15 Facts Your Boss Wishes You'd Known About Apply For Hungarian Driving License

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

Relocating to a new nation comes with a mountain of paperwork, and if you are residing in Hungary, one of the most practical investments you can make is securing a local driving license. Whether you are exchanging a foreign license, moving an EU document, or starting entirely from scratch, navigating the Hungarian bureaucratic landscape can feel frustrating.

However, with the right preparation, the procedure ends up being simple. This extensive guide details everything one requires to understand about how to look for a Hungarian driving license, covering EU and non-EU citizens, required documents, and detailed procedures.

Understanding Your Status: Who Needs a Hungarian License?

Before beginning the application, it is Magyar Személyi Igazolvány Igénylése vital to determine which category you fall under. Hungary's policies concerning driving licenses depend greatly on your nationality and where your current license was released.

- **EU/EEA Citizens:** If you hold a driving license issued by an EU or EEA member state, you can lawfully drive in Hungary utilizing your present license till it ends. However, you have the choice-- and sometimes, the obligation-- to exchange it for a Hungarian license if you develop long-term residency.
- **Non-EU/EEA Citizens:** If your license was issued outside the EU, you can generally utilize it together with an International Driving Permit (IDP) for approximately one year from the date you establish residency in Hungary. After that 1 year mark, you must get a Hungarian driving license.

Route 1: Exchanging a Foreign Driving License

For migrants who already hold a valid driving license from their home nation, exchanging it for a Hungarian one is usually the fastest route, supplied Hungary has a mutual arrangement with the releasing country.

Step-by-Step Exchange Process:

1. **Obtain a Medical Certificate:** A medical physical fitness test from a local Hungarian medical professional (*Háziorvos*) is mandatory. The physician will examine your eyesight, general health, and reflexes.
2. **Validate Legal Residency:** Ensure your Hungarian Residence Permit (*Lakcímkártya*) depends on date and legitimate.
3. **Equate the License (If Necessary):** If the license is not in Hungarian or English, an official translation (normally from *OFFI*, the Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation) might be required.
4. **Go To the Government Office (*Kormányablak*):** Book an appointment or stroll into your city government Window to submit the application.
5. **Give Up the Old License:** When using for the Hungarian card, the issuing office will retain your initial 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 needed Not needed Required **Practical**

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

Keep in mind: If your home nation does not have a license exchange arrangement with Hungary, you will unfortunately 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 never held a license before-- or whose foreign licenses can not be exchanged-- obtaining a Hungarian driving license includes finishing 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, striving motorists must check out a general specialist to obtain a **Group 1 Medical Certificate** (Class B license). This certificate validates that the candidate is physically and mentally healthy to drive.

2. Theory Course and Exam

- **The Course:** Applicants must complete a 28-hour theoretical training course. Numerous driving schools provide this in English, either online or in a classroom setting.
- **The Exam:** After ending up the course, prospects should pass a computer-based multiple-choice theory test at a designated testing center. The examination is available in English, Hungarian, and several other languages.

3. Emergency Treatment Certificate Course

In Hungary, completing a licensed Red Cross First Aid course (*Vöröskereszt*) is a rigorous legal requirement for all first-time motorists.

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

4. Practical Driving Lessons and Exam

When the theory exam is passed, useful training begins.

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

5. Final Application at the Government Office

Upon passing both examinations and completing the First Aid course, you will receive a conclusion certificate (*Igazolás*). Take this file, in addition to your passport, house license, and medical certificate, to the *Kormányablak*

to request your physical card.

Needed Documents Checklist

Regardless of whether you are exchanging a license or starting fresh, make certain you bring the following files to your consultations:

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

Costs and Processing Times

Budgeting for a Hungarian driving license requires preparing for different charges, which can change. Below is an approximated 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
- **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 on the driving school and how many extra driving lessons you may need.

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 accessibility, the responsiveness of the driving school, and exam wait times, the whole procedure generally takes **3 to 6 months**.

Last Tips for Success

1. **Language Barriers:** When trying to find a driving school or medical examiner, clearly ask if they provide services in English. Major cities like Budapest have a lot of English-friendly choices, however smaller towns may need extra browsing.
2. **Schedule Exams Early:** Demand for English-language theory and practical tests can be high. Coordinate with your driving school to book exam slots well beforehand.

3. **Keep Your Residence Current:** Your Hungarian address card must be totally approximately date. The authorities will reject applications if there is any disparity in your residency status.

Navigating the procedure to use for a Hungarian driving license requires persistence and adherence to procedure, once finished, you will have the freedom to explore the lovely landscapes of Hungary and the wider European Union with complete self-confidence.