- ☐ Open a bank account
- ☐ Spouses who seek work register at Employment Services
- ☐ Drop the *Notification of Moving* and *Kela –card application* forms with any possible benefit forms at the Kela post box (Adress: Pitkäkatu 28 – 30)

THANK YOU

WELCOME OFFICE

Tammipiha service point, Teräksenkuja 1

welcome.office@vaasa.fi

Tel: +358- (0)6-325 1551 / 040 569 6046



www.welcomeoffice.fi

