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## International & Foreign Licence Holders

If you hold a licence valid in another country there are various rules and regulations about its validity to drive in the UK. Visit the DVLA web site at [www.direct.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.direct.gov.uk/motoring) and look under driver licensing

Generally, you are permitted to drive for a period of 12 months but should apply for a UK provisional licence and pass the UK driving test within 12 months of residency to continue licence validity. If you do not attempt or pass the test within this time, you must display L plates and be accompanied by a full UK licence holder as all provisional licence holders.

To enjoy uninterrupted driving therefore, it is recommended you start lessons well before your first attempt at the test within the first 9 months of residency.

Driving in the UK is very different from driving in most countries and you are most certainly likely to fail your test without any formal instruction from a qualified instructor. However, driving standards vary greatly in different countries and regions so it would be impossible for us to estimate the number of lessons needed to be ready for test.

If you start lessons while your international licence is still valid you will be able to practice the methods suggested by your instructor and therefore make savings on lessons needed. We recommend a two hour Test Assessment lesson as a starting point. This will enable you to experience the full expectations of your Driving Standards Agency Examiner and give your driving instructor an insight into your current capabilities. A development plan can then be formulated to fit in with your needs.

