

Kentucky Driver License or State Identification (I.D) for Non-U.S Citizens

All non U.S. citizens may drive in the U.S. on a valid foreign license and International Permit for up to one year from the date of admission into the U.S. if their home country is part of the [Geneva Compact](#) (for more information, visit: <https://drive.ky.gov/>). If your license is not in English, please have it translated and notarized (the ISSS office offers notarization services for students). Keep these documents with you at all times while you drive. It is a Kentucky law that all drivers must purchase car insurance (see below). After this period has ended, you need to apply for a Kentucky driver license. Drivers from a country not identified by the Geneva Compact must obtain a Kentucky license within 30 days of establishing residency in Kentucky. If you do not drive and just need the state I.D., follow the same procedure below.

You must follow the next steps in order to get either the Kentucky Driver License or the State I.D:

1. Obtain the required documents: A non-U.S. citizen must present all immigration documents as well as other supporting documents to the Driver Licensing personnel. The required documents are:

- ✓ Passport
- ✓ I-94 Information
- ✓ DS-2019 or I-20
- ✓ Social security card, tax ID number or ineligibility letter from the Social Security Administration office. This office is located in the Gene Snyder Courthouse Building at the corner of 6th & Broadway in downtown Louisville.
- ✓ Proof of Kentucky residency: i.e., utility bill (LG&E), AT&T, or any other bill or mail that shows your current address with your name as the recipient and has been processed through the U.S. Postal Service.

If you live in one of the University dormitories and receive your mail at the post office on campus, please contact Housing Office at (502) 852-6636 or oncampus@louisville.edu to receive instructions on how to show a proof of address.

- ✓ Non-U.S. Citizen Driver Licensing & Personal Identification Application Form. This form can be obtained from the ISSS Office and must be signed by an international advisor.
 - ✓ **OPT Students:** To renew or obtain your Kentucky driver license you will need the following documents: a) Driver's License Application; b) a new I-20 from our office with approved OPT status on page 3. Take these documents along with your EAD (Employment Authorization Card) and Social Security Card.
- Please note that **dependents (F2 or J2 status)**, must show the documents mentioned above as well as the documents of their primary (F1 or J1 status). A dependent also needs to obtain the Driver Licensing Non-U.S. Citizen Driver Licensing & Personal Identification Application Form from the ISSS Office.

2. Obtain the "Blue Letter": Go to the following address with **all** the above-mentioned documents:
9112 LEESGATE RD, LOUISVILLE, KY 40222

Phone: 502.564.1257

Monday - Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

There is a \$30 charge to obtain the "Blue Letter".

Payment may be made by debit card, credit card or money order. Cash is not accepted.

3. Apply for your license or your state I.D: Please follow the next steps:

- ✓ Go to **Bowman Field** Driver's License Branch located at
3501 Roger Schupp Street, Louisville, KY 40205.
Phone: (502) 595-4405. Office hours are Mon: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Tues - Fri: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Saturday: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (RENEWALS & DUPLICATES ONLY).

- ✓ If this is your first time applying for a driver's license within the U.S, you need to take a **written test**. For test hours, visit <https://www.drivejefferson.com/>. To study for the test download the *manual* at <http://kentuckystatepolice.org/driver-testing/>. When you pass the written test, you will be granted a temporary license that allows you to practice with a current driver's license holder.
- ✓ When you are ready to drive yourself, get an appointment to take the **practice test**. You can call (502) 454-3327 to get your appointment. After you pass these two tests, you will be granted your permanent driver's license. See page one for additional information.
- If you are getting only the *State I.D.*, you may apply for it at your closest location (including Bowman Field). You can find all the locations at: <https://www.drivejefferson.com/locations/>.

4. Get car insurance

If you are driving with a *valid foreign license* or *International Permit*, you can contact the following insurance agencies to get car insurance. When you get the Kentucky license, you may choose from any other insurance agency.

- A Central Insurance Agency Inc.- (502) 966-8188 or (502) 969-2454
- Jerry Kays Insurance Agency- (502) 459-0833
- Shelby Insurance Agency Inc.- (502) 245-8346
- Kentucky Farm Bureau- (502) 459-4507 or visit <https://www.kyfb.com/find/> to find your closest location.
- The Sunrise Group- 1-800-478-7648 or visit <http://www.sunriseworldwide.com/>

5. Renewals

You can renew your driver license 6 months in advance before it expires. You will need to follow the process mentioned on previous page.

6. Change of address

Anytime you change your address, you must obtain a duplicate license at your Circuit Court Clerk's office within 10 days. For more information, visit:

<http://transportation.ky.gov/driver-licensing/pages/driver-license-id-card-general-information.aspx>

7. Buying a car in Kentucky

In order to buy a car, you need to have a valid driver license with your picture on it and proof of Kentucky auto insurance.

8. A car registered in another state

If your car was licensed in another state and you need Kentucky plates, visit http://jeffersoncountyclerk.org/motor-vehicles/out_state.pdf and follow the instructions. Call 502-574-5700 if you have questions.

9. Important websites:

Kentucky Transportation Department's website:
http://transportation.ky.gov/drlic/non_us/non_us_ctzns.htm

International Student & Scholar Services driver's license information:
<http://louisville.edu/internationalcenter/iss/life-uofl/drivers-license>