Driving in Israel

It is possible to drive in Israel with a valid foreign license for a period of up to one year from the date of the first entry into Israel.

After the year ends, it is not possible to drive with the foreign license, and therefore the license must be converted before the year ends.

The following is the process of converting the license if the driving license is valid and with a seniority of 5 years or more:

1. **Visas** - Ensure that the visa is valid for at least 3 months, if not, it should be extended.
   
   To extend the visa please send an email to io@weizmann.ac.il for instructions.

2. **Foreign driver's license** - Ensure that the international driver's license is valid, with a seniority of 5 years or more and written in English. If the license is not in English, it will be necessary to arrange the translation of the license by a language spokesperson or by the embassy of your country in Israel.
   
   No need for translation for European Union licenses.

3. **Only after steps 1-2 are complete - Get ID number and update address** - You will need to get an ID number from the Ministry of Transportation in Holon. Take your passport with a valid visa for 3 months and driving license. No fee is required.
   
   **Location:** Ministry of transportation, Holon. **Opening Hours:** Sunday – Thursday, 8AM–1PM. and Tuesday, 3:30PM-5:45PM.
   
   Please be advised that you cannot set an appointment for that, just take a lot of patience with you.

4. **Entries and Exits form** - You will need entries and exits form from the Ministry of Interior which we can get for you, in order for us to get it please sign the power of attorney form on the 3rd page of this document and send it back to us at io@weizmann.ac.il. This step can takes around 10 days to complete.

5. **Get the green form** – once you have the ID number go to one of the scanning stations licensed by the Transportation Ministry below to fill out a Green Form (form 18).
   
   **Remember!** There is no need for either a family doctor or an ophthalmologist (unless you wear glasses) to sign on the Green Form.

   **Rehovot** - Meir optics - Derech Yerushalaim 2,
   
   Sun, Mon, Wed, Thu – 9:00-19:30, Tue, Fri – 9:00-13:30
   
   [https://goo.gl/maps/ktirTgnbYb42](https://goo.gl/maps/ktirTgnbYb42)

   **Holon** - Unger Optics – Sadav center, Rabinovitch 11,
   
   Sun-Thu – 9:00-19:00, Fri – 9:00-13:00
   
   [https://goo.gl/maps/aGxV51K5sCL2](https://goo.gl/maps/aGxV51K5sCL2)

6. **Get your Israeli driving license** (Almost done...)
   
   Set an appointment in the Ministry of Transportation in Holon with your brand new ID.

   Before you click on the link to the appointment software be advised that it is not completely in English and has some parts in Hebrew that why we guide you below how to set it up (without taking a course in Hebrew 😊)

   So click here and follow these instructions:
Click on **Continue without an account** and then **Yes continue anyway**

Click on the Ministry of Transportation logo
In the What would you like to do choose: ”המרת רישיונות זרים” (foreign driving license conversions)
In Find a location choose – Holon branch
In the choose a service choose the only option there which is ”המרת רישיונות זרים”
Identification – enter the **ID number you received from the Ministry of Transportation**
Choose a date and then time and confirm.
Make sure you attend the Ministry of Transportation in Holon with the following:
- Passport (with a 3 months visa at least)
- Valid driving license and translation if required
- Green Form (Driver’s License Application form 18) containing your computerized picture.
- Entries and exits form

**Holon Driving transportation office Location**: Ha-Lokhamim St 1, Holon.
**Opening Hours**: Sunday – Thursday, 8AM–1PM and Tuesday, 3:30PM-5:45PM.

Please note that the waiting times at the DMV are particularly long, and we suggest that you access the opening time and even half an hour before - they hand out numbers before it opens. Please be advised that having an appointment doesn’t mean you will get it on time and be prepared to a long waiting time, the line numbers are called rapidly make sure you keep track on the screen not to lose your turn. If they tell you they passed your number insist to have it.
You will receive a slip with validity time according to your visa. The Licensing Office will then send the Weizmann Institute a plastic license, which is supposed to arrive about a month after your visit to the Licensing Office. A plastic license has a validity of 5 years and it loses its validity once the visa expires.
If a month has passed and you have not received notice from us to collect the license please contact us.

Remember: If you are driving with your foreign driver’s license at a time when you are forbidden to drive in Israel, the law defines you as one driving **without a driver’s license who may be prosecuted in court** and who may even face time in prison or be disqualified from getting a driver’s license for a minimum of three months.
Similarly, in the event that your vehicle was involved in an accident, the insurance company has the legal right to demand to see a valid driver’s license. If you show a foreign driver’s license that should have been converted to an Israeli one, the insurance company **will refuse to pay compensation** to the victims, and will claim that you were not driving with a valid license and the insurance policy does not cover the event, and you will lose the insurance coverage.

**Extension of Israeli driving license**

If you haven’t received the plastic driving license please be advised that the slip has to be renewed every 6 months.
In order to renew it you will have to attend Holon Ministry of Transportation (set an appointment – follow the instruction in section 6)
Bring with you:
Your passport with visa that is valid for at least for 6 months
The driving license slip
Citizens of Italy / South Korea

The citizens of South Korea / Italy can also convert the license if their license doesn't have seniority of 5 years if they agree to hand it to the Ministry of Transportation. If they agree to waive it, the license will be taken through the Licensing Office and will be transferred by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to their country of origin.
I, the undersigned below __________________________ Passport Number __________________________

Hereby designate the Weizmann Institute of Science representative to act as my attorney-in-fact, to appear in my name, in my stead in front of the Ministry of Interior in order to request my Certificate of Israel Entries & Exits.

Signature __________________________ Date: __________________________

Name of the Weizmann Institute of Science representative: __________________________

Signature __________________________ Date: __________________________