NEW MEXICO DRIVER’S LICENSE AND STATE ID

If you want to obtain a First-Time New Mexico Driver’s License or State Identification Card (ID), the NM Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) requires all International Students who are not eligible for a Social Security Number to schedule an appointment. You will be required to select appointment type “First Time Foreign National DL/ID” at: https://secure.mvd.newmexico.gov/mvdappointments/.

ATTENTION!! New Mexico started issuing two kinds of driving permits in November 2016. The Driver’s License can be used as a federal ID to board an airplane or enter a government facility, but may be limited in duration for international students and scholars based on their Visa expiration date. The second permit, the Driver Authorization Card (DAC), cannot be used for federal purposes but can be issued for up to 4 or 8 years. When you apply, you will need to CHOOSE whether you want the permit/ID to use for federal purposes or the DAC/ID for state purposes only. You need to know which one you will be applying for and bring the required documents on the attached list for the correct type of permit/ID BEFORE YOU GO. Because the rules are new, there is a lot of confusion at MVD offices, we recommend you schedule an appointment at this location since they are the most familiar with International Student documents: 5301 Central Ave NE Ste 100 Albuquerque, NM 87108

Be prepared to bring all the required documents on your appointment day, failure to do so will result in having to reschedule an appointment for a later date. Please read this handout in its entirety and check the list of required documents attached.

I. EXPLANATION

We recommend that you obtain at least one form of U.S. identification in order to avoid carrying your passport with you; this can be any type of Driver’s License or ID issued by the state of NM. You will need it for writing checks, using credit cards, ordering or purchasing alcohol, or entering a bar or night club.

If you plan to drive in New Mexico, you MUST have a driver’s license with you each time you drive a vehicle. If you have a valid driver’s license from your home country or an international driver’s license, you may drive with that license until you become a resident of NM. You are considered a state resident for this purpose once you have lived here for more than six months. It is likely that if you are stopped or questioned by a police officer, they may not recognize the driver’s license from your home country. Therefore, if you plan to live here for more than 6 months and drive a car, we highly recommend that you obtain a license. The fee varies from $18-$34, depending on the length of time it is issued.

If you do not apply for a driver’s license, you should consider obtaining a state ID card; it looks just like a driver’s license and is also issued by the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD), but is only for identification purposes. To obtain the ID go to an MVD office and take the documents listed below for the correct kind. You may even consider getting one for your children.

II. CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Documents: To obtain either type of license or ID you will need to bring your current passport, unexpired visa, I-94 printout, Social Security Card if you have one, I-20/DS-2019, and two documents showing your physical address as proof of New Mexico residence (such as a rental agreement, bank statement with your full street address, utility bill or MVD letter from GEO), see “Documentation Requirements” attached. You may also want to take a translated and notarized version of your home country license if you have one (please see “Previous Licenses” in the next section). Note that MVD personnel are often not well informed about requirements for non-immigrants in lawful status who want to obtain a license or ID, so we suggest you visit the MVD Office location listed above since this is the only office in the state that helps process Driver Licenses and ID’s for members of the international community.

US Social Security Number: MVD personnel will ask you for a social security number. You are not required to have a social security number to be issued a driver’s license or state identification card. If you do have a Social Security number, bring it with you – you can use it for identification. Otherwise, the items listed in the other two columns of the attached list will suffice.
III. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Previous Licenses
In most cases you will need to pass a written test, an eye exam, and a road test to obtain the driver’s license. However, if you already have a license from your home country, you may not have to take the road test. If your home license is not in English, you will need to have it translated and notarized before you can be exempt from the road test. You cannot translate the document yourself. Notary services are available at GEO by calling 505-277-4032. To have your translated document notarized, the translator must present the translation to a notary in-person and show a valid, government-issued photo ID. The appropriate notary certificate must be included with your translation.

