How to Obtain a Hungarian Driving License: A Comprehensive Step-by-Step Guide

Getting a driver's license in Hungary is a structured process that invites both EU/EEA people and third-country nationals. Whether somebody is a resident requiring to commute, a digital nomad settling in Budapest, or a trainee wanting the liberty to check out the countryside, having a Hungarian driving license opens many possibilities.

Navigating the local bureaucracy can at first seem daunting, especially with language barriers. However, the path to getting behind the wheel in Hungary is straightforward when broken down into workable actions. This thorough guide lays out whatever required to successfully get a Hungarian driving license (Category B for cars and trucks).

Prerequisites: Who Can Apply?

Before starting the procedure, candidates should meet certain legal and residency requirements set by the Hungarian federal government.

- **Residency:** Applicants must have a valid Hungarian address card (*lakcímkártya*) showing they have actually been citizens in Hungary for a minimum of 185 days.
- **Age:** The minimum age for a Category B (cars and truck) driving license in Hungary is 17 years of ages.
- **Medical Fitness:** Every candidate should pass a standard medical assessment to show physical and mental fitness for driving.

Step-by-Step Guide to Getting a Hungarian Driving License

The journey from a complete novice to a licensed chauffeur in Hungary involves numerous unique turning points.

Step 1: Obtain a Medical Certificate

The extremely first document required is a medical certificate of physical fitness.

1. Go to a family doctor (GP) or a designated occupational health physician.
2. The physician will carry out fundamental tests (vision, hearing, basic health history, and blood pressure).
3. Those who wear glasses or contact lenses must bring them along; the resulting license will note the requirement for restorative lenses.
4. As soon as passed, the physician issues a main medical certificate (*Orvosi Alkalmassági Vélemény*).

Step 2: Complete the First-Aid Course

In Hungary, finishing a qualified first-aid course and passing its test is mandatory before getting a complete driving license.

- The Hungarian Red Cross (*Magyar Vöröskereszt*) arranges these courses.
- Lots of driving schools (*autósiskola*) bundle this course into their bundles.

- The exam consists of a multiple-choice survey and a useful presentation of CPR and bandaging strategies. *(Medical specialists, nurses, and those with particular medical degrees may be exempt from this step).*

Step 3: Enroll in a Driving School (*Autósiskola*)

Choosing the ideal driving school is crucial, especially for non-Hungarian speakers. Many schools in Budapest and major cities use courses and books entirely in English.

The training is divided into two main phases:

1. **Theoretical Training (Kresz):**
    - Typically consists of a minimum of 28 hours of classes (or a comparable online self-study website).
    - Covers Hungarian traffic guidelines, roadway indications, and guidelines.
2. **Practical Training (Vezetés):**
    - Can just start after passing the theory test.
    - Needs a minimum of 29 driving hours plus 1 practical examination hour (totaling 30 hours), covering a compulsory distance of at least 580 kilometers.

Step 4: Pass the Theory Exam (KRESZ Vizsga)

Once the theoretical classes are completed, trainees must take the official computer-based theory examination at a designated government screening center.

- **Format:** 55 multiple-choice concerns.
- **Time frame:** 30 minutes.
- **Scoring:** The examination runs out 75 points (some questions are worth 3 points, others 1 or 2). A minimum of **65 points** is required to pass.
- **Language:** Available in Hungarian, English, and German at a lot of cosmopolitan centers.

Step 5: Complete Practical Lessons and the Road Exam

After passing the KRESZ examination, trainees are designated a driving trainer (*oktató*) to begin useful lessons behind the wheel.

- Trainees find out fundamental vehicle control, maneuvering, city driving, and rural/highway driving.
- As soon as the instructor concurs that the trainee is all set-- and the minimum hour/kilometer requirements are met-- the useful roadway exam (*forgalmi vizsga*) is arranged.
- The road test lasts roughly 50 minutes and happens on public roads with a main examiner sitting in the back seat and the trainer in the front traveler seat.

Summary of Costs and Timeframes

The time and monetary investment needed to acquire a Hungarian driving license can vary based upon individual learning rate and school costs.

Stage Estimated Time Approximate Cost (HUF) **Medical Certificate** 1 day 7,000-- 15,000 HUF **First-Aid Course & & Exam** 1-- 2 weeks 15,000-- 25,000 HUF **Theory Course (KRESZ)** 2-- 4 weeks 40,000-- 70,000 HUF **Theory Exam Fee** 1 day 4,600 HUF **Practical Lessons (per hour)** 4-- 12 weeks 7,000-- 12,000 HUF per hour **Practical Road Exam Fee** 1 day 11,000 HUF **License Issuance Fee** 1 week (processing) 6,250 HUF

Keep in mind: Prices are estimates and based on inflation, school pricing policies, and the number of additional driving lessons an individual may require.

Converting a Foreign License vs. Getting a New One

For expats who currently hold a driving license from their home country, the process might differ substantially based upon nationality:

- **EU/EEA License Holders:** Generally, an EU/EEA license is valid in Hungary up until its expiration date. Holders can pick to transform it to a Hungarian license voluntarily without taking tests, supplied they are habitual citizens.
- **Non-EU/EEA License Holders:** Third-country licenses are usually valid for just one year after developing residency in Hungary. To continue driving lawfully beyond that duration, drivers should normally undergo the conversion process, which frequently requires passing the Hungarian KRESZ (theory) test and a useful driving test, though some nations have bilateral contracts that waive these requirements.

Essential Documents Checklist

When going to federal government workplaces (*Kormányablak*) for administrative jobs related to the license, constantly ensure you bring the following:

- Valid Passport or National ID card.
- Hungarian Address Card (*Lakcímkártya*).
- Home Permit (*Tartózkodási Engedély*) if applicable.
- Medical Certificate of Fitness.
- First-Aid Certificate.
- Certificate of completed main education (frequently required by driving schools to show compliance with Hungarian instructional requirements-- normally an 8-grade school certificate or greater, translated if required).
- Evidence of passing the theory and practical assessments.

Last Thoughts

Getting a Hungarian driving license needs patience, studying, and monetary planning, but the benefit is long-lasting movement within Hungary and throughout the European Union. By picking an English-friendly driving school, studying the traffic rules vigilantly, and keeping Eredeti Vezetői Engedély Weboldal all paperwork organized, brand-new chauffeurs will find themselves navigating the beautiful streets of Budapest and beyond with confidence and overall legality.