



### Driving in Australia

Driving can make getting around a lot easier, especially if you live in an area where public transport access may not be frequent.

#### Licensing

You must have a valid driver's licence to drive in Australia, and must carry it with you always when driving.

International students are regarded as temporary residents, which means they can drive with their licence from their home country, provided it is valid and current. If the licence is not in English, you must carry a certified translation in English, or apply for an International Driving Permit from your home country.

If you don't have an overseas licence, you can apply for a licence in Australia. You will need to apply through your state or territory motor registry and sit a series of tests.

Motor vehicle registries in Australia:

- Australian Capital Territory – [Road Transport Authority](#)
- New South Wales – [Roads and Maritime Services](#)
- Northern Territory – [Department of Transport](#)
- Queensland – [Department of Transport and Main Roads](#)
- South Australia – [Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure](#)
- Tasmania – [Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources](#)
- Victoria – [VicRoads](#)
- Western Australia – [Department of Transport](#)

#### Learning the road rules

If you're going to drive a car, you will need to learn the road rules. Rules can also differ from each state or territory.

Key laws relate to speed limits, the use of hand-held mobile phones while driving and wearing a seatbelt. In Australia, it is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol level that is over 0.05 or while under the influence of illicit drugs. If you are found to be committing an offence, you may need to pay a fine, could lose your licence or could face criminal charges.



### **Buying a car**

You should consider the costs of buying and running a car in Australia, as it can be expensive. Apart from the cost of the car, you will also need to pay for registration and motor insurance, petrol, servicing, repair and the use of tollways.

To save money you may want to use a bicycle or a motorised scooter. You could also rent a car when you need one, or buy a second-hand car instead of a brand-new car.

(Source: Content courtesy of the Good Education Group)