

# Global Immigration alert

December 2025

## Finland

### New, stricter citizenship requirements

#### Executive summary

Effective 17 December 2025, Finland implemented stricter requirements for foreign nationals pursuing citizenship.

#### Key developments

The following changes went into effect:

- **Integrity requirement:** Individuals who committed offences will have more difficulty in obtaining citizenship. In cases where citizenship applications are rejected on the basis of previous offences, the immigration authorities may impose a waiting period of one to eight years before applicants may reapply for citizenship. The authorities may also reject applications without imposing a waiting period for individuals convicted of very serious offences.
- **Sufficient financial resources:** Applicants will be required to have sufficient financial resources. In general, this requirement cannot be fulfilled in the event that an applicant's only income consists of unemployment benefits or social assistance.
- **Establishment of identity:** Applicants will face stricter requirements to verify their identity. In situations where applicants do not have reliable documents to prove their identity or had changes in their personal data, their identity can be established based on the identity registered in the Population Information System of Finland, provided it was registered for at least 10 years and they did not use any other identity during that time. Applicants who were issued an alien's passport to obtain a passport issued by their country of nationality (i.e., national passport)

will also be required to submit their national passport or a statement explaining why they could not obtain a national passport.

- **Loss of citizenship:** The authorities may cancel citizenship status in situations where an individual submitted false information in their application or committed offences that violate Finland's vital interests.

#### Impact on employers

Employers may stay updated and keep employees informed regarding the latest developments.

#### 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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