

DRIVER'S LICENSE & NC STATE ID CARD

Courtesy of Wake Forest University (<http://global.wfu.edu/dmv/>)

As an international student/scholar, you are eligible to obtain a North Carolina driver's license or a state ID Card. It is encouraged that you obtain either one or the other for identification purposes in the United States. A driver's license will allow you to operate a car and serve as a means of identification. A State ID card will serve as a means of identification however it will not allow you to operate a car.

N.C. State ID Card

This card does not allow you to drive in the U.S. but it serves as official identification which can be used in lieu of your passport while in the U.S. In order to obtain the State ID Card, you simply need to follow these steps:

Step 1: Gather Documents

- Form I20 (F1/F2) or Form DS2019 (J1/J2)
- Passport
- F1/J1/F2/J2 visa stamp (exception: Canadian students or scholars)
- I-94 card: a photocopy of the front and back of current I-94 card or a copy of your electronic I-94 card if you entered the US after May 2013. Electronic I-94's can be downloaded from <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>
- Proof of Residency*
- Fee of \$13.00 (cash, money order or personal check made payable to NC DMV)

*Proof of Residency must have your current local address. Any of the following items can provide proof of residency: apartment lease, housing contract, mortgage statement, cable bill, electric bill etc. If living on-campus, the Office of Residence Life and Housing can provide a letter saying you are living on-campus.

Step 2: Visit the local Division of Motor Vehicles Office and present the above documents.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, some N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles driver license offices closed. Before visiting an office, please check to see if it is open using the map in the link [here](#).

If your DMV credentials expired **on or after March 1, 2020 and before Aug. 1, 2020** have been given a **one-time, five-month extension** (from the original expiration date) to renew driver licenses and handle vehicle registrations. A full list of credentials that this extension applies to is found [here](#) The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles is waiving road tests for qualified drivers who are 18 or older. **This waiver will remain in place until**

DMV resumes road tests, which is anticipated when the state reaches Phase 3 of its re-opening. For additional information, please refer to the DMV Road Test Waiver page [here](#).

The closest DMV to Queens University of Charlotte is the Charlotte North building:

6635 Executive Circle Suite 130 Charlotte, NC 28212

Phone number: (704) 531-5563

Monday - Friday 7:00 - 5:00, Saturday 8:00 - Noon

They will take your picture and your ID card will be mailed within 2 weeks to your address.

N.C. Driver's License

In order to obtain a N.C. driver's license, you will need to follow these steps:

Step 1: Obtain Liability Insurance – This is a prerequisite to even applying for the driver's license. This insurance covers you as a driver on the road of N.C. regardless of if you own a car or not.

Step 2: Gather Documents – You will need to gather the following documents in order to apply for the N.C. Driver's License

- Form 1-20 (F1/F2) or DS-2019 (J1/J2)
- Passport
- F1/J1/F2/J2 visa stamp (exception: Canadian students or scholars)
- I-94 card: a photocopy of the front and back of current I-94 card or a copy of your electronic I-94 card if you entered the US after May 2013. Electronic I-94's can be downloaded from <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>
- Proof of Residency*
- Proof of Insurance

*Proof of Residency must have your current local address. Any of the following items can provide proof of residency: apartment lease, housing contract, mortgage statement, cable bill, electric bill etc. If living on-campus, the Office of Residence Life and Housing can provide a letter saying you are living on-campus.

Step 3: Take Tests/Pay Fees

You will need to pass the following tests in order to obtain the N.C. Driver's license (no tests are required for the N.C. State ID). You can also call to schedule and appointment to avoid waiting in line.

- Vision test (be sure to have any corrective lenses/glasses with you when you go for the tests)
- Signs test (identify the common road signs)
- Written Test (25 questions multiple choice, must receive an 80% to pass, all information on the test can be found in the N.C. Driver's Handbook which can be found on the N.C. DMV Website)

- Road Test (you will need a car in order to take this test, it will be a short trip with an officer who will judge you on your driving abilities)

If you pass all of the above, congratulations, you will receive your N.C. Driver's License in the mail. They will present you with a temporary driving certificate that you can use to operate a car until the license comes in. Keep in mind the temporary certificate does not serve as a form of I.D.

Registering a Car in N.C.

When you purchase a car, you will receive a Title from the owner/dealer. You will need to register the car in your name with the State of N.C. and receive license plates for the car.

Step 1: Obtain N.C. Driver's License or State I.D.

Step 2: Gather documents

1. Title that has been properly signed and notarized –
2. N.C. driver's license or state ID card –
3. Proof of liability insurance (the insurance will likely need to be adjusted for appropriate coverage on the car)

Step 3: Pay more fees

1. Certificate of Title: \$52.
2. Instant Title: \$98.
3. Plate fee (passenger vehicle and/or small truck under 4,000 lbs.): \$36.
4. Regional Transportation Authority Registration Tax (Wake, Durham, and Orange Counties, plus the Research Triangle only): \$15.
5. Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation Tax (Randolph County only): \$1.
6. Transfer of plate: \$20.
7. Highway Use Tax: 3%.

Step 4: In 2-3 months you will receive another bill from the county for 3% of purchase price/road tax, YOU MUST PAY THIS AS WELL. You will receive this bill every year you own a car that is registered in N.C.

This information can also be found on the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicle's web site: [North Carolina DMV](#)