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

Moving to a new nation features a mountain of paperwork, and if you are residing in Hungary, one of the most useful financial investments you can make is securing a regional driving license. Whether you are exchanging a foreign license, transferring an EU document, or starting entirely from scratch, navigating the Hungarian bureaucratic landscape can feel overwhelming.

Nevertheless, with the right preparation, the process ends up being simple. This detailed guide lays out whatever one requires to understand about how to obtain a Hungarian driving license, covering EU and non-EU people, required files, and step-by-step procedures.

Understanding Your Status: Who Needs a Hungarian License?

Before beginning the application, it is vital to figure out which classification you fall under. Hungary's policies concerning driving licenses depend greatly 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 using your present license until it expires. However, you have the alternative-- and in some cases, the obligation-- to exchange it for a Hungarian license if you establish permanent residency.
- **Non-EU/EEA Citizens:** If your license was issued outside the EU, you can usually 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 obtain a Hungarian driving license.

Path 1: Exchanging a Foreign Driving License

For expatriates who already hold a legitimate driving license from their home nation, exchanging it for a Hungarian one is usually the fastest path, offered Hungary has a mutual arrangement 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 mandatory. The medical professional will inspect your eyesight, general health, and reflexes.
2. **Verify Legal Residency:** Ensure your Hungarian Residence Permit (*Lakcímkártya*) depends on date and valid.
3. **Translate the License (If Necessary):** If the license is not in Hungarian or English, an official translation (typically from *OFFI*, the Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation) might be needed.
4. **Visit the Government Office (*Kormányablak*):** Book a consultation or stroll into your city government Window to send the application.
5. **Give Up the Old License:** When looking for 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 restoring) Required Required **Theory Exam** Not needed Not required Required **Practical Exam** Not required Not needed Needed **Emergency Treatment Course** Not needed Not required Required **Initial License Surrendered** Yes Yes Yes

Keep Gyors Vezetői Engedély Beszerzése in mind: If your home nation does not have a license exchange agreement with Hungary, you will unfortunately have to go through the entire procedure of getting a license from scratch.

Route 2: Getting a Hungarian Driving License from Scratch

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

The 5 Steps to Getting a License:

1. Medical Examination

Before touching a guiding wheel, aspiring drivers need to check out a family doctor to get a **Group 1 Medical Certificate** (Class B license). This certificate verifies that the applicant is physically and mentally in shape to drive.

2. Theory Course and Exam

- **The Course:** Applicants should complete a 28-hour theoretical training course. Lots of driving schools offer this in English, either online or in a class setting.
- **The Exam:** After completing the course, prospects must pass a computer-based multiple-choice theory exam at a designated testing center. The test is available in English, Hungarian, and numerous other languages.

3. First Aid Certificate Course

In Hungary, finishing a certified Red Cross First Aid course (*Vöröskereszt*) is a stringent legal requirement for all first-time chauffeurs.

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

4. Practical Driving Lessons and Exam

Once the theory exam is passed, practical training starts.

- **Necessary Hours:** Students should finish a minimum of **29 driving hours** (each lasting 50 minutes), plus pass a minimum range requirement (normally 580 kilometers).
- **Trainer:** You will be paired with a driving trainer. Discovering an English-speaking instructor is completely possible, though they might book up quickly.
- **The Practical Exam:** Once your instructor agrees you are prepared, you will take a roadway test accompanied by an official inspector from the government transport authority.

5. Final Application at the Government Office

Upon passing both exams and completing the First Aid course, you will get a completion certificate (*Igazolás*). Take this file, together with your passport, home authorization, and medical certificate, to the *Kormányablak* to get your physical card.

Needed Documents Checklist

No matter whether you are exchanging a license or beginning fresh, make certain you bring the following documents to your appointments:

- **Valid Passport or National ID Card**
- **Hungarian Residence Permit and Address Card (*Lakcímkártya*)**
- **Valid Medical Certificate**
- **Present Driving License** (if applicable)
- **Official Translations** (if suitable)
- **First Aid Certificate** (for first-time candidates)
- **Proof of Legal Stay** (Non-EU citizens need to prove they have actually resided in Hungary for at least 185 days of the fiscal year).

Expenses and Processing Times

Budgeting for a Hungarian driving license requires preparing for various fees, which can vary. 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
- **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

Total Estimated Cost: 350,000 to 500,000 HUF (approximately 900 to 1,300 EUR), depending upon the driving school and the number of additional driving lessons you might need.

Processing Times

- **License Exchange:** Typically takes **2 to 3 weeks** for the physical card to be printed and mailed to your Hungarian address.
- **Complete Process (From Scratch):** Depending on your schedule, the responsiveness of the driving school, and examination wait times, the whole process typically takes **3 to 6 months**.

Last 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 lots of English-friendly choices, but smaller towns might need extra searching.
2. **Schedule Exams Early:** Demand for English-language theory and useful examinations can be high. Coordinate with your driving school to book test slots well in advance.
3. **Keep Your Residence Current:** Your Hungarian address card should be totally up to date. The authorities will turn down applications if there is any inconsistency in your residency status.

Navigating the process to make an application for a Hungarian driving license needs patience and adherence to protocol, once finished, you will have the flexibility to explore the stunning landscapes of Hungary and the larger

European Union with complete confidence.