

## Transferring an overseas driver's licence in NSW for those on CRISP

As a newly arrived person to Australia via CRISP, you are defined as a permanent resident of Australia under the Commonwealth Migration Act 1958. This means that you can drive or ride a motorbike on NSW roads if you have a **current** overseas licence. You're allowed to do this for up to 3 months from the date you arrive in Australia.

However if you plan to continue driving on NSW roads, **you must get a NSW licence within this 3 month period.**

[Driving in NSW with an Overseas licence.](#)

### Introduction

Depending on where your overseas licence was issued, you may need to pass a knowledge or driving test. If you are older than 75 years old, you will have to undergo a medical review and pass a practical driving test. The first step is to locate a local Service NSW Centre. You can find this by [searching online](#). All of Services NSW information is available in many different languages by pressing *change language* on the top right corner of the website.

### How to prepare the right documents to bring to the Service NSW Centre

Before visiting a service centre, ensure you have everything you need to apply for a NSW licence.

#### You need:

- a completed [Licence Application form](#)
- [proof of identity](#)
- your current overseas licence
- your [translated documents](#) if they're not written in English
- the [licence fee](#) you'll need to pay

If you are an Australian permanent resident, you will also need to provide [proof of your Australian permanent residency](#). This can be your Immicard card.

If you are not a permanent resident or can't provide proof of permanent residency, Services NSW may issue you a [Temporary Overseas Visitor licence](#). To get this however you must be able to show Services NSW your current overseas licence.

## Overseas licence document requirements for transferring a current overseas licence

Service NSW uses the first issue date of your overseas licence to work out the equivalent NSW licence. If your overseas licence does not show an issue date and you are under 25 years of age, you will need a letter confirming your licence details from either:

- the licence issuing authority (on their letterhead), or
- a relevant consulate or diplomatic office (based on information received from the overseas licence issuing authority).

### Documents that are written in a language other than English

You must provide an official translation if your overseas licence or confirmation letter is not written in English. Service NSW accept document translations from:

- [Multicultural NSW](#) (previously Community Relations Commission of NSW) **Call Multicultural NSW on (02) 8255 6767.**

Service NSW also accepts translations of driver's licences (but not other documents) from:

- Consulate-General of the Republic of Korea
- Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO), Sydney.

***Translations obtained through any other means are not acceptable.***

All of the above information can be found on the Service NSW website - [Steps to Preparing your Application](#)

## If your overseas driver's licence is out of date

If the overseas licence is expired, then a learner's licence will need to be obtained from Service NSW. A knowledge test will need to be passed and a Learner's permit purchased (\$26 - 2023 price). This will nullify the overseas licence, and all driving must be done under supervision and with L plates on the car. Professional driving schools will require all Learner's permit documentation before getting on the road.

## Driving test

The driving test can be sat when ready. [Book a driving test online](#). Please note that it is essential to be prepared for this test as each attempt costs \$60 (inc GST 2023 rate). Only take the driving test if you feel confident that you have the experience and skills needed to hold an Australian licence. There may be restrictions on what happens next to your driving eligibility if you do not pass.

If you have more than three years of unrestricted driving overseas or are over 25 years of age, then you can re-sit the driving test after 7 days. Book and pay online or in the Service NSW centre again.

If you have less than three years of unrestricted driving overseas or are under 25 years of age and you fail this driving test, then you need to remain on your Learners permit and fill in a driving log book of 120 hours as per the [Learner driving rules](#).

### **Getting a NSW license when you don't have an overseas license.**

All the information you need can be found on the Service NSW website:

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/guide/getting-nsw-driver-licence>

Note that there are different requirements for those of different ages.

Additionally, Ballina Region for Refugees recommends getting some paid lessons before a member of your CSG or other community members support you by sitting with you when drive. Your CSG coordinator or another member should approach your driving school to ask if they allow those planning to assist you, to sit in the backseat when you are having paid lessons, so they are familiar with current expectations. A translator is permitted in the car to make sure you understand their instructions if required.