

RSA

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Working To Save



Information Booklet

INITIAL BASIC TRAINING
FOR MOTORCYCLISTS (IBT)

Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

bike safely

IT'S NOT JUST YOU WHO CRASHES



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What is motorcycle IBT?

IBT stands for Initial Basic Training – a training course for learner drivers. It can help you to master basic motorcycling skills and improve your knowledge of road safety. The standard course lasts 16 hours and is broken into four modules, which you can take at different stages. In addition, there is a Conversion Module to allow riders to change vehicle types and sizes. See page 7 for more detail on what's covered in the training.

We know from statistics that motorcyclists are vulnerable on our roads and face risky situations. It is important that you have the information and skills you need to deal with the various hazards you will face on your bike. IBT is your 'first step' on the road to becoming a safe and competent rider.

You will have to complete a motorcycle IBT training course before you can take your bike on the road unsupervised. At the end of the IBT course you will get a Certificate of Completion. You should keep this with your learner permit.

You can take Initial Basic Training courses on vehicles in these licence categories:

Type of IBT Training Course	Learner Permit Needed	Description	Engine Size
Small Motorcycle	M	Moped	≤ 50 cc
	A1	Motorcycle	≤ 125 cc
Large Motorcycle	A	Motorcycle	≥ 125 cc
Motor Vehicle	B + Code 73	Tricycle	Any cc

Where can I go for motorcycle IBT training?

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) has approved motorcycle IBT trainers throughout the country. You can only take the IBT course with an approved trainer. Some approved driving instructors (ADI) provide normal learner driver training but not IBT. To make sure your training is with a person who is IBT-approved, check the list on our website www.rsa.ie – follow the ADI link for a list of IBT trainers in your area. You may also ask your local motorcycle dealer to advise you on finding an IBT trainer.

About motorcycle IBT trainers

All approved IBT trainers are motorcycling instructors and they have the training resources they need to deliver IBT. You can learn with confidence in a safe environment and the trainer will only let you progress to the next module of the course when they are sure you have the requisite knowledge and or skills required in the previous module. We monitor the work of each IBT trainer through the Approved Driving Instruction (ADI) Unit of the RSA.

The motorcycle IBT training course

We have worked with motorcycle driving instructors to put together the IBT course. We have also run trials of the course. We have designed the modules to allow you to move between IBT trainers if you need to, for example if you move out of the area.

IBT covers four separate modules, as well as a Conversion Module, each of which mixes theory and practice. To make it more varied and interesting, some parts of the modules are delivered in a classroom, some on a training site or yard and some out on a public road under the supervision of your trainer. See page 7 for more details of the modules.

If you have already completed IBT on an automatic type motorcycle and now wish to ride a manual type, you must undergo a conversion module which covers module 2 and 4 of the syllabus on the new type of motorcycle, there is no need to repeat module 1 and module 3 again. When moving from a category 'A1' full driving licence, to a category 'A' type learner permit, in either manual or automatic" then a conversion module needs to be completed on the larger motorcycle.

If the holder of a Category 'B' + code 73 type (Tricycle) now wishes to ride a Category 'M', 'A1' or 'A' in either manual or automatic then the holder must also complete the conversion module on the new vehicle type.

For safety reasons, there are limits to the number of learners a trainer can work with at any one time:

- In the classroom, there is a maximum of 12 learners to one trainer.
- On the site, there is a maximum of two learners to one trainer.
- On the road, there is a maximum of two learners to one trainer.

Choosing your bike and equipment

Your bike and other equipment should be 'fit for purpose'. Look for the appropriate quality mark before you buy. Discuss your needs with a motorcycle dealer so that you get the gear that suits your needs. Personal protective equipment (PPE) means appropriate clothing and a secure helmet. Choose gear that is bright in colour, practical to wear and the correct size for you. A loose or un-fastened helmet can be extremely dangerous. Buy only from a trusted dealer and never buy or wear a second-hand helmet. For some useful advice on PPE for motorcyclists, see page 149 of the Rules of the Road.

Getting the most from your training

When you contact a IBT trainer, ask their advice on how best to prepare for the course. You should also familiarise yourself with the following booklets:

- The Rules of The Road
- This is Your Bike
- Essential Skills – the official motorcycling manual

You can get **This is Your Bike** from the RSA or your IBT trainer. You can buy the other two booklets from most good book shops.

Before you attend your first training session, make sure you have everything you need. Your trainer will check your learner permit, insurance (if you need it for the on-road module) and the condition of your own PPE. If they are not satisfied about any of these, you may not be able to go ahead with your training as planned. Apart from wasting your own time, you may have to pay for the missed session.

