You must have a North Carolina Driver’s License OR a North Carolina Learner’s Permit OR a North Carolina State ID to register your car. The DMV offices listed below are where you get your license plate and register your car. You go to a different DMV Office to get your NC State ID, Learner’s Permit, or License. Please refer to our handout Getting a North Carolina Driver’s License for locations to obtain a License, Permit, or ID.

You will be ticketed and receive points on your driver’s license if you are found without the proper restraints.

Safety Law

Seat Belt Laws

According to the NC Seat Belt Law, all drivers and passengers, in the rear seat as well as in the front seat, must wear their seat belts. Children less than age 16 are covered by the NC Child Passenger Safety Law. The NC Child Passenger Safety Law requires*:

- children under 16 to be properly restrained in all vehicle seating positions,
- children under 8 OR below 80 pounds (regardless of age) to be restrained in a rear-facing car seat installed in the rear seat. (Only children above 40 pounds can be restrained in a booster seat installed in the rear seat.),
- all children in booster seats to wear both a lap and shoulder belt,
- children of 8 or older OR above 80 pounds (regardless of age) to be restrained by a properly fitted seat belt in the rear seat,
- to seat only children 12 or older in the front seat (although the rear seat is recommended).

You will be ticketed and receive points on your driver’s license if you are found without the proper restraints.

*For a comprehensive overview of all regulations see this pdf: http://www.buckleupnc.org/resources/crlaw_qa.pdf. As regulations are subject to change, make sure to familiarize yourself with the current regulations. International House is not liable for the information provided in this handout.

For more information, visit: https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/vehicle/title/

At the DMV, you will be given your car registration (this must be kept in the car glove compartment) and License Plate. (You only get one plate or tag for the back of your car.) A new Certificate of Title, in your name, will be mailed to your home. It should arrive in about ten days. Go back to the DMV if you do not receive the title within two weeks. You will need the title when you are finally ready to sell your car.

Additional Yearly Charges

Motor Vehicle Registration Renewal & Property Tax Collection System: North Carolina’s new Tag & Tax System allows you to pay annual vehicle tag renewals and vehicle property taxes. If your address is current with the NC Division of Motor Vehicles, you will receive a Tag and Tax Notice listing the vehicle’s registration fees and taxes due. Vehicle owners will receive the notice about 60 days prior to their vehicle’s registration expiration. Registration Renewal costs around $33 and Vehicle Inspection costs around $43.60. Property Tax is based on the value of your car. Go to a local car mechanic or garage to get the vehicle inspection done.


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