If you have a valid license from another US state, you can use that as a form of ID. Please note that if you opt to present a previous driver’s license from the US or your home country, NM law requires you to surrender it during the application process for a NM driver’s license—a hole will be punched through your old license to render it invalid before it is returned to you. If you want to avoid surrendering your home country license or license from another US state, you can opt to take the road test.

Owning a Vehicle
Owning a car in the US is expensive. All automobiles must be registered with the state Motor Vehicle Division and registration fees vary depending on the year and type of car. Also, it is mandatory that all automobile operators carry proof of liability insurance for the automobile they are driving. For car buying tips and other important information go to https://geo.unm.edu/students/life_unm/getting_around/car_buying.html

IV. APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1: Make an appointment.
If you do not have a US Social Security number (SSN), make an appointment at https://secure.mvd.newmexico.gov/mvdappointments/. If you already have an SSN, you can go directly to any MVD office, but we suggest you also schedule an appointment at the MVD office in Central and San Mateo for easier processing (do not go to an “MVD Express office” as they cannot process licenses/Id’s for non-US-Citizens).

STEP 2: Determine if the None for the Road Drunk Driving Awareness Program applies to you.
If you are under 25 years of age and this is your first New Mexico driver’s license, you must complete the None for the Road DWI Awareness Program before you apply for the license. The fee is $25.00 (non-refundable) and it is a self-taught class administered by UNM Continuing Education. You can pay and complete the coursework online then take your payment verification number to the local MVD office to complete the final exam on one of their testing computers. To register for the course, go online at https://nonefortheroad.org/login/ or call (505) 277-0051 for additional information.

STEP 3: If necessary, take the written test
Obtain the New Mexico Driver’s Manual from any of the MVD offices or online (in English and Spanish) at http://www.dmv.org/nm-new-mexico/driver-handbook.php. This booklet covers all the driving regulations that you need to know in order to pass the written test, so study it carefully. You will need to pass this test before taking the road test. The written test is usually available half an hour before your scheduled road test. However, if you do not pass it, you will need to reschedule the driving test.

STEP 4: If necessary, take the road test
You need to make an appointment to take the road test and bring a vehicle (someone else must drive you to the test if you do not have a license). An examiner will accompany you for a brief on-the-road test of your driving skills. The car you are driving for the road test must have current registration and insurance and be in good condition. You must also pass a vision test when you go in to take the road test.

V. DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES DIVISION (MVD) OFFICES
Although you can visit any MVD office, we highly recommend you apply at the Central and San Mateo office due to their familiarity with documentation from International Students. You can only be seen at this location with a scheduled appointment:

5301 Central Ave NE Ste 100
(First floor inside the Bank of the West white & gold tall building)
Albuquerque, NM 87108
Phone: 505-841-6490

GENERAL MVD INFORMATION PHONE NUMBER: 1-888-683-4636 or http://www.mvd.newmexico.gov/
### Basic Documentation Requirements:

#### Identification Number

(1) **required**
- Social Security Card (Present SSN if you have one)
- W-2 Form
- SSA-1099 Form
- Non-SSA-1099 Form
- Pay stub w/applicant’s name and full SSN
- Valid Foreign Passport w/ valid U.S. Visa affixed w/I-94 Form

*Maiden Name/Name Changes - If your passport or identity document does not contain your current full legal name, you MUST present documentation of any name change(s). This may include a marriage certificate, divorce decree, adoption records or court order. The MVD uses the full legal name as listed on the document.*

A United States citizen, United States national, permanent resident alien, or a person who is lawfully in the United States can choose to apply for a driving authorization card or an identification card that is not acceptable for federal purposes. Anyone unable to provide evidence that he or she is lawfully in the United States is only eligible for a driving authorization card or an identification card that is not acceptable for federal purposes.

