

RSA



REDUCED ESSENTIAL DRIVER TRAINING (EDT)

Information Booklet

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Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

Reduced Essential Driver Training

What is Reduced EDT?

Reduced EDT programme is a mandatory driver training programme for drivers from outside of Ireland who currently hold a valid full car licence but come from a country who does not have a licence exchange agreement with Ireland.

What is a competent driver?

A competent driver is able to drive with care and has the knowledge, skills and attitude to deal with hazards safely. To be a competent driver you should:

- have good observation skills,
- be considerate to other road users and share the road safely with them,
- exercise self-control and use your own judgement to ensure your safety, the safety of your passengers and that of other road users,
- understand the consequences of choices between safe and risky driving,
- never take risks on the road or drive aggressively.

How to become a competent driver

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) and road safety organisations around the world have tried to find out what makes people competent and safe drivers. It's clear that the way you learn to drive is most important.

We acknowledge that foreign drivers have experience from driving in the jurisdiction they have left. The driving environment in Ireland may differ significantly to the jurisdiction of the returning foreign driver (driving on the left hand side of the road, sitting on the right hand side of the vehicle and rules such as turning left on a red light). So to help you to continue to be a safer driver, we introduced a six hour Reduced Essential Driver Training (EDT) course.

The Reduced EDT Course identifies a basic standard of driving skills which are at a minimum the higher level skills and knowledge required. These sessions will prepare foreign drivers not only for their Irish driving test but for integration into the Irish driving environment.

Before we tell you more about Reduced EDT, here is a guide to some of the terms we use in this booklet and how they relate to the Reduced EDT course.



Learner permit

A learner permit allows you to drive, with some restrictions, so you can get the practice you need to become a safe, competent driver before you take your test.

You are not required to wait for six months to take a driving test. However you are required to take the Reduced EDT course of driving tuition. This gives you a chance to practise and to gain more driving experience in this country. Always carry your learner permit while you're driving.

Approved Driving Instructor (ADI)

Only instructors approved by the RSA can deliver the Reduced Essential Driver Training course, only those approved can give you the official Logbook. ADIs have the training resources to deliver the course. We monitor the work of each ADI so you can learn with confidence. To find an ADI in your area and any additional

driver training that maybe required, visit our website www.rsa.ie and follow the link 'Find an Instructor'.

Your ADI will keep you informed of your progress as you build up your knowledge and skills throughout the course. If for any reason you are not happy with your training or have concerns about your progress, please talk to your ADI first. They will probably be able to sort out any issues you have. You can switch ADIs during the course but remember to get your ADI to sign off on and upload each session you have completed before making any change. If you have any problems or need more information, contact Driver Education section – email adi@rsa.ie.

Logbook



At your first session, your ADI will give you a personal Logbook which you must hold on to, even if you change ADIs. Your Logbook sets out the session plan for each session of the Reduced Essential Driver Training (EDT) course. As you complete each session, your ADI will record your progress in your Logbook, sign it and upload onto the RSA EDT portal.

Take care of your Logbook – keep it safe and bring it along with you to each session so your ADI can update it. It's your responsibility to make sure your Logbook is updated after each session. If you switch to another ADI, they can only sign off on the sessions you complete with them.

Now that you are more familiar with some of the terms we use, let's look at what Reduced EDT is and what it involves for you.

What is Reduced EDT?

Reduced Essential Driver Training, is a mandatory driver training programme consisting of 6 one hour sessions designed for the holders of a current full valid car (category B) driver licence from a country that does not have a licence exchange agreement with Ireland. Reduced EDT will help you learn some of the most vital driving skills as well as improve your knowledge and understanding of road safety in Ireland.

We have developed this course from the Learner Driver Training (LDT) syllabus, which covers all of the skills and behaviours that a competent driver needs to have. During your training, your ADI will refer to this syllabus. You can view it at any time at www.rsa.ie.

There are 6 one-hour sessions in the course. Appendix A in this booklet has the syllabus for each of the sessions and explains what you should expect from each session. You must take the sessions in the order set out. Your ADI will record each session in your Logbook.

Each session has a set of **expected outcomes** – these describe what you should be able to do at the end of a session. Your ADI will select routes that will allow you to use the skills covered in the session. At the end of each session, your ADI will tell you what skills you need to practise and identify any additional training required. You must play your part and prepare for the next session.

