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 milestone. Whether someone is a Polish citizen or an expat making Poland their irreversible home, holding a valid driving license opens unmatched flexibility and benefit. However, navigating the bureaucratic landscape of Polish offices can feel overwhelming in the beginning glance.

This extensive guide breaks down the whole procedure of how to obtain a driving license in Poland, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free journey from the preliminary medical check to sitting behind the wheel.

1. Prerequisites Before You Start

Before enrolling in a driving school, candidates must meet particular legal and physical requirements set by Polish law.

- **Age Requirements:** The minimum age depends upon the vehicle category. For a standard automobile (Category B), the applicant should be at least 18 years old.
- **Residency Status:** Foreigners should show legal residency in Poland for a minimum of 185 days annually. This is normally confirmed through a home card (*karta pobytu*), a Polish visa, or EU registration certificates.
- **Medical Fitness:** Every candidate needs to pass a medical exam to guarantee they are physically and mentally in shape 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 special electronic recognition number generated by the regional federal government workplace. Without a PKK, no driving school will accept an applicant.

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

- A completed application kind (offered at the office or online).
- A medical certificate validating no contraindications to driving.
- One current photo (3.5 cm x 4.5 cm).
- Proof of identity (Passport or ID card) and residency status (Residence card/Visa).
- A translation of foreign documents (if relevant).

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

Once the PKK number is released, the applicant can pick a driving school. In Poland, Category B training usually consists of:

- **Theoretical training:** At least 30 hours of classroom or online lectures covering traffic rules, roadway indications, and first aid.
- **Practical training:** At least 30 hours behind the wheel with a certified trainer.

Idea for Expats: While most driving schools perform courses in Polish, a growing variety of schools in major cities like Warsaw, Kraków, and Wrocław offer theoretical and useful lessons in English.

Action 3: Pass the Internal Exams

Upon finishing the school's curriculum, students must pass internal theoretical and practical examinations. Successfully passing these tests grants a graduation certificate from the OSK, which updates the prospect's PKK profile in the system.

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

The last difficulty includes passing the official state evaluations handled by WORD. This is split into 2 parts:

1. **Theoretical Exam:** A computer-based test featuring 32 multiple-choice concerns concerning traffic regulations. Prospects should score a minimum of 68 out of 74 indicate pass.
2. **Practical Exam:** Conducted in 2 phases-- initially, vehicle checks and maneuvers on a closed course (e.g., hill start, reverse parking), followed by driving in genuine city traffic conditions under the inspector's supervision.

Step 5: Collect the Driving License

Once both state examinations are successfully passed, the WORD updates the system. The candidate must return to the regional office where the PKK was released, pay the issuance cost, and send evidence of payment. The physical license card is usually prepared within 9 to 14 working days.

Expense Breakdown of Getting a License in Poland

Budgeting for a driving license needs anticipating a number of repaired and variable expenses. The table listed below lays out the estimated expenses connected with obtaining a Look at this website Category B driving license in Poland.

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

Keep in mind: Prices may differ depending on the city, inflation, and whether the candidate requires additional driving lessons.

Exchanging a Foreign Driving License in Poland

For individuals who already hold a driving license provided beyond Poland, the process may be much simpler. Depending on the providing nation, a full retake of exams may not be essential.

- **EU/EEA Licenses:** Drivers with a license released by an EU or EEA member state can drive in Poland legally until 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 showing residency, submitting translations, and paying the relevant fees, without requiring to pass state examinations.
- **Other Countries:** Drivers from nations outside the Vienna Convention should normally pass the theoretical state test (*Teoria*) and in some cases finish a formal procedure before a Polish license is approved.

Important Checklist for the Application Day

To ensure a smooth see to the local workplace (*Urząd*), applicants must prepare the following list:

- Valid passport or house card (*karta pobytu*).
- The PKK number supplied by the workplace.
- Completed application form for releasing a driving license.
- Medical certificate verifying physical fitness to drive.
- One current picture (3.5 x 4.5 cm).
- Verification of state examination passes (provided by WORD).
- Receipt of payment for the driving license card (approx. 100.50 PLN).

Last Thoughts

Making an application for a driving license in Poland needs perseverance, time, and monetary investment, but the step-by-step system is transparent and efficient. By preparing the medical files early, securing a PKK number, and choosing a trustworthy driving school, future chauffeurs can successfully browse the process and struck the open Polish roadways with self-confidence.