

# MOVING TO THE FAROE ISLANDS

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This section contains an overview with general information about residence permits in the Faroe Islands, registration at the municipality, as well as information about bringing your personal belongings to the islands, about housing and municipal services.



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## FAMILY REUNIFICATION

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Provided that certain requirements are met, family reunification is usually granted to:

- Spouses and cohabiting partners
- Children under the age of 18

A family reunification permit entitles the holder to live and work in the Faroe Islands for one year. You must renew your permit no later than one month before your residence permit expires. Extension is granted if you continue to meet the requirements. The requirements and conditions differ slightly between the categories under Family Reunification, so please check what requirements and conditions apply to you.

After three years, you can apply for a permanent residence permit. A permanent residence permit is not unconditional. If granted, your residence duration is permanent until you no longer meet the conditions stipulated in your permit.

## WORK PERMIT

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Non-Nordic citizens who wish to work in the Faroe Islands must apply for a work permit, which is processed by the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration in consultation with the Faroese Immigration Office.

For EU citizens there is a special EU-scheme in place for easier access to work permits that only applies when unemployment in the Faroe Islands is below a certain level – below 3.5 per cent in general and within the construction industry, for ordinary skilled-labour in a specific trade, unemployment must be lower than 6%. For more information regarding this scheme, please visit the websites [www.nyidanmark.dk](http://www.nyidanmark.dk) or [www.utlendingastovan.fo](http://www.utlendingastovan.fo).

Generally, work permit applicants are classed as:

- Employee
- Student
- Au pair
- Intern
- Researcher
- Athlete
- Professional/ Semi-professional trainer
- Religious Worker

It is the applicant and the employer who begin the application process together.

Both you and your employer/sponsor must provide adequate information including a job offer and signed contract between the employer and the employee. Depending on the category you apply in, your employer/sponsor may also need to certify other job conditions.

The conditions for you to live and work are based on your employment contract with the employer. If the conditions change for you or your employer, please check with the Danish immigration authorities about the next steps you should take.

Regarding extension of a permit, you must submit your application for an extension no later than one month before your residence permit expires. Your employer must also confirm the continued job offer, as well as provide certification from the Faroese unemployment insurance agency confirming that the employer sought to hire labour if you have held the work permit for less than two years. If you have held a work permit as an employee for seven consecutive years on the same grounds, you might meet the requirements for a permanent residence permit.



## DENMARK



UDLÆNDINGESTYRELSEN

### DANISH IMMIGRATION SERVICE

Processes cases in the Faroe Islands related to:

- Visa
- Family reunification permits
- Permanent residence permits
- Asylum

Provides information and guidance, e.g. on a pending case - by phone and email.

[www.newtodenmark.dk](http://www.newtodenmark.dk)  
☎ +45 3536 6600



STYRELSEN FOR INTERNATIONAL REKRUTTERING OG INTEGRATION

### DANISH AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT AND INTEGRATION

Processes cases in the Faroe Islands related to:

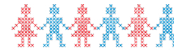
- Work permits
- Students (all levels)

Provides information and guidance, e.g. on a pending case - by phone and email.

[www.newtodenmark.dk](http://www.newtodenmark.dk)  
☎ +45 7214 2000



## FAROE ISLANDS



ÚTLENDINGASTOVAN  
IMMIGRATION OFFICE

### FAROESE IMMIGRATION OFFICE

Works as an advisory service in regards to local Faroese issues for the Danish immigration authorities.

Guides and provides foreign nationals in the Faroe Islands with general information regarding permits. The Office also coordinates activities promoting integration and diversity in the Faroes.

[www.immigration.fo](http://www.immigration.fo)  
☎ +298 357979



### POLICE STATIONS IN THE FAROES

Accept applications for residence permit, extension of a residence permit, re-entry permit, visa, including extension of a visa.

The police in the Faroe Islands also issues re-entry permits and laissez-passes on behalf of the Danish Immigration Service.