Remember – the Reduced EDT course alone is not enough to make you a competent driver. You will need to practise as much as possible with a Sponsor, who must be the holder of a full category “B” licence for at least two years, and additional formal driving lessons should form part of all training plans, using the skills you have learnt in one session to prepare for the next session so as to get the best from your training. Your ADI will advise you about other instruction and support you may need while practicing.

Why do I need to do Reduced EDT?

Reduced EDT will prepare you for the Irish Driving environment. We have used a risk-based approach to develop the Reduced EDT course. This means that it focuses on learning the skills, understanding and behaviours you will need to deal with the hazards you will face when driving. We know this will make a big difference to road safety.

The course means that the training you receive from your ADI will be consistent, and this will help you to become a safe and responsible driver.

Their role is to develop your skills and good road behaviour so that it continues as a lifelong habit.

You must complete the Reduced EDT course before you can take your driving test.

Preparing for your first session

When you contact an ADI, ask them for advice on how to prepare for the Reduced EDT course. They may suggest you do some reading, sessions or practice before you begin Reduced EDT. If you follow your ADIs advice and practise driving with your Sponsor between your formal driving lessons, you should be able to achieve the expected outcomes set out in each session plan.

These booklets are good resources for learning:



- The Rules of The Road
- Learning to Drive manual
- EDT Logbook

Before you attend your first session, make sure you have everything you need. Your ADI will check your learner permit. If you provide the vehicle for your training, they will also check insurance, motor tax, NCT and the roadworthiness of the vehicle. If your ADI is not happy with any of these, they may not go ahead with your session. You must sign a declaration that these are in order before each session.

At your first session, your ADI will register you and give you your Logbook. They will then set out the aims of the course and any rules about things such as asking questions and taking breaks.

At the end of each session, your ADI will sign, date and stamp your Logbook to confirm you have completed that session and upload the session on to the RSA EDT portal. They will also give you feedback on whether you met the outcomes for the session. They will advise you on what you need to practise and how to prepare for the next session.

Where can I practise my driving?

With a learner permit (even though you may hold a full licence from another jurisdiction), you can drive on most roads in the Irish Republic but you are not allowed on a motorway. Your ADI or an accompanying driver who has held a full Irish car licence for at least 2 years must be with you at all times.

Remember

It is an offence for a Learner Driver to drive unaccompanied by a Qualified Driver. The learner driver and the owner of the vehicle may be fined. The vehicle may be detained by An Garda Síochána.

What happens when I finish Reduced EDT?

You should apply for your driving test and in the mean time try to get as much practice as you can on different types of roads and in different traffic conditions.

In preparing for your driving test, keep a learning frame of mind as you practise. You can do more training with your ADI. A mix of formal and informal training is a good way to develop your driving skills and risk awareness. Discuss the risks and how to reduce them with your ADI to help you learn more quickly and effectively.

If you have already applied for your driving test and the RSA have received details of your training from your ADI you will be given a test appointment. If you have not already applied for a test be guided by your ADI as to when it will be appropriate to apply, he or she will be fully familiar with driving test waiting times and is best placed to advise you.

You can now view all your EDT training records online. With your own personalised essential driver training application (My EDT), you can keep

track of your progress and prepare for your driving test.

By logging on to www.rsa.ie and clicking on the My EDT tab.

To view your essential driver training records online, simply set up an account for My EDT.

All you need to fill in is **your full name, date of birth and driver number.**

With MyEDT you can view your training record: what sessions you've completed, and when they were uploaded and what EDT sessions you have left to do. You can also print off any or all of your driving sessions.

If there are any differences between your online record of sessions and the sessions you've actually completed, **contact your driving instructor.** Your instructor will be able to update or correct anything in My EDT.

You should talk to your driving instructor about your progress and be guided by him /her. **Everyone is different: and If you need more lessons, your instructor will let you know.** If you're ready for your driving test, you can apply on line.

Sharing information

Please note, when you have completed the Reduced Essential Driver Training certain information will be shared with the Road Safety Authority so it can make sure you fulfil the Reduced EDT requirements. This will include your name, driver number and details of the Reduced EDT lessons you completed.

Appendix A

Reduced Essential Driver Training

The 6 sessions in this Reduced Essential Driver Training (EDT) programme are designed to:

- help you prepare for the practical driving test;
- cover some of the most important skills and behaviours (driving habits) that a returning foreign driver must have;
- guide your progress; and
- highlight the contribution the Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) makes to this process.

