EUROPE · FINLAND · NON-EU PHARMACY DEGREE ROUTE

FI Pharmacist registration 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). Facts 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.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Finnish YKI 4 or Swedish	Apply lvv.fi e-service	Assessment university statement	Studies non-degree student	Internships 2 pharmacy placements	Licence right to practise
12–24 months (est.)	3–6 months (est.)	part of step 2 (est.)	1.5–2 years+	6 months	after studies

The route, step by step

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

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%

Exam pattern: online 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

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

Timelines

- 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.)

Keep these separate

- 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.

How ASGHCA supports you

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- 1-on-1 mentorship, CV and interview support
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Sources (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. **Important:** general information prepared from official sources, not legal or immigration advice. Fees, rules and dates change; always confirm with the competent authority before paying or applying. Durations marked (est.) are ASGHCA planning estimates, not official figures. ASGHCA provides education and career guidance and is not a regulator, law firm or licensed immigration adviser. ASGHCA does not guarantee exam success, registration, employment, sponsorship, visas or residence. For visa matters consult the official mission or an authorised adviser.