Apply For Hungarian Driving License: What's New? No One Has Discussed

Your Ultimate Guide: How to Apply for a Hungarian Driving License

Relocating to a new nation includes a mountain of paperwork, and if you are residing in Hungary, one of the most useful financial investments you can make is securing a local driving license. Whether you are exchanging a foreign license, moving an EU document, or starting entirely from scratch, browsing the Hungarian administrative landscape can feel frustrating.

Nevertheless, with the right preparation, the process becomes uncomplicated. This detailed guide outlines everything one requires to know about how to obtain a Hungarian driving license, covering EU and non-EU citizens, needed files, and detailed treatments.

Understanding Your Status: Who Needs a Hungarian License?

Before beginning the application, it is necessary to determine which classification you fall under. Hungary's policies relating to driving licenses depend greatly on your nationality and where your current license was released.

- **EU/EEA Citizens:** If you hold a driving license released by an EU or EEA member state, you can lawfully drive in Hungary utilizing your present license till it expires. Nevertheless, you have the option-- and sometimes, the commitment-- to exchange it for a Hungarian license if you develop irreversible residency.
- **Non-EU/EEA Citizens:** If your license was issued outside the EU, you can generally utilize it along with an International Driving Permit (IDP) for approximately one year from the date you establish residency in Hungary. After that 1 year mark, you should get a Hungarian driving license.

Route 1: Exchanging a Foreign Driving License

For migrants who currently hold a legitimate driving license from their home nation, exchanging it for a Hungarian one is normally the fastest path, provided Hungary has a mutual agreement with the https://expresszkártya.com/ providing nation.

Step-by-Step Exchange Process:

1. **Obtain a Medical Certificate:** A medical physical fitness test from a regional Hungarian physician (*Háziorvos*) is necessary. The medical professional will examine your vision, general health, and reflexes.
2. **Validate Legal Residency:** Ensure your Hungarian Residence Permit (*Lakcímkártya*) is up to date and valid.
3. **Equate the License (If Necessary):** If the license is not in Hungarian or English, an official translation (generally from *OFFI*, the Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation) might be needed.
4. **Check Out the Government Office (*Kormányablak*):** Book a consultation or walk into your regional Government Window to send the application.
5. **Give Up the Old License:** When using for the Hungarian card, the releasing workplace will maintain your initial foreign license.

Requirement EU/ EEA License Non-EU License (Reciprocal) Non-EU License (Non-Reciprocal) **Medical Certificate** Not needed (unless renewing) Required Required **Theory Exam** Not needed Not needed Needed **Practical**

Exam Not required Not required Needed **Emergency Treatment Course** Not required Not needed Needed **Original License Surrendered** Yes Yes Yes

Keep in mind: If your home nation does not have a license exchange contract with Hungary, you will sadly need to go through the entire process of getting a license from scratch.

Path 2: Getting a Hungarian Driving License from Scratch

For those who have never held a license previously-- or whose foreign licenses can not be exchanged-- acquiring a Hungarian driving license involves finishing a structured training program managed by authorized driving schools (*Autósiskola*).

The 5 Steps to Getting a License:

1. Medical checkup

Before touching a steering wheel, aspiring drivers need to visit a family doctor to acquire a **Group 1 Medical Certificate** (Class B license). This certificate verifies that the applicant is physically and psychologically in shape to drive.

2. Theory Course and Exam

- **The Course:** Applicants must complete a 28-hour theoretical training course. Lots of driving schools provide this in English, either online or in a class setting.
- **The Exam:** After finishing the course, candidates must pass a computer-based multiple-choice theory examination at a designated screening center. The test is available in English, Hungarian, and a number of other languages.

3. Emergency Treatment Certificate Course

In Hungary, completing a licensed Red Cross First Aid course (*Vöröskereszt*) is a strict legal requirement for all newbie chauffeurs.

- The course takes about one weekend.
- It concludes with a basic useful and theoretical exam.
- *Exemption:* Those with particular medical or health care degrees are exempt from this requirement.

4. Practical Driving Lessons and Exam

As soon as the theory exam is passed, practical training starts.

- **Mandatory Hours:** Students need to complete a minimum of **29 driving hours** (each lasting 50 minutes), plus pass a minimum range requirement (generally 580 kilometers).
- **Instructor:** You will be coupled with a driving instructor. Discovering an English-speaking instructor is totally possible, though they might schedule up rapidly.
- **The Practical Exam:** Once your trainer agrees you are ready, you will take a roadway test accompanied by an official examiner from the federal government transport authority.

5. Last Application at the Government Office

Upon passing both exams and finishing the First Aid course, you will get a conclusion certificate (*Igazolás*). Take this document, together with your passport, home permit, and medical certificate, to the *Kormányablak* to make

an application for your physical card.

Needed Documents Checklist

Regardless of whether you are exchanging a license or beginning fresh, make sure you bring the following files to your visits:

- **Valid Passport or National ID Card**
- **Hungarian Residence Permit and Address Card (*Lakcímkártya*)**
- **Valid Medical Certificate**
- **Present Driving License** (if appropriate)
- **Official Translations** (if appropriate)
- **First Aid Certificate** (for newbie applicants)
- **Proof of Legal Stay** (Non-EU people need to show they have actually lived in Hungary for a minimum of 185 days of the fiscal year).

Costs and Processing Times

Budgeting for a Hungarian driving license requires preparing for numerous costs, which can fluctuate. Below is an approximated breakdown of costs for getting a license from scratch:

- **Medical Certificate:** 7,000-- 10,000 HUF
- **Theory Course (Online/Classroom):** 50,000-- 80,000 HUF
- **Theory Exam Fee:** 4,600 HUF
- **First Aid Course & & Exam:** 15,000-- 25,000 HUF
- **Practical Lessons (per hour):** 7,000-- 12,000 HUF (Total for 30+ hours: ~ 250,000-- 350,000 HUF)
- **Practical Exam Fee:** 11,000 HUF
- **Administrative Card Issuance Fee:** ~ 6,000 HUF

Total Estimated Cost: 350,000 to 500,000 HUF (approximately 900 to 1,300 EUR), depending on the driving school and the number of extra driving lessons you might need.

Processing Times

- **License Exchange:** Typically takes **2 to 3 weeks** for the physical card to be printed and sent by mail to your Hungarian address.
- **Full Process (From Scratch):** Depending on your accessibility, the responsiveness of the driving school, and examination wait times, the whole procedure generally takes **3 to 6 months**.

Last Tips for Success

1. **Language Barriers:** When searching for a driving school or medical examiner, explicitly ask if they use services in English. Significant cities like Budapest have lots of English-friendly choices, however smaller sized towns may require additional browsing.
2. **Reserve Exams Early:** Demand for English-language theory and practical examinations can be high. Coordinate with your driving school to book test slots well ahead of time.

3. **Keep Your Residence Current:** Your Hungarian address card should be completely up to date. The authorities will decline applications if there is any inconsistency in your residency status.

Navigating the procedure to apply for a Hungarian driving license requires patience and adherence to procedure, however as soon as finished, you will have the flexibility to explore the lovely landscapes of Hungary and the broader European Union with complete confidence.