Section 2 of the guide: A Dubai driving licence: how I exchanged my licence, without tests

It depends on the country that issued your licence

Written by Usama Haj Yahia, founder of U810 Properties | Last updated: 18.11.2026

The exchange depends on the country that issued your licence. The RTA list of countries shows what each country needs. There are three situations:

- **No tests and no translation are required for** countries such as Germany and Norway.
- **No tests are required, but you need a legalised translation for** countries such as Japan. You do not need to learn to drive again. A legalised translation is enough, and the process is quick.
- **For countries not on the list,** you need to pass the tests to get a Dubai licence, and usually take lessons at an approved driving school as well. There is also a route called Golden Chance, where holders of a valid licence can go straight to the test without lessons.

For some countries on the list, such as Cyprus and Croatia, the exchange also requires you to hand in the foreign licence, and it is withdrawn. The column "The Foreign Licence Must be Withdrawn" in the list shows whether this applies to your country.

Do you hold licences from more than one country? Check the row for each one. For some countries, the exchange is only for their own citizens.

The full guide on the site: u810properties.com/en-guide-driving-license

Moving to Dubai, or already have residence?

Tell me where you are in the process, and I will share what I did.

Send a WhatsApp message →

This information is based on my own experience in October 2025 and on RTA publications, and is correct as of the update date. The requirements can change.