

DRIVER'S LICENSES, CARS, ETC...

Will you be here for more than 1 year and want to drive and/or purchase a car?



You should apply for a Massachusetts driver's license*. Individuals with F1, F2, J1, and J2 visas (except for those under the age of 18) are eligible to apply for a driver's license at the **REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES (RMV) – 116 Pleasant Street, Easthampton**. Contact the RMV *directly* with any questions you may have regarding driver's licenses, application procedures, car registrations, etc (phone: 1-800-858-3926, website: www.massrmv.com)

To obtain a Massachusetts driver's license the RMV requires **separate original** identification to prove items 1 through 3: **NOTE you MUST have a visa document that is valid for at least one year, from the date of your appointment, in order to obtain your license.**

1. **SIGNATURE** (e.g. Cancelled bank check - dated within 60 days - **or** Lease agreement **or** Employment Authorization card)
2. **MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENCE** (e.g. Bank statement **or** Lease agreement or Utility bill **or** cancelled bank check)
3. **BIRTH DATE** (e.g. I-797 Notice of Action from USCIS **or** Birth certificate that is notarized, and if not in English, is translated and notarized by the UMASS Translation Center **or** a bilingual (in that language) U.S. notary **or** Certificate of Attendance from IPO.)

Please visit the following site for a full listing for acceptable identifications for the *above* items:
<http://www.massrmv.com/LicenseandID/AcceptableIdentificationDocuments.aspx>

4. A verifiable Social Security Number **or** a Denial Notice** issued by the SSA with your I-20 or DS-2019, I-94 card (print your I-94 here: www.cbp.gov/I94), and non-U.S. passport; **you cannot use these as identification of the above items.**
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***USING A FOREIGN LICENSE?** The Registry indicates that "if a student has a home country license, he or she is allowed to drive in Massachusetts for **one year** from the date of entry" **if** the license was issued by a country which signed the Road Traffic Convention of 1949. Check the RMV website for a full list of countries which are signatories to this agreement. If your home country license is not in English, you should also carry either an **International Driver's License** or a notarized **English translation**.

****DENIAL NOTICE:** For those people - e.g. persons with F-2 visas - not eligible for a Social Security Number, you must still **APPLY** for a Social Security Number and ask for a denial notice from Social Security Administration. The denial notice must be submitted to the Registry instead of the Social Security Number **AND BE DATED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF SUBMISSION.**

The **LEARNER'S PERMIT** can be obtained on a walk-in basis (though you should review the DRIVER LICENSE MANUAL in advance) and currently costs \$30. To schedule an appointment for the road test, call 1-800-858-3926 (current costs \$20). The license costs \$50 plus a \$35 road test fee. If you plan to **PURCHASE a car**, be aware that this is a costly process. In addition to the price of the car, you must pay a 5% sales tax and fees for Registration and Title, as well as the \$29 fee to have the car inspected. You will also pay an annual "excise" tax – the amount of this tax is determined by the value of the car. Car insurance is also mandatory in Massachusetts and the cost is based on your age, driving experience, the value of your car, and your place of residence. Car insurance in Massachusetts is rather expensive.