

## **OBTAINING YOUR OHIO DRIVER'S LICENSE**

Obtaining an Ohio Driver's License is quite simple if you follow the steps below. Start by visiting the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) website at [www.dmv.org/oh-ohio-handbook](http://www.dmv.org/oh-ohio-handbook). This is an extremely useful site and will answer any question you might have concerning the process, the manual, a practice test, location of deputy registrar offices, along with car insurance information and quotes. If you would like an actual manual to study, you can stop into to any registrar's office and pick up a copy for FREE!

The office closest to CIA is located at Agency #1846 2765 E. 55th St. Cleveland, OH 44104 and can be reached by phone (216) 431-1445. Visit [www.bmv.ohio.gov](http://www.bmv.ohio.gov) for a complete listing of locations, hours of operation and maps of how to get there.

***Make sure you bring your passport with photo and F-1 visa, your I-20 and proof of U.S. address with you to both appointments. A piece of mail will usually fulfill this requirement.***

1. Read the driver's manual and then stop in to any registrar's office to take the written exam along with a vision test. If you pass the written exam, you will be issued a temporary driver's permit – the fee is \$22.00
2. After you've practiced driving skills and maneuverability and feel ready to take the driving test, call to schedule an appointment. Again, the location you choose and its contact information can be found on the BMV website. You'll need to provide your own car when taking the exam or borrow one from a friend. I suggest a smaller car to make the maneuverability test a bit easier. If you pass that, then an officer will get into the car with you and have you drive around a few blocks to check your driving skills. If this is passed you will take a picture for your actual driver's license and pay a fee of \$23.00
3. Once you have a license and have purchased a car, it's time to buy car insurance – there are many reputable companies and a Google search will provide names and contact information for local agents. Driving without car insurance is illegal!

4. If you also have a social security card, I highly recommend NOT listing your social security number on the driver's license for privacy reasons. This is an option you have.

If you currently have an international driver's license you can legally drive with that up to a year from the date you entered the U.S.A. If you hold a license issued only by your home country, it is highly recommended that you switch to an Ohio's license as soon as possible.

**Good Luck!**