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#### Identity

(1) **required**
- **Lawful Status Documents**
  - Valid U.S. Passport
  - Valid U.S. Passport Card
  - Valid Foreign Passport w/I-551 Stamp
  - Original or certified copy of a birth certificate filed with a state office of Vital Statistics
  - Consular Report of Birth Abroad FS-240, DS-1350, or FS-545
  - Valid Permanent Resident Card I-551
  - Certificate of Naturalization N-550 or N-570
  - Certificate of Citizenship N-550 or N-561
  - Valid Employment Authorization document I-766 or I-688B
  - Valid Foreign Passport w/ valid U.S. Visa affixed w/I-94 Form
  - REAL ID act of 2005 Driver’s License or ID card w/
    - Valid immigrant or nonimmigrant visa status for admission into the United States
    - Pending or approved application for asylum in the U.S.
    - Admission into the U.S. as a refugee
    - Pending or approved application for temporary protected status in the U.S.
    - Approved deferred action status
    - Pending application for adjustment of status to legal permanent resident or conditional resident
    - Conditional permanent resident alien status
    - Other documents as DHS may designate by notice published in the Federal Register

#### Residency

(2) **required (all ages)**
- **Physical Address ONLY**
  - Current real property rental or purchase agreement
  - Utility bill dated w/in 60 days, no cell phone bills
  - Insurance bill, card or binder, dated w/in 60 months
  - Bank or credit card statement, dated w/in 60 days
  - Employment pay stub containing applicant’s name and address, dated w/in 60 days
  - Current local property tax statement or mortgage document
  - Documentation from an education institution, such as transcripts, report card, or enrollment confirmation, dated w/in 60 days
  - Original documents from city, county, state, tribal, or federal government organization attesting to the fact that the applicant is a NM resident, dated w/in 60 days
  - NM Medical or Public assistance card w/address on card, letter from issuing agency that came with card showing name and address, or profile printout from issuing agency, dated w/in 60 days

Applicants under 18 may also provide:

- Documents indicating membership in a NM religious or sports organization
- Affidavit of NM Residency (Form MVD-10021)

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This License or ID should be valid for 1 year!

The highlighted items below are documents you are most likely to have. International students are lawfully present and do not have to be fingerprinted!
Driving Authorization Card (DAC)

