

How to train as an ECT Driver



To be able to drive an ECT vehicle you must satisfy the following conditions.

- be over 21 and under 70
- have a full manual UK licence obtained **before** 1/1/97
- post Jan 97 licence holders may be eligible if they are driving on a voluntary basis*
- have no medical condition that may affect insurability
- had no at fault accidents within the last three years
- had no endorsements within 5 years
- had no driving bans within the last 10 years
- agree to be assessed and trained to MiDAS standards
- agree to abide by the rules of Ealing Community Transport

Please note that EU licence holders can drive on their existing entitlements.

It may be possible to drive if **some** of the conditions cannot be met. Each case will be assessed individually by our Driver Assessor Trainer, whose decision is final. If you already have a MiDAS certificate from another organisation, please contact us.

MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) involves both on road and classroom based training. It must be completed successfully, within a reasonable time scale, before a driver can use our vehicles.

MiDAS has three elements:

(1) A classroom session.

This covers areas such as Defensive Driving and Passenger Safety and lasts four hours. It will include a short theory test involving multiple-choice questions.

(2) On road training and assessment

We must see a drivers licence, complete a registration form and conduct an eyesight check before going on the road. The on road element will last about two hours and a set standard of driving must be achieved. This element can involve more than one drive, with training provided.

(3) An additional classroom session is required for drivers who will need to use accessible vehicles.

This covers areas such as Disability Awareness, Passenger Assistance, Use of passenger lifts and restraint systems. It combines an outdoor practical with a theory session. The practical covers use of passenger lifts and wheelchair and passenger restraints and accessible drivers will be assessed in the safe use of this equipment. This lasts about four hours and also includes a theory test.

All elements of MiDAS **must** be completed before a driver is allowed to carry passengers: **no exceptions**.

After successfully completing MiDAS, a driver is awarded a MiDAS Certificate, which is valid for four years. An annual Drivers Registration Card is issued and must be presented when picking up a vehicle: failure to do so will delay collecting keys and possibly result in not being able to use the vehicle.

*** New guidelines for teachers who obtained their B Licence after 31/12/1996**

The Department for Transport and the Department for Education & Skills have published guidelines specifically for school staff who undertake incidental driving. If a school staff obtained their B licence after 31/12/1996, they do not receive the D1 (101) entitlement and this restricts their ability to drive minibuses. However they ARE able to drive a minibus with 9-16 passenger seats if they meet all the following criteria:

- They have held their B entitlement for 2 or more years
- They are aged between 21 and 70
- They don't tow a trailer
- The maximum authorised weight is 3500kg for a conventional minibus or 4250 kg if an accessible minibus with a passenger lift or ramp
- They receive no extra payment or other consideration for driving the vehicle other than out of pocket expenses. This applies to teachers on new standard contracts involved in curriculum activities.

**To check availability and to book a training session,
please ring the office on 020 8813 3210**