STUDENT GUIDE

Introduction

This guide has been drawn up especially for you to ensure that your migration process be as smooth as possible. You may consider it as a "first aid kit" that will help you organize your documents and prepare you for communicating with Estonian public authorities, as well as just help you settle comfortably in Estonia. Follow these steps and see for yourself!

How to get here?

Congratulations on being accepted, it's time to plan your arrival to Estonia!

First things first, you need to contact your nearest foreign representation of the Republic of Estonia and make a reservation for submitting your long-term visa (D-type) application.

Here you can find the list of foreign representations which are handling visa applications.

You will need to prepare for your visit to submit your D-type visa application in person at a foreign representation. Here's what you'll need:

- ✓ completed and signed application form;
- ✓ one colour photo;
- ✓ a valid travel document (passport);
- ✓ a valid insurance policy for the entire duration of stay, guaranteeing that any costs related to your medical treatment as a result of illness or injury will be met – you are free to choose any suitable insurance provider, choosing an Estonian insurance company is not required;
- ✓ documents indicating the purpose of your stay – acceptance letter;
- ✓ Bank account statements/documents proving the applicants legal income within the three months prior to the submission of the application (a letter from your sponsor and his/her bank statements within the three months prior or a scholarship letter);
- ✓ Data concerning close relatives and family members;
- ✓ Additional form;
- ✓ Biographical data;
- ✓ travel ticket reservation to Estonia or a document certifying the use of another means of transport (necessary only if the visa application is submitted at a foreign representation);
- ✓ 120 euros to pay the state fee.

Please keep in mind that by signing the application form you confirm that you have adequate funds to cover the accommodation costs and expenses during the stay in Estonia.

Processing of the visa application at a foreign representation may take up to 30 calendar days. You may start making your travel arrangements after the visa is issued.

Useful note: We recommend you to check with the foreign representation to see if there are any additional documents that may be required.

More detailed information about D-type visa can be found here.

What's next?

Now that you're here, you're probably wondering what's next. First of all, you may now start your studies and settle into university life!

If your studies should last longer than a year, then you will need to apply for a temporary residence permit for studying. First of all, you'll need to confirm, if the university will issue an invitation for you. If that's the case, you may proceed. Here's what you'll need to do:

1. Book an appointment

In order to submit your application, you need to book an appointment with one of the Police and Border Guard Board service offices. Appointments can be booked up to three months in advance, so you may want to book ahead. Every year, thousands of students from all over the world come to Estonia to pursue their studies. We kindly ask you for your patience and understanding as the calendar tends to fill up quickly.

Useful note: Submitting the application at the service office is only possible with an appointment booked for the right procedure. Please make sure you choose the right procedure while booking – "Applying for or extending a residence permit". Don't worry, if a residence permit is granted, a residence permit card will be issued as well. These two come as a set!

2. Prepare your documents

Before you go to the service office for your appointment, you will need to fill out the necessary forms and gather all the necessary application documents. The list of necessary documents for submitting the application, can be found here.

NB! For the temporary residence permit a criminal record certificate (or proof of no criminal record) from a foreign country is needed. The certificate must be issued within six months before arrival to Estonia if you are submitting the application in Estonia. A certificate must be submitted from every foreign country where the applicant has resided for at least three consecutive months during the past three years.

By signing the application, you confirm that:

- ✓ you have sufficient legal income - 880 euros per month per applicant;
- ✓ you have a health insurance contract.
  Useful note: You are free to choose any suitable insurance provider as long as the conditions of the contract meet the needed requirements.

NB! Please note that the type, as well as conditions, of insurance contract required for a temporary residence permit differs from the one that is required for a visa! This means that you are not required to provide any additional documents regarding your insurance while submitting the application, but you may, if you like.

Keep in mind that the invitation by educational institution or student organization is usually sent directly to the Police and Border Guard Board by the university, but you may check with the university, just to be sure.

Useful note: Any additional documents including the health insurance contract may be requested during the process by your case handler, so you should be prepared to submit the required documents upon request.

3. Prepare for your visit to the service office

You will need to arrive at the service office at least 20 minutes before your appointment. You will need to bring your passport, previously filled out forms and copies of any additional documents you would like to submit. Also, please make sure to have your booking number at hand.

When you arrive at the service office you need to head to the photo booth to take a photo and submit your signature. Please note that your fingerprints will be captured at the photo booth as well. Using the photo booth at the service office is free of charge.

Once that's done, you will need to register your appointment in the machine by the door and then wait to be called by the number on your ticket.

At the end of the procedure, you will need to pay a state fee of 225 euros. Please note that it can be paid on spot with cash or card payment.

4. Final details

After submitting the documents at the service office, the granting or refusal of temporary residence permit shall be decided within 90 days from the acceptance of the application, or elimination of any deficiencies, that is if the application was submitted with any.

Should any issues need clarification you will be contacted in the process by your case handler.

The decision will be sent to you by e-mail and in case a residence permit is granted, a residence permit card will be issued within additional 30 days and the notification will again be sent by e-mail.

Useful note: If you receive an e-mail with a subject line "elamisloakaardi väljastamine," then it's time to go get your residence permit card!

More detailed information on temporary residence permit for studying can be found here.

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Important to remember

Congratulations on getting your residence permit! It is important to remember that certain responsibilities come with the issued residence permit. First of all, you have an obligation to use your residence permit in accordance with its intended purpose. Also, please note that the general conditions of the issued residence permit need to be met during the whole period of its validity.

Here's a checklist for you:

- ✓ the purpose of your residence permit is justified: a temporary residence permit for studying is granted for studying full-time at a specific educational institution, at a specific level and for a particular specialty.
- ✓ your actual place of residence is in Estonia: within a month after the residence permit is granted you are obliged to register your place of residence at the population register;
- ✓ you have sufficient legal income: legal income needs to be at least 880 euros per month in 2026;
- ✓ your health insurance is valid: a private insurance or national health insurance arising from Health Insurance Act needs to cover the entire period of validity.

Keep in mind that if at least one of the mentioned requirements is not met during the period of validity of the issued residence permit, then it may be revoked.

- ✓ NB! The a study-based residence permit ends 30 days from the moment student fells behind with the studies or interrupts the studies. According to the legislation it happens automatically.

Migration advice

If you have any further questions related to migration, we will gladly help you! You can find us on Facebook here. Please, feel free to contact us directly:

Telephone: +372 612 3500
Mon-Fri 9AM-3PM
(Estonian time)

Email: migrationadvice@politsei.ee