

# Information session for international master's students

Part 2:

Pre-arrival information, practicalities  
before your arrival



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# Today's session

- Accepting your study offer
- Verification of educational documents
- Residence permit
- Financial matters
- Tuition fee and tuition fee scholarships
- Arrival at Åbo/Turku or Vasa/Vaasa
- Arriving late or postponing studies
- Questions?

The previous, more in-depth session, can be found on our web page: [Webinars for applicants and future students](#)

# Accepting the study offer

1. Accept the offer via Studyinfo (more information in the message from Studyinfo).
  - > Problems? contact [admission@abo.fi](mailto:admission@abo.fi)
  - > Deadline to accept the offer: **July 11th, 2024**
2. Arrange travel insurance and **health insurance** (for requirements for the residence permit, see <https://migri.fi/en/insurance>)
3. Start your **residence permit** process (if necessary) (<https://migri.fi/en/i-want-to-come-to-finland>)
4. Apply for **housing** as soon as possible
5. Pay the tuition fee (if liable to pay tuition fee)
6. **Register as present** for the academic year

[Read more about the steps here >>](#)



# Verification of educational documents

More details in your admission letter

1. Electronic verification when possible
2. If not, follow the country specific requirements in the letter
3. If uncertain, email [admission@abo.fi](mailto:admission@abo.fi)

[More information on our website](#) >>

We will not send a confirmation about receiving educational documents. You will, however, get notified when the check is completed -> the check is performed some time during the summer and autumn.



# Residence permit

# General points about RP-card

- At the previous session we discussed resident permits in detail, please go watch that on: [Webinars for applicants and future students](#)
- If you do not already live in Finland, you will need to either get a residence permit or register your right of residence.
- This is done via the [Finnish Immigration Service](#) (Migri).
- **You need to have your residence permit already when entering the country.**
- ÅAU can provide you with links to relevant web pages and general advice – however we are not permitted to, nor do we have the resources to give you specific advice or do the application for you.
- While the residence permit process might feel overwhelming, all information you need is available online. Take a breath, read through the Migri webpages carefully and follow the instructions. You got this!
- And, if you have family and friends that has gone through the residence permit process recently, reach out to them for advice and support!

# EU/EEA and Nordic citizens

- If you are a citizen in the EU/EEA or The Nordic Countries – you do not need to apply for a residence permit in order to stay for more than 3 months in Finland.
- Do however register your right of residence with the Finnish Immigration services, [done via Enter Finland web-portal](#).
- [All relevant instructions can be found at the Migri website.](#)



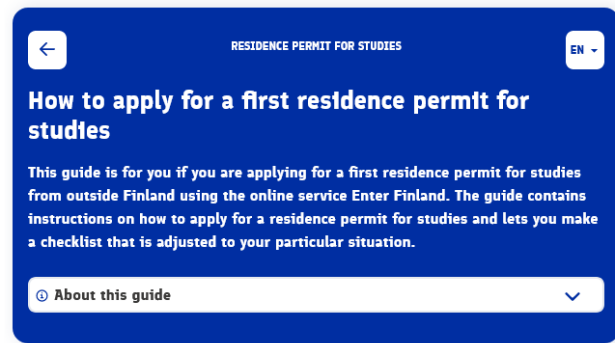
# Non-EU/EEA citizens

- If you intend to stay more than 3 months in Finland, you need a residence permit already when entering the country for the first time.
- Do the application for a residence permit as soon as possible, because it is a lengthy process.
- You can use your admissions letter as proof of study (instead of proof of enrollment).
- Application is done via the [Enter Finland web-portal](#)
- [Family members \(spouse and children\) can also get a residence permit](#)
- **Apply now!**

## Guide for students

Are you applying for a residence permit for studies? Check out our guide for students! When you answer the questions in the guide, you can easily find exactly the information you need. The guide also enables you to compile a checklist of the attachments required for your application.

# The easiest way to figure the residence permit process



### STEPS

1

#### START HERE



#### Check if you need a residence permit



Check whether you need a residence permit or not. Check that the residence permit for studies is the right permit for you.

2



#### Get ready for applying for the permit



Read the requirements for a residence permit for studies and prepare the attachments that are needed for the application. As a final step, you can download a checklist of the attachments you must add to your application.

