How to Obtain a Hungarian Driving License: A Comprehensive Step-by-Step Guide

Getting a motorist's license in Hungary is a structured process that welcomes both EU/EEA citizens and third-country nationals. Whether somebody is a resident requiring to commute, a digital wanderer settling in Budapest, or a student desiring the liberty to explore the countryside, having a Hungarian driving license opens up many possibilities.

Navigating the regional administration can initially seem overwhelming, particularly with language barriers. Nevertheless, the course to getting behind the wheel in Hungary is simple when broken down into workable actions. This extensive guide outlines everything needed to successfully acquire a Hungarian driving license (Category B for cars and trucks).

Prerequisites: Who Can Apply?

Before beginning the process, candidates need to meet particular legal and residency requirements set by the Hungarian government.

- **Residency:** Applicants need to have a legitimate Hungarian address card (*lakcímkártya*) showing they have actually been locals in Hungary for at least 185 days.
- **Age:** The minimum age for a Category B (cars and truck) driving license in Hungary is 17 years old.
- **Medical Fitness:** Every candidate should pass a standard medical checkup to show physical and mental fitness for driving.

Step-by-Step Guide to Getting a Hungarian Driving License

The journey from a complete novice to a licensed driver in Hungary involves a number of unique turning points.

Action 1: Obtain a Medical Certificate

The extremely first document needed is a medical certificate of fitness.

1. Go to a basic professional (GP) or a designated occupational health medical professional.
2. The doctor will conduct fundamental tests (vision, hearing, basic health history, and high blood pressure).
3. Those who use glasses or contact lenses need to bring them along; the resulting license will note the requirement for restorative lenses.
4. When passed, the medical professional problems an official medical certificate (*Orvosi Alkalmassági Vélemény*).

Step 2: Complete the First-Aid Course

In Hungary, finishing a qualified first-aid course and passing its test is mandatory before getting a complete driving license.

- The Hungarian Red Cross (*Magyar Vöröskereszt*) organizes these courses.

- Numerous driving schools (*autósiskola*) package this course into their plans.
- The examination consists of a multiple-choice survey and a practical demonstration of CPR and bandaging techniques. *(Medical experts, nurses, and those with certain medical degrees may be exempt from this action).*

Step 3: Enroll in a Driving School (*Autósiskola*)

Choosing the best driving school is vital, particularly for non-Hungarian speakers. Many schools in Budapest and major cities offer courses and textbooks entirely in English.

The training is divided into two primary stages:

1. **Theoretical Training (Kresz):**
    - Typically consists of a minimum of 28 hours of classes (or an equivalent online self-study website).
    - Covers Hungarian traffic guidelines, road signs, and policies.
2. **Practical Training (Vezetés):**
    - Can just begin after passing the theory exam.
    - Needs a minimum of 29 driving hours plus 1 practical exam hour (amounting to 30 hours), covering a mandatory distance of at least 580 kilometers.

Step 4: Pass the Theory Exam (KRESZ Vizsga)

Once the theoretical classes are finished, trainees need to take the main computer-based theory examination at a designated government testing center.

- **Format:** 55 multiple-choice questions.
- **Time frame:** 30 minutes.
- **Scoring:** The exam runs out 75 points (some questions are worth 3 points, others 1 or 2). A minimum of **65 points** is required to pass.
- **Language:** Available in Hungarian, English, and German at most metropolitan centers.

Step 5: Complete Practical Lessons and the Road Exam

After passing the KRESZ test, trainees are assigned a driving instructor (*oktató*) to begin practical lessons behind the wheel.

- Trainees find out fundamental vehicle control, maneuvering, city driving, and rural/highway driving.
- When the instructor agrees that the trainee is ready-- and the minimum hour/kilometer requirements are met-- the useful roadway examination (*forgalmi vizsga*) is arranged.
- The roadway test lasts around 50 minutes and happens on public roads with a main inspector being in the back seat and the instructor in the front guest seat.

Summary of Costs and Timeframes

The time and financial investment required to acquire a Hungarian driving license can vary based upon specific learning rate and school charges.

Phase Approximated Time Approximate Cost (HUF) **Medical Certificate** 1 day 7,000-- 15,000 HUF **First-Aid Course & & Exam** 1-- 2 weeks 15,000-- 25,000 HUF **Theory Course (KRESZ)** 2-- 4 weeks 40,000-- 70,000 HUF

Theory Exam Fee 1 day 4,600 HUF **Practical Lessons (per hour)** 4-- 12 weeks 7,000-- 12,000 HUF per hour **Practical Road Exam Fee** 1 day 11,000 HUF **License Issuance Fee** 1 week (processing) 6,250 HUF

Keep in mind: Prices are quotes and subject to inflation, school pricing policies, and the number of additional driving lessons an individual may require.

Converting a Foreign License vs. Getting a New One

For expats who currently hold a driving license from their home nation, the process might vary significantly based upon citizenship:

- **EU/EEA License Holders:** Generally, an EU/EEA license stands in Hungary up until its expiration date. Holders can choose to convert it to a Hungarian license willingly without taking tests, offered they are regular residents.
- **Non-EU/EEA License Holders:** Third-country licenses are normally valid for only one year after developing residency in Hungary. To continue driving legally beyond that duration, chauffeurs need to normally undergo the conversion process, which typically needs passing the Hungarian KRESZ (theory) test and a practical driving test, though some nations have bilateral contracts that waive these requirements.

Essential Documents Checklist

When going to federal government workplaces (*Kormányablak*) for administrative jobs related to the license, always ensure you carry the following:

- Valid Passport or National ID card.
- Hungarian Address Card (*Lakcímkártya*).
- Residence Permit (*Tartózkodási Engedély*) if appropriate.
- Medical Certificate of Fitness.
- First-Aid Certificate.
- Certificate of finished primary education (often required by driving schools to show compliance with Hungarian educational prerequisites-- usually an 8-grade school certificate or higher, equated if required).
- Proof of passing the theory and useful assessments.

Last Thoughts

Acquiring a Hungarian driving license requires perseverance, studying, and monetary preparation, however the reward is lifelong movement within Hungary and across the European Union. By picking an English-friendly driving school, studying the traffic guidelines diligently, and keeping all paperwork arranged, new motorists will find themselves browsing the picturesque streets of Budapest and beyond with self-confidence and overall legality.