

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · ARIZONA

How to Get a Driver's License in Arizona: 2026 Guide

A Turkish license waives no test, and the knowledge test is not offered in Turkish. The legal presence gate, the Travel ID, documents, the verbal test rule and fees.

SHORT ANSWER

Two things to know from the start. First, **your Turkish license waives no test**: Arizona grants a test waiver to only four countries and Türkiye is not one of them, so a driver of thirty years goes through exactly the same process as a sixteen-year-old. Second, **Arizona requires proof that your presence in the United States is authorized under federal law** for every driver credential, and a **Social Security number is mandatory**. There is good news too: **non-citizens with authorized legal presence can hold the star-marked Travel ID**, which means you can carry a credential that works at a domestic airport. **The knowledge test is not offered in Turkish**, but the agency's own rule writes in a verbal-test route.

- **Who has to get one**: the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) keeps the definition of a resident wide. You need an Arizona license if you work in Arizona (other than seasonal agricultural work), enroll your children in school at the resident tuition rate, have a business with an office in the state, are registered to vote there, or remain in Arizona **seven months or more in a calendar year**. That last item does not care where your permanent home is.
- **Two exceptions**: in MVD's own words, **out-of-state students enrolled for seven or more credit hours are not considered Arizona residents even if they work**, and active-duty service members have a separate exemption. A full-load F-1 student is not forced into an Arizona license, though they may want one.
- **Do not apply the long validity to yourself**: if you hear that an Arizona license is valid to age 65, that is not your rule. **A non-citizen credential expires on the expiration date of the immigration document presented**. A short visa means a short license.
- **Sequence matters**: the application asks for a Social Security number, so start there if you do not have one yet. Then two proofs of residence, the instruction permit and the knowledge test, and the road test last.

The legal presence gate and the Social Security number

MVD repeats the same sentence on two separate pages: **Arizona law requires you to prove that your presence in the United States is authorized under federal law**. The page for foreign applicants says the same thing. **This research found no Arizona driver credential issued to a person who cannot document authorized presence**; nothing equivalent to the separate card types you see in other states in this series turned up. Do not read that as "no such credential exists": the research did not find such a program, so ask MVD to confirm. On the Social Security number the rule is plain: MVD asks for it under **A.R.S. 28-3158(D)(4) and 28-3165(F)**, uses it for identity verification and child support enforcement, and does not print it as the

license number. The only explicit sub-rule is that **all Employment Authorization Card (EAD) holders must provide the number or the card**; for other classes the page says only that it may be required based on your class, and no class-by-class list is published.

Documents: one primary document plus two proofs of address

- That is the whole shape of the application. The working list is MVD form **40-5144**, ARIZONA DL/ID REQUIREMENTS, revision **R03/26**. The rule: **every document must be an original or a certified copy, in English, and authorized by the issuing agency.**
 - **Primary documents a Turkish national might hold:** an unexpired permanent resident card (I-551); an expired I-551 together with an I-797 Notice of Action; an unexpired USCIS Employment Authorization Document; **an unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired U.S. visa together with the I-94**; a U.S. passport or passport card.
 - **The list is wider for a non-Travel credential:** an expired U.S. passport, a foreign passport with a visa or entry stamp, an I-94 without a passport (alongside an official photo ID verified through the federal **SAVE** system), and an I-571 refugee travel document.
 - **In F1 or J1 class** you also need to bring the **I-20** or the **DS-2019**.
 - **Two proofs of Arizona residency:** mail sent by a business, organization or government agency carrying your name and a physical residential address. Utility bills and leases are accepted, and anything MVD itself mailed you also counts.
 - **The most useful line for someone in a shared house or a rented room:** if you do not have two proofs of residency you can complete an **Arizona Residency Affidavit** and use it in place of one proof; one document of residency is still needed alongside it.
 - **If your name differs** across documents, proof of the legal name change is required, and you must have changed the name at the **Social Security Administration at least 24 hours** beforehand.
 - Two sentences printed on the form itself: **MVD reserves the right to request additional information and documents regarding age, identity and authorized presence, and it may retain images of the documents presented.** Expect your passport and I-94 to be photographed. Update your address on [AZMVDNow.gov](https://azmvdnow.gov) **before** you apply.
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The Travel ID is open to non-citizens

The Travel ID is Arizona's REAL ID credential, marked with a **circle and a star** showing it is ready for airport security. Here is the sentence that puts Arizona ahead of several states in this series: **for non-U.S. citizens with authorized legal presence, the Travel ID is limited to the expiration on the immigration documents presented, not to exceed eight years.** An H-1B, L-1, F-1 or green-card holder can hold a star-marked, TSA-accepted credential. The card is **not mandatory**, but a domestic flight and a restricted federal building need a compliant credential or another federally accepted ID: **a Turkish passport is not on that federal list**, while a U.S. passport is. The card is not handed to you at the counter; you leave the office with a temporary photo receipt and the real credential arrives by mail **within 15 days**. The Travel ID page words the same window as "up to two weeks" and suggests applying at least two weeks before you travel.

- **The fee is \$25**, the same for an original and a renewal; a duplicate is \$12.

- **What to bring:** one identification document, **your full Social Security number** (no document required, you state the number), and two Arizona residency documents from different sources.
- **There is no RFID chip**, state law prohibits one.
- **Where to go:** anyone without an Arizona license or ID must appear **in person** at an MVD office or an authorized third-party license location, which means every newcomer. **What the third parties add on top of the state fee could not be verified**, so ask before you book.
- **Digital ID:** Arizona offers four ways to carry a digital credential on a phone (Mobile ID, Apple Wallet, Google and Samsung Wallet, and the state's own Arizona Wallet app), and the digital ID is accepted at more than 250 security checkpoints. Arizona Wallet now also carries vehicle registration and gives expiration alerts, which **genuinely helps a visa holder whose credential expires with their status**. The limit, in the agency's own words: residents **should continue to carry physical registration and insurance documents** for other situations, including encounters with law enforcement.

