

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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Guide to Finland



Moving to Finland



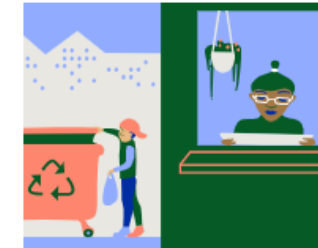
Settling in Finland



Work and Enterprise



Finnish and Swedish



Housing



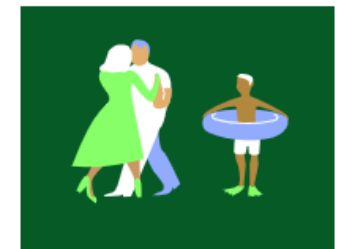
Education



Health



Family



Leisure



Information about Finland

InfoFinland.fi

Use the website to find all kinds of basic information about living in Finland and the services provided in different life situations.

Available in 12 languages.

STEPS TO STAY IN VAASA

1

Nordic citizens: skip to number 2.

EU / EEA citizens: Register your right for residence 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 mission.

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 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.

There are many ways for you to ensure that Migri can process your application and matters as efficiently as possible. It is especially important that you make your application form as complete as possible and ensure that you add all the attachments that are required before you submit the application.

Please note that visa processing times for spouses or family members may be longer than expected.

Residence permit for studies

Fixed-term residence permits:

- **Residence permit A** is valid for a specific period. The A permit is a **continuous** residence permit, meaning it is intended for someone who moves to Finland for a longer period (e.g. to complete a higher education degree).
- **Residence permit B** is a fixed-term residence permit intended for **temporary** residence in Finland.
- Check that you have all the required attachments and information before you begin your application.
- If other attachments are required, this will be indicated in the application.
- If your studies require a tuition fee and you have not yet paid it, you must provide proof of sufficient funds to cover both:
 - the tuition fee, and
 - your living expenses in Finland.

Consider carefully before making a request to expedite your application if you do not have **SERIOUS** (not studies) grounds for expediting.

Students must fund their own studies and living expenses. Make sure you have enough money to cover all costs for the full study period.

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

 EnterFinland

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](#).

STEPS TO STAY IN VAASA

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 to finish your registration.](#)

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

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

Book an appointment for DVV in Vaasa: <https://secure.vihta.com/public-ng/dvv/#/home>

www.dvv.fi

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



DIGITAL AND
POPULATION DATA
SERVICES AGENCY

- If a permanent residence is entered for you, it means that you are registered as living at that address until further notice.
- The address is valid until you move to a different address and submit a [notification of move](#).
- When a permanent address is recorded, your municipality of residence in Finland is also recorded. 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 at DVV 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 for 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. Non-EU and non-EEA individuals should apply for an **official ID card at the Police** for easier identification at banks.

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

www.police.fi

Police, Vaasa:
Korsholmanpuistikko 45



You can book an appointment on online service. Opens in a new tab or call the police helpline at +358 (0)295 419 800 (at standard call rates) from Monday to Friday between 8:00 and 16:15. You may also go to a police station without an appointment, but keep in mind that the waiting times may be long especially in the summer.

After you are in the *Population Data System* (dvv.fi) → Apply from the Police an *Alien's identity card* (prices between €53 and €59).

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.

The screenshot shows the 'e-Identification' service interface. At the top, it says 'e-Identification' and 'In English (EN)'. Below that, it says 'You are identifying yourself to the service' and 'SUOMI.FI'. The main section is titled 'Select identification method' and displays a grid of 12 options:

- Certificate card (Icon: ID card)
- Mobile certificate (Icon: M in a circle)
- OP Bank Group (Icon: OP logo)
- Nordea (Icon: Nordea logo)
- Danske Bank (Icon: Danske Bank logo)
- ÅLANDSBANKEN (Icon: Ålandsbanken logo)
- S-pankki (Icon: S-pankki logo)
- Aktia (Icon: Aktia logo)
- POP Pankki (Icon: POP Pankki logo)
- Säästöpankki (Icon: Säästöpankki logo)
- Oma Säästöpankki (Icon: oma logo)
- hightrust.id (Icon: hightrust.id logo)

At the bottom, there is a footer with a circular logo and the text: 'Identification methods for foreigners' and 'Common European identification methods and the Finnish Authenticator app.'

