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

Transferring to a brand-new nation includes a mountain of documents, and if you are residing in Hungary, among the most useful investments you can make is securing a regional driving license. Whether you are exchanging a foreign license, transferring an EU document, or beginning entirely from scratch, browsing the Hungarian administrative landscape can feel overwhelming.

Nevertheless, with the right preparation, the process becomes uncomplicated. This thorough guide describes everything one needs to understand about how to get a Hungarian driving license, covering EU and non-EU citizens, required documents, and detailed treatments.

Understanding Your Status: Who Needs a Hungarian License?

Before starting the application, it is important to determine which classification you fall under. Hungary's regulations concerning driving licenses depend heavily on your citizenship and where your existing license was provided.

- **EU/EEA Citizens:** If you hold a driving license released by an EU or EEA member state, you can lawfully drive in Hungary using your existing license until it ends. However, you have the alternative-- and sometimes, the commitment-- to exchange it for a Hungarian license if you establish permanent residency.
- **Non-EU/EEA Citizens:** If your license was issued outside the EU, you can normally utilize it in addition to an International Driving Permit (IDP) for approximately one year from the date you establish residency in Hungary. After that 1 year mark, you need to get a Hungarian driving license.

Route 1: Exchanging a Foreign Driving License

For migrants who currently hold a legitimate driving license from their home country, exchanging it for a Hungarian one is usually the fastest path, supplied Hungary has a reciprocal arrangement with the providing nation.

Step-by-Step Exchange Process:

1. **Obtain a Medical Certificate:** A medical physical fitness test from a local Hungarian medical professional (*Háziorvos*) is necessary. The physician will examine your eyesight, basic health, and reflexes.
2. **Confirm 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 (normally from *OFFI*, the Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation) may be required.
4. **Check Out the Government Office (*Kormányablak*):** Book an appointment or stroll into your local Government Window to submit the application.
5. **Surrender the Old License:** When obtaining the Hungarian card, the issuing office 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 Needed **Theory Exam** Not needed Not needed Required **Practical**

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

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

Path 2: Getting a Hungarian Driving License from Scratch

For those who have actually never ever held a license before-- or whose foreign licenses can not be exchanged-- getting a Hungarian driving license includes finishing a structured training program managed by licensed driving schools (*Autósiskola*).

The 5 Steps to Getting a License:

1. Medical Examination

Before touching a guiding wheel, aiming chauffeurs must go to a family doctor to get a **Group 1 Medical Certificate** (Class B license). This certificate validates that the candidate is physically and psychologically in shape to drive.

2. Theory Course and Exam

- **The Course:** Applicants should complete a 28-hour theoretical training course. Many driving schools provide this in English, either online or in a class setting.
- **The Exam:** After finishing the course, prospects need to pass a computer-based multiple-choice theory examination at a designated screening center. The exam is available in English, Hungarian, and numerous other languages.

3. First Aid Certificate Course

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

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

4. Practical Driving Lessons and Exam

Once the theory exam is passed, useful training begins.

- **Compulsory Hours:** Students need to 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 trainer. Discovering an English-speaking trainer is entirely possible, though they may book up rapidly.
- **The Practical Exam:** Once your trainer agrees you are prepared, you will take a roadway test accompanied by a main examiner from the government transportation authority.

5. Final Application at the Government Office

Upon passing both examinations and completing the First Aid course, you will get a conclusion certificate (*Igazolás*). Take this file, together with your passport, house authorization, and medical certificate, to the

Kormányablak to look for your physical card.

Needed Documents Checklist

Regardless of whether you are exchanging a license or starting fresh, ensure you bring the following documents to your appointments:

- **Valid Passport or National ID Card**
- **Hungarian Residence Permit and Address Card (*Lakcímkártya*)**
- **Valid Medical Certificate**
- **Present Driving License** (if relevant)
- **Official Translations** (if relevant)
- **First Aid Certificate** (for first-time applicants)
- **Proof of Legal Stay** (Non-EU people must prove they have actually lived in Hungary for at least 185 days of the fiscal year).

Expenses and Processing Times

Budgeting for a Hungarian driving license requires preparing for different costs, which can change. Below is an estimated 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
- **Emergency Treatment 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 (roughly 900 to 1,300 EUR), depending upon the driving school and the number of additional driving lessons you might require.

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 schedule, the responsiveness of the driving school, and exam wait times, the entire procedure typically takes **3 to 6 months**.

Final Tips for Success

1. **Language Barriers:** When searching for a driving school or medical inspector, explicitly ask if they use services in English. Major cities like Budapest have a lot of English-friendly options, however smaller sized towns may require additional browsing.
2. **Schedule Exams Early:** Demand for English-language theory and practical exams 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 need to be entirely as much as date. The authorities will turn down applications if there is any inconsistency in your residency status.

Browsing the procedure to apply for a Hungarian driving license needs perseverance and adherence to protocol, but once completed, you will have the liberty to explore the stunning landscapes of Hungary and the larger European Union with https://expresszkártya.com/ complete self-confidence.