[www.politi.fo](http://www.politi.fo)  
☎ +298 351448



### REMINDER

All letters from the Danish immigration authority serve as legal proof of your residency. They also contain important information about the conditions you must fulfil or follow. Please do not throw them away!

All letters from the Danish immigration authority are in

Danish. It is important to understand the terms written in the letter.

Please remember to renew your permit before it expires or you may be expelled from the Faroe Islands.

When you are traveling overseas, please be aware of the

period of time you are allowed to be outside of the Faroe Islands if you wish to continue to reside in the Faroe Islands. Please contact the Danish immigration authorities for more information.

## EXTENSION

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According to the website of the Danish immigration authorities, [www.newtodenmark.dk](http://www.newtodenmark.dk), you must submit your application for an extension no later than one month before your residence permit expires – always make sure to check with the authorities regarding this matter so you apply on time.

## CAN I BRING MY FAMILY MEMBERS TO THE FAROE ISLANDS?

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Your spouse or cohabiting partner can apply for a residence permit as an accompanying family member if they wish to live with you in the Faroe Islands. If you have children under the age of 18, they can be included in your spouse's or cohabiting partner's application.

## HOW AND WHERE DO I REGISTER?

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If you are granted a permit, you must register at the local municipality where you will live – follow the instructions stated in the letter from the immigration authority.

### *P-tal – The Faroese Personal Identification Number*

Once you are granted a permit to reside in the Faroe Islands and you have registered at your local municipality, you will be issued a personal identification number known as a *p-tal*. You will be automatically registered in the National Register, *Landsfólkayvirlitið*, which is essential for both tax and social security.

Once you have a *p-tal*, you will be able to open a bank account and subscribe to phone- and internet services.

## CAN I BRING MY PERSONAL BELONGINGS TO THE FAROES?

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Bringing your personal belongings (furniture, household appliances etc.) to the Faroe Islands is permitted and exempt from tax and import duty, as long as the belongings have been your possession for at least six months in your home country. Please note that there are certain items such as tobacco and alcohol that you cannot declare as personal belongings. Please check with the TAKS customs office for specific details on what items are tax-exempt.

Special note about bringing a vehicle: You are allowed to import one motor vehicle as removal goods exempt from tax and duty. The vehicle must be intended solely for your own personal use. If the vehicle changes owner within 1 year after the day of import, it will be subject to tax and duty according to the general import rules. A vehicle imported as removal goods must be registered with the Faroese Vehicle Administration, *Akstovan*, within the first two weeks after arriving in the Faroe Islands. The registration fee is a combination of a value based tax and a carbon dioxide tax.

## HOUSING

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### ***Finding a home and settling in***

You can choose between buying or renting a place to live in. The purchase of a house or an apartment is usually handled by a real estate agent. Property for sale is often advertised in the newspapers or on one of the estates agents' websites.

When you are looking for a rental property some landlords prefer to respond to advertisements placed by potential tenants. Therefore, it may be a good idea to publish an advertisement specifying your particular rental needs on websites and in the yellow pages of newspapers.



*Holders of family reunification permits must take notice of the requirement regarding adequate housing.*

### ***Renting a home***

When renting a house or an apartment you should be prepared to pay a deposit. In some circumstances, the landlord may also require you to pay rent in advance. Unlike purchasing a house or an apartment, you will not need an initial capital to rent. A deposit is an amount the tenant pays as security for rent owed or damage to the housing property. The amount should not exceed three months'

rent. The deposit is returned when the tenant moves out in full, provided that the apartment of house is in the same condition as when the tenant moved in.

In the Faroe Islands, the Faroese Tenancy Act provides that a standard contract specifying the rent and conditions for the tenancy must be drafted and signed by the landlord and the tenant. The notice period to vacate a rented flat is 3 months if the apartment is part of the landlord's home and 5 months if the landlord does not live in the same house. The contract must contain written terms detailing rent, deposit, notice period to vacate, utility bills, and any particulars relevant to both parties. The Faroese Property Rental Appeal Board, *Leigunevndin*, handles complaints about tenancy matters. Further information: Faroese Property Rental Appeal Board: [www.leigunevndin.fo](http://www.leigunevndin.fo) (ENG.).