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
 - Most popular banks for internationals might be **Danske Bank** or **Nordea** as they operate in all Nordic countries. **S-pankki** is also a very popular bank in Finland (you become a co-op member with a bonus system).

.. A FEW MORE STEPS (depending on your situation, i.e. not necessary)

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

For basic education: Enroll your children between 7 – 14 on
www.vaasa.fi/en/living/early-childhood-education-and-schools/basic-education/school-enrolment/

For daycare: Applications for an early childhood education and care placement should be submitted at least four months before the care is needed, or as soon as the need for care is known. If you do not yet have a social security number contact the Service Coordination
www.vaasa.fi/en/living/early-childhood-education-and-schools/early-childhood-education/service-guidance-for-early-childhood-education/

www.vaasa.fi/en/living/early-childhood-education-and-schools/



7

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



8

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



9

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

FAMILY MEMBERS: The Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia

www.yths.fi/

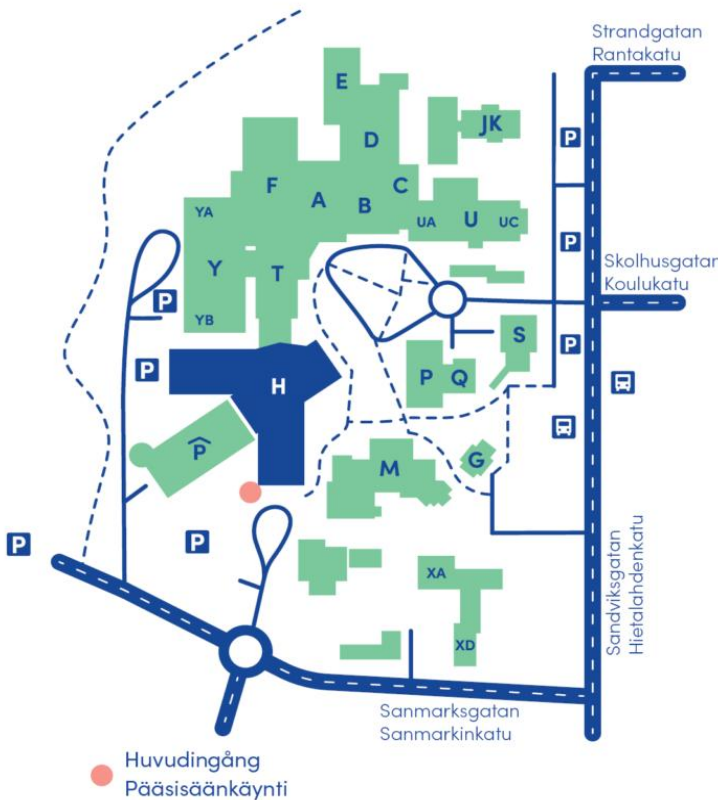
<https://en.osterbottensvalfard.fi/>



Health Services

- Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia is responsible for the social welfare and healthcare services of Vaasa residents. <https://en.osterbottensvalfard.fi/>

Service fees applies to most doctor and outpatient visits. You can usually expect an invoice



Visiting the H-House & registration

You can register for your visit either with a mobile device or with a registration machine (with a Kela card, driver's licence or invitation letter) Identification even with a national passport, but with personal identification number (social security number).

By presenting the European Health Insurance Card, you can prove your right to necessary medical treatment.

Emergency 112

Medical Helpline in other urgent medical situations Call also before going to emergency clinic.
116 117

Non-emergency 06 218 9000 - Assessment of the need for treatment / booking an appointment to services.

