How to Apply for a Driving License in Poland: The Ultimate Step-by-Step Guide

Protecting a driving license (Prawo Jazdy) in Poland is a significant turning point. Whether someone is a Polish citizen or an expat making Poland their long-term home, holding a valid driving license unlocks unprecedented flexibility and benefit. Nevertheless, navigating the administrative landscape of Polish workplaces can feel overwhelming at very first look.

This detailed guide breaks down the entire procedure of how to get a driving license in Poland, ensuring a smooth and problem-free journey from the initial medical check to sitting behind the wheel.

1. Prerequisites Before You Start

Before registering in a driving school, applicants must meet specific legal and physical requirements set by Polish law.

- **Age Requirements:** The minimum age depends on the lorry category. For a basic automobile (Category B), the applicant must be at least 18 years old.
- **Residency Status:** Foreigners must prove legal residency in Poland for a minimum of 185 days annually. This is usually 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 exam to ensure they are physically and mentally healthy to drive.

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

The journey to getting a Polish driving license follows a structured series of events.

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

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

To get a PKK, one need to visit the local district office (*Starostwo Powiatowe*), city hall (*Urząd Miasta*), or district borough workplace (*Urząd Dzielnicy* in Warsaw) and send the following documents:

- A completed application type (readily available at the office or online).
- A medical certificate validating no contraindications to driving.
- One recent 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 appropriate).

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

Once the PKK number is issued, 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, road signs, and very first help.
- **Practical training:** At least 30 hours behind the wheel with a licensed instructor.

Pointer for Expats: While most driving schools conduct courses in Polish, a growing number of schools in significant cities like Warsaw, Kraków, and Wrocław use theoretical and practical lessons in English.

Action 3: Pass the Internal Exams

Upon completing the school's curriculum, trainees should pass internal theoretical and practical examinations. Successfully passing these tests grants a graduation certificate from the OSK, which updates the candidate's PKK profile in the system.

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

The last difficulty involves passing the main state evaluations managed by WORD. This is split into two parts:

1. **Theoretical Exam:** A computer-based test including 32 multiple-choice questions relating to traffic guidelines. Candidates must score at least 68 out of 74 indicate pass.
2. **Practical Exam:** Conducted in two stages-- first, automobile checks and maneuvers on a closed course (e.g., hill start, reverse parking), followed by driving in genuine metropolitan traffic conditions under the inspector's guidance.

Step 5: Collect the Driving License

Once both state examinations are effectively passed, the WORD updates the system. The applicant should return to the local workplace where the PKK was issued, pay the issuance fee, and submit evidence of payment. The physical license card is typically ready within 9 to 14 working days.

Cost Breakdown of Getting a License in Poland

Budgeting for a driving license needs expecting several repaired and variable costs. The table below details the estimated expenses associated with obtaining a Category B driving license in Poland.

Cost Item Description Approximate Cost (PLN) Approximate Cost (EUR) **Medical Examination** Needed medical professional's visit and certificate 200 PLN ~ EUR45 **Passport Photos** 1 set of basic biometric pictures 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 cost 50 PLN ~ EUR11 **State Practical Exam (WORD)** Official driving test charge 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**

Note: Prices might differ depending upon the city, inflation, and whether the applicant needs additional driving lessons.

Exchanging a Foreign Driving License in Poland

For people who already hold a driving license provided beyond Poland, the procedure might be much simpler. Depending upon the providing nation, a complete retake of tests might not be required.

- **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 willingly exchange it for a Polish license without taking any

examinations.

- **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, sending translations, and paying the pertinent charges, without requiring to pass state examinations.
- **Other Countries:** Drivers from nations outside the Vienna Convention should generally pass the theoretical state test (*Teoria*) and sometimes finish a formal treatment before a Polish license is approved.

Important Checklist for the Application Day

To guarantee a smooth check out to the local office (*Urząd*), candidates kupno prawa jazdy need to prepare the following list:

- Valid passport or residence card (*karta pobytu*).
- The PKK number offered by the office.
- Finished application for issuing a driving license.
- Medical certificate verifying fitness to drive.
- One recent photograph (3.5 x 4.5 cm).
- Confirmation of state examination passes (released by WORD).
- Receipt of payment for the driving license card (approx. 100.50 PLN).

Final Thoughts

Obtaining a driving license in Poland requires patience, time, and financial investment, however the detailed system is transparent and efficient. By preparing the medical documents early, securing a PKK number, and choosing a credible driving school, future drivers can **gdzie można kupić prawo jazdy** effectively browse the procedure and hit the open Polish roadways with confidence.