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 significant milestone. Whether someone is a Polish resident or an expat making Poland their long-term home, holding a legitimate driving license opens unmatched freedom and benefit. However, browsing the bureaucratic landscape of Polish offices can feel frustrating at very first look.

This comprehensive guide breaks down the entire process of how to obtain a driving license in Poland, making sure 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 should fulfill specific legal and physical requirements set by Polish law.

- **Age Requirements:** The minimum age depends on the car classification. For a basic vehicle (Category B), the applicant must be at least 18 years old.
- **Residency Status:** Foreigners need to show legal residency in Poland for a minimum of 185 days each year. This is typically confirmed by means of a house card (*karta pobytu*), a Polish visa, or EU registration certificates.
- **Medical Fitness:** Every candidate needs to pass a medical examination to ensure they are physically and mentally in shape to drive.

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

The journey to obtaining a Polish driving license follows a structured series of occasions.

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

The **PKK** (Driver Candidate Profile) is a special electronic recognition number created by the local government workplace. Without a PKK, no driving school will accept an applicant.

To get a PKK, one need to go to the regional district office (*Starostwo Powiatowe*), municipal government (*Urząd Miasta*), or district borough office (*Urząd Dzielnicy* in Warsaw) and send the following files:

- A finished application type (available at the office or online).
- A medical certificate verifying no contraindications to driving.
- One current 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 files (if suitable).

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

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

- **Theoretical training:** At least 30 hours of class or online lectures covering traffic guidelines, road indications, and very first help.
- **Practical training:** At least 30 hours behind the wheel with a licensed trainer.

Idea for Expats: While the majority of driving schools perform courses in Polish, a growing number of schools in major cities like Warsaw, Kraków, and Wrocław https://kartaxpresspoland.com/ offer theoretical and practical lessons in English.

Step 3: Pass the Internal Exams

Upon finishing the school's curriculum, trainees should pass internal theoretical and useful exams. Effectively 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 involves passing the official state assessments managed by WORD. This is split into 2 parts:

1. **Theoretical Exam:** A computer-based test including 32 multiple-choice questions concerning traffic guidelines. Candidates must score a minimum of 68 out of 74 indicate pass.
2. **Practical Exam:** Conducted in two stages-- initially, car checks and maneuvers on a closed course (e.g., hill start, reverse parking), followed by driving in genuine city 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 candidate should return to the local office where the PKK was released, pay the issuance charge, and send evidence of payment. The physical license card is typically all set within 9 to 14 working days.

Cost Breakdown of Getting a License in Poland

Budgeting for a driving license requires expecting a number of fixed and variable costs. The table below lays out the approximated expenditures associated with obtaining a Category B driving license in Poland.

Cost Item Description Approximate Cost (PLN) Approximate Cost (EUR) **Medical Examination** Needed doctor'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 examination cost 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 Total Process 3,030 - 4,600 PLN ~ EUR680 - EUR1,035**

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

Exchanging a Foreign Driving License in Poland

For people who currently hold a driving license provided outside of Poland, the procedure may be much easier. Depending on the providing country, a full retake of examinations might not be essential.

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

- **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, sending translations, and paying the appropriate charges, without requiring to pass state exams.
- **Other Countries:** Drivers from nations outside the Vienna Convention need to normally pass the theoretical state test (*Teoria*) and in some cases finish a formal procedure before a Polish license is approved.

Necessary Checklist for the Application Day

To make sure a smooth visit to the regional workplace (*Urząd*), applicants should prepare the following list:

- Valid passport or residence card (*karta pobytu*).
- The PKK number offered by the office.
- Completed application for releasing a driving license.
- Medical certificate confirming fitness to drive.
- One current photograph (3.5 x 4.5 cm).
- Verification of state exam passes (released by WORD).
- Invoice of payment for the driving license card (approx. 100.50 PLN).

Final Thoughts

Using for a driving license in Poland needs persistence, time, and monetary investment, however the detailed system is transparent and well-organized. By preparing the medical documents early, securing a PKK number, and choosing a reliable driving school, future chauffeurs can effectively browse the process and hit the open Polish roadways with confidence.