Overseas Drivers - How to get your driver's licence in Western Australia

The information below will help you find out if you need to get a Western Australian (WA) driver's licence and if so, how to get it. The information provided is for car (C) and motorcycle (R) licences only.

Do I need to get a WA driver's licence?

I am in WA as a visitor:

A visitor includes if you are a tourist, on a business trip, studying or working temporarily in WA. As a visitor you do NOT need a WA driver's licence, you can continue to drive on your current overseas driver's licence*. You must carry your overseas licence with you when driving, if your licence is not in English you must have it officially translated by; your consulate or embassy or a National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpretors accredited translator.

*If your overseas licence is no longer valid, you must apply for a WA licence to drive in WA.

I am in WA to live here:

If you have held a permanent visa for three months or more whilst residing in WA, you must apply for a WA licence.

The requirements for getting a WA driver’s licence will depend on what country your overseas driver’s licence is from.

The country categories are:

→ Recognised: meet the same stringent driving assessment criteria as WA.
→ Experienced driver recognised: similar assessment criteria as WA.
→ Non-recognised: do not meet WA’s requirements.

Please refer to our website to see which category your country fits into. Some countries may have additional requirements than those provided here, refer to our website www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs for more information.
Transfer requirements:

• Submit a completed Driver’s licence application (DLA1) form in person and pay the application fee (visit our website for current fees and charges)
• Bring your current overseas driver’s licence and an approved translated copy if it’s not in English
• Provide an approved combination of proof of identity documents
• Complete an eyesight test
• Have your photograph and signature captured

If you are from a non-recognised country or an experienced driver recognised country (and under 25 years of age) you must also complete the below to get a WA driver's licence:

• Sit and pass a theory test in the class of licence you wish to hold
• Sit and pass a practical driving assessment in the class of licence you wish to hold

Note: If you are under 19 years of age or have not held your overseas licence for a period of two years or periods adding up to two years you will be issued a provisional licence.

Additional information

Forms and publications: You can download forms and publications from our website or pick them up from one of our centres or agents.

Proof of identity: All applicants need to provide an approved combination of documents when first applying for a licence. Please refer to the Your Secure Identity fact sheet or visit our website for more information.

Theory test: To prepare for the theory test you should study the Drive Safe or Ride Safe handbooks and practice the online sample quizzes available on our website.

Driving test: Please refer to the practical driving assessment information on our website and the How to Pass your Driving Assessment - A Candidates Guide to the Practical Driving Assessment handbook for information on preparing for and sitting your driving test.

Other vehicle classes: Please visit our website for information on how to get your WA licence for vehicle classes other than C or R.

The information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and believed to be accurate at time of publication 28.05.2018. The State shall in no way be liable for any loss sustained or incurred by anyone relying on the information.

For more information

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