TWO CONTRADICTIONS, PRINTED RATHER THAN RESOLVED

- **The wording on the card appears in two different forms.** A non-compliant card is said to carry **NOT VALID FOR OFFICIAL FEDERAL PURPOSES** in one source, while the agency's own form words the same marking as **NOT FOR FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION**. Two official sources describe the same marking differently, so we do not quote either as the exact card text.
- **Two different photo intervals are in publication.** A transportation department release dated **September 8, 2026** says that beginning September 12, state law (A.R.S. 28-3173) adjusts the time frame to update a photo **from 12 years to 16 years**, and adds that the new interval matches Travel ID renewals, so a new photo is needed at every other renewal. **But the agency's own frequently asked questions page still reads that you are required to update your photo every 12 years**. We are not resolving that: the 16-year figure is newer and cites the statute, know that you will also find the old number, and ask MVD about your own record. People who need a new photo may receive a letter in the mail.

The knowledge test is not offered in Turkish, but the rule has a way around it

The written test is offered in **English, German, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Italian, French, Tagalog and Korean**. **Turkish is not on that list**, on either the written-test page or the permit-test page. The driver manual is published in **English and Spanish** only and no Turkish edition was found; the translate widget on the site is a machine-translation tool, not Turkish-language customer service.

The agency's own page then says: **a verbal knowledge test may be considered in lieu of the written test where a customer reads in a foreign language and a written test in that language is not available**. That is exactly the situation of someone who reads Turkish. **Offices conduct verbal tests by appointment, and you book the appointment by visiting the office**; the page describes no online route. But look at the verb: **"may be considered"**, not **"will be given"**, and the agency does not publish **which language** the verbal test is delivered in, whether an interpreter is allowed, or who supplies one. So we are not promising you a Turkish verbal test: what the rule says is that a verbal test may be considered for someone who reads a language with no written test. Raise it at the office when you book, and get in writing what is being offered. Separately,

a computerized audio version of the written test is available in offices without an appointment, but which languages the audio version covers could not be verified.

Test mechanics

- The knowledge test is **30 multiple-choice questions** on a touchscreen computer, drawn from the Arizona Driver License Manual, and you need **80 percent** to pass.
- **Testing hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday.** Closed on state holidays and on **the second Wednesday of every month.** That second-Wednesday rule is unusual, so put it in your calendar.
- **No appointment is needed for the knowledge test;** one is needed for the verbal test.
- Anyone who has never held a U.S. license, at any age, must pass the knowledge or verbal test before the road test.

Which test does a Turkish license waive?

COUNTRY	WRITTEN TEST	ROAD TEST
Canada	Waived	Waived
Germany	Waived	Waived
Taiwan (18 and over)	Waived	Waived
South Korea (18 and over)	Waived	Waived
Türkiye and all other countries	Required	Required

The agency's own sentence is that **all other countries require both the written and the road test for a new Arizona license.** Your Turkish license is good for one thing, **the visitor period:** someone temporarily in Arizona may drive legally on a valid license from their own country, and an international driving permit (IDP) is **not required**, though MVD recommends one because it is printed in English. Get the IDP before you leave Türkiye, because the document is issued by your country of citizenship and cannot be bought in the United States. Two more limits: **the research found no published deadline for a new Arizona resident to convert a license,** because the trigger is not a day count but the definition of a resident, so do not carry over a "30 days" figure from another state's guide. And **if you are coming from another U.S. state** the waiver is narrower than it looks: the form says the out-of-state license or driving record must not have been **expired for more than one year**, otherwise you take both tests.

Fees

ITEM	FEE
Non-Travel driver license, ages 16 to 39	\$25
Ages 40 to 44 / 45 to 49	\$20 / \$15
Age 50 and older, and the five-year license	\$10

ITEM	FEE
Travel ID license or ID card, original and renewal	\$25
Travel ID duplicate	\$12
Non-Travel ID card, ages 0 to 64	\$12
ID card, age 65 and older, and SSI recipients	No fee
Instruction permit / restricted instruction permit	\$7 / \$3
Motorcycle endorsement	\$7
Duplicate license or ID card	\$12
Out-of-state skill test / vision screening	\$15 / \$5
Motor vehicle record, 39-month / certified five-year	\$3 / \$5
Returned check	\$25

FOUR THINGS TO HOLD TOGETHER

- **The ordinary license is priced by age**, falling from \$25 to \$10, because the credential runs to age 65 and the state charges for the years remaining. **A Turkish reader in the 16 to 39 band pays the top rate, \$25, and gets a credential shortened by their visa.**
- **The Travel ID is not closed to you.** Non-citizens with authorized legal presence can hold the star-marked card and it works for a domestic flight. Since a Turkish passport is not on the federal acceptance list, that is a real gain.
- **There is no Turkish written test, and the verbal route is in the rule but its language is not published.** Book the appointment by going to the office, explain your situation, and get what is offered put in writing.
- We repeat the agency's own warning: **no agency texting you about a toll or a traffic fine is MVD.** Because Arizona has no toll roads at all, any message claiming an unpaid Arizona toll is a scam; the detail is in the car registration guide. The reinstatement fee for a suspended credential is not published on these pages, and payment is by credit card, cash, check or money order.



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