Your Complete Guide to Getting a Driver's License in Poland

Acquiring a motorist's license is a significant turning point, and doing so in Poland is a structured, highly regulated, and effective procedure. Whether a citizen is a Polish resident or an expatriate making Poland their home, the path to getting behind the wheel includes a specific sequence of medical checks, theoretical training, tests, and practical driving hours.

For those wondering where to start, this extensive guide breaks down every step required to get a motorist's license in Poland (particularly Category B for automobile).

1. Prerequisites Before You Begin

Before registering in a driving school, applicants must meet certain legal and physical requirements.

- **Age Requirement:** The minimum age to acquire a Category B driver's license in Poland is **18 years old**. However, candidates can begin their training approximately 3 months before turning 18.
- **Residency Status:** Foreign nationals should prove legal residency in Poland. This typically needs holding a valid visa, home card (*karta pobytu*), or registration of EU person house, in addition to staying in Poland for a minimum of 185 days per year.
- **Medical checkup:** Every candidate should go to an authorized occupational medicine doctor to get a medical certificate validating physical and psychological fitness to drive.

2. Step-by-Step Process to Get a Polish Driver's License

The journey from pedestrian to certified chauffeur in Poland follows a clear chronological course.

Step 1: Obtain a Medical Certificate

The candidate needs to arrange an appointment with a physician certified in transportation medication. The evaluation is usually quick, checking vision, hearing, and basic health.

- *Expense:* Officially controlled by the state, the medical examination typically costs around 200 PLN.

Step 2: Get a PKK Number (*Profil Kandydata na Kierowcę*)

The PKK (Driver Candidate Profile) is a special electronic recognition number generated by the local community office (*Urząd Miasta* or *Starostwo Powiatowe*).To get a PKK, the candidate needs to send:

1. A completed application form.
2. The medical certificate.
3. One recent passport-sized photograph (3.5 x 4.5 cm).
4. Evidence of identity (ID card or passport) and residency files (for immigrants).

Action 3: Enroll in a Driving School (*Ośrodek Szkolenia Kierowców* - OSK)

With the PKK number in hand, the applicant can select and enroll in a state-approved driving school.

- **Theory:** Minimum of 30 hours of class lectures (however many schools now provide e-learning alternatives). This includes a mandatory 4-hour First Aid course.
- **Practice:** Minimum of 30 hours behind-the-wheel training with an instructor.

Step 4: Pass the State Theory Exam

Upon finishing the school's theoretical course, the applicant should pass the main state theory exam at a Wojewódzki Ośrodek Ruchu Drogowego (WORD) center.

- The exam is computer-based, including 32 multiple-choice concerns.
- It is available in Polish, English, and German (at select WORD centers).
- A passing rating is at least 68 out of 74 possible points.

Step 5: Pass the State Practical Exam

When the driving school instructor confirms the completion of the 30 useful hours and the theory examination is passed, the candidate can book the practical driving test at the WORD center.The useful examination has two parts:

1. **Vehicle preparation and checks:** Inspecting fluid levels, checking lights, and showing basic car understanding.
2. **Maneuvers and driving:** Performing maneuvers on a designated track (e.g., hill start) followed by driving in real traffic conditions for at least 40 minutes.

Step 6: Collect the Driver's License (*Prawo Jazdy*)

After passing the practical exam, the WORD center updates the system. The candidate should then pay the production fee at the regional community office. Within 9 to 14 working days, the physical plastic card will be ready for pickup.

Expenses Breakdown

Getting a chauffeur's license in Poland involves a number of distinct charges paid to physician, state assessment centers, and driving schools.

Expense Category Description Approximate Cost (PLN) **Medical Examination** Qualified physician's examination 200 PLN **Passport Photo** 1x required for PKK 35-- 50 PLN **Driving School (OSK)** 30h theory + 30h practice 2,500-- 4,000 PLN (differs by city) **State Theory Exam** Paid to WORD 50 PLN **State Practical Exam** Paid to WORD (Category B) 200 PLN **License Production Fee** Paid to the local town 100.50 PLN **Overall Estimated Cost** *Complete procedure from scratch* **~ 3,085-- 4,600+ PLN**

Note: prawo jazdy bez egzaminu Prices for driving schools differ significantly depending on the city (Warsaw tends to be more pricey than smaller sized towns) and whether extra driving lessons are required.

Important Tips for Foreigners

Browsing the Polish licensing system as a non-Polish speaker comes with a few distinct factors to consider:

- **Language Availability:** While the state theory examination can be taken in English, the useful exam is performed completely in Polish. Candidates are legally permitted to bring a sworn translator (*tłumacz przysięgły*) into the vehicle during the practical exam to equate the examiner's instructions.

- **International Driving Permits (IDP):** Depending on the applicant's country of origin, foreign licenses may be exchanged for a Polish license without taking exams, or they may just be legitimate for the first 180 days of residency. Non-EU/EEA nationals typically must go through the full testing procedure if their home country is not a signatory to the 1968 Vienna Convention.
- **First-Time Driver Probationary Period:** Newly licensed drivers in Poland enter a probationary period (normally 2 years), throughout which they go through more stringent speed limits, compulsory safe-driving courses in between the 4th and 8th month, and a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol.

Summary Checklist for Success

1. Examine age and legal residency status.
2. Check out a doctor for the medical certificate.
3. Make an application for the PKK number at the *Urząd Miasta*.
4. Complete 30 hours of theory and 30 hours of practice at an OSK.
5. Pass the state theory test at WORD.
6. Pass the state useful exam at WORD.
7. Pay the license cost and gather the physical document.

By following these steps patiently and preparing thoroughly, getting a chauffeur's license in Poland is a simple procedure that opens up the freedom to check out the country securely and lawfully.