

Driving Lessons in Belfast



In this guide we will show you:

- The average time it might take for you to pass your driving test!
- How much the average Belfast driving lesson costs!
- A step by step guide to getting your full driving license!
- And much more...



How to find a good driving instructor in the? Belfast area

So you have decided it is time to learn how to drive. Whether you want to drive a manual or automatic car there are many things to consider when making this important decision. The best place to start asking about driving instructors is with your family and friends. Also, determine if the instructor specializes in manual or automatic gear.



Steps to finding a good driving school/instructor:

1. Check to make sure that the instructor is fully qualified.
2. Get two or more references if possible.
3. Ask how long they have been in business.
4. Look around before committing to make sure they are not totally ripping you off.
5. Find out how old their cars are.
6. Get realistic quotes so you know the total you will pay beforehand.
7. Ask if they offer an individual pick up and drop off service.
8. Check what their pass rate is.
9. Do they have an on line presence (website/social media)? If they do check out their reviews. the more reviews the better. Talk to friends that have used them.

Some good questions to ask:

Are they courteous and patient?

This is a very important consideration. The entire experience, from beginning to end, needs to be as stress free as possible. Plus, if the instructor enjoys their job, the quality and attention to details will be better. The instructor's attitude can and will affect your entire learning process. Hopefully this will be the first question you ask. If the answer to this question is "no" then do not go any further, you don't want to work with that person.

Does the instructor smoke?

If you are a non-smoker and/or you are not comfortable with that ask around for another instructor. Smoking during a lesson is unprofessional and disrespectful to the student, so look out for that.

How to Book Driving Lessons:

Think about the last time you purchased a laptop. Chances are you didn't go to the yellow pages, choose a company at random, and buy from the first shop you visited. Many times, though, this scenario describes the way some people find a driving school/instructor -- they look in the phone book and call the instructor with the largest ad or the first one listed. But much like purchasing a good laptop, finding a qualified instructor requires research and comparison shopping.



Give the potential instructor as much information as possible to help him/her find a suitable slot in their diary that suits you both. Such as school – start finish times – free periods -Work detail, location start finish times, do you have flexi hours, how long is your lunch and so on.

Ask Questions

What Sort of Packages do they Offer?

Most schools/instructors offer special price deals for 10 or more hour-lesson packages. However, these packages are an upfront payment in full. Ask yourself what sort of course suits you best: hourly tuition, an intensive course, residential course or a mix-and-match option.

Will I have the same car and instructor each lesson

It is always best to use the same car for every lesson, so you won't have to adapt to a different car every time you drive. Ask if the instructor is due to change the training vehicle. Some of the larger schools change vehicles every 6 months or so, whereas an independent instructor will have the same vehicle for 2 - 3 years or more.

WHAT AREAS DO THEY COVER?

Make sure the Driving school/instructor covers the area you live in.

HOW LONG ARE THE LESSONS?

Lesson time usually varies from 60 to 90 minutes each.

Ask for a Quote

Ask a number of instructors for a quote. The average price of an hour-long lesson will be between £23 and £25, and £35 to £37.50 for an hour-and-a-half lesson in the Belfast area (as of Dec 2015). If someone gives you a quote that is not even close to that, you have every reason to be suspicious. Be careful with deals being offered that there is no catch to them, i.e. 10 lessons for £*** (you may only get 6 and have to wait till your test week for the other 4 lessons)

How many lessons will I need?

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) recommends an average of 45 hours of lesson time. But that number can change according to your age. The younger you are the faster you will learn. There is a formula that you can use to have a rough idea of how many lessons you will need: "Your Age x 1.5". the more lessons you do per week the quicker you will learn and potentially spend less money on lessons and tests.

Things to Look for in a Qualified Instructor:

There are a number of qualities which can set a professional instructor apart.

- Qualification -- Be sure that the prospective instructor you are considering is fully qualified. Your selected instructor should be able to tell you if they are registered and what certificates they hold. A driving instructor must be registered in the Driving Standards Agency, and display an ADI identification certificate.
- Professional and Friendly Approach – Remember to ask your friends and family for references.
- Pass rates – A good Driving School/Instructor should have a good pass rate.



Safety Commitment

Accidents can happen to anyone, anywhere. So ask your prospective candidate about their insurance policy. Again if an instructor is good at his job he or she will pay attention to detail and be aware of any hazards when working.

Step by Step Guide to a Full Driving License:

1. Fill out a D1 Form to apply for a Provisional License. You can find them in your local Post office and/or the DVLA Form Ordering Service. You will need to send original documentation (Passport, Birth Certificate, etc.) and a £50 fee. Send your completed form to: DVLA Northern Ireland, County Hall, Castlerock Road, Coleraine, BT51 3TB. It usually takes about 3 weeks for your Provisional License to arrive (You will only be able to start your driving lessons when you get your Provisional License in the post).
2. Use your time wisely and study for your Theory Test. You will have to wait about 3 weeks for your Provisional License to arrive anyway. The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) recommends all candidates to read books like "The Highway Code", "Know Your Traffic Signs" and others (available from highest street book shops and from the DSA official online store) before taking a Theory Test.
3. Your Provisional Driving License arrived! Now you can finally book your driving lessons! Call your chosen Driving School/Instructor and book your driving lessons.
4. When you feel confident enough, book your Theory Test by calling 0300 200 1122. Remember, the Theory Test has 2 parts, a Multiple Choice Test and a Hazard Perception Test. For more information on Theory Tests [click here!](#)
5. Now, it's time to book your Practical Driving Test. You can book your Practical Test by calling 0300 200 1122, [online](#), or simply ask your instructor if you are ready and he or she will guide you through the steps on how to book your Practical Test.
6. Congratulations! You passed your Theory and Practical Tests! Don't forget, you should exchange your Test Pass Certificate for a Full Driving License within 2 years of the date of your tests. To do that, simply send your Provisional Driving License along with your Test Pass Certificate to: DVLA Northern Ireland, County Hall, Castlerock Road, Coleraine, BT51 3TB.



TIPS

- * Wear appropriate shoes! High heels, sandals and thick-soled shoes are NOT appropriate for driving. Flat shoes or trainers are recommended, to avoid accidents.
- * Most Driving Instructors will offer a pick up / drop off service at no extra cost. So you can start your lesson at point A and finish it at point B (home - work, or school - home, etc.).
- * Remember, after passing your tests you should display your R Plates clearly (in the front and in the back of the car) for a year, and drive under 45 mph at all times.

Some useful links.

Booking the theory test online [Click Here](#)

Book your Practical Test Online [Click Here](#)

Free Download to the NI Edition of the Highway Code [Click Here](#)

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