

A large crowd of diverse people in various colors forming the map of Finland. The people are arranged to create the outline of the country, with a significant portion of the map area filled with a dense group of individuals. The background is white, and a large, light beige curved shape is positioned in the lower-left corner, partially overlapping the text.

# Introduction to Finnish society

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# Structure of this session

- A brief look into the Finnish society
- Services of Migri, DVV, KELA, Tax administration
- Links and guidance for navigating and settling in Finland and Jyväskylä

# A brief look into the Finnish society



# Finnish government and local administration



- Finland is a republic, parliamentary democracy, and a welfare state
  - The highest organs of the government are appointed in elections: Parliament of Finland and the President of the Republic
- Finland is divided into municipalities that are self-governing and collect taxes from their residents
  - With tax incomes, municipalities organize a variety of services for their residents, for example health care, public transportation, child day-care and school education
- Local state administration handle state duties in a particular area such as police, registration of population and employment offices.

# Equality, rights, and responsibilities in Finland



- All discrimination on the basis of gender, age, origin, nationality, religion, political activity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc. is considered illegal
  - This zero-tolerance for discrimination applies in JYU as well
  - Everyone is responsible for creating a safe environment for others and following rules – be it on or off campus
- Finland has freedom of religion, speech, association, etc.
  - People have the right to practice their own religion or not to choose any religion
  - Men and women are equal
  - Same sex couples have the right to get married in Finland
  - Respect is a key factor regardless of your personal opinions and decisions

# Right to vote in EU & municipal elections



- In a European Parliament election, the citizens of other EU member states who have entered their names on **Finland's voting register** have the right to vote
- In a municipal election, citizens of another EU Member State as well as of Iceland and Norway have right to vote
- Also, other countries' residents who have had a municipality of residence in Finland for **at least two years** have the right to vote
- <https://vaalit.fi/en/right-to-vote-and-Compilation-of-the-voting-register>

# Finnish Immigration Service (Migri)

Handles legality of your stay in Finland and other immigration matters



# Migri: residence permits and registration of right to reside in Finland



- **Finnish Immigration Service (Migri)** is subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior in Finland and processes:
  - residence permit applications to Finland
  - applications for registering an EU citizen's right to reside in Finland
  - applications for Finnish nationality
  - refugee issues
- Additional information: <https://migri.fi/en/studying-in-finland>

\*Citizens of a Nordic country (Denmark, Iceland, Norway or Sweden) should contact DVV to register their right of residence.

# Right to work during studies



- **Residence permit for studies (non-EU/EEA citizens):** you are allowed to work in any field for an average of **30 hours per week**. The number of working hours can be exceeded on some weeks, as long as the average working hours are no more than 30 hours per week at the end of the year. In other words, you may work for an average of 120 hours per month or a total of 1,560 hours per year.
  - During holidays, for example, you may work full-time in any field, provided that your average working hours are no more than 30 hours per week at the end of the year.
- If your degree requires completing an internship, the working time restrictions do not apply to it. You will need to sign an internship agreement stating that you will earn study credits for the internship.
- **EU/EEA citizens:** you have an unrestricted right to work in Finland (even if you have not yet received a decision on their application for the right to reside).

# Extending your residence permit



- In case your studies take longer than the validity of your residence permit for studies, you should apply for an extension. You need to apply for a new residence permit before your current permit expires (3 months before at the earliest).
- You should complete at least **45 credits** during an academic year to receive an extension. If you have completed fewer credits, you must attach a statement of the reasons why you have not made enough progress in your studies. If you are writing a thesis, for example, you should submit a statement from your supervisor.
- You also need a proof of funds: 6720 €/year, and proof of tuition fee payment or scholarship (if applicable)

More information: [Extended permit for studies | Maahanmuuttovirasto \(migri.fi\)](https://migri.fi/en/extended-permit-for-studies)

# Residence permit for seeking work after graduation



- If you have studied and completed a degree in Finland but you have not yet found a job that would begin before your residence permit for studies expires, you can apply for a permit to look for work or to start a business.
- You may get the permit for **two years** at the most.
- If you wish, you can take the permit in three parts.
  - The last part must end within three years from the date when the first part started and
  - The duration of each part must be at least six months

More information: [Application for students and researchers: residence permit to look for work | Maahanmuuttovirasto \(migri.fi\)](#)