This License or ID should be valid for 4 years!
The highlighted items below are documents you are most likely to have.
International students are lawfully present and do not have to be fingerprinted!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identification Number</th>
<th>ID or ID Number (1) required, (2) required if no SS#</th>
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<th>Residency (2) Required (all ages) Physical Address ONLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number (1) required</td>
<td>Passport or Passport Card from the applicant’s country of citizenship</td>
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<td>Current real property rental agreement or purchase agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Present SSN if you have one)</td>
<td>Original or Certified copy of a birth certificate filed with a state office of Vital Statistics</td>
<td>Original or Certified copy of a birth certificate filed with a state office of Vital Statistics</td>
<td>Utility bill dated w/in 60 days, no cell phone bills</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Social Security Card</td>
<td>Consular report of birth abroad issued by the U.S. Dept. of State form FS-240, DS-1350, or FS-545</td>
<td>Consular report of birth abroad issued by the U.S. Dept. of State form FS-240, DS-1350, or FS-545</td>
<td>Insurance bill, card or binder, dated w/in 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- W-2 Form</td>
<td>Valid Employment Authorization document I-766 or I-588B</td>
<td>Valid Employment Authorization document I-766 or I-588B</td>
<td>Bank or credit card statement, dated w/in 60 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- SSA-1099 Form</td>
<td>ID Card issued by the Consulate of Mexico in El Paso, TX or Albuquerque, NM, or other consulate with which NM MVD can reliably verify document’s authenticity</td>
<td>ID Card issued by the Consulate of Mexico in El Paso, TX or Albuquerque, NM, or other consulate with which NM MVD can reliably verify document’s authenticity</td>
<td>Employment pay stub containing applicant’s name and address, dated w/in 60 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Non-SSA-1099</td>
<td>Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN)</td>
<td>Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN)</td>
<td>Current local property tax statement or mortgage document</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Pay stub w/applicant’s name and full SSN</td>
<td>Certified letter of enrollment or valid ID card issued by a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or pueblo</td>
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<td>Documentation from an education institution, such as transcripts, report card, or enrollment confirmation, dated w/in 60 days</td>
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<td>- ID document issued by the U.S. Veterans Administration, so long as it is accompanied by a U.S. Veterans Administration medical center identification card</td>
<td>Affidavit of Indian birth</td>
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<td>Original documents from city, county, state, tribal, or federal government organization attesting to the fact that the applicant is a NM resident, dated w/in 60 days</td>
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<td>- ID card issued by the Consulate of Mexico in El Paso, TX or Albuquerque, NM, or other consulate with which NM MVD can reliably verify document’s authenticity</td>
<td>State issued driver’s license, learners permit or ID card issued by a U.S. Territory, or by jurisdiction of Canada, with photograph and has not been expired more than a year</td>
<td>State issued driver’s license, learners permit or ID card issued by a U.S. Territory, or by jurisdiction of Canada, with photograph and has not been expired more than a year</td>
<td>NM Medical or Public assistance card w/address on card, letter from issuing agency that came with card showing name and address, or profile printout from issuing agency, dated w/in 60 days</td>
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<td>- Affidavit of Indian birth</td>
<td>American Indian or Alaskan proof of Indian blood, certificate of degree of Indian blood, federal Indian census card or tribal membership card</td>
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<td>Applicants under 18 may also provide:</td>
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<td>- State issued driver’s license, learners permit or ID card issued by a U.S. Territory, or by jurisdiction of Canada, with photograph and has not been expired more than a year</td>
<td>Valid Photo ID card issued by the U.S. Military, U.S. Coast Guard or NM National Guard</td>
<td>Valid Photo ID card issued by the U.S. Military, U.S. Coast Guard or NM National Guard</td>
<td>- Documents indicating membership in a NM religious or sports organization</td>
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<td>- Affidavit of NM Residency (Form MVD-10021)</td>
<td>U.S. active duty/retiree/reservist military ID card (DD ID DD-2)</td>
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<td>Affidavit of NM Residency (Form MVD-10021)</td>
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<td>- U.S. state or local government issued photo ID, issued based on name, social security</td>
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Note: If NM License is suspended or revoked but customer has an Interlock or Limited license no fingerprints required.

Fingerprints Required:
Fingerprints will be required for the issuance of a Driver’s Authorization Card/ID (DAC) when the driver is unable to provide documentation of lawful status and their New Mexico Driver’s License has expired. If driver has an Interlock or Limited license no fingerprints will be required to obtain an Interlock or Limited DAC. If driver is from out of state, no fingerprints will be required if the driver can provide documentation of lawful status.

Note: The following offices are the only offices equipped to obtain fingerprints for the issuance of a DAC:
- ABQ Special Services, Alamogordo, Carlsbad, Clovis, Espanola, Farmington, Las Cruces Del Rey, Raton, Roswell, Ruidoso, Silver City, T or C, Tucumcari.
**STEP 1:** Make an appointment at: https://secure.mvd.newmexico.gov/mvdappointments/
Make sure to choose “First Time Foreign National DL/ID” from the Appointment type dropdown.

**STEP 2:** Enter your information in each of the required fields and use your passport number under “Driver’s License/ID Number”. Select the date you want to visit by clicking on the calendar icon; choose morning or afternoon times.

**Note:** The earliest date you can schedule an appointment is 3 days from today’s date, so plan accordingly.

**STEP 3:** On the next page, select appointment date and time from the available list and submit your selection. You will then see a confirmation screen you need to print. It will have your appointment details and the field office address:

5301 Central Ave NE Ste 100 Albuquerque, NM 87108

**Note:** Make sure to have all documents with you, if you are missing documents you will be asked to reschedule an appointment at a later date. Please read the Driver’s License information on the GEO website and check the list of acceptable documents on the driver’s license handout.