

DRIVING LICENCE AND TEST INFORMATION



Driving on a non-UK licence

If your driving licence was obtained in the European Union or European Economic Area, Great Britain or Northern Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey or Isle of Man or one of the following designated countries or territories with exchange agreements with Great Britain:

Andorra, Australia, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Japan, Moldova, Monaco, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Republic of North Macedonia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe - you can continue to drive in the UK, without exchanging your licence, for 12 months after becoming resident.

After 12 months you must exchange your licence for a UK one to continue driving. If you hold a licence from one of the above countries and you do not use it to drive in the UK straight away, you will be able to exchange it for a UK licence up to 5 years after becoming resident, if it has not expired. Here is what you need to do to exchange your licence:

- [Order form D1](#) from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).
- Send the form, £43 fee and any documents you need (including your driving licence and proof of passing your test in a manual vehicle if needed) to the address on the form.
- Your licence will usually arrive in 3 to 4 weeks. It might take longer if you've told DVLA about a medical condition and your details need to be checked.

If your licence **is not** from the European Union or European Economic Area, Great Britain or Northern Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man or a 'non-designated country or territory' as listed above, you can drive in the UK for 12 months. To continue to drive in the UK after this time, you will need to take a [theory test](#) and a [practical test](#) (see more about this below).

You will need to [get a provisional driving licence](#) before you can take these tests.

You will get a full UK licence once you have passed your tests.

Applying for a UK provisional licence / Booking a test

To apply for your UK provisional driving licence, follow this link:

[Apply for your first provisional driving licence - GOV.UK](#)

You must take, and pass, an online driving theory test and then you can book a practical driving test.

Theory tests are taken online at designated test centres locally. Use the following link to book one:

[Book your theory test - GOV.UK](#)

You can practise some theory tests to help you prepare – see link below:

[Take a practice theory test - GOV.UK](#)

Once you have passed your theory test you can book your practical driving test using the following link:

[Book your driving test - GOV.UK](#)

If you cannot see any available test dates in the test centre of your choice, book a test in the nearest available centre. You may have to book a test that is a long way off e.g. six months or more, due to limited availability. If this is the case, once you have a test date, you can use the DVSA 'Change your driving test' service to find an earlier test.

The 'Change your driving test' service lets you search for earlier appointments – often called “cancellation appointments”. This online service runs from **6:00 am to 11:40 pm** and shows booking slots up to 24 weeks ahead. To book driving test cancellation slots effectively, it's important to check frequently and act quickly when a preferred date appears. You will need:

1. Your UK driving licence number
2. Your driving test reference number or theory test pass certificate number (from the letter you got when you passed your theory test)

To access this service, click on the link below:

[Change your driving test appointment - GOV.UK](#)

Here's what you need to know:

- Use the DVSA “change test” service: Log in with your licence and test reference, then select “find an earlier test”. This searches for slots freed up by others. The site makes it easy to see if any earlier dates are available at your chosen centre or others. The DVSA site explicitly calls the earlier date option a “*cancellation appointment*”.
- Search multiple centres: Don’t limit yourself to one test centre. When you change your booking, you can also switch centres. Checking a few nearby centres each day can uncover cancellations that wouldn’t be available at your first choice.
- Check often, especially early and late: New cancellations can appear at any time. Some learners find success by checking the booking service early in the morning (shortly after 6 am) or late at night before 11:40 pm. These are times when the system refreshes and new slots may appear, increasing your chances of securing a theory test booking cancellation if you’re looking to take the test sooner.
- Know the rules: Remember, you can change your test up to 6 times without cancelling and losing your fee. After 6 moves, you must cancel and rebook (which costs again). Also, you must give 10 working days’ notice to cancel for a refund, so plan accordingly if you resort to cancelling.

