EUROPE · FINLAND · NON-EU PHARMACY DEGREE ROUTE

FI How to register as a pharmacist in Finland

Pharmacy in Finland has two licensed professions: proviisori (pharmacist, master's level) and farmaseutti (pharmaceutical dispenser, bachelor's level). The right to practise is granted by Lupa- ja valvontavirasto under the Act on Health Care Professionals (559/1994). Licence or registration: **Right to practise as proviisori or farmaseutti**. Regulator: **Lupa- ja valvontavirasto (Finnish Supervisory Agency), formerly Valvira**. Every fact was checked against official sources on **20 November 2026**.

NEW AUTHORITY, 2026 Valvira's licensing work is now done by Lupa- ja valvontavirasto, the Finnish Supervisory Agency (lvv.fi). For degrees from outside the EU/EEA, the agency usually orders additional studies at a Finnish university, including 6 months of pharmacy internships. Entry to these studies needs Finnish or Swedish at YKI level 4.

Who decides what	
Lupa- ja valvontavirasto	Receives your application, decides which additional studies you need and grants the right to practise.
University faculty of pharmacy	Assesses your degree when the agency asks, admits you as a non-degree student and certifies completed studies.
Community pharmacy	Offers the internship placement and signs your employment contract for it.
Finnish Immigration Service (Migri)	Decides residence permits. Separate from licensing.
Employer	Decides hiring. A licence is not a job offer.

Who can apply

- A completed pharmacy degree from a university or other higher education institution.
- The agency decides whether your degree matches proviisori or farmaseutti training, and what is missing.
- Work experience and further training may be considered when your training is compared.
- Finnish or Swedish at YKI level 4 is needed to start the additional studies at Helsinki.
- If an EU/EEA country has already recognised your degree and you practised there 3 years, a different route applies.

The steps, with approximate time and cost

1. **Learn Finnish or Swedish to YKI level 4**
   The University of Helsinki asks for YKI level 4 in all subtests, or a Civil Service Language Certificate rated Good, before you can start the additional studies.
   Time: 12–24 months (est.) · Cost: set by organiser
2. **Apply for the right to practise**
   Apply online to Lupa- ja valvontavirasto. Send your diploma legalised by Apostille or Grand Legalisation, and certified copies of other documents by post.
   Time: 3–6 months (est.) · Cost: €520
3. **Degree compared by a Finnish university**
   The agency forwards your file to a university faculty of pharmacy, which compares your degree with the Finnish one. The agency then decides which additional studies you need.
   Time: part of step 2 (est.) · Cost: €200–600
4. **Complete the additional studies**
   Apply separately for the right to take the courses as non-degree studies. At Helsinki they usually take 1.5 to 2 years or longer, taught in Finnish.
   Time: 1.5–2 years+ · Cost: set by university
5. **Do 6 months of pharmacy internships**
   Two internships, 6 months in total, inside the study programme. You find the pharmacy yourself and sign an employment contract. Start looking about a year ahead.
   Time: 6 months
6. **Receive the right to practise**
   Send the university's completion certificate to the agency. It then grants the right to practise and enters you in the national register.
   Time: after studies · Cost: €870

Typical total: About 3–4 years (est.)

Language requirements

- National Certificate of Language Proficiency (YKI): level 4 in all subtests, in Finnish or Swedish.
- Or the Civil Service Language Proficiency Certificate with Good in the oral and written tests.
- Courses are taught in Finnish. Some course literature may be in English.

Read this before you plan

- Licence ≠ visa ≠ job. The right to practise gives no right to enter or stay. Residence permits are decided by the Finnish Immigration Service (Migri).
- You may not work as a proviisori or farmaseutti before the agency grants the right to practise. Internships happen inside the study programme.
- A permit for work needs a job offer, and pay must meet the applicable collective agreement. Nothing in this process is guaranteed.

Exams, costs and documents

Checked 20 November 2026

Exam pattern and mode: online, test centre or onsite

YKI language test (Finnish or Swedish)

TEST CENTRE

- Level 4 needed in all subtests
- Finnish or Swedish accepted
- Alternative: Civil Service Language Certificate, Good
- A teacher's statement is not accepted
- Dates and fees: see YKI organiser

Sat in person at an official YKI test organiser. ASGHCA could not verify any centre outside Finland or in Pakistan. Check the official YKI site.

