



**Maahanmuuttovirasto**  
**Migrationsverket**  
**Finnish Immigration Service**





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# Who are we?



**Anu Tarén,  
Head of Section, Student and Researcher Section  
Permit and Nationality Unit**

**Sampsa Saarinen,  
Team Leader, Student and Researcher Section  
Permit and Nationality Unit**

# Five facts about the Finnish Immigration Service

Number of  
employees:  
**~1,300**

Service points  
for customers in  
**10** locations  
across Finland.

Offices in  
**11**  
municipalities.  
Head office in  
**Helsinki** in the  
Pasila district.

Reception  
centres of  
**Helsinki**,  
**Joutseno** and  
**Oulu** are run by  
the Finnish  
Immigration  
Service.

Director General  
**Ilkka Hahtela**

# We aim to run Europe's most efficient permit services



Residence permits  
and right of  
residence



Registrations of EU  
citizens' right of  
residence



Decisions on  
international  
protection



Finnish citizenship

Alien's passports  
and refugee travel  
documents

Decisions on  
removal from  
the country



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# **Residence permits for doctoral students and researchers**

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**25.1.2024**

25.1.2024 – Sampsa Saarinen & Anu Tarén

## **You can apply for a researcher's residence permit if you meet the following conditions:**

1. You are a third country national (i.e., not an EU citizen)
  2. You hold a bachelor's degree, a master's degree or a doctoral degree.
  3. You have signed a hosting agreement with a research organisation.
  4. You have sufficient financial resources
- <https://migri.fi/en/researcher>



# First vs. extended permit for research

## First residence permit

(if you apply abroad or have come to Finland  
without a residence permit)

- Max. Duration two years
- Right to work: Unlimited
- Type A or B

## Extended permit

(if you reside in Finland with a residence permit)

- Max. duration four years
- Right to work: Unlimited
- Type A or B

## **Permit based on Directive (EU) 2016/801 vs. Permit based on national law**

### Directive

- If you hold a master's or doctoral degree
- A permit (continuous residence permit).

### National

- If you hold a bachelor's degree
- A national residence permit for research can be temporary (a B permit) or continuous (an A permit). A first national permit is A only if the researcher is employed by the research organization and the duration of the contract is over two years. An extended national permit is A, if the overall duration of the research is two years or more and the researcher has hosting agreements for two years or more.
- You will also be granted a national permit, if you have applied for or have received international protection in an EU member state before applying for the residence permit for research.





## The Hosting Ageement

**must contain the following information:**

1. the title or purpose of the research activity or the research area;
2. an undertaking by the third-country national to endeavour to complete the research activity; and an undertaking by the research organisation to host the third-country national for the purpose of completing the research activity;
3. the start and end date or the estimated duration of the research activity;
4. information on the legal relationship between the research organisation and the researcher;
5. If the legal relationship is work, information on the working conditions of the researcher.
6. (information on the intended mobility in one or several second Member States if the mobility is known at the time of application in the first Member State.)

- The hosting agreement can be a work contract that contains the required information. In case the work contract also acts as a Hosting Agreement, this should be explicitly stated in the contract.
- A residence permit for research can't be granted for a longer duration than the validity of the Hosting Agreement.
- The Hosting Agreement has to be valid for the entire duration of the residence permit. E.g, if you apply for an extended permit and your current hosting agreement and residence permit expire on 31.1.2024, and your new hosting agreement is valid from 1.3.2024, the starting date of your new residence permit is 1.3.2024. I.e., there will be a gap in the validity of your permits. In such a situation, we will send you a request for further information before making the decision.

## Sufficient financial resources

- If you are in an employment relationship with the research organisation, your gross salary must be at least EUR 1,399 per month in 2024.
- If you are not in an employment relationship with the research organisation, you must have at least EUR 1,000 per month at your disposal for your living costs in Finland. You can secure your income with a scholarship, own funds, earnings from other work etc.

## Family members

- Family members (spouse and children) of researchers can apply for residence permits based on family ties
- Income requirement, spouse 700€/month, 1. child 500€/month, 2. child 400€/month, 3. child 300€/month, 4. child 200€/month, 5. child 100€/month
- First residence permit 1 year, extended permit max. 4 years (never longer duration than researcher's permit)
- A or B, depending on researcher's permit

## **Residence permits after finishing the PhD/research project**

- Residence permit to look for work (if you do not have a job, A or B permit, max. 2 years)
  - <https://migri.fi/en/residence-permit-to-look-for-work>
- Residence permit on the basis of research completed in Finland (if you have a job, A permit, max. 4 years)
  - <https://migri.fi/en/research-completed-in-finland>
- Permanent residence permit (after 4 years with A permit(s), no interruptions between permits, requires valid ground for residence)
  - <https://migri.fi/en/permanent-residence-permit>

## Citizenship

- When you apply for Finnish citizenship, you must have either a valid continuous residence permit (A permit) or a permanent residence permit (P permit).
- You must have lived in Finland with either a continuous or a permanent residence permit (A or P permit) for at least one year before your citizenship application is decided.
- You need to have lived in Finland for the past 5 years without interruption (continuous period of residence)
- Half of the time you have lived in Finland with a B permit before getting an A permit will be counted towards your continuous period of residence.
- You must have at least satisfactory oral and written skills in Finnish or Swedish
- No significant criminal offenses

## **A look into the future, Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government**

- No foreseeable changes to researchers' permits.
- The Government is aiming to tighten the requirements for permanent residence. The proposal is that one could, in general, obtain a permanent residence permit after a six-year period of residence subject to certain requirements in addition to the current requirements. However, the government still wants to make it possible to gain a permanent residence permit after four years, e.g., if one "has completed a Master's degree recognised in Finland and has a two-year work history without recourse to unemployment security or social assistance other than for a very short period of time during their residence in Finland".
- The Government is aiming to reform the Nationality Act, and proposes tightening the requirements for naturalization (citizenship). Among other things, the government intends to extend the required period of residence in Finland to eight years.





## **A look into the future, Programme of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government**

- “The Government is committed to the national target of increasing Finland’s research and development (R&D) expenditure to four per cent of GDP by 2030. In line with the national target and the current Act on Research and Development Funding, the Government will raise central government funding for R&D activities to 1.2 per cent of GDP by 2030, provided that private sector investments increase to 2.8 per cent.”
- “In order to reach the target level of four per cent of R&D funding by 2030, it is necessary to ensure the availability of experts and a sufficient intake of students in education and training as well as Finland’s attractiveness from the perspective of international specialists.”





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# **Thank you!**

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