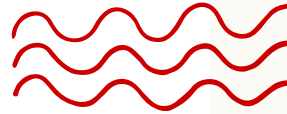
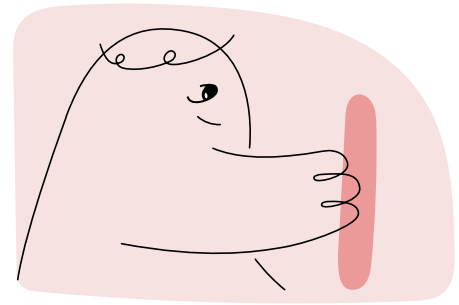


DRIVING IN IRELAND

What do I need to know about driving in Ireland?

Before you drive in Ireland there are a number of things which you will need to know about, including:

- In Ireland, **we drive on the left-hand side of the road;**
- You must be at least 17 years old to drive in Ireland;
- You **must have a valid** driver's license;
- You **must have** motor insurance. It is against the law to drive without insurance;
- You must comply with all the rules of the road. Failure to do so may result in a fine or prosecution.



What documents do I need to drive in Ireland?

- Valid driving licence
- Vehicle title document/registration certificate or vehicle rental agreement
- Valid insurance documentation
- Valid **National Car Test (NCT)**
- Valid motor tax

Can I use my Ukrainian driving license?

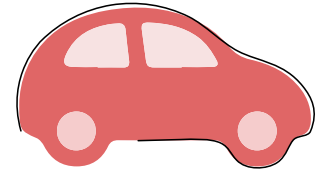
You can drive on your Ukrainian driving license if you have temporary protection status. If you do not have temporary protection status you will need to get an Irish driving license.

You can find out how to apply for an Irish driving license from the National Driving License Service or the Road Safety Authority.

It is no longer possible to exchange your Ukrainian licence for an Irish driving license.

Can I bring my car from Ukraine?

If you wish to bring your car from Ukraine, there are certain vehicle importation rules you must follow, depending on how long you stay in Ireland. You can contact Revenue for more information.



What is motor insurance?

You must have motor insurance to drive your vehicle on Irish roads – it is a criminal offense to drive without it. Motor insurance is meant to protect you against liability in the case of an accident. There are three types of motor insurance available in Ireland.

- Third Party insurance is the minimum level of car insurance required in Ireland. If you are involved in an accident and are at fault, third party insurance will only compensate other parties involved.
- Third party fire and theft provides the same level of cover as third party but with added cover if your vehicle is stolen or damaged by fire.
- Comprehensive insurance is, generally, the most expensive coverage on the market. It provides the same cover as third party fire and theft but also allows you to claim for accidental damage to your own vehicle, no matter who is to blame in the case of a collision.

Alternatively, you may wish to explore the option of a Green Card instead. This is an internationally recognised insurance document which provides proof of insurance cover to law enforcement agencies. The Motor (Transport) Insurance Bureau of Ukraine (UA) has prepared a list of Ukrainian Insurance Providers that allows those who fled the war in Ukraine to renew their insurance policies online and to get an International Insurance Green Card.





Motor Tax

Motor tax is a charge imposed by the Government on most motor vehicles, and it is collected by local authorities. If you bring your car from Ukraine, you can apply for a vehicle temporary exemption when you arrive. On successful application, this means you do not have to pay vehicle tax. You can contact Revenue for more information. **All cars bought in Ireland, are legally required to have motor tax and display a motor tax disc.**

A motor tax disc is issued for 3, 6 or 12 months, depending on what period you choose to pay for. The rate is **calculated** depending on your type of vehicle. To pay motor tax, you can tax your vehicle **online**, visit your **local motor tax office** or request the forms and complete them by post.

Where can I find out about the rules of the road in Ireland?

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) are responsible for road safety in Ireland. Their **website** offers comprehensive information about road safety and the rules of the road in Ireland.

What are penalty points?

Penalty points are a formal reprimand by the Gardaí (Irish police) endorsed on your driving license record that shows you are guilty of a specific **driving offence**, such as speeding. This system is designed to encourage safe driving.

National Car Test (NCT)

Legally, your car must have regular tests to make sure it is safe to drive. This test is called the National Car Test and is carried out on behalf of the Government by the National Car Testing Service. The frequency with which your car must undergo such testing depends on how old it is. You could face a fine and penalty points on your driving license if your car does not have a valid NCT test. For more information about the NCT test and when it is due on your car, visit **www.ncts.ie**.

Imported vehicles from Ukraine must undergo this test if they are over four years old.



What should I know about parking in Ireland?

The availability of parking in Ireland varies greatly. Generally, in large cities parking can be scarce and expensive whereas in more rural locations it can be more plentiful and may be free. The cost of parking in your area is something to bear in mind when considering whether driving is the most suitable form of transport for you. Always check for display signs outlining the hours in which you must pay for parking and be sure to display your parking ticket accordingly or to pay online or via a parking app, such as **Payzone**.

It is important to be aware of parking scams in Ireland which involve criminals placing **scam QR codes ('quishing')** over legitimate ones at parking payment points. Unsuspecting users can scan these codes, thinking they are legitimate and are instead directed to a fake website where they enter payment details or personal information. Ireland's **National Cyber Security Centre** have published a **Quick Guide on QR Code Phishing Scams** which contains some useful information on such scams and how to avoid them.

Applying for an Irish Driving License

To apply for an Irish Driving License, you must follow the steps below:

- Before you can take lessons or start practicing driving, you must first pass the official **Driver Theory Test**
- Apply for your **learner permit**
- Complete the **Essential Driver Training (EDT)** programme, which consists of 12 driving sessions with an **Approved Driving Instructor (ADI)**
- Pass the **driving test**
- Apply for your **driving license**.
 - During this process, you will have to provide proof of your identity, address, country of birth and residency entitlement.

For more information about getting a driving license, visit the website of the **National Driver Licence Service** or the **Road Safety Authority**



Where can I find more information and resources?

- The **Department of Transport** has published some useful tips on safe driving in Ireland.
- The **National Driving License Service** provides information and assistance to those applying for an Irish driving license. They have **some specific guidance for applicants from Ukraine**.
- The **Road Safety Authority** has compiled a list of **FAQs** for Ukrainian drivers in Ireland.