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MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND THE ECONOMY

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More information online
Basic information about life in Finland
www.lifeinfinland.fi
Finnish Immigration Service www.migri.fi
Local register offices www.maistraatit.fi
Police www.poliisi.fi
Social Insurance Institution (Kela) and the
Tax Administration www.intofinland.fi
Employment and economic development services www.te-palvelut.fi
Labour administration www.mol.fi
Information database www.infopankki.fi
Ministry for Foreign Affairs www.formin.fi
Studying in Finland www.studyinfinland.fi.
Public services on line www.suomi.fi
Public Service Info. www.kansalaisneuvonta.fi tel. 0295 000

MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND THE ECONOMY

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WELCOME TO FINLAND

LIFE IN FINLAND This brochure contains concise information for those moving to Finland.
For more information, visit www.lifeinfinland.fi.

MOVING TO FINLAND ? HOW CAN YOU GET STARTED?

When you move to Finland, this is what you should do first:

1. Residence
Find yourself somewhere to live. You cannot be registered as living in Finland unless you have an address.

2. Local register office
To register as a person living in Finland, go to your local register office, where you will also be given a personal identity code.

3. Telephone
Get yourself a personal mobile telephone, as there are very few public telephones. The deposit payment may make it expensive for a foreigner to open a mobile telephone subscription. Instead, you can buy a prepaid subscription from a teleoperator outlet or an R-kioski convenience store.

4. Bank account
Open a bank account, as in Finland your wages or salary will be paid into the account. Any social security benefits, such as income support, will also be paid into the bank account. To open a bank account, you will need a passport or an identity document.

5. Find out if you are entitled to social security
Social security for people living in Finland is provided by Kela (the Social Insurance Institution). You will have a right to Finnish social security if you come to live permanently in Finland. You will also have a right to social security if you have a job in Finland. The work has to be at least four months in duration and the minimum requirements for work must be met. Health insurance is part of social security.
You may also be entitled to other benefits if you have Finnish social security. Such benefits include family benefits if the preconditions for the benefits are met. You must apply for the right to social security yourself from Kela. Kela will hand down a decision in the matter and will automatically order a Kela card on your behalf if you are given the right to health insurance. You can ask for assistance from a Kela office or on Kela's telephone service. You can also acquaint yourself with the Kela website www.kela.fi.

6. Tax card
You can obtain a tax card from the tax office. You will need it for your wages or other income. When applying for a tax card, you must present a passport or an identity document.

7. Finding a job
If you are unemployed, you can register as a jobseeker with an Employment and economic development office. In Finland, you are entitled to receive an unemployment benefit if you do not have work. Employment and economic development offices organise Finnish and Swedish language courses for jobseekers.

8. Language studies
Act quickly to apply for a place on a Finnish or Swedish language course. You may have to queue for a place. If you speak one of the national languages, it will be easier to find a job. You can also study Finnish and Swedish on your own, for example on the website www.kotisuomessa.fi.

WILL YOU NEED A RESIDENCE PERMIT?

Citizens of the EU, EEA or Switzerland
Nordic citizens have a right to live and work in Finland. If you wish to stay in the country for more than six (6) months, you will have to register with your local register office. Citizens of EU and EEA countries and Switzerland also have the right to reside in Finland. To stay in the country for more than three (3) months, you must register with a police department.

Citizens of other than EU or Nordic countries
If you intend to stay in Finland for more than three (3) months, you must have a residence permit. You can apply for a residence permit at a Finnish diplomatic mission before leaving your country, or to the police if you are already in Finland. As a returnee you may be issued a residence permit if you can prove that you have Finnish ancestry. If you have a family or a family member in Finland, you may receive a residence permit on the basis of family ties. Different types of residence permits may be issued, for example for working and studying. For more information, you can contact the Finnish Immigration Service (www.migri.fi) and the police (www.poliisi.fi).

HOW CAN YOU FIND SOMEWHERE TO LIVE?

You can find advertisements for housing either to rent or to buy in newspapers and on the Internet. You can rent a residence either from a private person or from a municipality.

When you rent a place to live, you must agree with the landlord in writing on the terms of lease and the amount of rent. You will also have to pay a rent security deposit, which equals at maximum the amount of rent for three months. When you move out of the residence, the rent security deposit will be returned to you.

Remember!
Check whether you have to register as being resident in Finland with your local register office or police department.

Read more at www.asuminen.fi and www.lifeinfinland.fi

HELP WITH INTEGRATION AND LANGUAGE STUDIES

You will have access to services that help you with your integration after you move to Finland. Advice will be offered by the authorities of your home municipality or the Employment and economic development offices. For example, an initial assessment may be drawn up for you to determine your existing skills and your life situation, and on this basis, your education and training requirements and your need for an integration plan. Based on the initial assessment, an integration plan may be drawn up for you. An individual integration plan usually includes language studies and other services as necessary. You may be entitled to integration assistance to ensure that you have a means of support, as long as you have a valid integration plan.

HEALTH CARE

Comprehensive public health care services are available in Finland. For example, there is a health centre in every municipality. Health clinic services for children are free, and so are most medical services for those aged under 18.

Generally, everyone permanently resident in Finland is covered by the National Health Insurance scheme of the Social Insurance Institution (Kela). If you are entitled to health insurance you can be reimbursed for medicines. You can also get reimbursement for costs that arise from using private health care services.

Find out if you have the right to health insurance and other social security at Kela (www.kela.fi). Municipalities are responsible for providing public health care services. You usually will have the right to these services if the register office has assigned a home municipality for you in Finland. Remember that many workplaces have occupational health services available.

In an emergency
The emergency number is 112. You can call this number if you need an ambulance, the police or the fire brigade. If you have mental health problems, you can ask for help at your health centre. For further information, you can also visit www.emielenterveys.fi.

For crisis services for foreigners, call 09 4135 0501