

## Driving in the UK



There are a number of legal requirements that you need to meet in order to drive a vehicle in the UK, if you break these you would be committing a criminal offence and would have to declare this on future UK visa applications.

### Can I drive in the UK with my current licence?

If you already have a driving licence issued by your home country you need to check if it can be used in the UK by going to the [UKCISA Driving in the UK](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Study-work--more/Other-useful-information/Driving/) (<http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Study-work--more/Other-useful-information/Driving/>) web pages.

If you can use your license in the UK, we would still strongly advise that you take lessons from a qualified driving instructor to help you adapt to driving in the UK.

### How can I get a UK driving licence?

For instructions on how to apply for UK licence see the [DVLA website](http://www.dft.gov.uk/dvla/drivers.aspx) (<http://www.dft.gov.uk/dvla/drivers.aspx>).

### What are the legal requirements that I need to know?

There are a number of legal requirements that you need to be aware of before you start driving in the UK:

- Drivers in the UK need to **register their vehicle with DVLA** ([http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/BuyingAndSellingAVehicle/RegisteringAVehicle/DG\\_4022310](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/BuyingAndSellingAVehicle/RegisteringAVehicle/DG_4022310)).
- You must pay **road tax** ([http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/OwningAVehicle/HowToTaxYourVehicle/DG\\_4022118](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/OwningAVehicle/HowToTaxYourVehicle/DG_4022118)).
- You must insure your vehicle. There are many organisations in the UK that provide car insurance; it is best to search online and find the best deal for your car as prices can vary. You can search online by using a search engine such as [www.google.co.uk](http://www.google.co.uk) (<http://www.google.co.uk/>) and searching under 'car insurance'.
- You will need a driving licence that allows you to drive in the UK
- If your vehicle is more than 3 years old then it must be checked to ensure that it is road worthy each year. If your car passes this test you will receive a Certificate of Roadworthiness known as an **M.O.T certificate** ([http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/OwningAVehicle/HowToTaxYourVehicle/DG\\_0696711](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/OwningAVehicle/HowToTaxYourVehicle/DG_0696711)).
- There are separate rules about restraints that should be used for children – please read RoSPA (The Royal Society for the prevention of accidents) **advice on child restraints** (<http://www.childcarseats.org.uk/>).
- The driver and front seat passenger must wear seatbelts and rear seat passengers must wear seatbelts if they are provided in the vehicle.
- You must not drive over the speed limit.
- You must not drive whilst under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- You must not use your mobile phone whilst driving.
- You must not throw rubbish out of your car.

### Sources of help

#### UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs)

For further information about driving in the UK please refer to the [UKCISA Driving in the UK](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Study-work--more/Other-useful-information/Driving/) (<http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Study-work--more/Other-useful-information/Driving/>) web pages.

#### DVLA (Driving and Vehicle Licensing Authority)

The DVLA is the government department that deals with all aspects of driving including applying for a driving licence or driving test, registering your car and paying road tax: [DVLA website](http://www.dvla.gov.uk/) (<http://www.dvla.gov.uk/>).

We would love to hear your feedback on our site. Please fill out this form or email us at [welcome@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:welcome@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

Was this page useful? \*

- Yes, this page was useful
- No, this page was not useful

Comments or suggestions?

Submit

