5 Laws Everyone Working In Apply For Hungarian Driving License Should Be Aware Of

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

Moving to a new country includes a mountain of documents, and if you are living in Hungary, among the most practical investments you can make is protecting a regional driving license. Whether you are exchanging a foreign license, moving an EU document, or starting completely from scratch, browsing the Hungarian governmental landscape can feel overwhelming.

However, with the right preparation, the procedure ends up being straightforward. This extensive guide describes everything one needs to understand about how to get a Hungarian driving license, covering EU and non-EU residents, required documents, and step-by-step treatments.

Understanding Your Status: Who Needs a Hungarian License?

Before beginning the application, it is vital to figure out which classification you fall under. Hungary's policies regarding driving licenses depend greatly on your nationality and where your existing license xn--expresszkrtya-ceb.com was released.

- **EU/EEA Citizens:** If you hold a driving license provided by an EU or EEA member state, you can lawfully drive in Hungary using your current license up until it expires. However, you have the option-- and in some cases, the obligation-- to exchange it for a Hungarian license if you establish permanent residency.
- **Non-EU/EEA Citizens:** If your license was released outside the EU, you can normally utilize it together with an International Driving Permit (IDP) for approximately one year from the date you develop residency in Hungary. After that one-year mark, you must get a Hungarian driving license.

Path 1: Exchanging a Foreign Driving License

For expatriates who already hold a valid driving license from their home country, exchanging it for a Hungarian one is typically the fastest route, offered Hungary has a mutual contract with the issuing country.

Step-by-Step Exchange Process:

1. **Obtain a Medical Certificate:** A medical physical fitness test from a regional Hungarian doctor (*Háziorvos*) is compulsory. The doctor will examine your vision, general health, and reflexes.
2. **Validate Legal Residency:** Ensure your Hungarian Residence Permit (*Lakcímkártya*) depends on date and valid.
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) might be needed.
4. **Check Out the Government Office (*Kormányablak*):** Book a visit or stroll into your city government Window to send the application.
5. **Give Up the Old License:** When making an application for the Hungarian card, the releasing office will keep your original foreign license.

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

Exam Not required Not needed Required **First Aid Course** Not required Not required Needed **Initial License Surrendered** Yes Yes Yes

Note: If your home country 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.

Route 2: Getting a Hungarian Driving License from Scratch

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

The 5 Steps to Getting a License:

1. Medical exam

Before touching a guiding wheel, aiming drivers must check out a basic specialist to get a **Group 1 Medical Certificate** (Class B license). This certificate validates that the applicant is physically and mentally in shape to drive.

2. Theory Course and Exam

- **The Course:** Applicants should finish a 28-hour theoretical training course. Many driving schools offer this in English, either online or in a class setting.
- **The Exam:** After completing the course, candidates must pass a computer-based multiple-choice theory test at a designated testing center. The test is offered in English, Hungarian, and numerous 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 drivers.

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

4. Practical Driving Lessons and Exam

When the theory exam is passed, useful training begins.

- **Obligatory Hours:** Students should finish a minimum of **29 driving hours** (each lasting 50 minutes), plus pass a minimum range requirement (normally 580 kilometers).
- **Instructor:** You will be matched with a driving instructor. Finding an English-speaking instructor is totally possible, though they may book up quickly.
- **The Practical Exam:** Once your instructor concurs you are ready, you will take a road test accompanied by an official inspector from the government transport authority.

5. Last Application at the Government Office

Upon passing both examinations and finishing the First Aid course, you will get a conclusion certificate (*Igazolás*). Take this file, along with your passport, residence license, and medical certificate, to the *Kormányablak* to look 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**
- **Current Driving License** (if relevant)
- **Official Translations** (if applicable)
- **First Aid Certificate** (for newbie candidates)
- **Proof of Legal Stay** (Non-EU citizens must show they have actually resided in Hungary for at least 185 days of the fiscal year).

Expenses and Processing Times

Budgeting for a Hungarian driving license needs preparing for different charges, 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
- **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 (around 900 to 1,300 EUR), depending upon the driving school and how lots of additional driving lessons you may 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 availability, the responsiveness of the driving school, and examination wait times, the whole process normally takes **3 to 6 months**.

Last Tips for Success

1. **Language Barriers:** When looking for a driving school or medical inspector, clearly ask if they provide services in English. Significant cities like Budapest have plenty of English-friendly choices, but smaller sized towns may require additional browsing.
2. **Reserve Exams Early:** Demand for English-language theory and useful examinations can be high. Coordinate with your driving school to book examination slots well beforehand.
3. **Keep Your Residence Current:** Your Hungarian address card need to be entirely approximately date. The authorities will decline applications if there is any inconsistency in your residency status.

Browsing the procedure to obtain a Hungarian driving license requires perseverance and adherence to protocol, once finished, you will have the freedom to check out the lovely landscapes of Hungary and the larger European Union with complete self-confidence.