

A Guide on How to Become a Licensed Taxi or Private Hire Driver

Becoming a licensed taxi or private hire driver is a great way to serve your local community while enjoying a flexible career. The exact requirements may vary depending on the local authority where you want to work, so **always check with your local council** for their specific licensing process.

Most licensing authorities will require you to have:

- **A full UK driving licence** (held for at least 12 months)
- **A medical check**
- **A Criminal Records Check (DBS)**
- **Proof of right to work in the UK**
- **Payment of the application/licence fee**

Some authorities may also ask for:

- **A local knowledge test**
- **A safeguarding awareness course**
- **A disability awareness course**
- **A taxi driving assessment** (more on this below)

Blue Lamp Trust Taxi Driving Assessment

Many councils require new drivers to pass a taxi-specific driving assessment, which we deliver using experienced DVSA accredited assessors.

What to Expect:

- **Duration:** Approximately 45 minutes
- **Focus:** Road safety, passenger care, and professional driving skills
- **Assessment standard:** Higher than the learner driving test

Manoeuvres You May Be Asked to Perform

You'll be asked to complete 2 of the following reversing manoeuvres:

- Turn in the road
- Left or right reverse from a major to minor road
- Reverse into a parking bay
- Parallel Park at the roadside

These must be completed safely, under control, and in line with the Highway Code.

Picking Up and Dropping Off Passengers

You'll be assessed on how to safely stop for passengers. You should:

- Pull up close to the kerb where it's safe and legal
- Apply the handbrake and select neutral
- Avoid stopping near obstructions like lamp posts or bins
- Always think about passenger safety and accessibility

Independent Driving

This part of the assessment checks your ability to drive safely without constant instruction.

- You may follow road signs or a set of directions for around **10 minutes**
- It's okay to ask for reminders or go the wrong way—as long as it's done safely
- No Sat Navs allowed

The independent drive is about safe decision-making, not navigation skills.

How You're Assessed

- No training or guidance is provided during the assessment
- The assessor will use official DVSA marking criteria
- You'll be marked just like a learner driver but expected to meet a higher standard.

Fault Types:

- **Driving Fault:** e.g. hesitation, poor signalling, errors that do not compromise safety
- **Serious Fault:** e.g. pose a danger to safety or show a lack of control
- **Dangerous Fault:** e.g. a mistake that creates an immediate and direct risk to the safety of the driver, other road users, or pedestrians.

To Pass:

If you demonstrate a safe smooth drive without any serious or dangerous faults and 9 or less driving faults you will **pass** the assessment.

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| 9 or fewer driving faults = Pass 1 or more serious or dangerous faults = Fail More than 9 minor faults = Fail |
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After the Assessment

- The assessor will tell you the result at the end of the assessment
- You'll receive a copy of your assessment report
- If you pass, you'll also receive a certificate

Note: The assessor's decision is final.

Tips for Success

- Book a **refresher driving lesson** with an Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) before your assessment. [Find driving schools, lessons and instructors - GOV.UK](#)
- Read the **Highway Code**
- Stay calm, focused, and professional during your assessment