

Illinois Drivers Licenses and State IDs

In Illinois, International students, scholars and other temporary visitors are not required to have an U.S. driver's license or state identification card in order to legally drive; you may drive with a valid driver's license from your home country. However, this is not the case in every state. Some states require a U.S. driver's license.

Obtaining a Driver's License

With an SSN

Students and scholars who have a [social security number \(SSN\)](#) are eligible for a "regular" driver's license and/or state ID. If you have a SSN, please visit the Illinois CyberDriver webpage for the [documentation required to apply for a license](#).

IMPORTANT: If you qualify for a "regular" driver's license or state ID, at the time of application you will be asked if you wish to register to vote. **You must DECLINE** and sign a document to that effect. Mistakenly stating that you are a U.S. citizen and eligible to vote on any governmental document can lead to your **deportation** from the U.S. Read all forms carefully before completing or signing them

Without a SSN

If you are not eligible for a [SSN](#), you can obtain a [Temporary Visitor's Driver's License](#) (TVDL). **Note:** part of the required documentation for the TVDL is a letter from Social Security indicating you are not eligible for a SSN. This letter can be obtained from [any Social Security office](#).

Information on Driving in the U.S.

Review the [Rules of the Road](#) to ensure you are aware of Illinois driving regulations. If you will not obtain an Illinois driver's license or TVDL, it is recommended that you keep a copy of this book in your car, in case you encounter an officer that is unfamiliar with policies about foreign drivers. Bookmark the 'Exemptions' section on Page 3 which specifies **students** attending Illinois universities with a valid license from their home country are not required to obtain an Illinois driver's license.

Special Note for those with driver's license from France, Germany or Italy

International students and scholars who hold a valid driver's license from France, Germany or Italy are eligible for an Illinois driver's license based on reciprocal agreements between the State of Illinois and these three countries. Present your French, German or Italian driver's license, and a letter from the appropriate Embassy in the US that explains your driving privileges in your home country and that you are temporarily in the US for study. Present this letter along with proof of residency in Illinois, your immigration documents, and your SSN at the DMV.