

## Applying for a Florida Driver's License (Information for F and J visa Holders) Guide

International students and scholars who drive in the U.S. must have a valid driver's license. A Florida driver's license or a State of Florida identification card can be obtained at any [Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles \(FLHSMV\)](#) office.

Driver's licenses are issued for one year at a time, renewable until the end of the student's program. F-1 students who have completed a course of study or optional practical training (OPT) can be granted a license for an additional 60-day period to allow them to prepare for departure or to process a transfer. J-1 students and scholars who have completed an exchange visitor program can obtain an additional 30-day period.

Dependents of F-1 and J-1 students and scholars (i.e. dependents in F-2 and J-2 status) are allowed the same period of driver's license validity as the F-1 and J-1 students and scholars.

You may either walk in to the FLHSMV offices, however, many offices require appointments for services. It is recommended to visit their own website or call for additional information. Visit the [Locations page](#) for addresses, telephone numbers and hours of operation. Below are the two locations closest to the Boca Campus:

### **Palm Beach County: Delray Beach Location**

501 S. Congress Avenue  
Delray Beach, FL 33445  
Phone number: 561-355-2264  
Hours: Mon-Fri: 8:15 am – 4:30 pm  
[By reservation only](#)

### **Broward County: Deerfield Location**

2265-A W. Hillsboro Blvd.  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442  
Phone number: 954-596-2110  
Hours: Mon-Fri: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

## Steps and required documents

**Step 1:** If you do not have a driver's license from your home country, you must complete a Traffic Law and Substance Abuse Education (TLSAE) Course before applying for a license in Florida. Visit the Approved TLSAE Course Providers list [here](#).

Once you complete a Traffic Law and Substance Abuse Education course through a registered provider your completion information is automatically submitted to our department and this information is available at all Driver's License Offices! Paper certificates are no longer required at the driver's license office.

It is recommended that you take your foreign driver's license if one has been issued. You may be exempt from the mandatory TLSAE Course, the driving test, or parts of it.

**Step 2:** Study the information in the Florida Driver's Handbook: <http://www.flhsmv.gov/handbooks/>

**Step 3:** Go to the office with the following documentation:

- A. Valid passport;
- B. F-1 or J-1 status documentation (Form I-20 or DS-2019);
- C. Proof of non-immigrant classification provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Form I-94);
- D. Social Security Number card or a Letter of Ineligibility for SSN issued from the Social Security Administration;
- E. \$48.00 processing fee
- F. Two original proofs of residence such as the following examples:
  - a. Educational institution transcript forms for the current school year;
  - b. Home utility bill (cable bill, cell phone, electric bill) issued no more than two months before;
  - c. Mail from financial institutions, including checking or saving account statements;
  - d. An address verification letter issued by the ISS office. You can submit a Letter Request [here](#).

**Step 4:** Take the exams:

- A. **Hearing** - Drivers applying for a license who are deaf or cannot hear conversation spoken in a normal tone of voice, are restricted to driving with an outside rearview mirror which should be mounted on the left side of the vehicle, or wearing a hearing aid.
- B. **Vision** - Vision testing, using an eye machine located on the counter, is conducted in all driver license offices. Visual acuity readings worse than 20/40 are referred to an eye specialist. Color blindness will not cause any special conditions for licensing.
- C. **Knowledge Exam** - 50 multiple-choice questions about traffic laws and traffic signs. To prepare, review the [Florida Driver License Handbook](#) and take the Class E Knowledge Practice Test. Class E knowledge examinations are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, Haitian Creole, Russian, and Spanish.
- D. **Driving Test** - You must provide a vehicle for the driving test. The vehicle must have a valid tag, proof of insurance, and pass a vehicle inspection. During the driving test, the examiner will observe your ability to control the vehicle and how well you obey traffic laws.

**GOOD LUCK! Please contact our office if you experience any documentation issues.**