We have also developed a separate Learner Driver Training (LDT) syllabus. It sets out the ‘best practice’ that you and your ADI should follow so that you can develop the full range of knowledge, skills and behaviours that a safe and responsible driver needs. In addition, the Reduced EDT programme focuses on the particularly crucial driving skills.

Reduced Essential Driver Training syllabus

The Reduced EDT programme does not cover all of the LDT syllabus. Instead, it focuses on the driving behaviours that research shows contribute most to collision and injuries. The Reduced EDT works with the driver to improve their knowledge, understanding and behaviour. It is designed to avoid high risk of harm to drivers and other road users by checking and, if necessary, correcting the driver’s:

- habits;
- attitudes; and
- skills.

Each session should be covered in one hour. Your ADI should choose a route for your session that gives you the most opportunity to have relevant practice and demonstration. At the end of each session you should have achieved certain 'outcomes'. These are statements that will either be:

- accurate descriptions of your competence at the end of a session; or
- can be used by your ADI as reference points for advice to you about the areas of your driving where you need more practice and what you should focus on.

Reduced Essential Driver Training syllabus

Do Session 1 first

You must take Reduced EDT Session 1 first in order to establish the base line and identifying any additional training requirements needed to meet the standard for the driving test and become safe and socially responsible drivers in the Irish driving environment.

Leave some time between sessions

You should leave some time between sessions to allow for practice and learning. This may involve further sessions with an ADI, but must also include practice lessons.

Reference materials

The Road Safety Authority publishes reference materials such as the Rules of the Road and the Car Learner Manual, also the RSA website www.rsa.ie has additional material which you may find useful.

| SESSION 1: CAR CONTROLS AND SAFETY CHECKS | LDT Syllabus Ref(s) |
|---|--|
| <p>How should I prepare for Session 1?</p> <p>To get the most out of this session and achieve the expected outcomes from this session, you should have familiarised yourself with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the Rules of the Road; ● the vehicle you will be taking the sessions in and its controls; and ● the information on preparing for safety checks. <p>You should also have practised with your ADI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● to use the vehicle’s primary controls such as steering wheel and brakes; ● to use the secondary controls such as windscreen wipers and lights; ● driving in quiet and safe conditions; ● some basic manoeuvres such as starting and stopping. <p>You should practise for at least three hours before your next Reduced EDT session.</p> | <p>1.3</p> <p>1.7</p> <p>1.9</p> <p>1.10</p> <p>1.11</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p> |
| <p>What is the objective for Session 1?</p> <p>During your first session your ADI should make sure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● you can carry out appropriate pre-start vehicle checks, including checking the roadworthiness of the vehicle; and ● you understand the vehicle’s primary and secondary controls and know how to use them correctly. <p>What is the minimum this first session should cover?</p> <p>At the very least, this first session must cover:</p> | |

- the use of primary and secondary controls;
- vehicle safety; and
- vehicle roadworthiness.

Expected outcomes: what should I have learned at the end of Session 1?

Primary and secondary controls

At the end of the first session, you should be familiar with the pre-start vehicle check and know the location and function of the following, and be able to show you know how to use them:

- footbrake
- handbrake or parking brake
- steering
- gears
- accelerator and clutch (where fitted)
- windscreen wipers and washers
- lights and reflectors
- horn
- front and rear demisters
- windows, doors and locks.

You should also be able to explain why their correct and appropriate use is important to your own safety and that of other road users.

Vehicle safety

You should be able to explain:

- what routine safety checks should be performed on a vehicle and demonstrate how to do these;
- the main reasons why a vehicle may not be roadworthy;
- the safety and legal consequences of driving a vehicle that is not roadworthy; and

- the main points to take into account when carrying out safety checks;

You should also be able to explain:

- the positive environmental impact of proper use of primary and secondary controls;
- how to plan a journey; and
- where relevant, journey information may be available.

How should I prepare for Session 5?

To achieve the expected outcomes from Session 5 you should have:

- completed Session 1.

Practice is key

To feel confident about meeting the learning objectives, you should have:

- read the expected outcomes of this session;
- done enough practice with your ADI or any additional training that maybe required; and
- done any relevant study.

Specifically, you should practice using the primary and secondary controls, as well as carrying out routine safety checks.