Dental healthcare appointments
06 218 9100

Maternity Clinic Mon – Fri 8:00-10:00
06 218 9090

Child Welfare Clinic (children aged 0 – 6). Telephone, Mon – Fri 08:00-09:30
06 218 1707 and [Website link](#)

Degree students: Student health care services

Vocational students: school nurse



- All degree students in higher education are entitled to use the Finnish Student Health Service (FSHS). Pay the healthcare fee (via KELA).
- Non-EU nationals : Your private health insurance works at the Wellbeing Services County or the private clinics, but as long as **you have registered your home municipality at DVV, you have the same services as everyone else at the Wellbeing Services County.**
- Vocational students at Vamia have access to their student health care / school health nurse or doctor.
- FSHS www.yths.fi/en/service-units/vaasa-3/
- For health centre, dental care, child welfare and maternity clinic etc. go to Wellbeing Services County.
- Recommended to download 112 Suomi app. You can find contact information to a lot of services. More information <https://112.fi/en/112-suomi-application>
- Medicines can only be purchased from a pharmacy.
- Prescription medicines are provided with a doctor's prescription.
- Kela (the Finnish social insurance institution) partially reimburses the cost of certain prescription medicines, reducing the price. www.kela.fi/medicine-expenses
- A few medicines, such as pain and fever relievers such as *paracetamol* or *ibuprofen*, can be bought in small quantities without a prescription.



Daycare fees depends on a family's income.
Without an income it is free of charge.



Early childhood education

- Integration in Finnish or Swedish language. Families may choose the integration language.
- 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 you have further questions:
varhaiskasvatus.palveluohjaus@vaasa.fi

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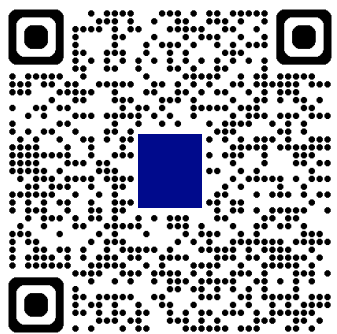
All basic education in Finland is free of charge!

Basic education in Vaasa

- Primary and lower secondary education lasts for 9 years, 7 – 16 years of age. Compulsory education applies to all 6 – 18-year-olds.
- In Vaasa: 13 Finnish and 5 Swedish basic educational schools. 1 governmental school for Swedish teacher's training (*Vasa Övningsskola*) and with IB line. Also, private schools *Vaasan kristillinen koulu* and *Vaasa Rudolf Steiner* (Waldorf) school.
- Preparatory basic education in Finnish or Swedish (learning the language) is given for approx. 1 year.
- Special educational lines e.g. English or bilingual teaching. Watch the video presentation of the special English educational line:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sh8npzAon14
- More information about basic education
www.vaasa.fi/en/living/early-childhood-education-and-schools/basic-education/

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The school year starts August 12



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

Joining basic education

- Fill out the electronic form on www.vaasa.fi/en/living/early-childhood-education-and-schools/basic-education/school-enrolment/
- If you need to contact basic education, write to perusopetus@edu.vaasa.fi
- English line: english.team@edu.vaasa.fi (Recommended only if stay in Finland is temporary)
- Health check up for children from outside EU/EEA countries at the Wellbeing Services before the child is allowed to enter school premises. Send an e-mail to soster.mava@ovph.fi as soon as possible (or approx. 2 weeks before arriving to Finland) to get an appointment.

In your e-mail for the health check-up, 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 can start school in Finland.

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Use the e-form on Wilma to register a child to basic education

www.vaasa.fi/en/living/early-childhood-education-and-schools/basic-education/school-enrolment/

Apply to an educational program

Schools

Search for programs by keyword



Perusopetus | Grundläggande utbildning | **Basic education**

You can sign up your child to Vaasa city's basic education.

Fill out the form:

- Click on the Select-button (+-character) and your selection will move to the shopping basket (the upper right on the page).
- Continue by clicking the shopping basket. Choose "Apply".
- Give your email address and return to the application via the link.
- Accept the terms of use and continue to filling out of the actual form of application.
- Save your application.

