

## **Working as a taxi driver can be a rewarding and lively job**

Unless you are a taxi driver yourself you may not realise the extensive roles and requirements needed to provide a good quality service.

The following is a description of a taxi driver's role.

As well as a lively character and being adapt at banter and rhyming slang there are other requirements needed to work as a taxi driver.

These requirements are set in place to guarantee customer safety and satisfaction.

To work as a Licensed London Taxi Driver in London you must be over 21 and will be required to provide a criminal record disclosure.

No official qualifications are required only a valid driving licence and a clean criminal record and be in good health.

You will need a clean licence for up to three years.

London in particular is notorious for its extensive "knowledge" that needs to be learned.

Applicants usually take three years to five years to complete their study and testing of the knowledge.

Doing "the knowledge" entails detailed one to one verbal testing of one's ability to decide on the correct route from A to B and C and back again.

This requires detailed and extensive knowledge of every place of interest in greater london, including hotels, restaurants, buildings, pubs, etc etc.

Licensed London Taxi drivers work in traditional easily recognisable hackney cabs.

Taxi drivers are expected to know the best routes for their customers and need to have a good memory.

Drivers will also need to be competent handling money and communicating with customers.

There will be a need to deal with drunk or angry customers in a calm and rational manner.

Taxi drivers also need to know how to help people with disabilities.