

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · BATON ROUGE

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

Turkey is not on this state's reciprocity list. That lands directly on your calendar: an applicant holding a Turkish license counts as a first-time applicant and must complete an approved driver education course.

SHORT ANSWER

Licensing is a state function and the motor vehicle agency's headquarters sits in this city, at **7979 Independence Blvd.** The ordinary passenger class is **E**, the card is generally valid for **about six years**, the base fee is **\$32.25** and **\$18.75** at 70 and older. **But here is the item that matters:** the agency's reciprocity policy names the countries it has agreements with, and **Turkey is not on the list.** A second agency policy says: All first time applicants, including first-time applicants presenting a foreign driver's license, must furnish proof of driver education training. So **an applicant with a Turkish license counts as a first-time applicant** and must complete an approved course; **an international driving permit does not waive it. Any decision that touches your status can affect your immigration case, so talk to your attorney first.**

Card, term and fee

ITEM	DETAIL
Class	E , the ordinary passenger license
Term	On your birthday, roughly six years after issue
Base fee	\$32.25 (through age 69) · \$18.75 (70 and older)
Office service fee	In the agency's own words, some offices may charge an additional service fee of up to \$8.00. The same license costs different amounts at different offices
Late fee	\$15.00 (under 70), \$10.00 by mail or online. The agency's sentence: There is no grace period on expired Class D/E licenses
Address change	\$13.00 on a four-year card, \$17.00 on a six-year card, and You must appear in person.

Two different paths: from another state, or from Turkey?

Confusing these two is the costliest mistake in this guide. The agency's 30-day transfer rule was written for someone moving **from another U.S. state**. There is no such transfer path for someone arriving from Turkey.

WHERE YOU CAME FROM	YOUR PATH
From another U.S. state	The license must be transferred within 30 days of establishing residency, and the former state's license is surrendered and destroyed . Required: a primary identification document, a Social Security number , proof of residency, and the photo license from the last issuing state
From Turkey	You are treated as a first-time applicant : temporary instructional permit, approved course, knowledge test, road skills test and vision test. There is no transfer

The line circulating online that you "transfer your license within 30 days" is wrong for an arrival from Turkey. Put the 30 days on your calendar anyway: housing, schools, banks and utility counters mostly ask for a state identification document, and the course takes time.

Reciprocity: who is exempt and who is not

- The agency's reciprocity policy names the agreement countries: **Germany, Switzerland, Taiwan, South Korea and the Republic of Ireland. Turkey is not among them.**
- From the agency's driver education policy: International driver's licenses are not acceptable to waive appropriate driver's education course.
- **We print a conflict and take no side:** the March 2026 archived copy of the agency's web page lists **four** countries and omits the Republic of Ireland; the **live policy document** includes it. **The outcome for you does not change: Turkey is on neither list.**

The required course: five steps

- 1 Get a Temporary Instructional Permit. It is required **before** you take the knowledge test, drive during behind-the-wheel instruction, or take the road test.
- 2 **Six classroom hours and eight behind-the-wheel hours** at an approved school (for applicants 18 and older). Between 15 and 17 the load is **30 classroom hours and eight behind-the-wheel hours**.
- 3 **Knowledge test**, passing score **80 percent**.
- 4 **Road skills evaluation, 70 points** or better.
- 5 **Vision test**. The course completion certificate expires **five years** after completion.

DO NOT OPEN THE SEALED ENVELOPE

- The school places the knowledge test and the completion certificate in a **sealed envelope**.
- **Only a motor vehicle agency employee or an authorized public tag agent may open it;** the customer or parent may not.
- If the envelope appears opened or tampered with, the file goes to the agency's training and certification unit.
- **So when the envelope is handed to you, do not open it;** carry it to the counter as is.

The status legend on the card

The agency's policy on issuing cards to immigrants and nonimmigrants says that a person with **less than six years** of lawful presence remaining receives a card with **a variable expiration set to the last day of lawful presence**, carrying the legend Limited-Term. The same policy adds that a **permanent resident** card **continues to carry the same legend**. The sentence repeats for refugees, asylees and nationals of certain island nations.

This is not a penalty; it is a card type. What you receive is an ordinary Class E license. The legend only reflects status, and you do not need to explain it.

Two time thresholds

- **First application:** your arrival record or employment authorization document must have **at least 180 days** remaining, or the agency **denies** the application.
 - **Renewal:** **at least 30 days** remaining on a document showing lawful presence is enough.
 - **If you could not renew on time because your document expired**, the agency **does not charge the late fee**.
 - **No card for visitors:** on those rows the agency's table says No issuance by OMV; the only exception is an issued employment authorization document.
 - **A detail for students:** if your school document shows an out-of-state school, the agency asks for **a current document bearing a Louisiana address**.
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Test language and documents

- **There is no Turkish-language exam.** The agency says an applicant who does not read English well may bring a translator, and that this does **not apply to the commercial license exam**. **You find the translator yourself**.
 - **Photocopies are not accepted:** OMV DOES NOT ACCEPT PHOTOCOPIES OF THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS. Bring originals or certified copies.
 - **The name must match on every document.** If it does not, the application does not move until the documents are corrected.
 - **Something we do not write:** the kind of protective sentence we have seen in other states, limiting how driver record data is shared, was **not found** in this agency's readable documents. We do not say it does not exist; we say it was **not found**. Two sentences are explicit, though: immigration documents are reviewed **for status verification** before a card is issued, and arrival records are **entered into** the federal verification system.
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Address change: two separate transactions

The agency's answer is clear: an address change must be reported **within 10 days** and **in person**. **And here is the detail most people miss:** changing the address on your license does **not automatically change** the

registration address of the vehicles you own. One more requirement, so it is not a surprise at the counter: the agency asks for **proof of insurance and proof of residency on all vehicle transactions**.

When you shop for a school, ask about **price, class schedule and when behind-the-wheel hours open up**; the school's calendar is what actually determines how long it takes you to get licensed. The agency publishes a list of approved schools and keeps a separate alternate languages page; **whether any approved school in this city serves Turkish speakers could not be verified**. For statewide rules see [our Louisiana guide](#).



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN BATON ROUGE

Have a question about your immigration status?

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