

# APPLYING FOR A NORTH CAROLINA DRIVING LICENSE

[www.ncdot.org/dmv](http://www.ncdot.org/dmv)

**EFFECTIVE September 2009: All applications for State ID, Learner's Permit or Driving License are being sent to the Raleigh Department of Motor Vehicles office for Homeland Security verification. This means that there is a delay in getting your card.**

**EFFECTIVE September 1<sup>st</sup> 2007: You must have a North Carolina State ID Card or North Carolina License before you can register your car. The offices listed below are where you get either a Driver's License, Learner's Permit or State ID. Please refer to our handout *Registering your car in North Carolina*.**

## Local Department of Motor Vehicles Offices: Locations and Hours

|  |   |
|--|---|
| #3825 South Roxboro Rd & MLK Boulevard, Suite 119<br>Durham (near the Krogers Store)<br>Tel. 919.560.3378 or 919-560-3379<br>Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm | 101 South Miami Boulevard, 27703<br>919.560.6896<br>Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm |
|--|---|

In the US, a driving license serves two purposes: permission to drive and identification. To drive legally in North Carolina you must have a valid (non-expired):

- A NC driving license, OR
- A driving license from another US state, OR
- A driving license issued by the government of your home/resident country. (Anyone whose legal residence is outside the state of North Carolina is considered a "non-resident" and can drive on their home country or home state license.)

***North Carolina does not recognize the International Driving License (IDL).***

International students/scholars/spouses are generally considered non-residents of North Carolina and thus are not required to get a North Carolina state license. However, we strongly recommend that anyone who will be at Duke for six months or more apply for a North Carolina license. Why? It could lower the cost of your auto insurance. Also, you can use the license as identification without having to take your passport everywhere.

## Requirements for a North Carolina Driving License

1. **Proof of Identity:** All items listed below are required
  - Passport (with valid visa date)
  - I-20 for F-1 and F-2; DS-2019 for J-1 and J-2; I-797 for H-1 and H-4
  - SSN card (only if you have an SSN)
  - I-94 card (should be stapled inside your passport)
2. **Proof of Residency** (pick one—must be the original, not a photocopy)
  - Utility bill or bank statement addressed to you at a street address, not a box number
  - Your signed lease agreement for a local house/apartment
  - Undergraduates living in dorms must go to the Housing Assignments Office at: 218-B Alexander Avenue 919.684.4304 or [housing@studentaffairs.duke.edu](mailto:housing@studentaffairs.duke.edu), to obtain a letter stating your Duke address.
3. **Proof of Automobile Liability Insurance**
  - Form DL123 issued by your auto insurance agent
  - An original liability insurance policy binder
  - An insurance card with: your name, policy number, issued and expiration date.
4. **Passing the tests:** For an original driver's license, you will be tested on
  - Vision
  - Traffic signs
  - Knowledge of motor vehicle laws
  - Driving skills (on-road test in a car with a DMV examiner).

Driving handbooks are available to borrow from I-House for \$1 or can be found online on North Carolina DMV website.  
[http://www.ncdot.org/dmv/driver\\_services/drivershandbook/](http://www.ncdot.org/dmv/driver_services/drivershandbook/)  
Tests can be taken in English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Spanish (and study books are available from the DMV in these languages as well)
5. Pay the fee of \$32 for a new license by **cash or check** (NO DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS)

*(turn sheet over for more information)*

## Requirements for a Learner's Permit

1. Proof of Identity: All items listed below are required
  - Passport (with valid visa date)
  - I-20 for F-1 and F-2; DS-2019 for J-1 and J-2; I-797 for H-1 and H-4
  - SSN card (only if you have an SSN)
  - I-94 card (should be inside passport)
2. Proof of Residency (pick one—must be the original, not a photocopy)
  - Utility bill or bank statement addressed to you at a street address, not a box number
  - Your signed lease agreement for a local house/apartment
  - Undergraduates living in dorms must go to the Housing Assignments Office at: 218-B Alexander Avenue 919.684.4304 or housing@studentaffairs.duke.edu, to obtain a letter stating your Duke address.
3. Pass a computerized test of vision, traffic sign identification, and knowledge of motor vehicle laws. The driving test is not required.
4. Pay the fee of \$15 by cash or check (NO DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS)

## Requirements for a State Identification Card (non-driver identification card)

1. Proof of Identity: All items listed below are required
  - Passport (with valid visa date)
  - I-20 for F-1 and F-2; DS-2019 for J-1 and J-2; I-797 for H-1 and H-4
  - SSN card (only if you have an SSN)
  - I-94 card (should be inside passport)
2. Proof of Residency (pick one—must be the original, not a photocopy)
  - Utility bill or bank statement addressed to you at a street address, not a box number
  - Your signed lease agreement for a local house/apartment
  - Undergraduates living in dorms must go to the Housing Assignments Office at: 218-B Alexander Avenue 919.684.4304 or housing@studentaffairs.duke.edu, to obtain a letter stating your Duke address.
3. Pay the fee of \$10 by cash or check (NO DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS)

## Requirements for a restricted license (license for use with rental cars ONLY)

1. All requirements are the same as the full driver's license except:
  - Does not require auto insurance **but can only be used with** rental cars
  - Requires you to purchase liability auto insurance from the rental car agency
  - NOTE: If you are caught driving a private car with the restricted license, you will be subject to the same punishment as driving without a license.

## **More information...**

### ***DMV Trips from I-House***

- I-House organizes trips once a month to the DMV in the I-House van. Those who would like a ride to the DMV on one of these trips can call or email I-House to reserve a seat on the van for the next available trip.

### ***Short-Term Insurance Policy***

You may purchase auto liability insurance for six months without a car. (Non-owner's Car Insurance). See the handout, *Auto Insurance*, to obtain a list of Auto Insurance companies. Call them up and ask for your options and price.

## ***Confused about Automobile Insurance Policy??***

***Have you noticed that the Automobile Insurance system might be slightly different in the US? In the US, all cars must be insured and YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE AN INSURANCE POLICY WHEN YOU BUY A CAR. What does this mean? If you don't own a car, there is no need to purchase an Automobile insurance.***

***For example: If want to drive your friend's car, do you need to have a Non-owner's Car Insurance? No, you don't. Your friend who owns the car had to purchase an automobile insurance when buying the car so it should be fully insured. All you need is a valid driver's license and knowledge of how the road works in North Carolina, USA.***