

BASIC ACCOUNT SERVICE

for asylum seekers, refugees and persons with alternative status



BASIC ACCOUNT

a type of payment account which gives access to the basic range of services offered by a current account.

- ✓ suitable for wage, social benefit, tax, utilities and other similar payments;
- ✓ cannot be used for commercial or professional activity.

A natural person can only open and access the services of **one basic account in one bank.**



Natural persons who have the right to the services of a basic account:

- ✓ residents of the European Union;
- ✓ persons who have the legal right to live within the European Union;
- ✓ persons without a residence permit, but who cannot be made to leave Latvia in accordance with the normative acts of the Republic of Latvia.

This means that the following also have the right to a basic account:

- ✓ asylum seekers;
- ✓ refugees;
- ✓ persons with alternative status.

The following do not have the right to a basic account:

- ✗ persons in Latvia on the basis of a visa (C – short-term visa (Schengen visa);
- ✗ D – long-term visa (Latvian national visa).



IMPORTANT!

When applying, applicants must state that they are applying for a basic account.

To receive the services of a basic account, the person must show their valid identification documents:

Asylum seeker	An asylum seeker personal ID, which is compulsory for the application process (<i>the person may only have this document</i>)	+	A visa issued by LV without the right to work (issued before seeking asylum)
		+	A visa issued by LV with the right to work (issued before or after seeking asylum)
		+	A residence permit issued by LV (issued before seeking asylum)
Refugee	A refugee travel document (passport) issued by Latvia	+	A permanent residence permit
Person with alternative status	A travel document (passport) issued by the country of origin	+	Fixed-period residence permit
	or		
	A travel document (passport) issued by LV	+	Fixed-period residence permit

- **By only showing an identification document issued by the country of origin**, the credit institution cannot identify the applicant as a person with the right to a basic account, and they will be refused the services of a basic account.
- When a person changes their identification documents or the information therein, the person must **inform the credit institution without delay.**
- **The applicant must submit information about what the account will be used for.** (For example, for receiving wages from employment, social benefits payments, etc., and they must be ready to show documents confirming this if need be)
- **If a work contract has not yet been signed** (as the employer is waiting for an account number), the applicant must show information such as correspondence with the employer demonstrating willingness to sign a work contract.
- **If a support person will be accompanying the applicant to open their account** (translator, local community representative helping refugees etc.), the credit institution must be informed ahead of time so that the accompanying person can also be identified.