Apply For Hungarian Driving License It's Not As Hard As You Think

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

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

Nevertheless, with the right preparation, the procedure ends up being simple. This comprehensive guide details everything one needs to understand about how to apply for a Hungarian driving license, covering EU and non-EU people, needed files, and detailed treatments.

Understanding Your Status: Who Needs a Hungarian License?

Before starting the application, it is important to identify which classification you fall under. Hungary's policies regarding driving licenses depend heavily on your nationality and where your existing license was provided.

- **EU/EEA Citizens:** If you hold a driving license issued by an EU or EEA member state, you can legally drive in Hungary utilizing your existing license till it expires. However, you have the option-- and sometimes, the obligation-- to exchange it for a Hungarian license if you establish long-term residency.
- **Non-EU/EEA Citizens:** If your license was issued outside the EU, you can generally utilize it along with an International Driving Permit (IDP) for as much as one year from the date you establish residency in Hungary. After that one-year mark, you need to acquire a Hungarian driving license.

Path 1: Exchanging a Foreign Driving License

For expatriates who currently hold a legitimate driving license from their home country, exchanging it for a Hungarian one is normally the fastest route, provided Hungary has a mutual contract with the providing nation.

Step-by-Step Exchange Process:

1. **Obtain a Medical Certificate:** A medical physical fitness test from a local Hungarian physician (*Háziorvos*) is necessary. The physician will examine your eyesight, general health, and reflexes.
2. **Confirm Legal Residency:** Ensure your Hungarian Residence Permit (*Lakcímkártya*) is up to date and valid.
3. **Translate 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) may be required.
4. **Visit the Government Office (*Kormányablak*):** Book a consultation or walk into your city government Window to submit the application.
5. **Surrender the Old License:** When getting the Hungarian card, the issuing workplace will retain 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 needed Required **Practical Exam** Not needed Not required 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 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 ever held a license before-- or whose foreign licenses can not be exchanged-- acquiring a Hungarian driving license involves finishing a structured training program managed by authorized driving schools (*Autósiskola*).

The 5 Steps to Getting a License:

1. Medical checkup

Before touching a guiding wheel, aspiring motorists must check out a general professional to acquire 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. Numerous driving schools offer this in English, either online or in a class setting.
- **The Exam:** After ending up the course, prospects must pass a computer-based multiple-choice theory exam 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 strict legal requirement for all first-time drivers.

- The course takes about one weekend.
- It concludes with a basic practical 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, practical training begins.

- **Obligatory Hours:** Students need to complete a minimum of **29 driving hours** (each lasting 50 minutes), plus pass a minimum distance requirement (usually 580 kilometers).
- **Trainer:** You will be matched with a driving instructor. 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 road test accompanied by an official inspector from the federal government transport authority.

5. Final Application at the Government Office

Upon passing both exams and finishing the First Aid course, you will get a completion certificate (*Igazolás*). Take this document, along with your passport, home authorization, and medical certificate, to the *Magyar Személyi Igazolvány Igénylése Kormányablak* to request your physical card.

Needed Documents Checklist

Regardless of whether you are exchanging a license or beginning 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**
- **Existing Driving License** (if appropriate)
- **Official Translations** (if appropriate)
- **First Aid Certificate** (for newbie candidates)
- **Proof of Legal Stay** (Non-EU people must prove they have actually lived in Hungary for a minimum of 185 days of the fiscal year).

Costs and Processing Times

Budgeting for a Hungarian driving license needs preparing for different costs, which can change. Below is an approximated breakdown of expenditures 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

Overall Estimated Cost: 350,000 to 500,000 HUF (approximately 900 to 1,300 EUR), depending upon the driving school and how many additional driving lessons you may 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 accessibility, the responsiveness of the driving school, and exam wait times, the entire process generally takes **3 to 6 months**.

Final Tips for Success

1. **Language Barriers:** When trying to find a driving school or medical examiner, explicitly ask if they offer services in English. Major cities like Budapest have plenty of English-friendly choices, but smaller sized towns might require extra searching.
2. **Reserve Exams Early:** Demand for English-language theory and useful 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 must be totally up to date. The authorities will reject applications if there is any inconsistency in your residency status.

Navigating the procedure to get a Hungarian driving license needs patience and adherence to procedure, but as soon as finished, you will have the liberty to check out the lovely landscapes of Hungary and the larger European Union with complete confidence.