Apply For Driving License Poland: What Nobody Is Discussing

How to Apply for a Driving License in Poland: The Ultimate Step-by-Step Guide

Securing a driving license (Prawo Jazdy) in Poland is a considerable turning point. Whether someone is a Polish citizen or an expat making Poland their permanent home, holding a legitimate driving license opens extraordinary flexibility and convenience. However, browsing the governmental landscape of Polish offices can feel frustrating initially look.

This detailed guide breaks down the entire process of how to apply for a driving license in Poland, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free journey from the initial medical check to sitting behind the wheel.

1. Prerequisites Before You Start

Before registering in a driving school, applicants must satisfy specific legal and physical requirements set by Polish law.

- **Age Requirements:** The minimum age depends upon the car classification. For a basic car (Category B), the candidate needs to be at least 18 years of ages.
- **Residency Status:** Foreigners should show legal residency in Poland for a minimum of 185 days per year. This is usually confirmed through a home card (*karta pobytu*), a Polish visa, or EU registration certificates.
- **Medical Fitness:** Every applicant must pass a medical exam to ensure they are physically and psychologically fit to drive.

2. Step-by-Step Guide to Getting a Polish Driving License

The journey to getting a Polish driving license follows a structured sequence of occasions.

Action 1: Obtain a PKK Number (Profil Kandydata na Kierowcu)

The **PKK** (Driver Candidate Profile) is a distinct electronic identification kupie prawo jazdy number created by the regional federal government office. Without a PKK, no driving school will accept a candidate.

To get a PKK, one must visit the local district workplace (*Starostwo Powiatowe*), town hall (*Urząd Miasta*), or district borough office (*Urząd Dzielnicy* in Warsaw) and send the following files:

- A finished application (readily available at the office or online).
- A medical certificate verifying no contraindications to driving.
- One recent picture (3.5 cm x 4.5 cm).
- Evidence of identity (Passport or ID card) and residency status (Residence card/Visa).
- A translation of foreign documents (if applicable).

Action 2: Enroll in a Driving School (*Ośrodek Szkolenia Kierowców* - OSK)

Once the PKK number is provided, the candidate can select a driving school. In Poland, Category B training generally includes:

- **Theoretical training:** At least 30 hours of classroom or online lectures covering traffic rules, road indications, and first help.
- **Practical training:** At least 30 hours behind the wheel with a qualified instructor.

Tip for Expats: While most driving schools conduct courses in Polish, a growing number of schools in major cities like Warsaw, Kraków, and Wrocław use theoretical and practical lessons in English.

Action 3: Pass the Internal Exams

Upon finishing the school's curriculum, trainees should pass internal theoretical and useful exams. Successfully passing these tests grants a graduation certificate from the OSK, which updates the candidate's PKK profile in the system.

Step 4: Pass the State Exams at WORD (*Wojewódzki Ośrodek Ruchu Drogowego*)

The final hurdle includes passing the official state assessments handled by WORD. This is split into two parts:

1. **Theoretical Exam:** A computer-based test including 32 multiple-choice concerns concerning traffic policies. Prospects should score at least 68 out of 74 points to pass.
2. **Practical Exam:** Conducted in two stages-- first, lorry checks and maneuvers on a closed course (e.g., hill start, reverse parking), followed by driving in genuine urban traffic conditions under the examiner's supervision.

Step 5: Collect the Driving License

Once both state tests are successfully passed, the WORD updates the system. The applicant should go back to the regional office where the PKK was provided, pay the issuance fee, and send evidence of payment. The physical license card is generally ready within 9 to 14 working days.

Expense Breakdown of Getting a License in Poland

Budgeting for a driving license requires expecting several repaired and variable expenses. The table below lays out the approximated costs related to acquiring a Category B driving license in Poland.

Expense Item Description Approximate Cost (PLN) Approximate Cost (EUR) **Medical Examination** Needed doctor's see and certificate 200 PLN ~ EUR45 **Passport Photos** 1 set of basic biometric photos 30 - 50 PLN ~ EUR7 - EUR11 **Driving Course (OSK)** 30h theory + 30h practical training 2,500 - 4,000 PLN ~ EUR570 - EUR900 **State Theory Exam (WORD)** Official computer-based test charge 50 PLN ~ EUR11 **State Practical Exam (WORD)** Official driving test charge 200 PLN ~ EUR45 **License Issuance Fee** Plastic card production cost 100.50 PLN ~ EUR23 **Overall Estimated Cost Complete Process 3,030 - 4,600 PLN ~ EUR680 - EUR1,035**

Note: Prices might differ depending upon the city, inflation, and whether the applicant requires additional driving lessons.

Exchanging a Foreign Driving License in Poland

For individuals who already hold a driving license provided outside of Poland, the procedure might be much easier. Depending on the providing nation, a full retake of tests may not be essential.

- **EU/EEA Licenses:** Drivers with a license provided by an EU or EEA member state can drive in Poland lawfully till their license ends. Nevertheless, they can voluntarily exchange it for a Polish license without taking any

tests.

- **Non-EU Licenses (Vienna Convention signatories):** Drivers from countries that signed the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic can typically exchange their license for a Polish one after proving residency, submitting translations, and paying the pertinent charges, without requiring to pass state exams.
- **Other Countries:** Drivers from nations outside the Vienna Convention must normally pass the theoretical state examination (*Teoria*) and sometimes finish a formal treatment before a Polish license is approved.

Vital Checklist for the Application Day

To ensure a smooth check out to the local workplace (*Urząd*), applicants should prepare the following checklist:

- Valid passport or house card (*karta pobytu*).
- The PKK number offered by the office.
- Finished application kind for issuing a driving license.
- Medical certificate validating physical fitness to drive.
- One recent photograph (3.5 x 4.5 cm).
- Confirmation of state test passes (released by WORD).
- Invoice of payment for the driving license card (approx. 100.50 PLN).

Last Thoughts

Getting a driving license in Poland needs patience, time, and financial investment, however the step-by-step system is transparent and well-organized. By preparing the medical files early, protecting a PKK number, and selecting a trusted driving school, future drivers can effectively browse the process and struck the open Polish roadways with self-confidence.