- [Go to the Migri website called "Guide for students"](#)
- There you will find an interactive guide, asking you questions about your situation
- Based on the answers you give, you will be guided through the process and told what documents you need and how these documents should look, how and where to identify yourself etc.
- This guide walks you through the entire process, so please use it!

# General advice:

- Use the online application page Enter Finland, if you apply on paper it takes much longer
- From previous years, what we have seen has been the main issue is the identification part.
  - You need to identify yourself at the Finnish mission or VFS Global application centre
  - These might require traveling from your part
  - Book your appointment with them as soon as possible.
- If travelling to Finland earlier in August, you should not need a separate Visa as long as you have received your residence permit, and it is valid on the day you arrive.
- If given the option to receive a Finnish ID code in connection to your residence card, take it!



# Housing

- In Finland, the universities do not offer dormitories or on campus housing
- You need to find accommodation yourself; we can provide information on where to look
- Apply for housing as soon as possible, preferably as soon as you have decided that you are attending ÅAU and accepted your study place
- You do not have to wait for your residence permit before starting to look for accommodation.
- Do not wait until you arrive in Finland to make housing arrangements, the beginning of fall is a busy time on the housing market!
- At the previous session we discussed housing in Finland at length, please go watch that one: **[Webinars for applicants and future students](#)**
- [On our web you find links and recommendations for housing](#)

# Financial matters

- Tuition fee and Tuition fee scholarships
- Funds required by Immigration office and expected cost of living
- **NOTE! In Finland, fees generally cannot be paid in cash.**

x **Tuition fees for International master's degree programmes**

Citizens of non-EU/EEA countries, who do not have a permanent residence status in Finland, are liable to pay tuition fees. See the full list of exempted students below. If you are unsure about whether you are subject to tuition fees, please check the **FAQ of the Studyinfo** website or contact **admission@abo.fi**.

Programme	Fee/year for 2024
MDP in Advanced Practice Nursing	10 000 euro
MDP in Biomedical Imaging	12 000 euro
MDP in Governance of Digitalization	10 000 euro
MDP in Information Technology	12 000 euro
MDP in International Law and Human Rights	10 000 euro
MDP in Peace, Mediation and Conflict Research	10 000 euro
MDP in Social Exclusion	10 000 euro
MDP in Sustainable Chemical and Process Engineering	12 000 euro
MDP in Teaching and Learning	10 000 euro

# Tuition fee



- Your “fee status” (liable to pay or exempted) is in the admission letter
  - [Tuition fees / programme >>](#)
  - [Who is exempted from tuition fees? >>](#)
  - **Deadlines**  
The tuition fee can be paid in one or two instalments, the deadline is the **last day of enrolment each semester = August 30<sup>th</sup> (January 10<sup>th</sup> if paid in two instalments)**.  
**Payment must be made before registering as present for the semester.**
  - Tuition fee payments:  
If payment made in the **webshop** -> receipt automatically  
If paid through **bank transfer** -> bank will give a receipt  
If you need a separate receipt from ÅAU -> email [admission@abo.fi](mailto:admission@abo.fi).  
Webshop or bank transfer receipt should be sufficient
- Important!** If a payment is made by a third party, remember to have the payer include your name in the payment details!

# Tuition fee scholarships

- The **Finland scholarship** (also called the **100 % tuition fee scholarship, waiver**) is granted only once in connection with the admission to ÅAU. Conditional and valid for two years.
- All students are entitled to apply for [general student scholarships during their studies >>](#).
- No upgrades after the studies have started
- Everyone else is granted an **80 % tuition fee waiver**, valid throughout the whole study time (including possible extension)
- [Read more about our tuition fee scholarships \(waivers\) here >>](#)



# Healthcare matters

- As a student, you must personally cover the costs if you become ill in Finland.
- To obtain a residence permit, you need *private health insurance* – unless you have one of the following:
  - a Kela card
  - a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)
  - a UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)
- The insurance is important, not just for residence permit purposes - but also if the worst happens your insurance will help cover the cost of expensive medical fees.
- [List of suggested insurance providers can be found on the Migri website.](#)





# Arrival in Finland

- Arrival and settling in
- Enrolling as present and paying the fees
- Partaking in the study orientation week
- Late arrival and postponement

# Arrival and enrollment

- [See the previous webinar for detailed information.](#)
- Prepare for arrival:
  - Have accommodation and transport figured out
  - Prepare with payment options (cash/card)
  - Have suitable clothing for the weather at the time of arrival, check the forecast!
- [Enroll as present by 30 August 2024 at 15.00 Helsinki time](#)
- Student union fee cannot be paid in cash, if enrolling through Studyinfo.fi you can pay with card and if you enroll in person you pay the fee as a bank transfer.
- If enrolling in person, reach out in August to [studinfo@abo.fi](mailto:studinfo@abo.fi) to get the bank transfer details.
- You are admitted for the Academic year 2024-2025, meaning that in all ÅAU systems and for all student discounts etc. you are considered a student from 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2024 and onwards even if you have already been admitted.

