



## Guide for Applying for a State-Issued Photo Identification Card

Please note that this photo ID cannot be used for driving. The guide for driver's license is [here](#). This guide is specifically for F-1 visa holders. US citizens and permanent residents, and those on J-1 and J-2 visa holders will need to bring a different set of forms with them for the application. More information can be found [here](#) for other visa types and [here for US citizens](#).

### What do I need to apply for a Photo ID?

To apply for a photo identification, you must have a Social Security Number. For information on how to apply for a Social Security Number, click [here](#).

The list below shows the documents you must prepare for your photo ID application. You must bring these documents with you to a PennDOT Driver License Center.

- A. Initial Identification card application form (click [here](#))
- B. REAL ID Indicator Request Form (click [here](#))\*\*
- C. Most recent I-20 form
- D. Passport with unexpired F-1 visa
- E. I-94 form: This can be downloaded from the link below after you have entered the United States: [I94 - Official Website \(dhs.gov\)](#)
- F. Social Security Card
- G. Two proof of current, physical PA address: bank or credit card statements, bills (e.g. a phone contract bill or insurance), a W-2 (income tax document), pay stubs, or Social Security Card that has the mailing address stub attached. (Tax filing documents, like the 1042-S and the 1040-NR are not acceptable. They do not accept confirmation letters.)

\*\*REAL ID is a federal law that impacts how driver's licenses and ID cards are issued. Beginning on May 3rd, 2023, a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of identification such as a valid passport will be required to board a domestic flight or enter a federal building that requires an ID.

You can find more information on the REAL ID here:

- [Is a REAL ID for me? \(dmv.pa.gov\)](#)
- [REAL ID Info for Non-US Citizens \(dmv.pa.gov\)](#)

**Costs:** The initial identification card has a cost of \$38.50 and the cost of adding the RealID indicator is \$30. Total anticipated costs: \$68.50 PennDot accept debit or credit cards, checks or money orders. They charge an additional \$62 fee if you pay via a non-accepted method, for example, by cash.

### **In-Person Component of the Application**

Once you have gathered all the required documents, you will need to go to the PennDOT Driver License Center to apply for your photo ID. You do not need to make an appointment before you go to their office. However, please be aware that their open hours are 8:30am - 4:15pm Tuesday through Saturday. They are not open on Mondays or Sundays.

*Planning Tip:* The in-person component can take up to 2.5 hours so make sure that you take that into consideration when you're planning your arrival time and travel to the location!

### **Travel to a PennDOT Driver License Center**

There are multiple PennDOT Driver License Centers:

- King of Prussia: 143 S Gulph Rd, King of Prussia, PA 19406
- Norristown: 1700 Markley St, Norristown, PA 19401
- Philadelphia: 801 Arch St, Philadelphia, PA 19107
- West Oak Lane Philadelphia: 7121 Ogontz Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19138

### **Receiving your photo ID**

You will receive an interim card at the end of your in-person appointment, and then receive a permanent card via mail, usually within 2 weeks of your appointment.