



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

University Center for International Studies

University of Pittsburgh

Driver's License

As a nonimmigrant visa holder (F, J student, J scholar or H-1B), you have two options to drive legally in Pennsylvania, depending upon the duration of your I-20, DS-2019, or I-797 – apply for a Pennsylvania driver's license or use an International Driving Permit.

Those who do not plan to drive, but want a state-issued identification document, may be eligible to apply for a Pennsylvania photo identification card.

Pennsylvania Driver's License

If you are a nonimmigrant visa holder (F, J student, J scholar or H-1B), and your I-20, DS-2019, or I-797 is valid **for one year** from the date you are applying, you are eligible to apply for a **Pennsylvania Driver's License**.

Please review [instructions about obtaining a Pennsylvania Driver's License](#).

International Driving Permit

If you will be in the US **for less than one year** (i.e., the expiration date on your Form I-20, Form DS-2019, or Form I-797A Approval Notice is less than one year away), you are not eligible for a driver's license. However, you may drive with a **valid home country license and International Driving Permit (IDP)**.

An IDP translates information contained on your driver's license into 10 languages so that officials in foreign countries are able to interpret your license. An IDP supplements a valid government-issued license; it does not serve as a replacement for a license. If you are stopped by law enforcement, you will most likely be asked to produce both your IDP and your official driver's license. **You cannot apply for an International Driving Permit in the United States, so you will need to obtain this document before traveling to the U.S.**

Pennsylvania honors a valid foreign driver's license with an international driving permit for a period of up to one year. If the foreign license and/or international permit expire(s) before one year, the individual must apply for a Pennsylvania Learner's Permit to continue to drive in this state.

Pennsylvania Photo Identification Card

If you are a nonimmigrant visa holder (F, J student, J scholar or H-1B) who does not plan on driving, and your I-20, DS-2019, or I-797 is valid **for more than one year** from the date you are applying, you are eligible to apply for a **Pennsylvania Photo Identification Card**.

Please review [instructions about obtaining a Pennsylvania Photo Identification Card](#).