You should also have read the sections of the Rules of the Road that deal with:

- correct positioning

You should have acted on any feedback your ADI gave you at the end of your last Reduced EDT session.

| SESSION 5: CORRECT POSITIONING 2 (MORE COMPLEX SITUATIONS) | LDT Syllabus Ref(s) |
|--|---|
| <p>What is the objective for Session 5?</p> <p>During this session your ADI should make sure that you can correctly position your vehicle on the road for the action you are about to take. Actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● positioning on the straight ● cornering ● negotiating bends ● negotiating junctions ● changing lanes ● entering and exiting from slip roads ● entering and exiting junctions ● roundabouts ● reversing ● turning ● parking ● stopping <p>You should also be able to correctly position your vehicle while progressing through traffic and within traffic lanes.</p> | <p>2.6</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>4.6</p> |
| <p>What is the minimum this session should cover?</p> <p>During this session, you should drive in traffic in a variety of road conditions so that you have enough chances to position your vehicle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● on the straight ● in traffic lanes ● on bends turning left and right ● turning left and right ● negotiating roundabouts ● approaching and emerging from junctions | |

- reversing
- performing a turnabout
- parking
- stopping in a confined space
- stopping in traffic.

Expected outcomes: what should I have learned by the end of Session 5?

At the end of Session 5, you should be able to show that you can:

- consistently maintain a safe position on the road while keeping a safe braking distance;
- make appropriate and safe use of road sharing; and
- perform manoeuvres (parking, reversing and turnabout) in challenging situations.

How should I prepare for Session 6?

To achieve the expected outcomes from Session 6, you should have:

- completed Session 1 and Session 5;

Practice is key

To feel confident about meeting the learning objectives, you should also have:

- read the expected outcomes of this session;
- done enough practice with your ADI, or any additional training required; and
- done any relevant study.

Specifically, you should have practised the use of correct positioning in different situations for at least three hours.

You should also have read the sections in the Rules of the Road on:

- Correct positioning; and
- Correct anticipation and reactions.

You should have acted on any feedback your ADI gave you at the end of your last Reduced EDT session.

| SESSION 6: ANTICIPATION AND REACTION | LDT Syllabus Ref(s) |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <p>What is the objective for Session 6?</p> <p>During this session your ADI should make sure that you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● know how to scan the environment for potential hazards; and ● can identify and respond appropriately to potential hazards. | <p>3.3 4.2</p> |
| <p>What is the minimum the session should cover?</p> <p>During this session, your ADI should take you driving in a variety of road conditions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● junctions ● streets with parked cars ● streets with substantial numbers of pedestrians ● roads with multiple warning signs ● roads with poor visibility such as bends with tree cover or hill brows. <p>The session should cover potential hazards associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● road junctions ● blind spots ● parked vehicles ● crossings ● roundabouts ● motorcyclists and cyclists ● road works ● pedestrians <p>Where it is not possible to cover one or more of these areas while driving, your ADI should ask you questions about them, which you should be able to answer.</p> | |

Expected outcomes: what should I have learned by the end of Session 6?

You should be able to show that you can use scanning techniques to identify and respond to hazards. You should also be able to take into account potential hazards:

- by choosing the correct speed and gear;
- keeping a safe distance; and
- braking correctly.

You should be able to explain the potential effects of driving:

- at night
- in the rain
- in fog
- in snow.

You should be able to show that you can identify hazards and respond to them in good time.

How should I prepare for Session 7?

To achieve the expected outcomes from Session 7, you should have:

- completed Sessions 1, 5, and 6.

Practice is key

To feel confident about meeting the learning objectives, you should also have:

- read the expected outcomes of this session;
- done enough practice with your ADI, or any additional training required; and
- done any relevant study.

Specifically, for at least three hours, you should have practised how to scan the environment for potential hazards and respond appropriately.

You should also have read the sections in the Rules of the Road that deal with:

- correct reactions and anticipation; and
- sharing the road.

You should have acted on any feedback your ADI gave you at the end of your last Reduced EDT session.

| SESSION 7: SHARING THE ROAD | LDT Syllabus Ref(s) |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <p>What is the objective for Session 7?</p> <p>During this session your ADI should make sure that you can drive with due care and attention for the road and traffic conditions. This includes taking appropriate actions when you identify hazards.</p> | 2.7 3.1 3.4 |
| <p>What is the minimum the session should cover?</p> <p>During this session, you should drive in a variety of road conditions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● junctions; and● streets with parked cars. <p>You should also drive on streets with substantial numbers of pedestrians so that you have significant interaction with them and know how and when to give way to other road users.</p> <p>Your ADI should also require you to deal with emergency vehicles when necessary.</p> <p>Expected outcomes: what should I have learned by the end of Session 7?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You should be able to show that you can enter, cross and join roads safely.● You should know how to park safely on roads where there are other road users.● You should be able to pass stationary and slow moving vehicles, cyclists and other road users safely and responsibly. | |

- You should know when and how to give way to other road users including pedestrians.
- You should know how to deal with emergency vehicles.

