

HOW TO...

APPLY FOR A CALIFORNIA DRIVER LICENSE

International students are eligible to apply for a California driver license or a California State ID card from the Department of Motor Vehicles office. The California driver license and the State ID card are considered the official documents for routine identification purposes in California.

If you are 18 years of age or older and applying for a driver license, follow the instructions below (information obtained from http://www.dmv.ca.gov/dl/dl_info.htm):

- Obtain and study a copy of the “California Driver Handbook” from the DMV. Become familiar with California traffic laws.
- Make an appointment with the DMV at <https://eg.dmv.ca.gov/foAppt/Welcome.jsp>
- Visit the DMV office and bring your I-94 immigration documents.
- Complete application form DL 44 (Copies of form DL 44 will not be accepted).
- Give a thumb print
- Have your picture taken
- Provide your Social Security Number. It will be verified with the Social Security Administration while you are in the office (*if you are ineligible for a Social Security Number please read the SSN information on the other side of this sheet*).
- Verify your birth date and legal presence (Passport and I-94)
- Provide your true full name
- Pay the application fee
- Pass a vision exam
- Pass a traffic laws and sign written test. There are 36 questions on the test. A passing score is at least 31 correct answers. You have three chances to pass (for a sample test go to <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/interactive/tdive/exam.htm>).
- You will then be issued a permit if you have never been licensed before.
To take your driving test, you will need to:
 - ❖ Call a DMV office to set up an appointment. (Driving tests are not given without an appointment.)
 - ❖ Provide proof of financial responsibility
- After you pass your driving test you will be issued an interim license valid for 60 days until you receive your new photo license in the mail.

Please review the DMV Website (www.dmv.ca.gov) for more information

HOW TO...

APPLY FOR A CALIFORNIA DRIVER LICENSE (continued)

International Students who are ineligible for a Social Security Number (SSN)

According to the State of California Department of Motor Vehicles' Web site (<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/dl/dl.htm>), individuals who are legally present in the U.S., but ineligible for a Social Security Number (SSN) are exempt from the SSN requirements to obtain a driver's license. The Social Security Administration will not assign an SSN to individuals holding F or J non-immigrant status to comply with a state statute requiring an SSN for the issuance of a driver's license (<http://ssa-custhelp.ssa.gov>).

In lieu of a Social Security Number, students will provide proof of legal presence in the form of a valid foreign passport with a valid Record of Arrival/Departure (form I-94).

Important Information

Government legislation passed in 1998 to curb fraud and misuse of the system now requires the DMV to send documents to US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for verification before issuing a California driver license or ID card to applicants who are non-US citizens.

Local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices:

LONG BEACH

3700 E. Willow Street
Long Beach, CA 90815

FULLERTON

909 W. Valencia Dr.
Fullerton, 92632

SANTA ANA

1330 E. 1st. St.
Santa Ana, 92701

TORRANCE

1785 W. 220th St.
Torrance, 90501

Phone: (800) 777-0133

Office Hours:

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Wednesday

Website: www.dmv.ca.gov