# Study orientation week and late arrival

- **The official arrival date is 26<sup>th</sup> of August**
- Late arrival is *not recommended*, the orientation week is there to help you with the start of studies at ÅAU
- ÅAU offers this support during the orientation week, and if you arrive late, you have a greater personal responsibility to sort out your start of study yourself i.e., by searching for information independently. We do not have resources to offer you detailed and individualized orientation outside of the orientation week.
- **Aim to arrive by the official arrival date at the latest.**
- Usually arriving a week or two late is still manageable, but please not that you will then have less support with starting your studies than you would have if you arrived on time.
- If you by mid-August realize that you might not make it in time, then you can reach out to [admission@abo.fi](mailto:admission@abo.fi) to discuss your situation.
- **Right now, we at the university are not able to make any individual plans for students arriving late, that we can only do in August.**
- It is not recommended to start your studies in January, the available courses is not enough for you to graduate within 2 years, since you will be missing the year 1 basic courses held in fall.
- [See further information about the orientation week on our web, the web page is still being updated.](#)

# Postponement of start of studies

- **Official deferment is possible only in select circumstances.**
- **According to Finnish law, first year students can only enroll as absent on the basis of lawful reasons:**
  - Service under the Conscription Act (1438/2007), Non-Military Service Act (1446/2007), or Act on Women's Voluntary Military Service (194/1995)
  - The student needs time off his/her studies to take care of a child regarding the child's birth or adoption (14.1.2022/52)
  - The student cannot begin studies due to being incapacitated by personal illness or injury.
- This means that according to law, you can only postpone your start of studies based on these reasons, not i.e., on the basis of not receiving your residence permit in time.
- For you to be allowed to postpone, you will need to provide documentation about your lawful reason. [The kind of documents accepted are listed on our web.](#)
- If you are lawfully absent for the academic year 2024-2025, your scholarship offer is also postponed until next year.
- The options for enrollment is present, lawfully absent or not registered.
- Not registered is the only option if you cannot make it in time and you do not have a lawful reason for absence.

# What if I do not get my visa/RP-card in time?

- If you do not get your visa or RP-card in time and cannot be enrolled as lawfully absent, you can remain un-enrolled i.e., “non-registered” in our study management system
- This means that you according to Finnish law do not have the right to study and will need to apply for re-entry into the student register if you wish to continue your studies the following academic year.
- The re-entry application has an administrative fee of 35 euro (the fee is projected to increase from 1.1.2025 onwards).
- If you are registered as “non-registered” your tuition fee will be refunded.
- This option **is the last resort**, aim to arrive on time and start your studies the year you got admitted!

# From the Ask-box

- **Can I change programmes?** – Generally, no but the faculty office can tell you more about possible ways to switch.
- **What is the schedule for a master's student?** – This varies between programmes and students, since your schedule is made up of the courses you select to take and when they have their sessions.
  - You can look in the [study guide](#) for your programme and see what courses are mandatory and when they are scheduled to take place.
  - During the orientation week you will get help with creating a schedule.
  - Generally, you need to be prepared to be on campus at least a couple of days a week.
- **Can I now take courses at the open university, and what courses can I take that is part of my degree credits?** – You can take courses via the open university and get them credited to your programme, but please check the [study guide](#) to make sure that the course you are taking suits your programme. If unsure if the course fits in, contact your faculty office.
- **I was given an 80% scholarship, is there any available loan organization for international students?**  
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

# Ask box / Questions?

If you have any questions, send an email to [admission@abo.fi](mailto:admission@abo.fi).

DO NOT message multiple times with the same issue – we get a lot of messages and will answer as soon as we can, we promise!

You do not get a faster answer if you message multiple times to multiple address our job gets harder and the answering times longer.