How should I prepare for Session 9?

To achieve the expected outcomes from Session 9, you should have:

- completed Sessions 1,5,6, and 7.

Practice is key

To feel confident about meeting the learning objectives, you should also have:

- read the expected outcomes of the next session (as agreed with your ADI); and
- done enough practice with your ADI, or any additional training required; and
- done any relevant study.

Specifically, you should have practised for at least three hours, driving with due care and attention for the road and traffic conditions. This includes taking appropriate actions when you identify hazards.

You should also have read the sections in the Rules of the Road that deal with:

- sharing the road; and
- driving safely through traffic.

You should have acted on any feedback your ADI gave you at the end of your last Reduced EDT session.

| SESSION 9: CHANGING DIRECTION 2 (MORE COMPLEX SITUATIONS) | LDT Syllabus Ref(s) |
|--|---|
| <p>What is the objective for Session 9?</p> <p>During this session your ADI should make sure that you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● carry out observational and scanning tasks when turning left and right; ● negotiate junctions; and ● change direction in more complex and challenging driving situations. <p>Some of this session should involve you making independent driving decisions and, where available, you should make use of dual carriageways.</p> | <p>3.1</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>4.3</p> |
| <p>What is the minimum the session should cover?</p> <p>Your ADI should ask you to drive in traffic in a variety of busy road conditions. You should have significant interaction with other road users while making independent decisions about which route to take.</p> <p>Expected outcomes: what should I have learned by the end of Session 9?</p> <p>At the end of this session, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● change course safely with due regard for traffic controls; ● change course safely with due regard for other road users; ● yield to other road users and progress appropriately; and ● change course safely using MSMM routine without prompt. | |

How should I prepare for my next session?

To achieve the expected outcomes from the next session, you should have:

- completed Sessions 1,5,6,7 and 9.

Before you do your next session, you should ask your ADI for advice on the relevant study material, practice, and/or driving sessions.

Practice is key

To feel confident about meeting the learning objectives, you should also have:

- read the expected outcomes of the next session (as agreed with your ADI);
- done enough practice with your ADI, or any additional training required; and
- done any relevant study.

Specifically, you should have practised the following for at least three hours:

- using the key observation techniques when changing direction in more complex or challenging driving situations; and
- independent driving decision-making.

You should also have read the sections in the Rules of the Road that deal with:

- changing directions and observations

You should have acted on any feedback your ADI gave you at the end of your last Reduced EDT session.

| SESSION 10: SPEED MANAGEMENT | LDT Syllabus Ref(s) |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <p>What is the objective for Session 10?</p> <p>During this session your ADI should make sure that you can regulate and maintain good control over the speed of the vehicle in more complex or challenging driving situations.</p> | <p>2.8 2.9 3.5 4.1</p> |
| <p>What is the minimum this session should cover?</p> <p>During the session your ADI should ask you to drive in fast-moving traffic or where speeds are highly variable. For example, they could ask you to drive where there are changing speed limits or variable traffic conditions. Some of this session should include independent driving.</p> <p>Expected outcomes: what should I have learned by the end of Session 10?</p> <p>You should be able, without prompting from your ADI, to show that you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● manage and control your speed; ● drive safely in fast moving traffic; ● drive safely where speeds are highly variable; and ● make decisions independently when in challenging situations. <p>You should also be able to describe how to drive safely in fast-moving traffic during different weather conditions.</p> <p>You should be able to explain how using the vehicle's main controls and complying with speed limits affect the environment.</p> | <p>4.2 4.3</p> |



Completion of Reduced EDT programme

Congratulations! You have finished the Reduced EDT programme. You should now discuss with your ADI what further instruction and practice you need.

To get the best value from the programme, you should listen carefully to your ADI and, above all, practise, practise, practise.

Working To Save Lives

Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

Páirc Ghnó Ghleann na Muaidhe, Cnoc an tSabhaircín,
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