

# HOW TO...

## APPLY FOR A CALIFORNIA DRIVER LICENSE

International students must enroll in a minimum of twelve (12) units for undergraduates and nine (9) units for graduates to be eligible to apply for a California driver license or a California State ID card from the Department of Motor Vehicles office. The California driver license and the State ID card are considered the official documents for routine identification purposes in California.

If you are 18 years of age or older and applying for a driver license, follow the instructions below (information obtained from [http://www.dmv.ca.gov/dl/dl\\_info.htm](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/dl/dl_info.htm))

- Obtain and study a copy of the "California Driver Handbook" from the DMV. Become familiar with California traffic laws.
- Make an appointment with the DMV <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/foa/welcome.do>
- Visit the DMV office and bring your valid-20 (registered in SEVIS) and I-94 immigration documents.
- Complete application form DL 44 (Copies of form DL 44 will not be accepted).
- Give a thumb print
- Have your picture taken
- Provide your Social Security Number will be verified with the Social Security Administration while you are in the office (if you are ineligible for a Social Security Number please read the SSN information on the other side of this sheet)
- Verify your birth date and legal presence (Valid foreign passport with a valid Record of Arrival/Departure form I-94)

Please review the DMV Website (

[www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov)) for more information

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

## APPLY FOR A CALIFORNIA DRIVER LICENSE (continued)

International Students who are ineligible for a Social Security Number (SSN)

According to the State of California Department of Motor Vehicles' Web site (<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/dl/dl.htm>), individuals who are legally present in the U.S., but ineligible for a Social Security Number (SSN) are exempt from the SSN requirements to obtain a driver's license. The Social Security Administration will not assign an SSN to individuals holding F or J nonimmigrant status to comply with a state statute requiring an SSN for the issuance of a driver's license (<http://ssacusthelp.ssa.gov>)

In lieu of a Social Security Number, students will provide proof of legal presence in the form of a valid foreign passport with a valid Record of Arrival/Departure (form I-94).

### Important Information

Government legislation passed in 1998 to curb fraud and misuse of the system now requires the DMV to send documents to US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for verification before issuing a California driver license or ID card to applicants who are not U.S. citizens.

Local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices:

LONG BEACH

3700 E. Willow Street  
Long Beach, 90815

FULLERTON

909 W. Valencia Dr.  
Fullerton, 92832

SANTA ANA