



# Global Immigration alert

September 2024

## Finland

### Stricter requirements for residence permit applicants

#### Executive summary

On 1 September 2024, Finland introduced stricter requirements for residence permit applicants.

#### Key developments

Effective 1 September 2024, most individuals must submit residence permit applications in their home country. However, individuals may submit their applications in Finland if they are:

- ▶ Family members of Finnish citizens, foreign students or foreign researchers
- ▶ Applying for a residence permit for a child born in Finland
- ▶ Applying for a residence permit for study or research purposes

In limited cases, individuals who do not meet the conditions above may be able to file their applications in Finland subject to the discretion of the authorities.

In addition, most residence permit applicants must hold valid passports issued by their home country. Applicants who hold an alien's passport or a refugee travel document (and no valid passport) will not be issued a permit. This requirement does not apply if these individuals are:

- ▶ Born in Finland and are applying for their first residence permit
- ▶ Applying for a residence permit on a discretionary basis on humanitarian grounds
- ▶ Applying for asylum or temporary protection
- ▶ Applying to extend their temporary residence permit or for a permanent residence permit on the basis of international protection

- ▶ Applying for a residence permit as a family member of a person who has received international protection and the applicant is granted international protection

In limited cases, individuals who do not meet the criteria above may be exempt from the requirement to hold a valid passport depending on their case and subject to the discretion of the authorities.

The new requirements also apply to individuals who submitted their residence permit applications before 1 September 2024 but had not received a decision as of that date.

#### Impact on employers

Employers may ensure that impacted employees meet all requirements to ensure compliance.

#### Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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