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# Driving License — Prawo Jazdy in Germany

EU citizens can drive with a Polish driving license indefinitely in Germany, but must exchange it for a German one if lost or expired. Non-EU licenses typically require an exchange exam.

**Deutsche Begriffe:** Führerschein | Umschreibung | Fahrerlaubnis | Fahrschule | Prüfung | Pflichtumtausch | Listenstaat | Führerscheinstelle

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## Driving License in Germany — Where to Start

In Germany, the **Führerschein** is issued by the **Führerscheinstelle** responsible for your place of registration — so first arrange your registration. Whether you need to do **Umschreibung** (exchange) of a foreign document or take a **Prüfung** in a **Fahrschule**, depends on the country of issue.

## Foreign Driving License — Umschreibung

• **EU/EEA**: your driving license is valid in Germany until it expires; exchange is usually not necessary.

• **Outside the EU**: after transferring permanent residence to Germany, you have **6 months (185 days)** to convert your document to a German one. After this period, a foreign driving license **loses its validity** and driving on it is an offense.

• **Listenstaat** (listed countries): exchange **without exam**. Other countries: you must pass a theoretical and practical exam.

**Cost of Umschreibung**: approx. **35 €** without exam, **42.60 €** with required exam. When "permanent residence" begins is related to your Aufenthaltstitel.

## Pflichtumtausch — Exchange of Old Documents

Old paper and early plastic driving licenses must be exchanged for the new EU format as part of **Pflichtumtausch**:

• for paper licenses, your **year of birth** matters; cohorts **1999–2001** had a deadline of **19.01.2026**, the next is **19.01.2027** (cards issued in 2002–2004),

• for cards, your **year of issue** matters (field 4a),

• all documents issued **before 19.01.2013** must be exchanged by **19.01.2033** at the latest.

**Cost of exchange**: approx. **25.30 €** plus postage and biometric photograph. Late exchange is an offense — you may receive a fine. If driving is a condition of employment, check your valid Führerschein before signing an Arbeitsvertrag.

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