

Becoming a RSA Approved Driving Instructor?

Information you should know before you begin

Regulation

Unlike the past you cannot simply put an 'L' plate up on your vehicle and go off and charge people for driving lessons. Since the 30 April 2009 the Government have regulated the sector with two key objectives in mind:

- Good quality and safe driver training for our learner drivers
- Value for money for the person paying for the training

In order to have your name on the official register of Approved Driving Instructors (ADI) you must first pass the three stages of the ADI qualifying examinations, go through a Gardai vetting process and have the requisite tax clearance from the Revenue Commission. These requirements will help to ensure the first aim of 'Good quality and safe driver training for our learner drivers'. Value for money is ensured by not only setting quality standards for entrance into the industry but by seeing that those quality standards are maintained. The Road Safety Authority does this by continuously monitoring the delivery of driving lessons and by using a system called 'check testing'.

The market

The RSA strongly advises anyone considering becoming an ADI to undertake some research and to carefully evaluate your business plan. As with any start up business pre-planning and market analysis is critical to any future success and viability of a business and this is no different for ADIs who intend to make a career in the driving instruction industry. We would also recommend that you find out what an ADI does. Consider speaking to existing ADIs. Ask them what the job entails? what are the hours like? We hear people saying 'that's an easy number – I can drive, I could do that. Of course, there is much more to becoming an ADI and then giving instruction to learner drivers than this.

Important

Before deciding to undergo driving instructor training or attempting any of the RSA qualifying ADI examinations make sure you have done your homework first. Have you studied the market and considered what is actually involved in giving instruction? It could save you a lot of money and disappointment.

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