

Finland

Cross border travel

- People
 - Depending on your citizenship, you may need a visa to enter Finland. Visa requirements and accepted travel documents are listed here: <https://um.fi/visa-requirement-and-travel-documents-accepted-by-finland>
 - If you need a visa to enter Finland, the procedure is according to the EU visa regulations (Schengen). A visa normally grants you the right to stay in the entire Schengen region for up to 90 days.
 - Guidelines for visa applications can be found here: <https://um.fi/visa-to-visit-finland>
 - If you want to stay in Finland for a longer period than three months, you need a residence permit. You can find instructions to apply residence permit in Finland here: <https://um.fi/residence-permits-to-finland>
 - Find information on application for residence permit as a researcher here: <https://migri.fi/en/researcher>
 - Note that there is a fee that must be paid to process the application.

Covid-19

You can find general information and links to relevant COVID-19 related information on the website of the Finnish government: <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/information-on-coronavirus/current-restrictions>

You can find further information regarding the temporary Finnish travel restrictions on the website of Finnish institute for health and welfare: <https://thl.fi/en/web/infectious-diseases-and-vaccinations/what-s-new/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-updates/travel-and-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

- Instrumentation (import/export)
 - General import and export restrictions for Finland can be found here: <https://tulli.fi/en/private-persons/travelling/restrictions>
 - You can apply for relief from customs duty for scientific instruments from outside the EU. Find more information here: <https://tulli.fi/en/businesses/import/scientific-instruments-and-apparatus>
 - Find import/export information for the European Union here: <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/import-and-export-rules/>
- Samples (import/export)
 - Export samples listed under The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) needs permission. The Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) is the permitting authority in Finland, issuing permits and certificates for import, and (re)export to and from Finland. Find more information here: https://www.ymparisto.fi/en-US/Forms_permits_and_environmental_impact_assessment/Permits_notifications_and_registration/International_trade_of_endangered_species_CITES

- Chemicals (import/export)
 - In general, it is recommended to use a shipping/transport agency, in order to reassure compliance with the complex set of regulations.
 - Find information from the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency here: <https://tukes.fi/en/frontpage>
 - Information on transporting radioactive materials can be found here: <https://www.stuk.fi/web/en/stuk-supervises/for-the-users-of-radiation/regulation-of-operations/transport-of-radioactive-substances>

Access to specific areas

- Everyman's Right ("*Jokamiehen Oikeudet*") allows access to the nature in Finland without motor vehicle (<https://www.nationalparks.fi/everymansright>).

- Remote areas

- No permits identified
- Protected areas
 - Note that protected areas have limited Everyman's Right!
 - A permit is needed for research work carried out in protected areas! State-owned protected areas are managed by Metsähallitus (<https://www.metsa.fi/en/lands-and-waters/protected-areas/>).
 - Find information about strict nature reserves for nature research here: <https://www.metsa.fi/en/lands-and-waters/protected-areas/nature-reserves/strict-nature-reserves/>
 - Instruction how to apply permission can be found here: <https://www.metsa.fi/en/lands-and-waters/permits/permits-for-research-and-photography/>
 - Location of protected areas can be found here: <https://excursionmap.fi>
 - A map of Finnish National Parks can be found here: <https://www.nationalparks.fi/nationalparks#mapnationalparks>
 - Note that getting the permission takes some time!
- Restricted areas
 - Special permission is needed from the Finnish Border Guard for activity in the Finnish-Russian border zone. Find more information here: <https://raja.fi/en/border-zone-permit>

Fieldwork and sample collection

- You may need zero, one or more research permits when conducting research in Finland.
- There is no central coordination of research applications in Finland, so scientists need to identify all relevant permits themselves and obtain these from relevant authorities.
- Whether you need to obtain permits depends on the area you want to go to and the type of research you conduct. The list below includes some of the main permits needed to do research in Finland!
- Note that it may take some time to process an application!

- Permit to conduct research (observations, handling and sampling within all disciplines, incl. collection of genetic resources)
 - You need permits to conduct the following types of research in Finland:
 - Geological surveys: permission for sampling from landowner. You can find landowner information here: <https://www.maanmittauslaitos.fi/en/apartments-and-real-property/services/who-owns-property-unit>
 - Biological studies: permission for sampling from landowner and permission for protected species. You can find landowner information here: <https://www.maanmittauslaitos.fi/en/apartments-and-real-property/services/who-owns-property-unit>
- Most of mammals and birds are protected in Finland by national or EU legislation. In addition, some plants are also protected. Studies which disturb, catch or harm the protected species needs additional permission. Informal application is sent to the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment of the location where research is conducted (<https://www.ely-keskus.fi/en/web/ely-en/contact-information>). If permit is needed for the area of whole Finland, informal application is sent to the Ministry of Environment (<https://ym.fi/en/contact-information>).
- If you need to transport living or dead protected species, you need permission from the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment of Southwest Finland with informal application (kirjaamo.varsinais-suomi@ely-keskus.fi)
- Studies on reindeers needs permission from owner since reindeers are owned by local reindeer herders.
- Cultural heritage and archeological studies: find more information here: <https://www.museovirasto.fi/en/cultural-environment/archaeological-cultural-heritage/studying-archaeological-cultural-heritage/research-permits-for-ancient-relics>
- Note that there is a fee that must be paid to process the application!
- Medical studies, interviews and to use collected confidential information: <https://www.findata.fi/en/services/data-permits/>. Note that you may need also statement from ethical committee!
 - Research with Sámi people
 - Note that there may be other more specialized permits that are needed (e.g. hunting, fishing, snowmobiling). Find an overview of these activities in state-owned protected areas here: <https://www.nationalparks.fi/hikinginfinland/feesandpermits>

Field Instrumentation

- Area allotment for instrumentation
- If you want to take samples, make measurements or install instruments which disturbs or impacts soil, plants and lichen (which cannot be included to Everyman's Right), you need permission from landowner.
- You can find landowner information here: <https://www.maanmittauslaitos.fi/en/apartments-and-real-property/services/who-owns-property-unit>
- Metsähallitus (<https://www.metsa.fi/en/>) is the authority that provides permits for state-owned land.

- Drone use
 - There are rules for drone use in Finland! Find general information (e.g. on prohibited and restricted areas) here: <https://www.droneinfo.fi/en/>
 - Information about EU drone regulations can be found here: <https://www.droneinfo.fi/en/eu-drone-regulation>

Safety related permits

- Weapon
 - Find information about restrictions and permits for import and export of firearms here: <https://tulli.fi/en/private-persons/travelling/firearms>
- Radio permits
 - According to the Finnish legislation, all transmitters must be licensed.
 - The point of contact for beacon matters is the Finnish Transport and Communication Agency (Traficom). You can apply for a radio licence for a PLB (Personal Locator Beacon) here: <https://www.traficom.fi/en/services/radio-licence-and-identification-number-plb>

Regional/local level permits

- No permits identified

Additional information of relevance

- In general, you can ask the different organizations and agencies questions in English. However, in some cases you may need a Finnish partner to help out.
- Ministry of Education and Culture, Science and Research – <https://minedu.fi/en/science-and-research>