

3. State Regulations and Insurances

Here is a quick guide to the bureaucratic procedures you need to know about depending on the duration of your stay in Finland. Remember that this is a guideline, if you feel unsure or need more information about the different procedures please contact the authorities in question (which are mentioned in the chapters). Also check the website of the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.formin.fi).

International students studying for a degree or participating in an exchange programme that exceeds three months need a Personal Identity Number in Finland.

3.1 Residence Permits

Citizens of Nordic Countries

Citizens of Nordic countries do not need to register their right to reside in Finland due to inter-Nordic agreements, nor do they need to provide proof of funding for their stay in Finland. However, Nordic citizens studying in Finland for three months or more should notify the Local Register Office (*magistraten/maistraatti*) as soon as possible after arrival in order to obtain a Personal Identity Code in Finland (www.maistraatti.fi/en/)

For the registration, a passport or other photo identification is needed. More information about the civil registration process is found in chapter 3.2.

Citizens of EU/EEA-countries and Switzerland

Citizens of EU/EEA-countries and Switzerland must register their right to reside (*uppehållsrätt/oleskeluoikeus*) in Finland if they intend to stay longer than 3 months. International students studying for a degree or participating in an

exchange programme that exceeds three months also need a Personal Identity Code in Finland. The application for a Finnish Personal Identity Code can be filed at the local police station. You register at the local police authority in Finland. A registration fee of 50€ will be charged at the police station. This registration of your right to reside as a student (*uppehållsrätt för studerande/opiskelijan oleskeluoikeus*) will thus be your equivalence of a residence permit for students. For the registration you will need:

- A completed application form (can be collected at the local police station)
- A valid passport or other ID accepted by the authorities
- The acceptance or appointment letter issued by the university
- A copy of your lease

Please see end of chapter for contact information to the Åbo and Vasa police stations.

Citizens from non-EU/EEA-countries

If your stay in Finland lasts for more than three months, a residence permit (*uppehållstillstånd/oleskelulupa*) must be obtained from the Finnish diplomatic mission in the student's or researcher's home country before arrival to Finland. Generally, the residence permit is valid for up to one year and can be extended at the local police station in Finland. An application for an extension of the residence permit should be made well before the current permit expires. It usually takes one to two months to process the first application. However, extension of the residence permit may take longer.

Please note that you need to provide proof of funding and proof of valid health insurance each time you apply for a residence permit. See below for further details on how to apply for a residence permit. Please see chapter 3.3 for information on insurance.

How to Apply for a Residence Permit

The first application for a residence permit must be made to the diplomatic mission representing Finland in your home country. The application for a Finnish Personal Identity Number can