Additional studies and internships

ONSITE

- Courses fixed in the agency's decision
- Examples: medicines counselling, safe medication use
- Two internships, 6 months total
- Taught in Finnish; some literature in English
- Usually 1.5–2 years or longer

In person at a Finnish university and in Finnish pharmacies. The courses and internships cannot be completed from Pakistan.

Official fees	Amount
Decision ordering additional studies Agency fee, non-EU/EEA trained health care professional	**€520**
Licence after additional studies Granted once the required studies are completed	**€870**
Licence without additional studies Non-EU/EEA trained, professions other than doctors and dentists	**€1,390**
University statement on your degree Charged for the faculty's assessment of a foreign degree	**€200–600**
Paper application surcharge Plus 20% if not started in the e-service; half fee if withdrawn or not completed	**+20%**

Fees from Government Decree 1177/2025 (agency fees, 2026). Language tests, courses, translations and living costs are extra.

Documents usually required

- Application through the agency's e-service
- Pharmacy degree certificate, legalised by Apostille or Grand Legalisation
- Transcript of studies
- Proof of identity
- Certificate of good standing from each country of licensure
- Officially certified copies of non-EU/EEA documents, sent by post
- Language certificate (YKI 4 or equivalent) for the studies

Expected time

- The agency may ask for missing documents within 30 days. Its processing time only starts once all required documents have arrived.
- At the University of Helsinki the additional studies usually take 1.5 to 2 years or longer, because courses run in 4 teaching periods a year.
- One required Helsinki course is not offered in 2026–2027; the next run is autumn 2027. This can delay your first internship.

Typical total: About 3–4 years (est.)

The additional studies at Helsinki

- You need a separate right to take non-degree studies, then you build a study plan in Sisu with every course named in the agency's decision.
- Two pharmacy internships, 6 months in total. Non-degree students cannot get the pharmacy student ID card, so start your search about a year ahead.
- When all courses show as complete, Viikki student services issue a certificate. You send it to the agency yourself.

Visas, pay and next steps

Checked 20 November 2026

Immigration route (separate from registration)	What official sources say	Status
Residence permit for an employed person	Needs a job offer. In 2026 gross pay must be at least €1,600 a month and meet the collective agreement. It does not allow work as a pharmacist without the right to practise.	Changes yearly
Specialist residence permit	For work needing special expertise, usually with a higher education degree. In 2026 gross pay must be at least €3,937 a month.	Changes yearly
EU Blue Card	For highly qualified work with a job offer. In 2026 gross pay must be at least €3,937 a month.	Changes yearly
Permit for non-degree studies	ASGHCA could not verify which permit covers the additional studies and internships. Confirm with Migri before planning.	Confirm

If you are applying from Pakistan

- Official Finland abroad notices name Doha, Qatar, as the service location for Pakistani residence permit applicants from 1 October 2025.
- Identity is proved at the VFS Global application centre in Doha after applying in Enter Finland.
- A 2026 notice says Pakistani applicants could not travel to Doha while Qatar visas were pending. Check the latest notice.
- The agency asks for a non-EU/EEA diploma legalised by Apostille or Grand Legalisation.
- No official YKI test centre in Pakistan was found.

Pay and funding

- No official or collective-agreement pay figure for pharmacists was verified for this guide.
- Migri requires pay at least at the level of the collective agreement that applies to the job.

Avoid these common mistakes

- Applying to Valvira's old pages. Use the new agency, Lupa- ja valvontavirasto, at lvv.fi.
- Planning to study in English. The additional studies need Finnish or Swedish at YKI level 4.
- Waiting to look for an internship. You must find the pharmacy yourself, about a year ahead.
- Sending a plain photocopy of the diploma. It must be legalised and sent as certified copies.
- Assuming a licence brings a visa or a job.

How ASGHCA supports you

- International Career Mapping: consult, assess, roadmap, prepare
- Documentation and registration guidance
- English test preparation: IELTS, PTE and OET
- 1-on-1 mentorship, CV and interview support
- Webinars, CPD sessions and a lifetime community

ASGHCA offers education and guidance. Regulated immigration advice is referred to authorised professionals.

Official sources, all checked 20 November 2026: lvv.fi (Finnish Supervisory Agency: right to practise, legalisation of appendices, additional studies) · suomi.fi service pages for pharmacist licensing · Government Decree 1177/2025 on agency fees in 2026 and Act 559/1994 (finlex.fi) · helsinki.fi Faculty of Pharmacy and studies.helsinki.fi guide on supplementing a foreign pharmacy degree (updated 2 Nov 2026) · migri.fi income requirement · finlandabroad.fi.

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