

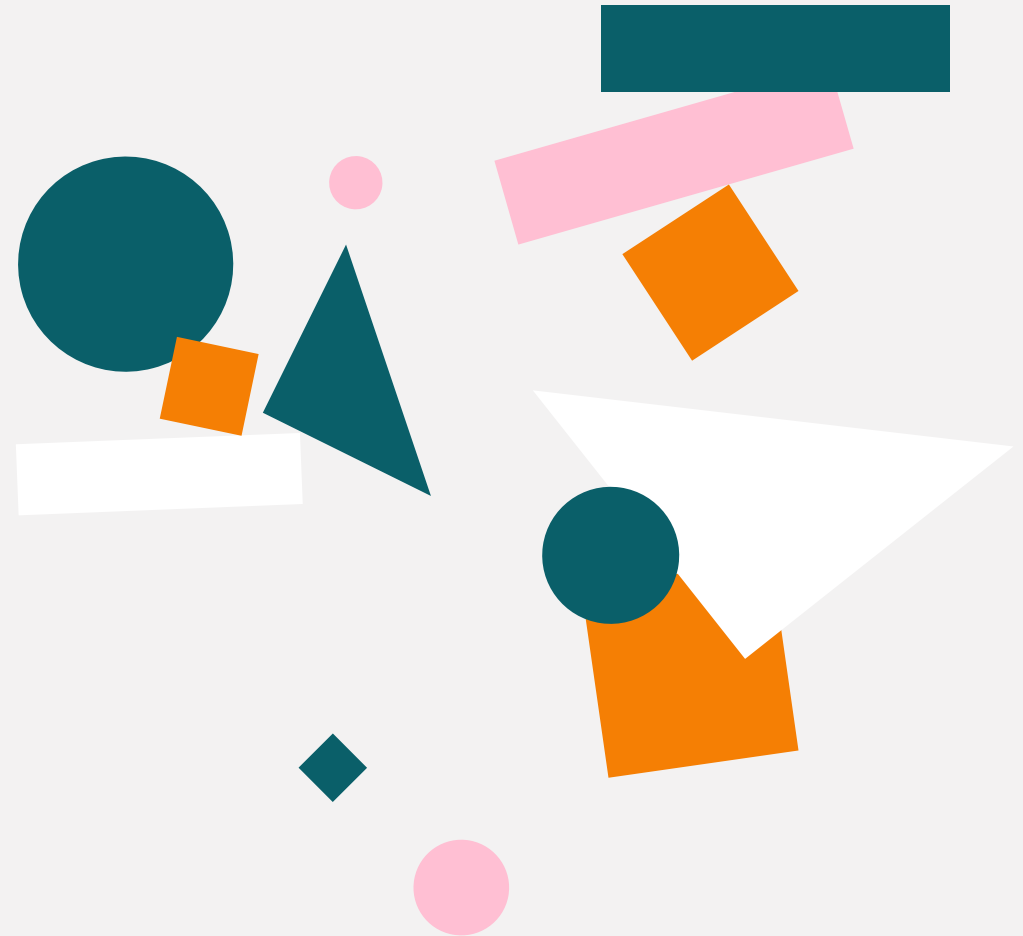


**TIETEENTEKIJÄT**  
FORSKARFÖRBUNDET • FUURT

The current status of researcher's  
**residence permit**  
and the **government programme**  
initiatives related to migration.

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## Researcher's residence permit

- Based on EU Directive (EU 2016/801): 3rd country national students and researchers (from outside EU/EEA area)
- EU directive researchers: **All researchers who have a PhD** (or equivalent) or **have the right to conduct a PhD** (Master's degree or equivalent completed)
  - In addition there is a national researcher's residence permit for those with a Bachelor's degree.
  - Requires a **hosting agreement** with the research organisation (e.g. university).
  - Researcher can be in an employment relationship or work with other means (e.g. grant).



## Researcher's residence permit

- Always a **fixed-term permit** (type A since 2018):
  - First permit max. 2 years.
  - Extended permit max. 4 years.
  - For researchers and graduated students: the possibility to apply for residence permit to look for a job or start a company: a fixed-term permit max. 2 years (extended in 2022).
- Income requirement
  - In employment: according to a collective agreement, minimum 1399 e/month (gross).
  - Outside employment (e.g. grant): minimum 1000 e/month at disposal.
- Expected processing time in Migri for an online application c. 1 month (in case of both the 1st or extended permit).



## Main problems of the researcher's residence permit

In practice, the **length of the residence permit** is connected to an employment contract or funding period and thus, the permit is often shorter than the law would enable (2/4 years).

For example, a PhD researcher needs to apply for a new permit several times during his/her PhD project.

**Each permit application costs** several hundreds of euros, thus the **continuous applying for permits is both stressful and expensive** (for a researcher and if there is also family members).

In case of an extended permit: may cause problems with travelling/leaving the country during the processing time if the previous permit has expired and the new permit has not yet been issued.



## The suggested change to researcher's residence permit (in 2022–2023)

The **student residence permit was extended in 2022** to be issued for the whole duration of studies at once. FUURT advocated for the extension of researcher's residence permit as well, but the government proposal expired as it did not pass the parliament before the new parliamentary elections in spring 2023.

The proposal would have been that a researcher's residence permit would have been max. 5 years already in case of a first permit (but according to a contract/funding period), and PhD researchers could have applied for a permit for the whole duration of PhD research/doctoral education at once (max. 5 years).

FUURT continues to advocate for this type of researcher's residence permit.



## Migration in current government programme

- Petteri Orpo's government is proposing several restrictions on migration.
- However, the aim is still to "attract more international talents" (esp. workers, students).
- Main restrictions:
  - **Work-based permits/aliens act** (ulkomaalaislaki): in case of unemployment to implement in the legislation the requirement to find a new job within 3 (or 6) months; employer is required to notify Migri about the end of employment.
  - **Permanent residence permit:** living requirement extended from 4 to 6 years, introducing a language requirement (of what level?) >> exceptions to a 6 year living requirement could include e.g. income of 40.000 euros a year, higher education degree completed in Finland + language requirement etc.



## Migration in current government programme

Continues from previous slide:

- **Main restrictions:**
  - **Citizenship applications:** living requirement extended from 5 to 8 years (with exceptions e.g. based on family situation), limitations on the use of social benefits, citizenship test >> the legislative process in 2024–2025.
    - Note: the current expected processing time (queue) of citizenship application is 7–30 months.
  - Also several restrictions on **refugees/asylum seekers**, aliens act etc. (already in process).
  - **Student's and researcher's residence permit** mentioned only from the viewpoint of security (so-called critical fields), no other changes are expected based on the government programme.



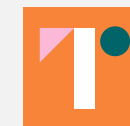
## FUURT advocacy work

FUURT continues to advocate for longer residence permits for researchers, e.g. connected to the doctoral education pilot programme.

Regarding permanent residence permit: researchers in the exceptions to 6 years' living requirement (with/without language requirements).

Citizenship requirement: restrictions related to social benefits are problematic due to the fragmentation of research funding and a small job market, which makes unemployment typical at different stages of research careers. Extending the living requirement does not increase Finland's attractiveness.

Towards universities and other employers/research funding organisations: it is ever more important to make longer contracts or award longer funding periods, otherwise we will lose international talents.





**Thank you!**

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