



COPY PORTFOLIO

Client: First Drive South West
Project: Blog Post



How Much does it Cost to Become a Driving Instructor in the UK?

If you're confused about the costs involved in Driving Instructor Training, you're not alone. It's actually one of the most common questions we get asked as highly experienced driving instructor trainers. We also know the answers aren't always clear-cut. More often than not, potential trainees can struggle to find clear pricing online, or even get burned by hidden costs once they've signed up.

That's hardly surprising with so many different providers and courses on offer – not to mention each one comes with its own price tag.

And, it's not only the costs that vary. The content of driver training packages, as well as the quality of teaching can differ wildly, too.

So, if you want to cut through the noise, make an informed decision, and suss out the driver training options that suit you best, stick with us to discover how much it costs to become a driving instructor in the UK – and which training pathway is right for you.

Want to learn more about what's involved in driving instructor training?

[Click](#) to read our First Drive South West Ultimate Guide to becoming a Driving Instructor in the UK

What Fees and Costs will I need to Pay to Become a Driving Instructor in the UK?

Many driving instructor trainees assume costs begin and end with their driver training course – but this isn't actually the case. So, before we dive into the fine details, let's look at what costs you'll need to cover overall.

To become a Qualified UK driving instructor, you'll need to cover the costs of:

Your Training Fees

These will vary by course provider, and typically range from £900 - £2500. Always research the driving company you're planning to train with thoroughly; read their trainee reviews, and check for hidden fees in your contract.

DVSA Test Fees

There are 3 official assessments you'll need to pass before you can become a qualified Driving Instructor - and you'll have to cover the exam fees for each part.

- The Part 1 test costs £81, and you have unlimited attempts to pass
- The Part 2 test costs £111, and you have up to 3 attempts to pass
- The Part 3 test costs £111, and you have up to 3 attempts to pass

Total Cost: £303

You should also bear in mind that you might need further training, if you have to retake any of the tests - and that's going to mean an increase in costs.

For example, if you're on a trainee licence, you'll have to complete another 5 hours of training if you want another shot at Part 3. These extra hours might not be part of your training package, which means you could have extra fees to cover.

It's a good idea to be prepared for all eventualities by discussing what these additional costs might be with your course provider - before getting tied into a training contract.

Fees for your ADI Licence(s)

- If you opt to go on the trainee licence, also known as the PDI Badge, you'll need to pay £150 to the DVSA.
- After you pass the Part 3 test you can apply for your Green ADI badge, which costs £300.
- You'll need to renew your Green Badge every 4 years, which costs £300 each time.

Your Teaching Vehicle

Luckily, your choice of teaching vehicle is entirely down to you and your personal preferences - and this gives you some flexibility on price. You can either choose to buy or lease a car yourself, or, if you're signing up to a driving school franchise, your car might be provided for you.

While this is definitely a bonus, you might find that your choice of franchise cars is limited - and it's really important to choose a car you feel comfortable and confident in. Don't forget, this will be your mobile office for the 9-5!

Dual Controls for your Vehicle

If you want to be able to teach in your vehicle, you'll need to install dual controls. These can be fitted to most cars by an approved installer, and you can expect to pay anything from £500-£700.

It's not unknown for some dealerships to include dual control fitting if you're buying a car - so it's definitely worth asking when you're shopping around for the best deal.

As you can see, training to be a driving instructor comes with a pretty hefty financial outlay. But let's not forget, a career as a driving instructor isn't without its perks!

You'll not only enjoy the freedom and flexibility of being your own boss and setting your own hours, your self-employed earnings can be pretty decent, too. With a bit of hard work you could be bringing in over £30,000 a year if you work for yourself. There are even options to earn while you train, too - with a special licence known as a PDI Badge.

Once you've been approved by the DVSA for driver training, you'll have the choice to offset your training and franchise costs with paid lessons, by applying for your PDI Badge.

Sound good? Let's take a more detailed look at one of the main expenses involved in becoming a UK Driving Instructor - your training. And, how to earn while you learn.

What Costs are Involved in Driving Instructor Training?

With the majority of Driving Instructor Training Programmes, you'll find that it's training for Part 3 of the test that comes with the biggest cost. Although, it's important to know that some programmes do offer free training or refunded training if you pass, and sign up to a long-term franchise.

Now, in 2016 the DVSA changed the process to qualify, which focused mostly on the Part 3 Test. Originally, this assessment involved a role play scenario, with you as the teacher and the examiner as the student. But after the 2016 exam-update, the examiner now observes your lesson with a real-life student - who you need to provide.