# Digital and Population Data Services Agency (DVV)

Handles entering your data into the Finnish population registry and registers you as a local resident

# Digital and Population Data Services Agency (DVV)



- Processes the following:
  - Applying for a **Finnish personal identity code / number** (e.g. social security number) <https://dvv.fi/en/foreigner-registration>
  - **Municipality of residence (domicile)** and permanent address in Finland <https://dvv.fi/en/municipality-of-residence>
  - Registration of the right to reside in Finland for citizens of the Nordic countries

NB! Registration of an EU citizen's right to reside in Finland by Migri is **not** the same thing as registering your place of residence in the Population Information System at the local DVV office

# Municipality of residence (domicile)



**Municipality of residence** and the **permanent address** associated with it can be granted to those planning to live in Finland for at least **one year** and **either have a valid residence permit in Finland, or have already registered** an EU citizen's right to reside in Finland.

When you have a municipality of residence,

- you usually have the right to use the services provided by your municipality of residence (healthcare services)
- you can get a Finnish identity card (from Police) and a driving licence
- you can use services provided by authorities or receive financial benefits or subsidies.

You can get a municipality of residence even if you still live in temporary accommodations (e.g. hotel).

If you move to a different address, submit notification online: <https://dvv.fi/en/moving-in-finland>

# DVV pop-ups on campus in September

- During the campus visits of the Digital and Population Data Services Agency, you can register Jyväskylä as your municipality of residence and apply for Finnish personal identity code (if you haven't one already)
- **Monday 9 September, 08:30 - 16:00**
- **Tuesday 17 September, 08:30 - 16:00**
- More information about this in the coming weeks!



# **KELA - Social Insurance Institution of Finland**

Responsible for the basic security of people  
living in Finland in different life situations

# Kela - Social Insurance Institution of Finland



If you are not a Finnish citizen and have come to Finland for study purposes, the general rule is that you cannot get financial aid from Finland. However, you may be entitled to some Kela benefits, provided that your move to Finland is considered permanent by KELA:

- If you come to Finland from a **EU/EEA country, Switzerland or the UK**, your stay in Finland is usually considered temporary. In that case, your country of origin is responsible for your social security benefits. You are, however, entitled to necessary medical treatment in Finland by presenting a European Health Insurance Card.
- If you come to Finland from **another country** in order to study here for at least 2 years, you can usually receive a **Kela card** and certain benefits such as reimbursements from Kela for medicine costs.

Your circumstances may change during your studies. When determining whether a person is entitled to social security coverage, Kela also takes into account possible other reasons for the stay in Finland in addition to studies (e.g. family ties, employment).

# Kela contact information

More information:

- Social security coverage for students and researchers
- Financial aid for foreign students
- Phone service in English, weekdays 10–15:
  - Moving to or from Finland (Social security): 020 634 0200,
  - Families with children, students (Healthcare fee for students in higher education), unemployed, housing aid: 020 634 2550
- Kela's office: Vapaudenkatu 40-42, open Mon-Fri, 12.00-16.00



# Other matters

# Taxation



- If you reside in Finland for more than **six months**, you must usually pay taxes on all your income in Finland. This also applies to the income you receive from abroad.
- In order to work in Finland, you need to apply for a **tax card** (Finnish personal identity code required)
- You can apply for the tax card:
  - Online: [https://www.vero.fi/en/individuals/tax-cards-and-tax-returns/tax\\_card/](https://www.vero.fi/en/individuals/tax-cards-and-tax-returns/tax_card/)
  - By phone: 029 497 050
  - Visit the office: Vapaudenkatu 58 A, 40100, Jyväskylä (Mon–Tue at 9:00–15:00)

<https://vero.fi/en/individuals/>

# More information about Finland society and integration



- <https://www.infofinland.fi/>
- <https://kotouttaminen.fi/en/frontpage>
- <https://tem.fi/en/integration-of-immigrants>

# Contacts at JYU



- International Office:  
[international-office@jyu.fi](mailto:international-office@jyu.fi) (International Office Infodesk, general questions);  
[degree-students@jyu.fi](mailto:degree-students@jyu.fi) (international degree students support)
- Simhe\* services: [simhe@jyu.fi](mailto:simhe@jyu.fi) (Higher Education options for immigrants in Finland)

*\*Supporting Immigrants in Higher Education in Finland*