How to Apply for a Driving License in Poland: The Ultimate Step-by-Step Guide

Securing a driving license (Prawo Jazdy) in Poland is a substantial milestone. Whether someone is a Polish person or an expat making Poland their permanent home, holding a legitimate driving license opens unprecedented flexibility and convenience. Nevertheless, navigating the governmental landscape of Polish workplaces can feel overwhelming at very first glimpse.

This comprehensive guide breaks down the entire procedure of how to make an application for a driving license in Poland, ensuring a smooth and problem-free journey from the preliminary medical check to sitting behind the wheel.

1. Prerequisites Before You Start

Before registering in a driving school, candidates need to meet specific legal and physical requirements set by Polish law.

- **Age Requirements:** The minimum age depends on the automobile classification. For a basic car (Category B), the applicant needs to be at least 18 years of ages.
- **Residency Status:** Foreigners must prove legal residency in Poland for a minimum of 185 days per year. This is generally confirmed by means of a residence card (*karta pobytu*), a Polish visa, or EU registration certificates.
- **Medical Fitness:** Every applicant should pass a medical exam to ensure they are physically and psychologically healthy to drive.

2. Step-by-Step Guide to Getting a Polish Driving License

The journey to getting a Polish driving license follows a structured sequence of occasions.

Step 1: Obtain a PKK Number (Profil Kandydata na Kierowcu)

The **PKK** (Driver Candidate Profile) is a special electronic identification number produced by the city government office. Without a PKK, no driving school will accept a candidate.

To get a PKK, one need to go to the regional district workplace (*Starostwo Powiatowe*), town hall (*Urząd Miasta*), or district borough workplace (*Urząd Dzielnicy* in Warsaw) and send the following documents:

- A finished application kind (offered at the workplace or online).
- A medical certificate verifying no contraindications to driving.
- One recent photo (3.5 cm x 4.5 cm).
- Evidence of identity (Passport or ID card) and residency status (Residence card/Visa).
- A translation of foreign documents (if applicable).

Step 2: Enroll in a Driving School (*Ośrodek Szkolenia Kierowców* - OSK)

Once the PKK number is issued, the candidate can select a driving school. In Poland, Category B training usually includes:

- **Theoretical training:** At least 30 hours of classroom or online lectures covering traffic rules, roadway signs, and very first help.
- **Practical training:** At least 30 hours behind the wheel with a qualified trainer.

Suggestion for Expats: While most driving schools perform courses in Polish, a growing number of schools in major cities like Warsaw, Kraków, and Wrocław offer theoretical and useful lessons in English.

Step 3: Pass the Internal Exams

Upon completing the school's curriculum, students need to pass internal theoretical and useful examinations. Effectively passing these tests grants a graduation certificate from the OSK, which updates the prospect's PKK profile in the system.

Step 4: Pass the State Exams at WORD (*Wojewódzki Ośrodek Ruchu Drogowego*)

The final difficulty involves passing the main state assessments handled by WORD. This is split into 2 parts:

1. **Theoretical Exam:** A computer-based test including 32 multiple-choice questions concerning traffic regulations. Prospects must score at least 68 out of 74 points to pass.
2. **Practical Exam:** Conducted in two stages-- initially, vehicle checks and maneuvers on a closed course (e.g., hill start, reverse parking), followed by driving in real metropolitan traffic conditions under the examiner's guidance.

Step 5: Collect the Driving License

Once both state examinations are successfully passed, the WORD updates the system. The applicant must go back to the local workplace where the PKK was provided, pay the issuance fee, and send proof of payment. The physical license card is typically prepared within 9 to 14 working days.

Expense Breakdown of Getting a License in Poland

Budgeting for a driving license requires expecting several fixed and variable expenses. The table listed below lays out the estimated costs associated with getting a Category B driving license in Poland.

Cost Item Description Approximate Cost (PLN) Approximate Cost (EUR) **Medical Examination** Required medical professional's go to and certificate 200 PLN ~ EUR45 **Passport Photos** 1 set of standard biometric images 30 - 50 PLN ~ EUR7 - EUR11 **Driving Course (OSK)** 30h theory + 30h practical training 2,500 - 4,000 PLN ~ EUR570 - EUR900 **State Theory Exam (WORD)** Official computer-based test charge 50 PLN ~ EUR11 **State Practical Exam (WORD)** Official driving test cost 200 PLN ~ EUR45 **License Issuance Fee** Plastic card production charge 100.50 PLN ~ EUR23 **Overall Estimated Cost Complete Process 3,030 - 4,600 PLN ~ EUR680 - EUR1,035**

Keep in mind: Prices may vary depending upon the city, inflation, and whether the applicant needs extra driving lessons.

Exchanging a Foreign Driving License in Poland

For individuals who currently hold a driving license provided outside of Poland, the process might be much simpler. Depending upon the issuing country, a complete retake of examinations may not be essential.

- **EU/EEA Licenses:** Drivers with a license issued by an EU or EEA member state can drive in Poland legally until their license expires. However, they can willingly exchange it for a Polish license without taking any examinations.
- **Non-EU Licenses (Vienna Convention signatories):** Drivers from countries that signed the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic can usually exchange their license for a Polish one after showing residency, submitting translations, and paying the relevant costs, without needing to pass state tests.
- **Other Countries:** Drivers from countries outside the Vienna Convention should generally pass the theoretical state examination (*Teoria*) and in some cases complete an official treatment before a Polish license is granted.

Important Checklist for the Application Day

To ensure a smooth visit to the local office (*Urząd*), candidates must prepare the following list:

- Valid passport or residence card (*karta pobytu*).
- The PKK number supplied by the workplace.
- Finished application for providing a driving license.
- Medical certificate verifying fitness to drive.
- One recent photo (3.5 x 4.5 cm).
- Verification of state test passes (released by WORD).
- Receipt of payment for the driving license card (approx. 100.50 PLN).

Last Thoughts

Making an application for a driving license in Poland requires persistence, time, and monetary investment, however the detailed system is transparent and well-organized. By preparing the medical files early, protecting a PKK number, and picking a respectable driving school, future motorists can effectively https://kartaxpresspoland.com/ navigate the procedure and struck the open Polish roadways with self-confidence.