

Drivers From Other Nations

A valid driver license from another country is also valid in NYS. You do not need to apply for a NYS driver's license unless you become a [resident of NYS](#).

According to NYS law, a resident of another country **can** get a NYS driver's license. The DMV **does not** recommend this because:

- NYS recognizes your foreign driver's license if you remain a resident of the nation that issued the license. You do not need to have a NYS driver's license to drive in NYS unless you become a [resident of NYS](#).
- If you do decide to get a NY State license and you have a driver's license from any nation except Canada, you must pass a written test, complete a 5-hour pre-licensing course and pass a road test to qualify for a NYS driver's license. See "[New Drivers - How to Apply](#)" on the DMV website.
- **You must show a Social Security Card.** If you do not qualify for a Social Security Card, you must provide a letter from the US Social Security Administration (SSA) that states that you do not qualify. The SSA Letter must have been issued within the last 30 days. You must also show an I-94 card. The I-94 must have been issued for at least one year and must be valid for at least six more months. If your I-94 card says "D/S", that means "Duration of Status" and means that the I-94 is valid as long as you are in status – there is no expiration date. Please carry a valid I-20 or DS-2019 with you.
- When you receive your NYS driver's license, you must surrender your foreign driver's license to the DMV road test examiner. The local DMV office keeps your foreign driver's license, and then destroys the license after 60 days. If you plan to return to your home country and use your foreign driver's license, ask the road test examiner how to make sure that your foreign driver's license is not destroyed. If you need to get your foreign driver's license, go to the local DMV office where you applied for your NYS driver's license.

International Driving Permit: *An International Driving Permit is not a driver's license.* The permit only verifies that you hold a valid driver's license in your home country. Your foreign driver's license, **not** the International Driving Permit, allows you to drive in NYS. Contact the authorities in your home country to get an International Driving Permit. If you are not a resident of the US, you cannot apply for an International Driving Permit in the US.

You are not required to have an International Driving Permit to drive in NYS, but the permit has value. The permit verifies, in several languages, that you have a valid foreign driver's license. A police officer who cannot read the language on your foreign driver's license can read the permit.

Note for US residents: The DMV **does not** issue International Driving Permits. Contact an automobile club that is a member of the American Automobile Association (AAA).

For more detailed information, please check the DMV website at:

<http://www.nysdmv.com/license.htm>

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| Albany Office-NYS DMV 224 So. Pearl St Albany, NY 12202 | M, T, W & F 9:00 - 4:30 Thursday 10:00 - 6:00 | 1-800-CALL-DMV See Call Center Directory |
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Proofs of Identity and Date of Birth Required to Apply for a Driver's License, a Learner's Permit or a Non-driver Photo ID Card

With the increase in requirements for public security, the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) frequently updates the list of acceptable proofs of identity and date of birth. Carefully read the requirements described on this page. Make sure that you have the proof required before you apply for any DMV document.

If you apply for a driver's license, a learner's permit or a new non-driver photo ID card, and:

- If you **do not have** a NYS driver's license or a NYS learner's permit that is now valid or that was valid in the last two years, you must show proof of identity that equals a value of six points, your proof of date of birth and your Social Security Card (see Note 1).
- If you **do have** a NYS driver's license or a NYS learner's permit that is now valid or that was valid during the last 2 years, you must only show proof of identity that equals a value of six points. You are not required to show your proof of date of birth or your Social Security Card.

See the list of proofs and their point values at <http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us/idlicense.htm>. One or more of your proofs must have your signature. Each document must be an original document or a copy of the original document certified by the issuing agency. You cannot use more than one document of a specific type for points. For example, three credit cards do not equal three points. They equal one point. The DMV does not accept any document with any alteration. The DMV can confiscate altered documents and keep the documents for evaluation. The DMV will keep any document that appears fraudulent and can seek criminal prosecution against the person who used the document.

A suspended driver's license or a suspended learner's permit is accepted for proof of identity.

- **Note 1:** If you are not eligible for a Social Security Card, you must provide a letter or form SSA-L676 from the US Social Security Administration (SSA) that states that you are not eligible. The SSA letter or form must have been issued no more than 30 days before the date of your application. You must also show the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents that the SSA used to determine that you are not eligible for a Social Security Card.
- **Note 2:** If you did not provide a Social Security Number to the DMV for a previous transaction, you must show your Social Security Card with your application. If you are not eligible for a Social Security Card, use the instructions in Note 1.

