



Newcomer Navigator NL is a practical, easy-to-use platform designed to support newcomers as they settle in Newfoundland and Labrador. It offers step-by-step guidance, essential local information, and helpful tools to make your transition smoother and more informed.

Created by **Collective Interchange** and funded by the **Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism of Newfoundland and Labrador**. Visit: www.newcomernavigatornl.ca



Guide to Obtaining a Driver's License in Newfoundland and Labrador

This guide provides tips and a step-by-step overview to help you understand and obtain a driver's license for light and private vehicles in Newfoundland and Labrador. It is based on official information from the province reviewed and verified as of 2025. While this guide offers a helpful summary and additional tips, it is not a substitute for official sources. After reading it, we strongly recommend visiting the provincial website to review the most up-to-date and detailed information on the [province's website](#).

If you hold an international driver's license, it is only valid for the first **three months** after your arrival in Canada. Please note that obtaining a full driver's license in the province involves a **Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL)** system and can be a lengthy process.

If you are planning to live in Newfoundland and Labrador for several years or intend to settle permanently, it's best to begin the process as soon as possible. Doing so can make it easier to **rent or drive a vehicle** and may also help **reduce your vehicle insurance costs**.

1. Understanding the Licensing System

Newfoundland and Labrador have a tiered licensing system where you are first tested and after a few long months you get your final license. The license you need to drive a private vehicle is called **CLASS 5** in English and these are the steps:

Step 1. Class 5, Level I Permit (you will be 12 months with this permit)

Step 2. Class 5 level II (you will be up to 12 months at this level)

Step 3. Full Class 5 license (expires every 5 years normally)

👉 **EXCEPTION** If you have a valid license from another Canadian province, the U.S. or another country with an agreement with the province, you do not need to go through these steps or take any exams. You will only need to present your license from the country of origin, and you will be given a license from the province of NL. Keep in mind that if you have a license from any of these places it will only be valid here for a few months.

2. Step 1. Class 5, Level I.

Obtain your Learner's permit.

Requirements

- **Age:** Be over 16 years old and have legal permission from your parents or guardian if you are under 19 years old.
- **Documents:** two legal identity documents (at least one of these must be original and have a photo that identifies you), proof that you reside or can live in Canada legally. These documents can be, for example, your MCP, Passport, university card, library card, among others. Your driver's license from your home country and a legal translation of it could help you reduce the time you spend on your final license.
- **Physical Exam:** If you are over 65 years of age you must have a medical certificate.

How to Apply

- **Take the written exam:** The exam is multiple choice with 25 questions about the driver's manual in the province. You must pass it with 85% of the correct questions and you can take it up to 5 times in the same year.

👉 You can download the [driving manual in NL](#). We recommend that you

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study this official document, there is a lot of information on the networks but it may not be valid for the province.

👉 You can take the test online by registering on [MyGovNL](#) or by booking an appointment at your nearest Vehicle Registration Division (MRD).

👉 Learn more about the exam: [written exam](#)

- **Submit documentation in MRD:** When you pass the exam, find the Vehicle Registration Division office closest to your address in [MRD](#).

👉 Schedule an appointment for the [vision exam+first photo](#)

👉 Bring the required documents (show your driver's license or translated registration from your home country, it could reduce the time to be able to take the driving test and obtain the level II license).

👉 Pay the corresponding fee (they can also be paid online when you request the appointment or at the MRD office on the scheduled day).

- **Vision test:** Everyone has a vision test.

Note: You will be given a valid provisional permit until you pass the driving test.

2.1. Driving with a Class 5 Level I License

This permit allows you to practice legally in a private way or with an authorized school. Level I has many restrictions that you must respect:

- You can't drive alone. You must be accompanied by a driver with a valid license and at least 4 years of experience.
- You can only take one passenger.
- Do not drive between midnight and 5 in the morning.
- Maintain a zero-blood alcohol level.

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3. Step 2. Class 5 Level II

Requirements

- **Time:** Have a Class 5 Level I license for at least 12 months (unless otherwise instructed by the registration officer)
- **Experience:** During those months you will gain experience driving in the province. You can take classes with licensed schools.

How to Apply

- **Preparation:** Practice in various weather conditions. Consider taking some classes at driving schools to be prepared and better aware of what the test will be like.
- **Make/Schedule an Appointment:** Schedule your practical road test and complete the payment for the exam. Book your practical road test appointment: [Practical exam/Road test](#)
- **Vehicle:** if you do not have your own, book an appointment with a driving school for this purpose. Some schools take you an hour earlier to practice so that you can do well on your exam.

Driving test

- You must have your own vehicle or a driving school. It is important to note that someone else must drive the vehicle or accompany you.
- He arrives at the MRD office on time and shows him the insurance and the car papers.
- You will get in the car with the examiner who will give you some directions.

3.1. Driving with a Class 5 Level II License

- Your blood alcohol level must be Zero or your license can be revoked.
- You may not carry more than one passenger under the age of 19, unless an experienced driver is with you.

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4. Step 3. Full Class 5 License

Requirements

Time: Have a Class 5 level II license for 12 months and have no fines of any kind.

How to Apply

- You don't have to do anything. After 12 months, you automatically graduate and get your full Class 5 license.
- You will receive the license by mail to the address you provided.

5. License Renewal

Every 5 years you usually must renew it. The license expires on your birthday. It is renewed online at [MygovNL](https://mygov.nl.ca), after paying with your debit or credit card. The new card is sent to you by mail.

Replacement or loss: You must make an appointment and go to the nearest MRD office.

We hope this information is helpful in your process of coming to live in Newfoundland and Labrador!