



Global Immigration alert

May 2024

Finland

Finland simplifies EU Blue Card requirements

Executive summary

Effective 13 May 2024, Finland amended its regulations governing EU Blue Cards, including simplifying educational and professional requirements.

Key developments

The following changes went into effect, in line with the [revised EU Blue Card Directive](#):

- ▶ **Salary:** Applicants must earn a monthly gross salary equaling or exceeding the average gross salary in Finland (EUR 3,638 in 2024). Previously, applicants were required to earn at least 1.5 times the average monthly gross salary.
- ▶ **Employment contract:** Applicants must have an employment contract or a binding job offer for highly qualified work with a validity of at least six months (down from one year previously).
- ▶ **Educational and professional requirements:** Applicants must hold a higher education degree obtained after completing a course lasting at least three years, or at least five years of relevant professional experience. Previously, applicants were required to have a qualifying higher education degree and could not submit proof of professional experience in lieu of educational qualifications.
- ▶ **Application processing time:** In general, the Finnish Immigration Service will process Blue Card applications within 60 calendar days of submission (down from 90 days previously). If the sponsoring employer holds an employer certification, the application will be processed within 30 calendar days.

Impact on employers

These changes are expected to benefit employers by simplifying Blue Card application requirements.

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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