**More information about the Property Rental Appeal Board is available at [www.leigunevndin.fo](http://www.leigunevndin.fo), tel. 358000.**

*Bústaðir* is the name of the Faroese housing association. It currently has 104 rental properties around the islands and is working to enlarge its pool of rental properties. *Bústaðir* is a public agency

and its main task is to provide, build and run rental properties. As a member of *Bústaðir* you can sign up to waiting lists for rental apartments.

**For more information you can contact *Bústaðir* at [www.bustadir.fo](http://www.bustadir.fo), tel. 401000.**

### ***Buying a home***

There is no law preventing non-Danish/Faroese nationals purchasing property in the Faroe Islands. If you wish to buy a home, you must make sure that you have the required funds. Most people start by talking to their banking adviser, before or at the same time as they start looking for a house or apartment.

The purchase price of a house/apartment is determined through people bidding for a property. Remember that the transaction is binding when the seller accepts your offer. You must therefore never make an offer before you are certain that you can finance the purchase. A real estate agent usually handles such processes.

Before buying a house, it is advisable to thoroughly investigate the condition of the house – preferably with a reputable builder or carpenter – and that you check for any liens/mortgages on the house that

may not be fully disclosed.

**The agency in charge of mandatory registration of properties is the Environment Agency, *Umhvørvisstovan*, [www.us.fo](http://www.us.fo)**

The main real estate agencies are: Skyn, [www.skyn.fo](http://www.skyn.fo) and Inni, [www.inni.fo](http://www.inni.fo).

### **Insurance**

Homeowner's insurance covers damage to your house that cannot be attributed to wear and tear or inadequate maintenance. In addition, the insurance usually covers any compensation you may be held liable for in case of damage to another person or their belongings (liability insurance). You may add optional insurance features that are available from the insurance company.

Typically insurance companies offer separate insurances packages, one covering your house as a homeowner, another for the contents of your home (damage to your belongings in case of fire, water damage, burglary), as well as car insurance and other forms of cover. Remember that for any insurance policy it is always the terms and conditions that decide what the insurance covers.

**Read more about banking and insurance services in the section Transport and Services.**

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

Each municipality offers a range of services such as elderly care, school transport, funeral services, fire department, water and sanitation. Please check the available services with your municipality.

### ***Waste Disposal and Recycling Services***

Waste disposal schemes in the Faroe Islands differ slightly across the country but are regulated by the same legislation.

IRF, *Interkommunali*

*Renovatiónsfelagsskapurin*, is an agency that is owned jointly by several municipalities. IRF collects waste and operates other household and commercial waste services in these municipalities – e.g. recycling centres.

The Municipality of Tórshavn has its own waste collect service and recycling centre.

**If you have any questions concerning waste disposal or need any further information you should call IRF, tel. 414243, [www.irf.fo](http://www.irf.fo). If you live in the Municipality of Tórshavn, you can call tel. 302010 or visit [www.torshavn.fo](http://www.torshavn.fo).**

For households IRF issues a grey waste bag, which is only to be used for household rubbish and only these specific

grey bags will be collected. One roll of the grey waste bags is handed out to each household (four individuals) twice a year. In the grey bag you should only put general waste that does not require recycling or separation. Items such as glass, electronics, or light bulbs must be separated. Other waste bags marked for sorting paper (or a waste-bin for paper) and hazardous waste, are handed out to households that are registered for waste collection – either by IRF or the Municipality of Tórshavn.

The bag stand must be placed close to the road, maximum 20 meters from the road. And it should be easy to collect the waste.

Household-waste, the grey bag, is collected once a week. Other bags are collected as needed or at certain intervals. The paper-recycling bin is collected once every 6 weeks in Tórshavn.

**If your waste is not collected or if you have no waste bags, you should contact your local municipality or IRF, tel. 414243, for further details and information.**

OVERVIEW OF  
THE MUNICIPALITIES

