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Converting a Foreign Führerschein — When and How

When you must convert your foreign Führerschein, which tests are required, and important deadlines. As of March 2026.

Deutsche Begriffe: Führerschein | Umschreibung | Fahrerlaubnis | Führerscheinstelle | EU-Führerschein

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Converting a Foreign Führerschein — When and How

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EU Führerschein

If you have a Führerschein from an **EU/EEA country**:

• It is **valid indefinitely** in Germany

• No conversion needed

• You only need to **exchange** it when validity expires (EU-wide exchange until 2033)

Non-EU Führerschein

6-Month Rule:

• You may drive with your foreign Führerschein for **6 months** (from registration in Germany)

• After that, you must **convert** it or obtain a German Führerschein

• Extension for another 6 months possible (application at the Führerscheinstelle)

Conversion — 3 Categories:

Category 1: Without Test Countries with **recognition agreements** (e.g., Japan, South Korea, some US states, Canada, Australia, Israel, etc.):

• Only application + documents + possible vision test and first aid course

Category 2: Practical Test Only Some countries (e.g., some US states):

• Theoretical test waived, practical test required

Category 3: Theory + Practice All other countries (e.g., Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, Arab countries, etc.):

• **Theoretical test** — available in 12 languages (including Turkish, Arabic, Russian)

• **Practical test** — mandatory driving school hours recommended

Required Documents

1. Valid **passport/ID card**

2. Residence registration certificate

3. Foreign **Führerschein** (original + certified translation)

4. Biometric passport photo

5. Vision test (optician, approx. 7 €)

6. First aid course (approx. 30–50 €, 1 day)

7. If necessary, certificate of authenticity of foreign Führerschein (via embassy)

Costs

Item	Cost
Application fee	approx. 35–45 €
Theoretical test	approx. 25 €
Practical test	approx. 120 €
Driving lessons (if needed)	50–80 €/hour
Vision test	approx. 7 €
First aid course	30–50 €
Führerschein translation	50–150 €

Tips

• **Start early** — the 6 months pass quickly

• Theoretical test can be taken in **12 languages**

• The **ADAC app** "Führerschein" has free practice questions

• Driving schools often offer **intensive courses** for converts (cheaper than individual lessons)

• You get your old Führerschein back (after conversion)

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