**How long do I have to apply for an Ontario Driver’s Licence?**

If you are a newcomer to Ontario and hold a driver's licence from another country, you are required to apply for an Ontario driver's licence within 60 days of residing in Ontario.  If you hold a non-Ontario licence, you are legally allowed to drive in Ontario for 60 days before an exchange is required.

**Driver’s Licence Exchange**

If you have a valid driver’s licence from an eligible reciprocal exchange country, you can obtain a full, unrestricted driver’s license without taking knowledge or practical driving tests - a driver’s licence exchange. Reciprocal exchange countries are: *Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Isle of Man, Japan, Korea, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Switzerland and the USA.*

**Ontario’s Graduated Licensing Program**

If you have a current driver’s licence from a country that is not on the eligible reciprocal exchange country list, you can still obtain an Ontario driver’s licence. However you will need to fulfill the requirements of Ontario’s graduated licensing program before you can obtain a full, un-restricted driver’s licence. The graduated licensing process requires applicants to pass a knowledge (written) test of Ontario road rules, pass a vision test and depending on how much driving experience you can demonstrate, successfully complete either 1 or 2 practical driving tests.

**Can I Claim Driving Experience?**

Yes. If you have a current, valid, original driver’s licence from a foreign country, you can self-declare up to 2 years of driving experience. To claim more than 1 year of driving experience, you need to provide an original, certified driving history record / abstract from your current licensing authority confirming that your licence is authentic. If you provide all the documentation to claim 2 years driving history (to Service Ontario / Drive Test standards) you will be proceed immediately to the knowledge (written test). If you pass the knowledge test, you can proceed immediately to a final practical driving test, as the typical waiting periods will be waived.

**Obtaining your Driving Record**

To facilitate the licence exchange process you will need to obtain an ORIGINAL, CERTIFIED driving record from your current licensing authority. You are only required to demonstrate 2 years of recent driving history, but can request your full driving history for the length of time you have been licenced by that authority. If you have been licenced in multiple countries / states / provinces / locations and want to have more than 2 years of driving history recorded, you will need to obtain driving history from each relevant licencing authority.

Depending on the jurisdiction in which you are licensed, this document may be called various names, such as a driving record, or driving history, or driving abstract. Regardless of what the document is called in that licensing jurisdiction, it must:

* Have been issued less than 6 months before applying for an Ontario drivers licence
* State your full name and licence details
* Contain the date the driver’s licence was first issued (not just when it was last renewed)
* Contain the date the driver’s licence will expire
* Be an original, certified document

e.g. on letterhead, original signature, stamp or seal of licensing authority.

Original Documents Note: Any records that have been faxed, emailed, photocopied or printed from the internet will not be accepted. All records must be original, certified documents. You will need to obtain them in person at the licensing authority office before you leave your country of origin, or have them sent to you by mail if you have already arrived in Canada.

**Driver’s licences and documents must be in English or French**

If your driver’s licence and/or your driving history / record / abstract document is not in English or French, it must be translated by an approved translator. In the Greater Toronto Area an approved translator must be a member of the Association of Translation and Interpreters of Ontario, or be accredited by the provincial or federal government. Your Destination Consultant can assist you in finding a certified translator close to you.

**Destination Consultant Support**

Your Destination Consultant will be available to provide you with information and advice to prepare for the driver’s licence application process, including information on how you can prepare for knowledge and practical driving tests. They will also be able to accompany you to a Service Ontario office to assist with your initial application.

**Applying for an Ontario Driver’s Licence**

To obtain an Ontario Driver’s licence you will need to:

1. Have your current Driver’s licence translated into English (if applicable)
2. Have a driving history record / abstract translated into English (if applicable)
3. Present your Passport
4. Present your work permit / visitor record / relevant immigration authorization
5. Be able to provide proof of a residential address in Ontario
6. Be prepared for the knowledge (written) test about Ontario road rules
7. Make a time to go to a Service Ontario Office

**At the Service Ontario office you will need to:**

1. Fill out an application form
2. Present your original driver’s licence and a certified, translated copy of your licence (if applicable)
3. Present your original driving history record / abstract and a certified, translated copy in English (if applicable)
4. Present your Passport, Work Permit and Proof of Address
5. Apply to self declare driving experience
6. Pass the knowledge (written) test
7. Pass a vision test
8. Pay the applicable fees ($80 for 2014/2015)

*Note: Acceptance of self declared driving experience and driving abstract / record / history documents is at the discretion of Service Ontario. While credit for driving experience is granted in a majority of cases, this cannot be guaranteed.*

If the self declared driving history is accepted, you will be issued a graduated (G2) Ontario driver’s licence. The main restriction of a G2 driver’s licence is that you must maintain a zero blood alcohol limit when driving. If only 1 year of self declared driving experience is accepted, after 12 months of successful driving on a graduated (G2) licence, you will be eligible to take a final driving test, known as a G2 road test. If you pass the G2 road test, you will be issued a full licence.

If 2 or more years of driving experience is accepted based on presentation of a driving history record / abstract document, you will be eligible to proceed to taking the final G2 driving test without having to meet the 12 month waiting period.

**SAMPLE TESTS:**

[http://www.drivetest.ca/EN/drivereducation/Pages/OfficialDriversHandbook.aspx](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v1/url?u=http://www.drivetest.ca/EN/drivereducation/Pages/OfficialDriversHandbook.aspx&k=PmKqfXspAHNo6iYJ48Q45A%3D%3D%0A&r=usk5W%2B3hTolIV2yBmM2P%2FOG3iZO0h58LJZdIk5W1ujA%3D%0A&m=WU4RQdD7balTtzm5UTHL9PbR%2B4afnK7Ts%2B2BRic8JrU%3D%0A&s=694a10d3543414547d43a504730d44b6cc7a019cb4b8b27f7d34eaa55b6f65dc)

[http://www.g1test.com/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v1/url?u=http://www.g1test.com/&k=PmKqfXspAHNo6iYJ48Q45A%3D%3D%0A&r=usk5W%2B3hTolIV2yBmM2P%2FOG3iZO0h58LJZdIk5W1ujA%3D%0A&m=WU4RQdD7balTtzm5UTHL9PbR%2B4afnK7Ts%2B2BRic8JrU%3D%0A&s=c86edf1a787dfc9c882d111bff70a307233d6c6ec4583877b6b47a66b07ce3db)

[http://www.apnatoronto.com/ontario-g1-test/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v1/url?u=http://www.apnatoronto.com/ontario-g1-test/&k=PmKqfXspAHNo6iYJ48Q45A%3D%3D%0A&r=usk5W%2B3hTolIV2yBmM2P%2FOG3iZO0h58LJZdIk5W1ujA%3D%0A&m=WU4RQdD7balTtzm5UTHL9PbR%2B4afnK7Ts%2B2BRic8JrU%3D%0A&s=84cbd9ceee4d6c97c1d6ae6e834c5a69bf3473cd7f3ea979ec06c73a60d42ae0)

**FOR MORE GENERAL INFORMATION:**

About obtaining a driver’s licence in Ontario:

<http://www.ontario.ca/driving-and-roads/exchange-foreign-drivers-licence>

About Ontario’s Graduated Licensing System:

[www.ontario.ca/driving-and-roads/get-g-drivers-licence-new-drivers](http://www.ontario.ca/driving-and-roads/get-g-drivers-licence-new-drivers)