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 if you wish to drive in Israel the license must be converted within 5 years after your first arrival. If 5 years have passed since your first arrival to Israel (even for a short period) you will be required to pass a driving conversion test (contact our office for more information).

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 Rehovot. Take your passport with a valid visa for 3 months and driving license. No fee is required. Best to take your student card with you since they will have to log on the system your name in Hebrew. You will receive a document with your ID number and details. Example on the last page.

   **Location:** Ministry of transportation, Rehovot shopping mall, 2 Bilu St. Its on the 2nd floor, go to the elevator near Shufersal/Shilav store.

   **Opening Hours for license conversion:** Sunday – Thursday, 8AM–1PM.

   Please be advised that the Ministry of Transportation require all who are going to arrive to make an appointment prior their arrival; however, you cannot make an appointment for this step since appointments can be done online only after you obtain an ID number (also referred to as 89 number).

   When you arrive to the Ministry of Transportation present your passport to the guard and advise him/her that you do not hold an ID and that you arrived to obtain an ID number in order to convert your driving license.

   You can take a picture of the following text in Hebrew and present it to the guard to make things easier:

   שלאום,

   אני לא מחויב搋ודת ישראל כן אני לא מחויב🍚_attributions=מכתב לציון מספרعضوועידת הזיכרון, הגנתי על מתכונת שמות адресת

   **Translation:**

   Shalom,

   I do not hold an Israeli ID thus I cannot reserve an appointment; I have arrived in order to obtain an ID number (89) in order to convert my driving license.
Entries and Exits form - You will need entries and exits form from the Ministry of Interior which we can get for you from the Ministry of Interior. In order for us to arrange it please send us the following documents at io@weizmann.ac.il:

a. A complete power of attorney form on the 5th page of this document.
b. The complete Ministry of Interior form enclosed to the email you have received with this guide
c. A scanned copy of your visa

This step takes around 10 days to complete.

Complete an online medical questionnaire - once you have the ID number go to the following website (it is recommended to open with Google Chrome browser and use the translate option):
https://govforms.gov.il/mw/forms/RishumTheory@mot.gov.il

The application is currently in Hebrew only. In the past this process was done manually on a document called Tofes Yarok “Green Form”. It is no longer available, but you may still hear people refer to it as an online Tofes Yarok/ “Green Form”.

- The first page includes your personal details and contact information.
  You can only insert you name in Hebrew – copy it from your ID form you have received on step 3.
- After inserting your details, you will be asked for the “license type” (in Hebrew דרגה).
  B – Private
  C1 – commercial (up to 12,000 kg)
  A1 – a motorbike (up to 47.46 horsepower)
  A2 – a motorbike (up to 14.916 horsepower)
  A3 – electrical bicycle
- Next, you will be asked for your contact info. Make sure your phone can receive text messages (SMS) as this is how The Ministry of Transportation is going to communicate with you.
- Insert your mobile number again and choose message. You will be sent a verification code which you will have to insert.
- The last part is a medical self-declaration. Please, make sure to fill it out correctly. If you are taking any medications that may have side effects possibly influencing your driving skills, write it down. Concealing information may only harm you during this process.
  Based on your declaration, you may be required to submit additional medical paperwork.
- Once you submit the online form, an SMS (or a voice message) will be sent in Hebrew advising you completed this step and now have to attend an optic store licensed by the Transportation Ministry. Upon receiving this message, you can proceed to the next step.

Attend the optic store – Bring the ID form you have received and your passport and attend the optic store (details below). At this station, you will have your picture taken for your license. You will need to take an eye test at the store. **There is no need for a family doctor examination.**

Rehovot - Meir optics - Derech Yerushalaim 2 https://goo.gl/maps/ktirTgnbYb42
For opening hours, check in Google or call them directly at 08-941-0733.

Once you will complete the process at the optic store, you should receive an SMS in Hebrew. Please ignore the content of the message, it is not correct at the moment. Just proceed to the next step.

Get your Israeli driving license (Almost done...)
Set an appointment to the Ministry of Transportation in Holon.
Before you click on the link be advised that it is not completely in English and has some parts in Hebrew. That is why we guide you below how to set it up (without taking a course in Hebrew 😊)

click here and proceed according to the following instructions:

Enter your mobile number

Enter the code you have received via SMS

Click on “למעבר לרשימת תורים לחץ כאן”

Identification – enter the ID number you received from the Ministry of Transportation and “continue”

Enter your mobile number and “continue”

In the What would you like to do choose: “המרת רישיונות זרים”

Click on “Bruce תלול”

Click on “המרת רישיונות זרים”

Choose a date and then time and confirm

Click on “create an appointment”

You should receive an SMS confirming the appointment

Make sure you attend the Ministry of Transportation in Holon with the following:

- Your Passport (with a 3 months visa at least)
- Your Valid driving license and translation if required showing that you hold it longer than 5 years
- Entries and exits form
- SMS you have received
- ID number you have received

Holon Driving transportation office Location: Ha-Lokhamim St 1, Holon. [https://goo.gl/maps/zrhgqMXZqxi](https://goo.gl/maps/zrhgqMXZqxi)

Opening Hours for license conversion: Sunday – Thursday, 8AM–1PM

See photo below. Red is what Waze and Google show, blue is the actual Ministry location.
You will receive a slip with validity time according to your visa. To finalize the process you will have to pay the fee on the slip at the post office. 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.
POWER OF ATTORNEY

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:_________________________
Your name in Hebrew will appear here