Don't Be Enticed By These "Trends" Concerning Apply For Hungarian Driving License

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

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

However, with the right preparation, the procedure ends up being uncomplicated. This comprehensive guide lays out everything one requires to understand about how to get a Hungarian driving license, covering EU and non-EU residents, needed documents, and detailed treatments.

Comprehending Your Status: Who Needs a Hungarian License?

Before beginning the application, it is important to determine which classification you fall under. Hungary's policies regarding driving licenses depend greatly on your citizenship and where your present license was issued.

- **EU/EEA Citizens:** If you hold a driving license released by an EU or EEA member state, you can lawfully drive in Hungary using your present license up until it ends. Nevertheless, you have the option-- and in some cases, the commitment-- to exchange it for a Hungarian license if you develop long-term residency.
- **Non-EU/EEA Citizens:** If your license was provided outside the EU, you can generally use it along with an International Driving Permit (IDP) for approximately one year from the date you establish residency in Hungary. After that 1 year mark, you need to get a Hungarian driving license.

Path 1: Exchanging a Foreign Driving License

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

Step-by-Step Exchange Process:

1. **Obtain a Medical Certificate:** A medical fitness test from a regional Hungarian doctor (*Háziorvos*) is mandatory. The doctor will check 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, a main translation (generally from *OFFI*, the Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation) may be required.
4. **Visit the Government Office (*Kormányablak*):** Book an appointment or walk into your city government Window to send the application.
5. **Give Up the Old License:** When applying for the Hungarian card, the issuing office will maintain your original foreign license.

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

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

Path 2: Getting a Hungarian Driving License from Scratch

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

The 5 Steps to Getting a License:

1. Medical exam

Before touching a steering wheel, aiming chauffeurs should check out a general specialist to get a **Group 1 Medical Certificate** (Class B license). This certificate verifies that the candidate is physically and mentally fit to drive.

2. Theory Course and Exam

- **The Course:** Applicants must complete a 28-hour theoretical training course. Numerous driving schools use this in English, either online or in a classroom setting.
- **The Exam:** After finishing the course, candidates must pass a computer-based multiple-choice theory test at a designated testing center. The exam is readily available in English, Hungarian, and a number of other languages.

3. First Aid Certificate Course

In Hungary, finishing a licensed Red Cross First Aid course (*Vöröskereszt*) is a Magyar Jogosítvány Szolgáltató rigorous legal requirement for all newbie chauffeurs.

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

4. Practical Driving Lessons and Exam

Once the theory examination is passed, useful training begins.

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

5. Final Application at the Government Office

Upon passing both exams and completing the First Aid course, you will receive a conclusion certificate (*Igazolás*). Take this file, along with your passport, home license, and medical certificate, to the *Kormányablak* to request your physical card.

Needed Documents Checklist

No matter whether you are exchanging a license or beginning fresh, ensure you bring the following documents to your consultations:

- **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 novice applicants)
- **Proof of Legal Stay** (Non-EU citizens must prove they have lived in Hungary for a minimum of 185 days of the calendar year).

Expenses and Processing Times

Budgeting for a Hungarian driving license needs preparing for different charges, which can fluctuate. Below is an approximated 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 additional driving lessons you might 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.
- **Complete Process (From Scratch):** Depending on your availability, the responsiveness of the driving school, and exam wait times, the entire procedure typically takes **3 to 6 months**.

Final Tips for Success

1. **Language Barriers:** When trying to find a driving school or medical inspector, clearly ask if they offer services in English. Significant cities like Budapest have a lot of English-friendly alternatives, however smaller sized towns might need additional searching.
2. **Book Exams Early:** Demand for English-language theory and practical examinations can be high. Coordinate with your driving school to book examination 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 discrepancy in your residency status.

Browsing the procedure to obtain a Hungarian driving license requires persistence and adherence to procedure, once completed, you will have the freedom to check out the gorgeous landscapes of Hungary and the broader European Union with complete confidence.