Basic education (Vaasa city)

Select	Description	Application period starts	Application period ends
	Ilmoittautuminen perusopetukseen Anmälan till grundläggande utbildning Registration to basic education	23.11.2021	



Secondary school

18

- General upper secondary (in Finnish: **lukio**/ in Swedish: **gymnasium**) leads to a matriculation examination. In Vaasa there is also an IB class (International Baccalaureate -program) at Vasa Övningsskola.
- Vocational upper secondary education and training leads to vocational qualification.
www.oph.fi/en/education-system
- In Vaasa there are 2 vocational schools: Vamia and Yrkesakademin.
- Family members joining that have exceeded basic educational age (i.e. 15 – 17 years of age) can contact Welcome Office to hear the latest about steps to take, e.g. Finnish/Swedish beginner's course at Alma Adult Education Centre.
- Spouses registered as jobseekers usually take Finnish or Swedish integration/language training at Vamia or Yrkesakademin. (Expect long queues)

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Support in integration

- **Welcome Office** –low threshold guidance for all newcomers.
- **Integration Services** – Services for refugees or persons who receive home care allowance and cannot register as jobseekers.
- **Employment Services** – All unemployed jobseekers (not students)
- **Alma –Adult Education Centre**
Courses in languages and other hobbies.
- **The third sector (NGOs and clubs)**
– Offer hobbies, volunteering, help in difficult life situations etc.

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Relocating to Vaasa Checklist

- **Before moving:**
 - Apply for a residence permit (non-EU -citizens)
 - Apply for housing
 - Flight and/or train ticket
 - Electric plug adaptor (type C and F)
 - Money: Euro, €
 - Pack warm clothing
- **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
 - DVV: Registration of permanent address to the population register. Receive personal identity code.
 - Non-EU/EEA natives: Police (official ID card)
 - Open a bank account
 - Spouses can register at the Employment Services
 - At Kela-office: Fill in the Notification of Moving –form (Y77) and Kela –card application form → Drop it in the Kela post box.

Lifti-public transport for the Vaasa region

Link:

1. [Lifti-Vaasa](#)
2. [Waltti-Mobile](#) –download the app



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[Living](#)

[See and experience](#)

[Education and working](#)

[Home](#) > [Living](#) > [Traffic and streets](#) > [Lifti - Public transport for the Vaasa region](#)



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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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ALWAYS ASK FOR HELP BEFORE THINGS MIGHT ESCALATE!

In most cases there is always a service or some solution to a difficult matter or situation.

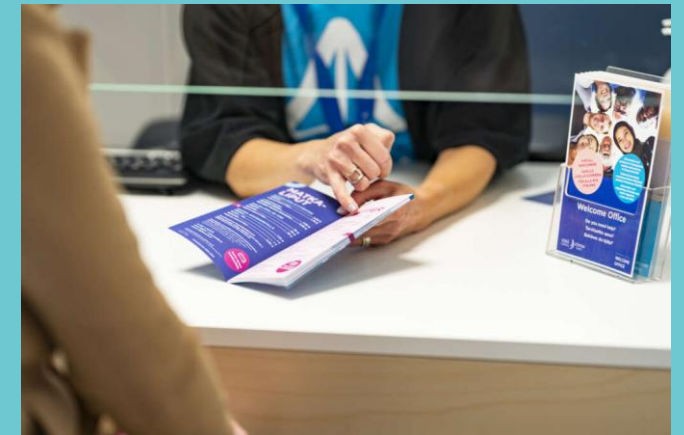
Do not rely on hearsay or what your friend's friend told you. Everyone's individual situation is different, and services also change with time.

COME AND SEE A SERVICE ADVISOR AT WELCOME OFFICE

Our job is to know how to search for the correct information about services and we can help you with the latest information, if it's accessible.

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT OR JUST DROP IN

At Welcome Office we always try to find a service or solution to any matter.



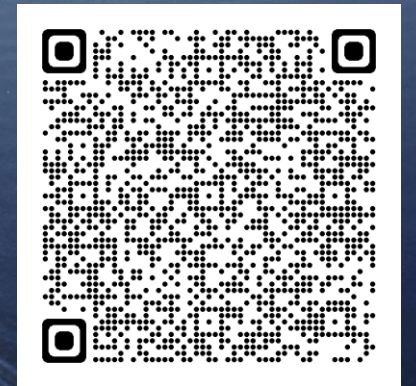
THANK YOU

WELCOME OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS:

Tammipiha service point, Teräksenkuja 1

welcome.office@vaasa.fi

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



www.welcomeoffice.fi

