

Licence types

The length of time you have held an overseas car or rider licence will determine the type of licence that you are eligible to hold in NSW.

If you have held your overseas car or rider licence (except learner) for less than one year, you will only be eligible for a provisional P1 licence.

If you have held a car or rider licence (except learner) for more than one year but less than three years, you will only be eligible for a provisional P2 licence.

If you have held a car or rider licence (except learner) for more than three years, you will be eligible for an unrestricted licence.

See the Road Users' Handbook or visit our website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au for descriptions of the different licence types.

I would like to keep my overseas licence

It is a legal requirement under Australian licensing laws that only one licence can be used for driving in Australia.

Before a NSW licence will be issued, you must present your overseas licence so the details can be verified and recorded. The overseas licence will be returned to you unmarked, unless the overseas licensing authority has requested its return if a NSW licence is issued.

Driving in NSW

Once you have been issued with a NSW licence, it becomes the authority under which you can drive or ride on NSW roads. Your overseas licence is not recognised and has no authority whilst you are the holder of a NSW licence.

When driving in NSW, you must comply with any conditions, restrictions or limitations that apply to your NSW licence. If you are requested by NSW Police to produce your licence in relation to a driving matter, you must produce your NSW driver licence.

If you continue to hold overseas visitor status, you may surrender your NSW licence (including a learner licence) at our registry at any time. This is as long as your NSW driver licence is not suspended or cancelled. If you surrender your NSW driver licence, you may resume driving under the authority of your overseas licence as long as you are not disqualified from driving, you have not failed a driving test, your visiting driver privileges have not been withdrawn and your overseas licence remains current and valid.

If your NSW driver licence expires, it must be renewed if you wish to continue driving in NSW. You may not resume driving under the authority of your overseas licence unless your NSW driver licence, even if expired, has been surrendered.

You have an obligation to prove your overseas visitor status if requested by Police.

If you would like to talk to us in your language, the Translating and Interpreting Service is available at all registries. Ask at the counter.

إذا أردت أن تتحدث معنا بلغتك، فخدمة الترجمة الكتابية والشفوية متوفرة في كل مكاتب التسجيل. اسأل عن ذلك في مكتب الاستقبال.

Jika Anda ingin berbicara dengan kami dalam bahasa Anda, Layanan Penerjemahan (*Translating and Interpreting Service*) tersedia di semua tempat pendaftaran. Mintalah di loket.

यदि आप हमारे साथ अपनी भाषा में बात करना चाहते हैं तो अनुवाद व दुभाषिया सेवा सभी रजिस्ट्रियों में उपलब्ध है। काउंटर पर पूछिए।

Ако желите да разговарате с нама на свом језику, услуге Преводилачке службе су на располагању у свим канцеларијама Управе за путеве и саобраћај.

Kung nais ninyo kaming makausap sa wikang Filipino, may makukuhang Serbisyo ng Tagasalinwika sa lahat ng mga parehistruhan. Magtanong sa harap-tanggapan.

我們所有的辦事處都有口譯和筆譯服務。如果你想用你的語言與我們交談，請詢問服務檯。

日本語による応対を希望される方は、すべての登録所で翻訳・通訳サービスをご利用いただけます。カウンターにてお申し付け下さい。

저희에게 한국어로 얘기하고 싶으신 분들은 어떤 등기소에서든 번역 및 통역서비스(TIS)를 이용하실 수 있습니다. 창구에 문의해 주시기 바랍니다. .

Roads and Maritime Services

The information in this brochure is a guide only and is subject to change at any time without notice.

For further enquiries
www.rms.nsw.gov.au | 13 22 13

Hearing or speech impaired? Call us via the National Relay Service:

- TTY users phone 133 677 then ask for 13 22 13
- Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 13 22 13.

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Road safety for international drivers

International drivers should view the extensive information about driving safely and legally on NSW roads available on our website at www.rms.nsw.gov.au

The Road Users' Handbook, which explains the main road rules in NSW and must be read and understood by applicants for NSW driver licences, is also a useful reference for international drivers or riders.

