

Mobility: Immigration alert

October 2022



Finland

Certain Russian nationals prohibited from entering as tourists

Executive summary

Effective 30 September 2022, certain Russian nationals are prohibited from entering Finland for tourism and/or transiting through the country en route to another destination. Existing tourist and transit visas held by impacted individuals have been suspended, and no new tourist or transit visas will be issued to impacted Russian nationals until further notice.

Key issues

In recent months, the Finnish government imposed limits on the entry of Russian nationals into the country, including reducing both the number of consular appointments for Russian nationals filing visa applications and the number of visa applications it processes for Russian applicants. Finland has now issued a new resolution based on Article 6(1)(e) of the Schengen Borders Code, confirming that in general, Russian nationals traveling to Finland under the following categories will not be restricted from entering the country until further notice:

- ▶ Individuals traveling to Finland for short-term employment using a valid visa.
- ▶ Transport and logistics personnel transiting through Finland in the exercise of their duties.
- ▶ Business visitors who are required to travel to Finland for essential business purposes.
- ▶ Employees of Russian Missions located in Finland and their family members, as well as employees of Russian Missions located outside Finland who are transiting through Finland to carry out official duties.
- ▶ Family members of Finnish citizens and third-country nationals permanently residing in Finland (e.g., spouses, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, and those

in established partnerships). Family members may enter Finland but are not permitted to transit through the country en route to another Schengen Member State.

- ▶ Spouses and minor children of Swiss nationals or nationals of European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) Member States.
- ▶ Students entering Finland for short-term courses (i.e., less than 90 days) or to take entrance exams.
- ▶ Individuals entering Finland to receive medical treatment pursuant to an established patient care relationship with a Finnish medical care institution that existed before 30 September 2022.
- ▶ Individuals who owned property in Finland before 30 September 2022 and need to travel to Finland for urgent maintenance work. The person traveling must be listed as an owner of the property. Their family members or other individuals are not allowed to enter.
- ▶ Individuals entering or transiting through Finland for any other purpose deemed necessary based on humanitarian reasons, national interests, compliance with international obligations or fundamental rights (e.g., health reasons), subject to the discretion of the Finnish authorities.

Impacted Russian nationals who seek, but are denied, admission to Finland on the basis of a Schengen Visa issued by Finland may have their visas revoked. If the visa was issued by another EU or Schengen Member State, the Finnish Border Guard may contact the competent authorities in the issuing Member State when considering whether to revoke the visa.

Impact on employers

Employers that deploy Russian employees to Finland or whose Russian employees transit through Finland en route to worksites in other countries are expected to face delays and disruptions to their businesses while these restrictions remain in place.

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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