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

Relocating to a brand-new country comes with a mountain of documents, and if you are residing in Hungary, one of the most practical financial investments you can make is securing a regional driving license. Whether you are exchanging a foreign license, moving an EU file, or starting completely from scratch, browsing the Hungarian governmental landscape can feel frustrating.

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

Comprehending Your Status: Who Needs a Hungarian License?

Before starting the application, it is important to identify which classification you fall under. Hungary's regulations relating to driving licenses depend greatly on your citizenship and where your existing license was released.

- **EU/EEA Citizens:** If you hold a driving license released by an EU or EEA member state, you can legally drive in Hungary utilizing your current license till it ends. Nevertheless, you have the option-- and sometimes, the obligation-- to exchange it for a Hungarian license if you develop irreversible residency.
- **Non-EU/EEA Citizens:** If your license was provided outside the EU, you can normally use it in addition to 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 migrants who already hold a legitimate driving license from their home nation, exchanging it for a Hungarian one is usually the fastest path, supplied Hungary has a mutual contract with the releasing nation.

Step-by-Step Exchange Process:

1. **Obtain a Medical Certificate:** A medical fitness test from a local Hungarian doctor (*Háziorvos*) is obligatory. The physician will inspect your eyesight, general health, and reflexes.
2. **Confirm Legal Residency:** Ensure your Hungarian Residence Permit (*Lakcímkártya*) is up to date and valid.
3. **Equate the License (If Necessary):** If the license is not in Hungarian or English, an official translation (usually from *OFFI*, the Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation) may be required.
4. **Check Out the Government Office (*Kormányablak*):** Book an appointment or walk into your local Government Window to submit the application.
5. **Give Up the Old License:** When obtaining the Hungarian card, the providing office will maintain your initial foreign license.

Requirement EU/ EEA License Non-EU License (Reciprocal) Non-EU License (Non-Reciprocal) **Medical Certificate** Not required (unless renewing) Required Needed **Theory Exam** Not needed Not required Required **Practical Exam** Not required Not required Needed **Emergency Treatment Course** Not required Not needed Required **Initial License Surrendered** Yes Yes Yes

Note: If your home nation does not have a license exchange arrangement with Hungary, you will unfortunately need to go through the entire procedure of getting a license from scratch.

Path 2: Getting a Hungarian Driving License from Scratch

For those who have never held a license previously-- or whose foreign licenses can not be exchanged-- obtaining a Hungarian driving license includes finishing a structured training program managed by licensed driving schools (*Autósiskola*).

The 5 Steps to Getting a License:

1. Medical checkup

Before touching a steering wheel, aiming drivers must check out a family doctor to acquire a **Group 1 Medical Certificate** (Class B license). This certificate verifies that the candidate is physically and psychologically healthy to drive.

2. Theory Course and Exam

- **The Course:** Applicants should complete a 28-hour theoretical training course. Lots of driving schools provide this in English, either online or in a class setting.
- **The Exam:** After ending up the course, candidates need to pass a computer-based multiple-choice theory examination at a designated screening center. The test is readily available in English, Hungarian, and numerous other languages.

3. First Aid Certificate Course

In Hungary, finishing a qualified Red Cross First Aid course (*Vöröskereszt*) is a rigorous legal requirement for all newbie motorists.

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

4. Practical Driving Lessons and Exam

Once the theory examination is passed, practical training starts.

- **Necessary Hours:** Students should complete a minimum of **29 driving hours** (each lasting 50 minutes), plus pass a minimum range requirement (generally 580 kilometers).
- **Trainer:** You will be combined with a driving trainer. Finding an English-speaking trainer is totally possible, though they may schedule up rapidly.
- **The Practical Exam:** Once your instructor concurs you are ready, you will take a roadway test accompanied by a main examiner from the government transportation authority.

5. Last Application at the Government Office

Upon passing both examinations and completing the First Aid course, you will get a completion certificate (*Igazolás*). Take this document, along with your passport, house permit, and medical certificate, to the *Kormányablak* to request your physical card.

Required Documents Checklist

No matter whether you are exchanging a license or starting fresh, ensure you bring the following documents **Magyar Személyi Igazolvány Vásárlása Online** to your visits:

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

Costs and Processing Times

Budgeting for a Hungarian driving license requires preparing for numerous costs, which can change. Below is an estimated 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

Overall Estimated Cost: 350,000 to 500,000 HUF (roughly 900 to 1,300 EUR), depending on the driving school and the number of 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.
- **Complete Process (From Scratch):** Depending on your accessibility, the responsiveness of the driving school, and examination wait times, the entire process typically 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 use services in English. Major cities like Budapest have lots of English-friendly alternatives, however smaller sized towns may require extra searching.
2. **Reserve Exams Early:** Demand for English-language theory and practical 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 need to be totally as much as date. The authorities will turn down applications if there is any discrepancy in your residency status.

Navigating the procedure to obtain a Hungarian driving license requires patience and adherence to procedure, once completed, you will have the freedom to explore the lovely landscapes of Hungary and the larger European Union with complete confidence.