

Registering in Finland

What is registration?

The Finnish Population Information System is a central database used to record basic personal data, including name, date of birth, nationality, family relationships and address, on all people domiciled in Finland. If you intend to reside in Finland permanently and are in possession of a permanent residence permit or a temporary residence permit for a period of at least one year, you will be registered with a municipality of residence. If you are moving to Finland from another Nordic state, your details will be transferred electronically between the relevant authorities. Finland supplies information to the Estonian authorities on Estonian citizens temporarily or permanently resident in Finland. Conversely, information on Finnish citizens resident in Estonia will be provided to the Finnish authorities by the Estonian authorities.

Under Finnish legislation, all foreign citizens residing in Finland for a period of longer than one year are required to register their details in the Population Information System. To register, please visit your local register office.

The information in the register is used by the electoral, tax, health-care and judicial authorities as well as to generate statistical information.

The residence permit

If you are not an EU/EEA or Swiss national and intend to reside in Finland for a period of more than three months you are required to have a residence permit. If the duration of your visit is less than three months, a visa is sufficient, where a visa requirement applies.

Residence permits are not required for EU/EEA and Swiss citizens. If your stay in Finland exceeds three months, you are required to register at your local police station. You will then be issued with a registration certificate to confirm your right of residence as an EU citizen.

Citizens of other Nordic states do not require a residence permit and need not have their right of residence registered.



How does registration work?

If you are moving to Finland from another Nordic state, you should register in person at your local register office. To register, bring with you an identity document such as a passport or your formal identity card with a photograph. At the register office, you will be asked to provide information required for the purposes of the Finnish Population Information System and details of your personal number, address and municipality of residence in your country of departure.

If you are an EU citizen and intend to settle permanently in Finland, please register at your local register office. To register, bring with you your passport or other form of formal photograph ID, and in order to be registered with a municipality of residence, the registration certificate confirming your right of residence in the EU. This can be issued to you at your local police station.

If you are in Finland temporarily, you can choose to register at any register office, tax office or KELA (Social Insurance Institution of Finland) office. Please bring with you your passport or other national form of photograph ID as well as your contract of employment or other documentation in support of your personal identity code application.

If you have arrived in Finland from outside the EU, please bring along your passport and valid residence permit.

Depending on your personal circumstances, you may also be required to present further documentation such as a certified marriage certificate, divorce and death certificates and your children's birth certificates, if any, for the purpose of registering familial relationships.

Visit your nearest register office to complete and sign the Registration of Foreigners form.

Don't forget to notify the register office when you move house to ensure that your records are kept up to date. A separate notification is also required if you move away from Finland.



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What is certification and what is the Apostille?

Certification confirms that the document has been issued and signed by a competent authority. Certification can be carried out by means of an Apostille or a three-stage certification procedure.

If you are not a citizen of Finland, all personal documents issued in a Hague-signatory country other than Finland must be certified by means of an Apostille stamp, in order for your familial information to be entered into the Population Information System.

If your **country** of departure is not a signatory to the Hague Convention, you should first have your documents certified by a notary public. The documents are then to be forwarded to the relevant Foreign Ministry, where the signature of the notary public will be certified. Finally, the documents should be sent to the local Finnish embassy or other representative where the signature issued by the Foreign Ministry will again be certified.

Register offices

The Finnish register offices are known as **maistraatti**.

Contact details for your local register office are available in the telephone directory or online at www.maistraatti.fi.

What is the personal identity code?

As part of the registration process you will be issued with a **Finnish personal identity code**.

The personal identity code is made up of your date of birth, a unique identifying number and a single-digit verification code, which refers to the century in which you were born. For those born in the 1900s it is the hyphen (-) and for those born as of the year 2000 it is the letter A. The unique identifying number is used to distinguish those born on the same day. Uneven numbers are used for men and even number for women. The verification code can be either a number or a letter.

Example: Personal identity code 131052-308T
131052 = date of birth (dd/mm/yy)
308 = unique identifying number
T = verification code

The personal identity code is used by banks, hospitals and public registers.



Other useful contacts:

- » **The police**
(Residence permits, work permits, asylum, citizenship)
- » **Finnish Immigration Service**
(Citizenship, residence permits, work permits, refugee and asylum issues)
- » **Finnish Red Cross**
(Works with refugees and immigrants)
- » **Register offices**
(Registration, personal identity codes, marriages)
- » **Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela) offices**
(Social security)
- » **Employment offices**
(Work permits, recruitment and other employment services)
- » **Social Welfare Offices of Towns and Municipalities**
(Social welfare services)

