



Finland



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1. General information



Language

Official languages are Finnish (spoken by 86.9%) and Swedish (5.2%). Sámi is the mother tongue of about 2 000 people, members of the indigenous Sámi people of northern Lapland.



Administrative settings

Finland is a republic. The highest organs of government in Finland are the Parliament of Finland, the President of the Republic and the Finnish Government. Finland has six Regional State Administrative Agencies. The agencies handle the implementation and supervision of the law in their own regions. Finland is divided into municipalities. The municipalities are self-governing, meaning they can decide on their own matters.



Population

Finland's population is estimated in approximately 5.5 million people.

Emergency contacts

Finland's emergency number is **112**.

Service numbers and chat services for victims of violence:

Victim Support Finland

- ◆ phone number: **116 006**
- ◆ Website <https://www.riku.fi/en/services/victim-support-finland-116-006/>

An online chat service called RIKUchat is available for the victims of crime, the victim's relative, a witness of the criminal case or anyone who has been affected something that has happened here:

<https://www.riku.fi/en/services/rikuchat-online-service/>

Service numbers for victims of sexual violence:

- ◆ Rape Crisis Centre Tukinainen: **0800 97899**
- ◆ Assistance system for victims of human trafficking: **029 5463177**





Driving licence

A Ukrainian driving licence is valid in Finland and there is no need to present any translation or international driving licence. More information is available here: <https://www.traficom.fi/en/>



Ukrainian diaspora

More information is available here: <https://finland.mfa.gov.ua/en/partnership/3265-ukrajinci-u-finlyandiji>



Ukrainian embassy in Finland

Below are the contact details of the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Finland and Iceland (with residence in Helsinki):

- ◆ Vähäniityntie 9, 00570, Helsinki, Finland
- ◆ Phone: **+358 92289000**
- ◆ Consular Division: **+358 922890072** or **+358 922890071**
- ◆ Fax: **+358 (9)2289001**
- ◆ Email: emb_fi@mfa.gov.ua
- ◆ Work schedule: Monday-Friday, 9.00-18.00
- ◆ Ukrainian embassy's life-threatening situations phone: **+358 404719200**



2. Entry to Finland

If you are Ukrainian citizen with biometric passport, you can enter and stay in Finland for 90 days within a period of 180 days without a visa.



3. Temporary protection

Temporary protection is granted to:

- ◆ Ukrainian citizens unable to return to Ukraine due to the Russian invasion;
- ◆ citizens of countries outside the European Union, citizens of countries not party to the Schengen Agreement, and stateless persons who were legally residing in Ukraine and whose return to their country of origin safely and permanently is not possible;
- ◆ the family members of Ukrainian citizens and of those granted international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine, if the family ties were established in Ukraine before 24 February 2022.

Family members do not need to apply at the same time. They can, for example, come to Finland later and apply for temporary protection then.

Where can you register for temporary protection in Finland?

Once you have arrived in Finland, visit the police or a border control authority and inform them of your intention to apply for temporary protection. Applying is free of charge.

It is recommended that you apply for temporary protection even if you have already submitted an application for asylum. Applications for temporary protection are processed at a considerably faster rate than asylum applications.

The contact details for police are available here: <https://poliisi.fi/en/police-contact-details-for-asylum-seekers>

What documents do you need for registration?

You need to present your valid passport and all other identity documents you have with you to the police or border control authority.

If you are not a Ukrainian citizen, you should also present a Ukrainian residence permit card or other document proving that you were residing in Ukraine legally.



If you come to Finland with your family and have documents proving the family ties, you should also present them.

You may apply for temporary protection even if you do not have a valid passport. Temporary protection can be granted even if you do not have a valid travel document.

What is the procedure to register for temporary protection in Finland?

Following registration, the Finnish Immigration Service decides on your application. The estimated processing time is currently about two weeks. You will hear from the Finnish Immigration Service before the decision is made only if the service considers there to be a particular reason to do so.

The Finnish Immigration Service will send you the decision by post. The decision will be sent to the reception centre at which you are staying. If you live in private accommodation, the decision will be sent to the address which you have given as your Finnish address. For this reason, it is important that you notify your reception centre in Finland of any address changes in Finland without delay.

In cases when you are not provided the decision by post, you will be informed of the decision at the Finnish Immigration Service or at the police station.

If you have also applied for asylum, the Finnish Immigration Service will suspend the processing of your asylum application for as long as your residence permit issued on the basis of temporary protection is valid. More information is available here: <https://migri.fi/en/temporary-protection#asylum>

Which documents will you receive as a beneficiary of temporary protection?