The trainer will normally begin the course by registering learners and checking their permits. They will then set out the aims of the training and any 'housekeeping' rules about things such as asking questions and break times. Your trainer will want to be satisfied that your motorcycle and protective gear are both roadworthy and serviceable and that you yourself are fit to ride. You will be asked to complete a declaration on each training day.

Pay attention to your trainer and the other learners. Take part in discussions – everyone has something to offer; you will help others to benefit from your experience as well as learn from theirs. You should find the course challenging as well as enjoyable. During the pilot phase of IBT, most learners said that they enjoyed the training and the contact with other like-minded people who wanted to learn to ride.

You should keep your certificate with your learner permit for the bike you are riding, whenever you are on a public road or in a public place. You may be required to produce your learner permit or your IBT Certificate for inspection if a Garda requests them. You may also be asked to produce your certificate to your driver tester on the day of your practical riding test.

Your IBT certificate will continue to be valid unless your learner permit lapses for a consecutive period of five years or more.

After your training

When you have successfully completed the course you will be able to ride on a public road without being supervised by an IBT trainer. This does not mean that you are finished learning – it just allows you to continue learning. Safe practice of what you have learnt during motorcycle IBT will help you to develop your skills. You should practise these every time you ride your bike.

To prepare for your driving test, stay in a learning frame of mind as you practise for it. Your driving test may require you to do some aspects of practical riding that are not part of motorcycle IBT, such as overtaking and the avoidance manoeuvre. You can do further training with your IBT trainer or any other motorcycle approved driving instructor (ADI). You should aim to complete your motorcycle training and pass your driving test whilst your IBT certificate is still valid.

Get as much practice as you can on different road types and conditions, but not on motorways. Involve your trainer and/or other riders who can help you learn. A mix of formal and informal training is a good way to develop your riding skills and risk awareness. Discuss the risks and how to reduce them with friends and other riders to help you learn more quickly and effectively.

Finally, remember that motorcycle riding can be fun and your IBT training will help you to have many years of safe and enjoyable use of your motorbike.

The IBT motorcycle training modules

Module 1 has six objectives. You will need at least three hours to achieve them. They cover:

1. Personal protective equipment (PPE)
2. Introduction to motorcycle controls
3. Technical checks
4. Placing motorcycle on and off the stand
5. Walking alongside the motorcycle
6. How to start and stop the engine

Module 2 has 10 objectives. You will need at least five hours to achieve them. They cover:

1. Moving off and stopping
2. Use of brakes
3. Use of gears
4. Slow riding
5. Figure of eight
6. U-turn
7. Slalom
8. Rear observation and mirrors
9. Turning left and right
10. Emergency adjustment of speed

Module 3 has nine objectives. You will need at least two hours to achieve them. They cover:

1. Legal requirements
2. Rules of the road
3. Being seen
4. Road surfaces
5. Road and lane position
6. Rear observations and mirrors
7. Speed
8. Anticipation and reaction
9. Weather conditions

Module 4 has eight objectives. You will need at least six hours to achieve them. They cover:

1. Gradients
2. Junctions
3. Traffic lights
4. Roundabouts
5. Safe distance
6. Anticipation and reaction
7. Pedestrian crossings
8. Bends

During this module your trainer will be in radio link with you from his/her own motorcycle on a public road. They will supply the radios. Please note: You may have to supply your own PPE for any or all of the training – please check with your trainer.

Conversion Module

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Moving off and stopping | 11. Gradients |
| 2. Use of brakes | 12. Junctions |
| 3. Use of gears | 13. Traffic lights |
| 4. Slow riding | 14. Roundabouts |
| 5. Figure of eight | 15. Safe distance |
| 6. U-turn | 16. Anticipation and reaction |
| 7. Slalom | 17. Pedestrian crossings |
| 8. Rear observation and mirrors | 18. Bends |
| 9. Turning left and right | |
| 10. Emergency adjustment of speed | |

This module is a repeat of Modules 2 & 4 which needs to be undertaken on the new vehicle type you wish to change to, e.g. from ‘automatic’ to ‘manual’. This Conversion Module will facilitate changes in your entitlements without you having to undergo the full programme again.

If you are concerned about your training or trainer

If for any reason you are not happy with your training or have concerns about how you are progressing, please take this up in the first place with your trainer. They will probably be able to resolve any difficulties with you. If that is not possible, please contact the Approved Driving Instruction (ADI) Unit of the Road Safety Authority on: (096) 25 007 or email adi@rsa.ie.

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Working to Save Lives



Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre Road Safety Authority

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