New South Wales vehicle registration

For information on bringing your vehicle to NSW, buying or selling a vehicle or registering a vehicle see the website www.rms.nsw.gov.au or contact 13 22 13

Guide for international drivers

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS
FOR DRIVERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

海外駕駛執照持有人士指南

海外からお越しの運転者の方々へ案内

국제 면허 소지자들을 위한 안내

دليل السائقين الدوليين

Pedomon untuk pengemudi luar negeri

आस्ट्रेलिया ये उन ड्राइवरों के लिये वरिक्व जिन्के पास अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय लाइसेंस

Водич за међународне возаче

Pamatnubay sa mga Nais Magmaneho sa Iba't-ibang Bansa

Visiting overseas drivers

Who is a temporary overseas visitor?

If you are not an Australian citizen or not a permanent resident of Australia you are considered to be a temporary overseas visitor. Temporary overseas visitors can include:

- Tourists.
- Business people on limited-duration visits.
- People studying or working temporarily (eg working visa holders) in NSW.

If you are a citizen or licence holder from New Zealand, see *Citizens or licence holders from New Zealand* on the next page.

Do I need a NSW licence to drive in NSW?

If you are a temporary overseas visiting driver, and you hold a current overseas driver licence you do not have to get a NSW driver licence. You can drive on your current overseas licence as long as:

- You remain a visitor.
- Your overseas licence remains current.
- You have not been disqualified from driving in NSW or elsewhere.
- You have not had your licence suspended or cancelled or your visiting driver privileges withdrawn.

Your licence must be written in English or, if the licence is not in English, you must also carry an English translation or an International Driving Permit with your licence when driving.

Can I get a NSW licence if I am a temporary overseas visitor?

Certain licensing rules apply to temporary overseas visiting drivers who want to get a NSW licence for the first time. The rules mean:

- You will only be eligible to apply for a NSW licence once you have been in Australia for a continuous period of at least six months immediately prior to licence application.
- Licences will be marked with the one letter code 'Q' in the conditions area on the front of the licence, while the accompanying text 'Evidence of permanent resident status not provided to Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)' will appear on the back of the licence.
- Licences (including learner, P1, P2, and unrestricted) issued with a 'Q' will only be valid for 12 months.

Note: These licensing rules do not apply to customers who have previously been issued a NSW licence, customers transferring an Australian interstate licence or New Zealand licence to a NSW licence. Visitors who do not hold an overseas licence applying for a NSW learner licence are exempt from the requirement to have been in Australia for a continuous period of at least six months before applying.

Citizens or licence holders from New Zealand

If you are a New Zealand citizen or licence holder visiting NSW you will be exempt from the licensing rules for temporary overseas visitors as you must obtain a NSW licence within three months of residing in Australia or stop driving.

What vehicles can I drive?

If you are a temporary overseas visiting car licence holder you may drive vehicles covered by a NSW class C driver licence (up to 4.5 tonnes GVM and seating up to 12 adults, including the driver).

If you are a temporary overseas visiting truck licence holder you may drive vehicles that are authorised by your overseas licence class. For information about the requirements for driving heavy vehicles in NSW see the Heavy Vehicle Drivers' Handbook that is available on our website or which can be purchased at any registry.

How can I prove my visiting driver status?

As a temporary overseas visiting driver, you must carry your licence with you when driving. You have an obligation to prove your overseas visitor status if requested by Police.

Visas, letters from employers or educational institutions and statements from consulates or diplomatic offices may be used to establish visitor status.

What if I have an overseas learner licence?

If you hold a current overseas learner licence, you can continue to learn to drive in NSW. Your supervising driver can be anyone who holds a valid Australian driver licence, class C or above (not an Australian learner licence or provisional (P1 or P2) licence).