If you are granted temporary protection, you will receive a residence permit card. The residence permit card will be posted to you as soon as it is ready. It currently takes about two weeks for residence permit cards to be ready. This means that you will receive a copy of the decision and your residence permit card approximately one month from the date on which you submit your application.



Duration of the temporary protection

The first residence permit for temporary protection is issued until 4 March 2023, subject to extension.

Your rights as a beneficiary of temporary protection in Finland

Beneficiaries of temporary protection are covered by the Reception Act during the period of temporary protection, which includes accommodation, reception and operating grants, health services and essential social services, interpretation and translation services, employment and study activities. Meals may also be provided as reception services. The activities of reception centres also include practical activities other than reception facilities, such as guidance and counselling, information and security.

More information about these rights

Accommodation

If you are applying for temporary protection or asylum, accommodation can be provided for you at a reception centre. Accommodation at the reception centre will be organised so that you can be together with your family members. Unaccompanied minors are provided accommodation at a reception centre reserved for minors. There are a number of reception centres of different sizes across Finland. You will be directed to a reception centre with available beds. Learn more about living in a reception centre here: <https://migri.fi/en/living-in-a-reception-centre>



You may also arrange accommodation yourself and stay with a friend or relative, for example. Make sure that the reception centre at which you are registered has your address information, and that the centre is notified if your address changes.

If you choose to stay in private accommodation instead of a reception centre, you will need to cover the cost of the accommodation yourself. Reception centres cannot provide financial support towards the cost of private accommodation. If your situation changes and you need accommodation, it will be provided for you at a reception centre that has beds available. Learn more about living in private accommodation here: <https://migri.fi/en/living-in-private-accommodation>

If you are not applying for temporary protection or asylum, you must organise accommodation in Finland yourself.





Initial reception

The entry point to the reception system is through the transit centres in Helsinki, Turku, Oulu or Joutseno. In the transit centre you are registered in the reception system and you will be provided with initial information, necessary utilities and accommodation. You are then transferred to a long-term reception centre.



Long-term accommodation

After the initial reception in the transit centre you are referred to a long-term reception centre. There are many reception centres of different types and sizes in different parts of Finland.

Reception centres are maintained by different operators: the Finnish Immigration Service, Finnish municipalities, organisations and private companies. All reception centres offer the same reception services and operate according to the same principles.

Access to labour market

You will have the right to work as soon as you register your application for temporary protection with the police or a border control authority.

During registration, the police or border control authority will provide you with printed certificate proving your right to work. Here is an example of the certificate: <https://migri.fi/documents/5202425/119636067/Tilap%C3%A4isen+suojelun+vireill%C3%A4todistus+en.png/ac9d03c1-12a1-3b33-c407-e365424dc84d?t=1651838010314>



The certificate is called certificate of a pending application. Your right to work is unrestricted, meaning that you can find employment in any field. Keep the copy of the certificate you receive for yourself.

If you have already applied for temporary protection but have not received a certificate of a pending application from the police or border control authority, we can send you the certificate by email. Send your request for the certificate to migri@migri.fi. If you do not yet have employment and have no need for a certificate, you can simply wait for the decision on your application.

For more information on the right to work and on the employment services available, see the instructions issued by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment available here: <https://tem.fi/en/-/people-receiving-temporary-protection-have-the-right-to-work-in-finland>





Social services and reception allowance

The reception centre is responsible for organising social and healthcare services. There is a social worker or social counsellor at every reception centre.

If necessary, you can apply for and receive reception allowance. You can apply for reception allowance at your reception centre. Your income and financial resources are considered when deciding whether you are eligible to receive reception allowance, and in what amount.

Ask your reception centre for more information and help with filling in the application.

Public health

Beneficiaries of temporary protection are entitled to health services in the same way as any person who has a residence in a municipality in Finland. You may be offered the opportunity to carry out initial health examinations, screening studies and vaccinations to map your state of health.

The reception centre at which you are registered organises healthcare services for you. There is a nurse or a public health nurse at every reception centre. If you need medical help, they will send you to a doctor.

If you are an adult waiting for a decision on your application for temporary protection, you are entitled to urgent and essential healthcare. After receiving a residence permit on the basis of temporary protection, you have the right to access the same healthcare services as those permanently resident in Finland.

