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

Moving to a new nation comes with a mountain of documents, and if you are living in Hungary, one of the most practical financial investments you can make is protecting a regional driving license. Whether you are exchanging a foreign license, transferring an EU file, or starting completely from scratch, navigating the Hungarian governmental landscape can feel frustrating.

However, with the right preparation, the procedure ends up being straightforward. This detailed guide lays out whatever one requires to understand about how to obtain a Hungarian driving license, covering EU and non-EU citizens, required documents, and step-by-step procedures.

Comprehending Your Status: Who Needs a Hungarian License?

Before starting the application, it is necessary to determine which category you fall under. Hungary's regulations regarding driving licenses depend heavily on your nationality and where your current license was provided.

- **EU/EEA Citizens:** If you hold a driving license provided by an EU or EEA member state, you can legally drive in Hungary utilizing your existing license until it ends. However, you have the alternative-- and in some cases, the commitment-- to exchange it for a Hungarian license if you establish irreversible residency.
- **Non-EU/EEA Citizens:** If your license was released outside the EU, you can generally use it together with an International Driving Permit (IDP) for up to one year from the date you develop residency in Hungary. After that one-year mark, you need to get a Hungarian driving license.

Path 1: Exchanging a Foreign Driving License

For expatriates who already hold a legitimate driving license from their home country, exchanging it for a Hungarian one is **Magyar Jogosítvány Weboldal** generally the fastest path, offered Hungary has a reciprocal arrangement with the releasing 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 physician will examine your eyesight, basic health, and reflexes.
2. **Verify Legal Residency:** Ensure your Hungarian Residence Permit (*Lakcímkártya*) is up to date and legitimate.
3. **Translate the License (If Necessary):** If the license is not in Hungarian or English, a main translation (usually from *OFFI*, the Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation) may be required.
4. **Visit the Government Office (*Kormányablak*):** Book a consultation or walk into your local Government Window to submit the application.
5. **Give Up the Old License:** When looking for the Hungarian card, the providing workplace will keep your original foreign license.

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

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

Note: If your home country does not have a license exchange contract with Hungary, you will regrettably need to go through the whole procedure of getting a license from scratch.

Route 2: Getting a Hungarian Driving License from Scratch

For those who have actually never ever held a license in the past-- or whose foreign licenses can not be exchanged-- acquiring a Hungarian driving license involves completing a structured training program handled by authorized driving schools (*Autósiskola*).

The 5 Steps to Getting a License:

1. Medical exam

Before touching a guiding wheel, aspiring drivers need to go to a family doctor to acquire a **Group 1 Medical Certificate** (Class B license). This certificate verifies that the candidate is physically and psychologically fit to drive.

2. Theory Course and Exam

- **The Course:** Applicants should finish a 28-hour theoretical training course. Lots of driving schools offer this in English, either online or in a class setting.
- **The Exam:** After completing the course, candidates need to pass a computer-based multiple-choice theory examination at a designated testing center. The examination is available in English, Hungarian, and numerous other languages.

3. Emergency Treatment Certificate Course

In Hungary, finishing a certified Red Cross First Aid course (*Vöröskereszt*) is a strict legal requirement for all novice motorists.

- The course takes about one weekend.
- It concludes with an easy useful and theoretical test.
- *Exemption:* Those with certain medical or healthcare degrees are exempt from this requirement.

4. Practical Driving Lessons and Exam

Once the theory examination is passed, practical training starts.

- **Mandatory Hours:** Students should finish a minimum of **29 driving hours** (each lasting 50 minutes), plus pass a minimum range requirement (normally 580 kilometers).
- **Trainer:** You will be paired with a driving instructor. Discovering an English-speaking instructor is entirely possible, though they may reserve up quickly.
- **The Practical Exam:** Once your trainer concurs you are prepared, you will take a road test accompanied by an official inspector from the government transportation authority.

5. Final Application at the Government Office

Upon passing both exams and completing the First Aid course, you will receive a completion certificate (*Igazolás*). Take this document, along with your passport, residence authorization, and medical certificate, to the

Kormányablak to make an application for your physical card.

Required Documents Checklist

No matter whether you are exchanging a license or starting fresh, make certain you bring the following documents to your appointments:

- **Valid Passport or National ID Card**
- **Hungarian Residence Permit and Address Card (*Lakcímkártya*)**
- **Valid Medical Certificate**
- **Existing Driving License** (if suitable)
- **Official Translations** (if applicable)
- **First Aid Certificate** (for first-time candidates)
- **Proof of Legal Stay** (Non-EU residents must prove they have actually lived in Hungary for a minimum of 185 days of the calendar year).

Expenses and Processing Times

Budgeting for a Hungarian driving license needs preparing for numerous costs, which can fluctuate. Below is an estimated breakdown of expenses 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 how numerous additional driving lessons you might need.

Processing Times

- **License Exchange:** Typically takes **2 to 3 weeks** for the physical card to be printed and mailed to your Hungarian address.
- **Complete Process (From Scratch):** Depending on your schedule, the responsiveness of the driving school, and exam wait times, the entire process normally 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 offer services in English. Significant cities like Budapest have lots of English-friendly options, but smaller sized towns might require additional searching.
2. **Book Exams Early:** Demand for English-language theory and practical tests can be high. Coordinate with your driving school to book test slots well in advance.

3. **Keep Your Residence Current:** Your Hungarian address card should be totally as much as date. The authorities will turn down applications if there is any inconsistency in your residency status.

Browsing the process to make an application for a Hungarian driving license requires perseverance and adherence to procedure, once finished, you will have the liberty to explore the lovely landscapes ***Európai Jogosítvány Vásárlása Online*** of Hungary and the wider European Union with total self-confidence.