

Mobility: Immigration alert

August 2023



Finland

Finnish embassy in Moscow to remain closed in August 2023

Executive summary

The Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on 28 July 2023 that the Finnish embassy in Moscow will be closed from 1 August 2023 until 31 August 2023 due to resource constraints. Consequently, applications for Finnish visas and residence permits cannot be submitted in Russia during the month of August 2023.

Key developments

Applications submitted at the Finnish embassy in Moscow before 1 August 2023 are being processed normally.

In July 2023, Russia [announced](#) that it will close the Finnish Consulate General in Saint Petersburg by 1 October 2023. The Consulate General stopped accepting visa and residence permit applications as of 1 August 2023 and will suspend services to customers effective 1 September 2023. As of 1 September 2023, the embassy in Moscow will be the only entity responsible for adjudicating Finnish visa and permit applications and delivering Finnish passport and notarial services in Russia.

Restrictions on Russian nationals' non-essential travel to or via Finland remain in place until further notice. Currently, business travelers who are nationals of Russia must have an essential reason to travel to Finland and are not allowed to transit via Finland when traveling to other countries. Russian nationals who own property in Finland and seek to enter the country are required to provide a justification for

their travel. In addition, Russian students who seek to study in Finland are allowed to enter only to attend courses that are part of a degree program. The Finnish immigration authorities are assessing applications submitted by Russian nationals on a case-by-case basis.

Impact on employers

The closure of the embassy in Moscow is expected to negatively affect employers that seek to sponsor Russian nationals for Schengen Visas or Finnish residence permits by delaying application processing.

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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