# Obtaining a Connecticut Driver's License

## When Can I Apply?

You cannot apply for a Connecticut driver's license prior to the start date noted on your visa document (e.g. Form I-20 or DS 2019). You will also need to have your printed I-94 record [1]. If you have completed your studies and are currently authorized for F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT), or J-1 Academic Training (AT), you may only apply for a CT driver's license during the approved period of OPT or AT, not before it begins. Applicants with a status that expires in less than 12 months may have an issue applying for the license. This is at the discretion of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) [2].

## Apply for a Social Security Number

A SSN is required for the CT driver's license application. SSN application instructions can be found here [3]. If you are not eligible for a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN) you will need to obtain a letter from the Social Security Administration [4] stating you are not eligible to receive a SSN. No appointment is necessary.

## Things to Know about Applying for a Driver's License

### Citizens of Canada, Germany or France

Citizens of Canada, Germany, and France with valid driver's licenses may transfer their home country driving license to a CT license using the same procedures for an out-of-state license, [5]

### Review the CT DMV website [2].

The DMV website provides the most up-to-date information on what is required to apply for a driver's license (and other processes, such as car registration). You should go to the DMV well prepared, carrying all items that are listed/required. The DMV office closet to campus is in Hamden CT.

### Matching Name and Date of Birth

Make sure your name and date of birth match on ALL documents.

Failure to have matching information may create a significant delay in the processing of your application.

Before the DMV will allow an international applicant to complete the application process, they are required to run a check through government databases. Government delays in entering point of entry information for international visitors can impact this process, from as quick as a few hours to as long as 30 days.

### Dependents

Accompanying dependents who wish to apply for a CT driver's license must comply with all of the requirements as noted on the DMV website [5]. In addition, it is strongly recommended that the primary status holder accompany the dependent to the DMV with their own documents.

## Need Additional Help?
If you run into a particular situation where you feel you have provided all requested documentation and are still not able to get a license, contact OISS [6].

Source
URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/campus-community-life/for-students/practical-matters/transportation-driving/obtaining-a-connecticut-drivers-license

Links
[1] https://oiss.yale.edu/travel-visas/for-students/traveling-to-the-us/i-94-record
[3] https://oiss.yale.edu/employment-taxes/applying-for-a-social-security-number-or-itin
[4] https://www.google.com/maps/place/Social+Security+Office/@41.3063769,-72.9239302,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x42ec65ba898cbf16!8m2!3d41.3063769!4d-72.9239302
[6] https://oiss.yale.edu/about/connect-with-oiss