Applicants under 18 years of age are entitled to healthcare services on the same grounds as children who have a municipality of residence in Finland. The medical care includes:

- ◆ psychosocial support
- ◆ COVID-19 vaccinations
- ◆ vaccinations for children and risk groups, as well as adults if the beneficiary of temporary protection's vaccination coverage does not meet the recommendations of Finland's vaccination programme
- ◆ doctor services
- ◆ emergency healthcare
- ◆ maternity and child consultation services, school and student health care
- ◆ reception centres may also purchase some health and social care services, when needed (disabled, old people, specific care, etc.)





COVID-19

From 1 July 2022, no certificates or tests related to COVID-19 will be required at the borders.



Mandatory check-up with a veterinarian for pets

Those arriving in Finland with pets are provided accommodation at the reception centre in Riihimäki. You may also organise private accommodation yourself. If you have any pets with you, notify the reception centre at which you are registered of this without delay.

The reception centre will contact a veterinarian, who can provide the necessary vaccinations for your pet. It is very important that all pets are vaccinated. To prevent the spread of infectious animal diseases, pets must stay isolated for 30 days. For more information, see the isolation instructions for pets issued by the Finnish Food Authority here: https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/globalassets/yritykset/tuonti-ja-vienti/tuonti-eun-ulkopuolelta/elaimet-ja-elainperaiset-tuotteet/elintarvikkeet/ajankohtaista/eristysohje_pakolaisten_lemmikeille_fi-en.pdf

Access to education

Children have access to education under the same condition as national children.

Adults. You have the right to study as soon as you register your application for temporary protection with the police or a border control authority. There is a free right to apply for vocational education and upper secondary general education, and persons receiving temporary protection may apply for them under the same conditions as Finnish citizens. Students receiving temporary protection have the right to student welfare in the same way as other students in vocational education or upper secondary school



Childcare/nursery

Child beneficiaries of temporary protection and children seeking asylum do not have a subjective right to early childhood education and care organised by the municipality, but any participation in early childhood education and care is based on the municipality's means-testing. However, the place of early childhood education and care is arranged, for example in situations where parents work or study, or when early childhood education and care is estimated to support the child's well-being and



learning. Irrespective of the right of residence, the child is in practice present in the territory of the municipality, the municipality may organise early childhood education on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the best interests of the child.

Persons under temporary protection and asylum applicants who are entitled to basic and pre-primary education can also participate in the teaching.

Primary and secondary school

Children aged 7–17 have the right to go to comprehensive school, and children aged 6 have the right to pre-primary education. Comprehensive school and the pre-primary education are free of charge. Books and other materials used in the education are free of charge. Each day of pre-primary education and comprehensive school includes a hot meal, free of charge.

University



Finland supports students and researchers who have fled the war in Ukraine. On the website Study in Finland, you will find information on the study and research opportunities for those whose studies or academic work in Ukraine were disrupted by the war. The website is available here: <https://www.studyinfinland.fi/ukraine>

Finnish higher education institutions offer study opportunities, which can help you complete your degree to your home university.

If you are a researcher, you can be offered support measures to help you continue your research work at a Finnish higher education institution.

Vocational training for beneficiaries of temporary protection

If a person receiving temporary protection applies for vocational training, they may also complete studies as training under a training contract or apprenticeship agreement, provided that the conditions for this are met.

Education titles recognition

More information is available here: <https://www.oph.fi/en/services/recognition-and-international-comparability-qualifications>



Additional support platforms

Transport

People fleeing from Ukraine can use Onnibus transports and [VR trains](#) free of charge until the end of August 2022.

- ◆ Omnibus is available here: <https://www.onnibus.com/onnibus-tukee-ukrainasta-tulevien-pakolaisten-liikkumista-suomessa-1-3-2022>
- ◆ VR trains is available here: <https://www.vrgroup.fi/en/vrgroup/news/vr-groups-actions-due-to-russian-attack-on-ukraine--010320221735/>

Displaced persons from Ukraine can use free public transportation in many cities.

Information platforms (websites)

The Finnish Immigration Service has dedicated platforms with updated information on Ukraine, temporary protection, rights and obligations:

- ◆ Frequently asked questions about Russia's invasion of Ukraine are available here: <https://migri.fi/en/faq-ukraine>
- ◆ Temporary protection information available here: <https://migri.fi/en/temporary-protection#applying>
- ◆ Instructions for refugees arriving in Finland is available here:
 - ◆ in Finnish: https://migri.fi/en/-/instructions-on-arriving-in-finland-from-ukraine?languageId=fi_FI
 - ◆ in Swedish: https://migri.fi/en/-/instructions-on-arriving-in-finland-from-ukraine?languageId=sv_SE
 - ◆ in English: <https://migri.fi/en/-/instructions-on-arriving-in-finland-from-ukraine>

Information points

Information points were opened in Helsinki Airport and the port. Information is also distributed through social media.

