

## How to Exchange Your Foreign Driver's License for a Japanese One

Where to Apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Fuchu</b> Driver's License Center</li> <li>➤ <b>Samezu</b> Driver's License Center</li> <li>➤ <b>Koto</b> Driver's License Center</li> </ul> <p>* At Fuchu or Samezu, application can be made by those who have a driver's license of any country or region.</p> <p>Due to construction at the Samezu Driver's License Center, driving skills examinations (only practical exams) are conducted at the Fuchu Driver's License Center for those who have a driver's license of a country or region not listed below and have applied for the exchange of their foreign driver's license at Samezu (until late March, 2016).</p> <p>* At Koto, application can be made only by those who have a driver's license issued in a country or region listed below.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Exam-Exempt Countries and Region (25 countries and one region)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Taiwan</p> </div>																		
Office Hours	8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Closed between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.) Monday to Friday <sup>1</sup>																		
Fees	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Application Fee</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Ordinary motor vehicle license</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">2,200 yen</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Moped license</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,500 yen</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Large-sized/Medium-sized motor vehicle license</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,600 yen</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Other</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,050 yen</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Issuance Fee</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,050 yen</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Fee for listing two types of licenses in one license certificate (per one type of license, 200 yen)</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">200 yen</td> </tr> </table>	Application Fee	Ordinary motor vehicle license	2,200 yen		Moped license	1,500 yen		Large-sized/Medium-sized motor vehicle license	4,600 yen		Other	3,050 yen		Issuance Fee	2,050 yen		Fee for listing two types of licenses in one license certificate (per one type of license, 200 yen)	200 yen
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<p>Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A valid foreign driver’s license</li> <li>● A Japanese translation of your foreign driver’s license (prepared by the embassy of your country or the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF)) —to be submitted</li> </ul> <p>* If your foreign driver’s license does not mention the date you obtained it for the first time, we will require a document such as your driver’s record that shows the said date.</p> <p>If you have two types of licenses (e.g., ordinary motor vehicle license and ordinary motorcycle license) or more, we may require some documents showing the respective date you obtained each of them.</p> <p>Required documents may vary depending on the country or your license status. Please contact us in advance for details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Japanese driver’s license(s) (including old ones), if any</li> <li>● An official copy of your “<i>Jumin-hyo</i>” (residence record) showing your registered domicile (nationality)—to be submitted; or Passport or other official IDs<sup>2</sup> —only to be showed— and a document showing you currently stay at the address on your application (e.g., a certificate issued by the householder or hotel manager) if you are not subject to the Basic Resident Registration Act—to be submitted</li> <li>● A document showing you stayed in the country or region where you obtained the license for a total of three months or more (e.g., passport(s) including old ones if any)</li> <li>● Photograph(s) of the applicant (3 cm high×2.4 cm wide)<sup>3</sup> A photo is required for each type of license you apply for.</li> </ul>
<p>Qualifications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● &lt;Age&gt; 18 years old or older* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Ordinary motorcycle license: 16 or older</li> <li>Medium-sized motor vehicle license: 20 or older</li> <li>Large-sized motor vehicle license: 21 or older</li> </ul> </li> <li>● You must have stayed in the country or region where you obtained the license for a total of three months or more since you got it.</li> <li>● &lt;Visual Acuity (Japanese scale)&gt; Ordinary motor vehicle license/motorcycle licenses: 0.7 or better (both eyes) and 0.3 or better (each eye); or</li> </ul>

	<p>If the vision of one eye is under 0.3 or one eye has no vision, the visual field of the other eye must be 150 continuous degrees or more along the horizontal meridian and its vision 0.7 or better.</p> <p>Medium-sized/large-sized motor vehicle license: 0.8 or better (both eyes) and 0.5 or better (each eye). The applicant must go through depth perception tests by the three-rod method three times and the average error must be 2 cm or less.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If you obtained a Japanese license in the past and received a penalty such as its revocation (excluding the novice-driver revocation), you cannot take an exam unless you have taken lessons for those who had their license revoked within one year prior to the exam and the disqualification period has already elapsed.</li> <li>● Your address must be in Tokyo.</li> </ul>
Other Points to Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Your knowledge and practical driving skills will be examined when you exchange your foreign driver's license for a Japanese one.</li> <li>* You need to make an appointment to take an exam for your practical driving skills. You cannot take the exam on the day of your application.</li> <li>* The 25 countries and one region mentioned above are exempt from the examination of knowledge and practical driving skills.</li> <li>● As it is necessary to see if you fall under the category of a novice driver, etc., please bring with you a driving record/history and a document (e.g., your old foreign driver's license) showing the period of your stay in a foreign country or region, if any.</li> <li>● You can apply for a medium-sized/large-sized motor vehicle license only after you have obtained an ordinary motor vehicle license.</li> </ul>

Notes:

1. Excluding national holidays, and year-end and New Year holidays. Year-end and New Year holidays are from December 29 to January 3.
2. "Passport or other official IDs" means your passport, ID card issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, or other documents issued by a competent authority for your identification.
3. Photograph(s) of the applicant must have been taken within the last six months; head and shoulders only, no hat, front-face, and no patterned or dark background.

For further information, please contact:

- The Written Examination Section, Fuchu Driver's License Center,  
Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department  
Phone: 042-362-3591
- The Examination Section, Samezu Driver's License Center,  
Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department  
Phone: 03-3474-1374
- The Driver's License Section, Koto Driver's License Center,  
Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department  
Phone: 03-3699-1151