

NOTICE TO EXCHANGE STUDENTS

October 2016

MAAHANMUUTTOVIRASTO

MIGRATIONSVERKET

FINNISH IMMIGRATION SERVICE

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR STUDY PLACE IN FINLAND!

Are you a citizen of EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland?

- If your answer is 'NO' and you plan to study in Finland for more than three months: you will need a **residence permit**.
 - if you plan to study in Finland for 90 days or less, you may need a visa. Information on visas is available at www.formin.fi.
- If your answer is 'YES': you do not need a residence permit or a visa. Information on EU citizens' registrations is available at www.poliisi.fi.
- Note that from the start of 2017, the Finnish Immigration Service will be in charge of the handling of all permits for foreign nationals. Information on this change is available at http://www.migri.fi/residence_permits/migri_to_handle_permits.

This letter is for all those students who need a residence permit.

What to do now?

Submit an application for a residence permit online at <https://enterfinland.fi/eServices>.

- Apply for your residence permit abroad, not in Finland.
- **Visit a Finnish embassy/consulate in person** for identification and fingerprinting.
 - Contact the embassy or consulate in advance to arrange a visit. All Finnish embassies and consulates are listed at www.formin.fi.
 - If there is no Finnish diplomatic mission in your country, contact a Finnish mission in another country to confirm your visit.
 - Your application will not be processed before you've visited a Finnish embassy.

Important to remember

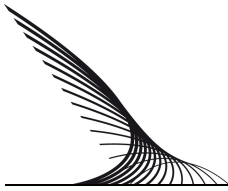
Start preparing your application immediately after receiving your acceptance letter. The entire process may take several weeks. The application process is longer if you submit an incomplete application, so be sure to **follow the instructions on the next page of this letter**. Check out more information at www.migri.fi/studying_in_finland.

We process all residence permit applications based on studying as urgent. To follow the progress of your application, log on to your electronic account. You can also find updates on application queues at www.migri.fi. Remember that telephone or e-mail inquiries will not make the process faster.

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's not possible to expedite the delivery of the card or collect the card from Finland. **All students must wait for the residence permit card before coming to Finland.**

Airline tickets should not be acquired in advance since the decision might not be ready before your flight to Finland.

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HOW TO PREPARE A PERFECT APPLICATION?

Open an electronic account at www.migri.fi. Log on to your account and carefully fill in the application form for studies. Be sure to fill in your name as it is in your passport, your contact details, the date you plan to arrive in Finland and the duration of your stay.

Next, collect these mandatory appendices and crosscheck them from this list. 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.

- Acceptance letter from a Finnish educational institution**
 - If your acceptance letter was sent to you by e-mail, include the forwarding e-mail from the school in Finland.

- Health insurance**
 - Your insurance must cover **accident and illness related medical expenses both individually up to at least 100,000 €**.
 - Make sure your insurance is valid on the date you plan to arrive in Finland and **covers the entire time you plan to spend in Finland**. The insurance must also be valid if you want to travel in Finland or the Schengen area after your studies.
 - The insurance must have no restrictions to the number of days within the validity period. Travel insurances are often valid for 90 days per trip -> not acceptable.
 - Acquire an insurance document which indicates the following information:
 - Who is insured
 - What the insurance covers and what are the amounts of benefit
 - How long and where the insurance is valid
 - Make sure the deductible is no more than 300 €.
 - **Don't terminate your insurance!** Otherwise you will be responsible for the costs yourself if you fall ill or have an accident.

- Sufficient funds**
 - You must have **560 € per month** as a bank deposit or as a scholarship/grant.
 - **A bank statement from your own bank account:** Make sure the statement indicates you as the account owner. A shared account or a written guarantee of sponsorship from a private person is not accepted.
 - **A certificate of a scholarship** granted by an organization, government or an educational institution. The certificate must indicate the recipient, amount and duration of the scholarship. A bank statement is not necessary if the scholarship fully covers the requirement.

- A passport and a passport photo**
 - Make sure your passport is valid for the entire duration of your stay in Finland.

- If you are under 18 years of age**, attach a written consent for moving to Finland from both your guardians to your application.

www.migri.fi