Obtaining a Massachusetts Driver’s License

The following is a summary of what most international students must do to obtain a MA Drivers License.

Provide necessary proof of identification:

International Driver's License (if applicable)

Passport

Provides Photo ID, your signature and date of birth

Form I-20/Form DS-2019

Provides proof of signature and date of birth

Document proving MA residency

Proof of MA residency could be a utility bill showing your name and current address. Also you will need a letter from the Primary Designated School Official (PDSO) or International Student Advisor verifying your status and eligibility. This letter can be prepared for you in two business days.

Social Security number (SSN) or an official Denial Letter from the Social Security Office no more than 30 days old. A Denial Letter will be issued on the spot at the Social Security Office; a Social Security number is usually issued in approximately two weeks. Obtaining a Denial Letter does not affect your eligibility for a SSN in the future.

Nearest Social Security Office:
The Social Security office is located at 70 Bond Street, Springfield, MA 01104. Their phone is (413) 785-5725, or 1-800-772-1213; the office hours are 9 am to 4 pm. Please see your PDSO for more information or visit http://www.ssa.gov

Pass a written exam and eye test

The written exam and eye test may be taken on a walk-in basis at any RMV between 9:00am and 4:30pm. If you pass, you will get a learner's permit. Driver’s license manuals are available at the RMV to help you prepare for the written and road tests.

Pass a road test
Road tests are by appointment only and must be scheduled at least three weeks in advance after you have earned your learners permit. At the time of the road test, you need to bring your completed application (obtained from the RMV); your learners permit; payment for each scheduled road test; a registered, insured and inspected vehicle; and a sponsor. The sponsor must be at least 18 years of age, have at least one year of driving experience and possess a valid U.S. license issued by his/her home state. Foreign driver’s license holders are NOT eligible to be sponsors. The only exception to this rule is in the case of a foreign license holder. If you have a valid out-of-country license from certain countries and a MA learner’s permit, you may take the road test without a sponsor (Please see RMV website). Many driving schools in Massachusetts offer private lessons and will even sponsor a student for a driving test.

Method of Payment (cash, check, Visa or MasterCard)

Learner's Permit (written/eye screening test): $30

Road Driving Test: $20

Driver's License: $40; $90 for out-of-state conversions

***Please note that if you move after you obtain a MA license, you must inform the Registry of Motor Vehicles within 30 days of your move.***