As you can probably imagine, the demand for students has gone up as a result, so trainees can gain the teaching experience they need for Part 3. As a result, there are a lot more Potential Driving Instructors (PDIs) opting to go down the trainee licence route - which provides a variety of students to train, and lots of opportunities to practice.

Want to find out more about the benefits and drawbacks of the Trainee Licence, and whether you should apply? [Click here](#) for our definitive list of Pros and Cons.

Not being on the trainee licence is probably the simplest in terms of costing, as one-to-one instructor training is charged by the hour, and this usually ranges between £40 to £60ph.

Your training, and therefore your costs, are flexible, as you're able to have as much or as little instruction as you need. And, you might also have the opportunity to buy additional learning resources online to support your studies.

Being on the trainee licence requires a sponsor and this is where pricing gets complicated. That's because training companies tend to split the payments into two sections – what you pay prior to applying for your trainee licence, and what you have to pay after. And, if the company does divide the cost, it might impact on the kinds of deals or offers you see.

The absolute minimum your training provider has to offer on your trainee licence is 40 hours of instruction for the Part 3 test, and, once you pass, either:

- 20 hours of further training
- Lesson observations on 25% of your classes

What training can I expect to receive?

Training companies want to be able to sell you attractive and affordable packages to help you become a driving instructor. Sixty hours of dedicated one-to-one training at £40-£60ph can add up to a staggering cost of between £2,600 and £3,600 – and this can put a lot of potential driving instructors off applying.

So, to bring this figure down to a more manageable amount, and attract new trainees, companies sometimes provide alternative training options, such as:

- Online course content
- Shared training with other PDIs in the car
- Lesson observations – where you watch other instructors teaching their classes
- Providing study materials, like articles and books
- Zoom meetings

While these are all useful learning resources, it's always worth asking your trainer in advance how much time you'll have in the instructor's seat during your 40 hours of Part 3 training. This will help you choose the driver training package that gives you the most instruction experience, so you can pass your test with flying colours.

Franchises

Many companies will offer a franchise where you pay a weekly or monthly fee. Once you've received your trainee badge you're able to charge money for lessons. This can help cover the cost of your franchise – and there are plenty of added benefits.

Franchise contracts can vary massively, so make sure you read the fine print carefully. But, typically, a franchise can provide:

- Your teaching vehicle
- Branding
- Students
- Resources to use for lessons
- An online diary

Although they offer several obvious advantages, franchises can cost up to £300 per week, depending on the options you go for – and you could be asked to sign up to a minimum time commitment, which might not be ideal if you're planning to go it alone once you're qualified.

It's also likely, if you've been given discounted training before getting your trainee licence, you'll have to pay back the rest of the training money to your franchise over that period of time. Some franchise commitments could last for the duration of your trainee licence, while others might ask you to dedicate 2 or 3 years of your career. So, it's crucial you consider this carefully, because you'll face exit fees if you choose to leave before your contract's up.

How much does it cost to become a Qualified Driving Instructor with First Drive South West?

Our professional and approved Driving Instructor Training Course costs just £1995, and is designed to help you feel confident and ready to pass your exams.

Not only is it completely tailored to you, but includes total project management of your training process, one-to-one tuition for Parts 2 and 3, two dedicated trainers, and ongoing support outside of training hours. We'll even provide your study books and resources absolutely free.

Want to find out more about our tailor-made Driving Instructor Training Package?

[Click Here](#)

What's more, if you're training with us, you'll also have the opportunity to join our friendly First Drive South West Franchise, and receive ongoing training and support from our highly trained instructors.

Unlike other franchises, you won't be tied in to a long-term contract, which means you'll have the flexibility to teach with us for as long as you want – with the benefit of expertise you won't find at other driving schools.

We also offer a whole host of added perks, including:

- Holiday benefits
- Students supplied at no extra cost
- Free Standards Check training
- Free and full access to Test Theory Pro
- Free access to our lesson tracking and management app Total Drive

To discuss franchise options, why not give us a call on 07845 700894, or click here to find out more.

Ready to jump in feet first? Get in touch to kick-start your career as a driving instructor by booking on to one of our expert training courses today. Or visit our Driving Instructor Training page to read about how we can help.

Want to know more about the costs involved, or have some questions about Driving Instructor Training you'd like us to answer? It'd be great to hear from you. Leave us a comment below to join the conversation.