

NON-RESIDENTS AND NEW RESIDENTS

Driving a Vehicle in Québec

You are **NOT** a Québec **RESIDENT**, but will be staying in Québec for a while

You may drive a vehicle in Québec during the first 6 months following your arrival, if you hold a valid driver's licence issued by another jurisdiction.

If you are a student, cooperant or trainee

You may drive an automobile, a motorcycle or a moped/scooter for the duration of your studies, internship or work as a cooperant, without having to hold a Québec driver's licence.

However, you must:

- / hold a valid driver's licence issued by another Canadian jurisdiction or a country other than Canada;
- / comply with all the conditions on your licence;
- / only drive vehicles that your licence authorizes you to drive.

If you hold an international driving permit

You may drive any of the vehicles your foreign driver's licence authorizes you to drive for as long as your international driving permit remains valid.

You must have both your driver's licence and your international driving permit with you whenever you drive.

You are a NEW RESIDENT of Québec

During the first 6 months after settling in Québec, you may drive an automobile, a motorcycle or a moped/scooter if you hold a valid driver's licence issued outside of Québec that authorizes you to drive the vehicle in question.

After 6 months, you must obtain a Québec driver's licence to be allowed to continue driving.

If your licence was issued elsewhere in Canada

You may exchange your licence for a Québec driver's licence of an equivalent class without having to take any tests.

However, to exchange a professional driver's licence corresponding to any of Classes 1 to 4C (authorizing you to drive a truck, an emergency vehicle, a bus, a minibus or a taxi), a medical report may be required.

If your licence was issued outside of Canada

Important: To obtain a Québec driver's licence using the procedure described below, you must apply for the licence within 12 months of settling in Canada.

(Remember that, as a rule, you are only authorized to drive with a licence issued in another jurisdiction during the first 6 months following your arrival in Québec.)

/ If your licence was issued in the United States

You may exchange your licence for an equivalent licence authorizing you to drive an automobile (Class 5) or a moped/scooter (Class 6D), without having to take any tests. However, you will have to pass the required tests to obtain a licence to drive a motorcycle (Class 6A, 6B or 6C), a truck, an emergency vehicle, a bus, a minibus or a taxi (Classes 1 to 4C).

/ If your licence was issued in Austria, Belgium, England, France, Germany, Isle of Man, Japan, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Korea, Scotland, Switzerland, Taiwan or Wales

You may exchange your licence for an equivalent licence authorizing you to drive an automobile (Class 5) without having to take any tests.

However, you will have to pass the required tests to obtain a licence to drive a motorcycle (Class 6A, 6B or 6C).

To obtain a professional driver's licence corresponding to any of Classes 1 to 4C (authorizing you to drive a truck, an emergency vehicle, a bus, a minibus or a taxi), you will have to follow the regular graduated licensing procedure that applies to all Québec residents.

/ If your licence was issued by a country or jurisdiction not listed above

You may obtain an equivalent licence authorizing you to drive an automobile (Class 5) after passing the required tests, provided you held a licence for at least one year before settling in Québec.

To obtain a class of licence other than Class 5, you will have to follow the regular graduated licensing procedure for that class.

Driving experience

If the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec considers that you have fewer than 24 months of experience driving an automobile or a motorcycle, you will be issued a probationary licence.

You will hold this licence until you accumulate 24 months of driving experience.

Other situations

If you wish to obtain a Québec driver's licence and none of the situations described above apply, **you must meet the regular graduated licensing requirements, which include:**

- / passing a driving course given by a recognized school;
- / holding a learner's licence for a period of at least 12 months (accompanied driving);
- / passing the knowledge and road tests;
- / holding a probationary licence for 2 years.

Throughout the period during which you hold a learner's licence and then a probationary licence, **you will be subject to certain restrictions. For example:**

- / You will be prohibited from driving after consuming alcohol (zero-alcohol rule).
- / You will not be allowed to have more than 3 demerit points on your driving record.

For more information, or to make an appointment:

/ If you are a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and
you hold a driver's licence **issued in Canada**

or

If you do not have a driver's licence

MONTRÉAL: 514-873-5803

QUÉBEC: 418-643-5213

ELSEWHERE IN QUÉBEC: 1-888-667-8687

/ If you are a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and
you hold a driver's licence **issued in a country other
than Canada**

or

If you are neither a Canadian citizen nor a permanent
resident

MONTRÉAL: 514-954-7771

ELSEWHERE IN QUÉBEC: 1-888-356-6616

Original text in French

saaq.gouv.qc.ca

*Société de l'assurance
automobile*

Québec 