You must, however, comply with all NSW road rules (eg display L plates) and any relevant restrictions endorsed on your overseas licence.

The Road Users' Handbook explains the NSW road rules and can be obtained from any registry or by visiting our website.

New NSW residents

Driving as a permanent resident

If you hold a permanent resident visa under the Commonwealth Migration Act 1958, you are not a temporary overseas visiting driver.

You are allowed to drive or ride in NSW on your current overseas licence for a maximum of three months after arriving in Australia. If you are migrating from New Zealand you must obtain a NSW licence within three months of taking up residence in NSW.

To drive with your current overseas licence during the three-month period, you must not be disqualified from driving or riding and your

licence must not be suspended or cancelled or your visiting driver privileges withdrawn.

You must get (not just apply for) a NSW licence within this three-month period if you wish to continue to drive or ride in NSW.

If your overseas licence is not in English, you must also carry your International Driving Permit or an English translation with your licence when driving.

How do I get a NSW licence?

You must be aged 17 years or over to get a NSW driver licence.

If you hold an overseas licence to drive or ride (including a learner licence) and want to get a NSW licence, you must go to a registry and:

- If your licence is in English, present your original overseas licence. Photocopies or scanned copies will not be accepted.
- If your overseas licence is not written in English, present your overseas licence and an official translation from the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW.

RMS also accepts translations obtained from the fee-free translation service provided by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). The DIAC fee-free translation service is only available for eligible people. For further information on fee-free translations for eligible persons, please go to the DIAC website at www.immi.gov.au.

For Korean driver licences, RMS accepts translations from the Consulate-General of the Republic of Korea as the Consulate verifies the licence details with the relevant Korean driver licence authority.

Translations obtained through other means are not acceptable.

- If you cannot produce your overseas licence, provide:
 - a letter from the overseas licence issuing authority confirming your licence details and status, or
 - a letter from a relevant consulate or diplomatic office, based on information received from the overseas licence issuing authority, confirming your licence details and status.

Where extra licence information is required (eg about the first issue date or the validity period of the licence or where the type of vehicle authorised to be driven or ridden is not shown) a letter from the driver licence issuing authority (on its letterhead) or from a relevant consulate or diplomatic office will be accepted.

Any letter provided to confirm licence details or status should be in English or have an official English translation from the sources described above.

You must also:

- Prove your NSW address.
- Prove your identity.

- Pass an eyesight test.
- Pass a knowledge test for each class of licence required, unless exempt.
- Pass a driving test for each class of licence required, unless exempt.
- Provide documents proving the first issue date of your licence, if it is not displayed on the licence.

You must declare your overseas licence (and any other licences that you may hold) in the licence application form and prove the length of time you have held it to help determine the type of NSW licence for which you are eligible. If you do not provide acceptable confirmation of your overseas licence details, you will be issued with a NSW learner licence (with log book) or provisional licence.

You may not be required to pass a car/rider knowledge test and/or a practical driving/riding test if:

- You have previously held an Australian driver licence which can be verified by the issuing authority.
- You hold a current New Zealand car or rider licence.
- You are applying for a car or rider licence and you hold a current overseas driver licence, or one that expired in the last five years, from one of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guernsey, Ireland, Isle of Man (licences issued or renewed since 1 April 1991), Italy, Japan, Jersey, Luxembourg, Malta (licences issued or renewed since 2 January 2004), Netherlands, New Zealand (except paper licences), Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States.

- You are aged 25 years or older, you are applying for a car or rider licence and you hold a current overseas driver licence, or one that expired in the last five years, from one of the following countries: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hong Kong, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea and Taiwan.

Note: RMS reserves the right to require a knowledge and driving/riding test. A licence may not be issued unless RMS is satisfied that the overseas licence is valid.

What if I fail the driving test?

If you fail the driving test, your visiting driver privileges will be withdrawn. You must then get a learner licence that will allow you to drive (while supervised by a licensed driver) and then go for another driving test.