

Driving in France

The UK and France have agreed new arrangements for recognising and exchanging UK driving licences in France. The new systems are not yet live, so you cannot currently exchange your licence. We will update this page as soon as the systems are live.

Under the new arrangements:

If your UK driving licence was issued before 1 January 2021

Your licence is recognised in France for as long as it is valid.

If your UK licence has expired, or is due to expire, you will be able to exchange it for a French licence. When you have applied you will receive your 'attestation de dépôt sécurisée'. You can use this document to drive in France until your new licence arrives.

If your UK driving licence was issued on or after 1 January 2021

You will be able to continue using your licence for up to 1 year from the date of issue of your residency permit. If you intend to stay in France longer than 1 year, you must exchange your UK licence for a French licence during this first year. You will not need to take a driving test.

If you are visiting France and you have a UK photocard licence, you do not need to carry an additional International Driving Permit (IDP).

For information on driving in France, read the guidance on:

- what you need to [drive abroad](#)
- [driving rules in France](#)

Driving in the UK with a French licence

You can use your French licence in the UK for short visits, or exchange it for a UK licence without taking a test. We will update

these pages if there are any changes to the rules, as soon as information is available.

Bringing a UK-registered vehicle to France

Read our guidance on [taking a vehicle out of the UK](#).

Read the European Union's guidance on [car registration and taxes](#) in France. You may be exempt from some of these taxes. If so, you will need certificates of exemption.

Voting

You cannot vote in elections in France or European Parliament elections.

You may be able to vote in some UK elections. You can:

- [check if you are able to vote](#)
- [register as an overseas voter](#) to vote

Births, deaths and getting married

If your child is born in France, you will need to [register the birth abroad](#).

If someone dies in France you can:

- read our guidance on [what to do after someone dies abroad](#)
- read our guidance on [what to do after a British person dies in France](#)

Find out [how you can get married abroad](#).

Find out about [notarial and documentary services in France](#)

You may also need:

- an [English-speaking lawyer in France](#)
- an [English-speaking translator in France](#)

Accommodation and buying property

Read our guidance on:

- what to consider when [buying a property abroad](#)
- legal requirements and advice on [buying a property in France](#)
- how to [import personal belongings to France](#) (in French)

Pets

If you have a pet passport issued by France or another EU member state, you can use it to travel with your pet to Great Britain and elsewhere in the EU.

A GB-issued EU pet passport is not valid for travel to the EU or Northern Ireland. You should speak to your vet before you travel to get the necessary pet travel documents and ensure you're compliant with the [EU Pet Travel Regulations](#).

Read guidance on:

- [bringing your pet to GB](#)
- [travelling with your pet in the EU](#)
- [travelling to Northern Ireland with your pet](#)

Check the rules of the country you're travelling to for any additional restrictions or requirements before you travel.

Emergencies

You can dial the European emergency number 112 in France, or dial:

- 17 for police
- 18 for fire brigade
- 15 for medical

Find the [full list of emergency number in France](#).

If you have been the victim of a rape or sexual assault, you can find [guidance on rape and sexual assault in France](#).

If you're the victim of a crime, have been arrested, or are affected by a crisis abroad, [contact the British embassy in Paris](#).

Returning to the UK

You should tell the French and UK authorities if you are returning to the UK permanently.

You should tell your local [French tax office \(in French\)](#) that you are changing address and the date you will leave.

You'll need to tell your local [social security office](#) (in French) and benefit office you're leaving if you've been getting [unemployment benefit](#) (in French) or [child and housing benefit](#) (in French).

If you get a UK State Pension, you must [tell the International Pension Centre](#). If you get a French pension, contact your pension provider. Read the guidance on [returning to the UK permanently](#) which includes information on, amongst other things, tax, access to services and bringing family members.

If you return to the UK permanently and meet the [ordinarily resident test](#), you'll be able to access NHS care without charge.

Disclaimer

This information is provided as a guide only. Definitive information should be obtained from the French authorities. The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) is not liable for any inaccuracies in this information.

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