Leaflets

- ◆ Finnish Immigration Service: [Information for those who have applied for temporary protection in Finland \(pdf\)](#)



- ◆ Finnish Immigration Service: [Children who have fled Ukraine: You can get help in Finland \(pdf\)](#)
- ◆ Finnish immigration Service: [Temporary protection - Information on your residence permit - adults and families \(migri.fi\)](#)

Other

- ◆ Government webpage related to how to help Ukrainians is available in:
 - ◆ Finnish: <https://intermin.fi/ukraina/avun-tarjoaminen-ukrainalaisille>
 - ◆ Swedish: <https://intermin.fi/sv/hjalp-till-ukrainare>
 - ◆ English: <https://intermin.fi/en/helping-ukrainians>
- ◆ Following a request by the Finnish Immigration Service, the Finnish Red Cross has set up a nationwide information desk to answer questions and gather information on the assistance provided to those affected by the conflict in Ukraine. The information desk also has a dedicated online platform available here: <https://www.punainenristi.fi/ukrainainfo>

The contact details of reception centres are available on our website at migri.fi/en/reception-centers



4. International protection

If you have already applied for asylum, you should also submit an application for temporary protection. Applications for temporary protection are processed at a considerably faster rate than asylum applications.



You must apply for temporary protection separately by visiting the police or a border control authority. For more detailed instructions, see the previous section.

If you have applied for asylum and are granted temporary protection, the Finnish Immigration Service will suspend the processing of your asylum application for as long as the residence permit you have been issued on the basis of temporary protection is valid.

When the residence permit issued on the basis of temporary protection expires, you will receive a letter from the Finnish Immigration Service asking if you wish to resume the processing of the asylum application.



Annex I . Repository of sources

General information		
Service	Website	QR
Temporary protection		
The Border Guard provides guidelines on entering Finland on its website	https://raja.fi/ru/pribytie-v-finlandiu-2022 Available in Russian, Finnish and English	
Police contact details for the registration for temporary protection and for asylum seekers	https://poliisi.fi/kontakti-dani-dla-prohaciv-posvidki-na-prozivanna-na-osnovi-timcasovogo-zahistu-ta-prohaciv-pritulku Available in Russian, Finnish and English	
Temporary protection for those fleeing Ukraine	https://migri.fi/tilapainen-suojelu/ukr Available in Ukrainian, Finnish and English	
Work		
Information related to the right to work	https://migri.fi/en/temporary-protection#work Available in English	

<p>People applying for temporary protection have the right to work in Finland</p>	<p>https://tem.fi/en/-/people-receiving-temporary-protection-have-the-right-to-work-in-finland</p> <p>Available in English</p>	
<p>Information on working life and employees' rights</p> <p>Working in Finland brochure</p>	<p>https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/164075/20_2022_MEAE_brochures_WorkingFinland_Ukraina.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y</p> <p>Available in Ukrainian</p> <p>https://tem.fi/tyoskentely-suomessa</p> <p>Available in Ukrainian and Russian</p>	
<p>Study and research opportunities for those fleeing Ukraine</p>	<p>https://www.studyinfinland.fi/ukraine</p> <p>Available in English</p>	
<p>Accommodation</p>	<p>https://migri.fi/en/reception-centers</p> <p>Available in English</p>	
Access to education		
<p>Study in Finland</p>	<p>https://www.studyinfinland.fi/ukraine</p>	



Additional support		
Isolation instructions for dogs, cats and ferrets in special situations	https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/globalassets/yriytykset/tuonti-ja-vienti/tuonti-eun-ulkopuolelta/elaimet-ja-elainperaiset-tuotteet/elintarvikkeet/ajankohtaisista/eristysohje_pakolaisten_lemmikeille_fi-en.pdf Available in English	
Temporary protection for those fleeing Ukraine	https://migri.fi/tilapainen-suojelu/ukr Available in Ukrainian	
The Finnish Red Cross is helping those affected by the crisis in Ukraine	https://www.redcross.fi/the-red-cross-is-helping-in-ukraine/ Available in English	
Information platforms		
Temporary Protection in specific countries	https://whoiswho.euaa.europa.eu/Pages/Temporary-protection.aspx Available in English	



