Navigating the Road: Steps to Get a Hungarian Driver's License

Protecting a chauffeur's license is a considerable milestone, and doing so in a foreign country can feel like navigating a complex maze. For expats, trainees, and international homeowners living in Hungary, obtaining a regional driver's license (Vezetői engedély) is often vital for seamless travel, profession chances, or just the convenience of weekend roadway trips.

Whether one is beginning from scratch or exchanging a foreign license, the process is heavily managed by Hungarian authorities. This thorough guide describes every step needed to legally get behind the wheel in Hungary.

Understanding Eligibility and Requirements

Before scheduling lessons or studying traffic signs, applicants must satisfy specific legal and physical criteria set by the Hungarian government.

To obtain a Hungarian chauffeur's license (typically Category B for basic vehicles), a candidate should:

- Be at least 17 years of age (though lessons can start at 16.5).
- Be a legal citizen of Hungary, holding a legitimate Residence Permit or Registration Certificate showing a stay of at least 185 days annually.
- Satisfy the minimum medical fitness requirements.
- Pass the necessary theoretical and practical evaluations.

Action 1: Obtain a Medical Certificate

The journey begins at a doctor's office. Every candidate should go through a standard medical exam to make sure physical and psychological physical fitness for driving.

1. **Visit a General Practitioner (Háziorvos):** The applicant can visit their local GP or an authorized occupational health physician.
2. **The Examination:** The medical professional will examine standard eyesight, hearing, cardiovascular health, and medical history. Those who wear glasses must bring them to the appointment.
3. **The Cost and Result:** The fee is typically managed and ranges between 7,000 and 10,000 HUF. Upon passing, the doctor issues a Medical Fitness Certificate (*Orvosi alkalmassági igazolás*), which need to exist to the driving school.

Action 2: Complete the KRESZ (Theory) Course and Exam

In Hungary, participating in a licensed driving school (*Autósiskola*) is necessary. The very first significant hurdle is mastering the theoretical understanding required to navigate Hungarian roadways securely.

- **The Course:** The KRESZ (Road Traffic Regulations) course usually includes around 28 hours of class instruction. Many schools now use these lectures completely in English, and online e-learning modules are also extensively available.

- **The Exam:** Once the course is finished, trainees sit for a computer-based multiple-choice examination at a federal government testing center (Közlekedési Alkalmassági és Vizsgaközpont - KAV).
    - The examination includes 55 questions.
    - A passing rating needs at least 65 out of a possible 75 points.
    - The test is available in English, Hungarian, and numerous other major languages.

Action 3: Complete First Aid Training

Before taking the useful driving test, Hungarian law requires all novice license applicants to complete a licensed First Aid course (*Elsősegélynyújtó tanfolyam*).

- **The Course:** Typically arranged by the Hungarian Red Cross (*Magyar Vöröskereszt*), this is a brief, one-day course covering standard life support, CPR, and accident management.
- **The Exam:** A useful and theoretical test administered by the Red Cross. Upon passing, the prospect gets a First Aid Certificate, which is a mandatory file for the final license issuance.

Step 4: Practical Driving Lessons and Exam

With the theory exam and emergency treatment certification out of the method, the next step is supporting the wheel.

- **Choosing an Instructor:** Students select a driving instructor through their driving school. It is crucial to discover an instructor who speaks proficient English if the student is not skilled in Hungarian.
- **Compulsory Hours:** Hungarian law mandates a minimum of **29 driving hours**, plus a final practical test hour (amounting to 30 hours). Nevertheless, lots of students need additional hours to feel positive.
- **The Practice:** Lessons cover city driving, night driving, parking maneuvers, and driving on highways (*autópálya*).
- **The Practical Exam:** Conducted by a KAV examiner, this test lasts approximately 50 minutes. It starts with an automobile safety check, followed by maneuvers on a closed course (or quiet street), and concludes with driving in typical traffic conditions.

Step 5: Final Application at the Government Office

When the **Magyar Személyi Igazolvány Vásárlása Online** theory exam, very first aid accreditation, and practical driving test are successfully finished, the driving school issues a completion certificate (*Vezetői engedély kiállításához szükséges igazolás*).

The applicant needs to then take this certificate, along with supporting documents, to a regional Government Window (*Kormányablak*) to formally ask for the physical license card.

Summary of Costs and Timeline

Action Approximated Cost (HUF) Average Timeframe **Medical Examination** 7,000-- 10,000 HUF 1 Day **KRESZ Course & & Exam 50,000-- 80,000 HUF 2-- 4 Weeks Emergency Treatment Course & Exam 15,000-- 25,000 HUF 1 Week Practical Lessons(30 hrs)250,000-- 400,000 HUF 2-- 3 Months Practical Exam Fee ~ 11,000 HUF 1-- 2 Weeks(booking wait)License Issuance Fee ~ 6,500 HUF 1-- 2 Weeks (shipment)Note: Prices are approximate and subject to inflation, school charges , and individual retakes. Option: Exchanging a Foreign License For expats who currently hold a chauffeur's license from their home nation,**

starting from scratch may not be necessary. EU/EEA Licenses: Citizens holding a license issued by an EU or EEA member state can generally drive in

Hungary using their existing license till it ends. They might also choose to exchange it for a Hungarian

license without taking any tests. Non-EU Licenses: Holders of licenses from non-EU countries(such as the United States, Canada, or India)deal with stricter regulations.

- **Generally, a non-EU license is legitimate for just one year after establishing residency in Hungary. To get a Hungarian license, people of certain countries may be exempt from the useful lessons, but must still pass the KRESZ theory examination and the medical check. Others must go through the**
- **whole process as if they were first-time motorists. Tips for Success Navigating the Hungarian licensing system can be difficult, however a few strategies can make the procedure smoother: Language Barriers: Always validate with the driving school(Autósiskola)in advance that they genuinely offer English-language direction which an English-speaking examiner is readily available for the dry run. Perseverance with Bureaucracy: Administrative procedures in federal government workplaces can take some time. Guarantee all paperwork, residency cards, and translations(if needed)are organized neatly in a folder.**

Practice Makes Perfect

: Do not hurry the useful hours. Hungarian driving inspectors are comprehensive, and strict adherence to traffic laws-- particularly the

- **rigorous right-hand guideline(jobbszabály)-- is critical for passing the test. By following these actions methodically, residents in Hungary will find themselves legally licensed and prepared to check out the picturesque roadways of Central Europe with confidence.**