INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS
DRIVING IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA
http://www.flhsmv.gov/

STEPS TO DRIVING IN FLORIDA
1. Obtain a Florida Driver’s License
2. Purchase automobile insurance
3. Title and Register your vehicle (obtain license plate)

Note: Wait at least 10 days after arriving in the U.S. to apply for a driver’s license.

1. FLORIDA DRIVER’S LICENSE

WHY YOU NEED ONE: A Florida Driver’s License permits you to drive, register, and insure your vehicle in Florida. You are permitted to drive with a valid out-of-country driver’s license for 30 days after arriving in the US. Beyond this period, you must have a Florida Driver’s License to drive in FL.

WHERE TO GET ONE: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV), 3188 PGA Boulevard, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410. Tel: 561-355-2264. Monday - Friday, 8:15 am – 5:00 pm. It is best if you scheduled an appointment at https://services.flhsmv.gov/Oasis/OnlineAppointments.aspx.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED (All documents must be originals):
1. Passport with visa stamp
   F-1 status - I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
   H-1B status - I-797 approval notice
4. 2 forms of residential address (Lease, mortgage, utility bill, paystub, bank statement, etc.)

TESTS TO TAKE:
1. Driving Test** (all countries but Germany, France, and Taiwan)
2. Written Test** (all countries)
3. Electronic Eye Exam (all countries)

**Citizens of Canada and France are only required to take the eye exam.

BEFORE GOING TO THE FLHSMV:
1. Complete the Traffic Law and Substance Abuse Education exam. - Only people who DO NOT have an out of country driver’s license are required to complete this exam. The FLHSMV website http://www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/TLSAE_providers.html provides a list of approved organizations that offer the exam. The results should be automatically sent to the FLHSMV, but please print a confirmation/certificate to bring with you.
3. Schedule online appointments for the written knowledge AND driving exams at https://services.flhsmv.gov/Oasis/OnlineAppointments.aspx. The vehicle you bring for your driving test must have a valid registration, proof of insurance, and pass a vehicle inspection. During the driving test, the examiner will observe your ability to control the vehicle and how well
you obey traffic laws. It is important to study the Florida Drivers Handbook in advance of taking the written test and the behind-the-wheel driving test.

2. INSURING YOUR VEHICLE IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

It is important to shop around for the best rates for Florida Auto Insurance. There are many online resources that will provide free quotes that have licensed Florida insurer policies and are approved by the Florida FLHSMV.

Florida Car Insurance Details
In addition to PIP (Personal Injury Protection), PDL (Property Damage Liability), and BIL (Bodily Injury Liability) insurance coverage, Florida auto insurance companies will also offer optional coverage such as collision, comprehensive, and uninsured and underinsured motorists coverage. The insurance rate you are given is based on many factors including your driving record, your age, where you live, and the kind of car you drive. If your driver’s license is in good status you will be eligible for better rates and if you live in a busy the city your insurance rates will be higher than smaller, less congested towns. Auto insurance providers do not figure their rates the same way so you will receive different rates for the same driver.

PIP or Personal Injury Protection
PIP or Personal Injury Protection insurance covers your injury-related expenses regardless of who was at fault in the accident. Covered benefits include some compensation for necessary medical expenses, lost wages, lost services, and funeral expenses.

BIL or Bodily Injury Liability Insurance
BIL or Bodily Injury Liability insurance is required for certain drivers. Drivers with previous accidents or violations may be required to carry this type of coverage. This coverage helps pay for serious or permanent injury or death to others when you cause a crash with your automobile.

3. REGISTERING YOUR VEHICLE IN FLORIDA

WHERE TO GET ONE: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV), 3188 PGA Boulevard, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410. Tel: 561-355-2264. Mon-Fri 8:15 am-5:00 pm

WHAT YOU’LL NEED TO BRING WITH YOU:
Go to http://www.flhsmv.gov/html/titlinf.html for a complete list of required documents needed to register your vehicle.