



Safe

Legal

Comfortable

Welcome Pack

What is MiDAS and why is it important?

MiDAS is the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme, which has been the gold standard for enhancing the safety and care of passengers for nearly 30 years. The scheme provides a nationally recognised standard for the assessment and training of drivers to ensure that they have the skills and knowledge to provide **safe, legal** and **comfortable** journeys to passengers.

Safe	Legal	Comfortable
Drivers are equipped with the skills and knowledge to carry out their responsibilities effectively, ensuring that passenger safety is at the centre of every journey.	Drivers learn the legal responsibilities of providing passenger transport, ensuring that their journeys are compliant and adhere to the rules of the road.	Drivers understand how their actions impact the experience of passengers, ensuring passenger journeys are accessible, inclusive and comfortable.

What MiDAS courses are available?

STANDARD	The core training for anyone who drives a minibus as part of their role.
ACCESSIBLE	Additional training which is available for drivers who will be responsible for transporting disabled passengers. MiDAS Accessible will be reviewed in 2024 as part of the next phase of the Modernising MiDAS project.
REFRESHER	A MiDAS certificate lasts for 4 years. By undertaking a MiDAS Refresher course, a driver can renew their certificate for a further 4 years. From 2nd January 2024, all drivers will be completing the full course, so Refresher courses will not be launching until late 2027.

MiDAS Standard

What is it?

MiDAS is the gold standard training scheme for minibus drivers in the community transport sector and beyond, ensuring that minibus drivers are able to provide safe, legal and comfortable journeys.

Who is it for?

MiDAS is suitable for anyone who is required to drive a minibus as part of their role. That might be a volunteer who drives occasionally for a community group or a paid driver working full time.

Any driver undertaking MiDAS must hold a D1 driving licence entitlement or be entitled to drive a minibus under category B licence conditions. If a driver undertaking MiDAS holds a category B licence, all the following conditions **must** be met:

- They have held a full category B car licence for at least 2 years.
- They receive no payment or other consideration for driving other than out-of-pocket expenses.
- The vehicle has a maximum gross weight not exceeding 3.5 tonnes (4.25 tonnes including specialised equipment for the carriage of disabled passengers).
- For drivers aged 70 or over, that they don't have any medical conditions which would disqualify them from eligibility for a D1 licence.
- No trailer is being towed.
- Where the driver's licence only authorises the driving of vehicles with automatic transmission, that only a vehicle with automatic transmission is used.

How is it delivered?

1. Online theory course and theory assessment

- Module 1 - *Introduction to MiDAS*
- Module 2 - *The Minibus*
- Module 3 - *Driver Licensing*
- Module 4 - *Minibus Driving Tips*
- Module 5 - *Reversing & Manoeuvring*
- Module 6 - *The Journey*
- Module 7 - *Legal Responsibilities*
- Module 8 - *Breakdown, Collision & Evacuation Procedures*
- Module 9 - *Theory Assessment*
- Module 10 - *Next steps*

90 minutes of interactive and engaging E-Learning, covering the legal responsibilities of drivers and the essential theoretical knowledge needed to provide safe, legal and comfortable journeys.

2. Individual Practical Session

Up to 45 minutes in a minibus working individually with a Driver Assessor. This session provides drivers with an opportunity to ask any questions they have based on their online course and is tailored to their needs and ability.

3. Driving Assessment

Up to 45 minutes in a minibus being assessed to the nationally recognised MiDAS Standard.

How much does it cost?

The cost of MiDAS Standard training varies depending on the provider and factors such as the number of drivers being trained, the hire of vehicles and travel. The cost will include £40 per driver for access to the online theory course.

MiDAS Accessible

What is it?

Additional optional training for drivers on how to assist and support passengers with disabilities. Completing the MiDAS Standard course is a pre-requisite for undertaking MiDAS Accessible.

Who is it for?

Any drivers who transport passengers who require additional support and are required to use specialist equipment such as passenger lifts and ramps.

How is it delivered?

The course combines classroom-based learning with practical demonstrations and practices which cover topics such as:

- Passenger awareness and assistance
- Assisting passengers who travel in their wheelchairs
- Boarding and alighting a vehicle using a passenger lift or ramp
- Securing passengers seated in wheelchairs using wheelchair tie-down equipment and passenger safety belts

Drivers will then undertake a theory assessment and a practical skills assessment.

The course is typically delivered over half a day, with additional time required for supervised practices and assessments. This is in addition to completing MiDAS Standard (i.e. completing the MiDAS Standard online theory course, Individual Practical Session and Driving Assessment).

How much does it cost?

The cost of MiDAS Accessible training varies depending on the training provider and factors such as the number of drivers being trained and travel.

MiDAS Refresher Training

To keep a MiDAS certificate valid, a Refresher course must be undertaken every 4 years. All MiDAS driver courses from 2nd January 2024 will consist of the same elements regardless of whether a driver has an existing certificate.

How does MiDAS work?

If MiDAS sounds like it would be right for you, there are two options for accessing MiDAS training for your drivers:

- **Option 1 - Find your local MiDAS provider**
- **Option 2 - Become a MiDAS provider**

OPTION 1: Find your local MiDAS Provider

You can use [our list of MiDAS providers](#) to find a registered MiDAS Driver Assessor who can deliver the courses that you need. This list is not exhaustive so if you would like to confirm whether or not a Driver Assessor is certified, you can contact training@ctauk.org.

1. Choose your provider

We recommend contacting a few different providers in your area as availability and costs can vary depending on factors such as the number of people being trained, the modules required and your location. All the details and arrangements for your course will be organised directly with your chosen provider.

2. Book your courses

You can discuss your requirements with your chosen provider and book convenient appointments for your drivers to attend their Individual Practical Sessions and Driving Assessments. If you are completing MiDAS Accessible, you'll also need to agree a time to bring all of your drivers together for the classroom-based theory and practical skills assessment.

3. Your drivers complete the online theory course

Once everything is organised and the driving licence entitlement of your drivers has been checked, your MiDAS provider will give everyone receiving training access to the online theory course. The theory assessment at the end of the online course must be passed before any other training takes place.

4. Your drivers attend their Individual Practical Session and Driving Assessment (and MiDAS Accessible training, where applicable)

Once a driver passes their online theory assessment, the Individual Practical Session and Driving Assessment can take place. These sessions should be completed on a 1 to 1 basis and should last up to 90 minutes per driver.

5. Certified, Safe, Legal, Comfortable

If your drivers pass, they will be issued with a certificate which they'll be able to access online. They'll also continue to have access to the online system so they can revisit the content anytime and will receive notifications if there are any significant updates they should be aware of.

OPTION 2: Become a MiDAS Provider

Rather than accessing MiDAS through an existing provider, you may want to be able to deliver MiDAS yourselves. This can be a good option particularly if you have a large number of people requiring training or if you struggle to find an existing provider close to you. It also allows you to deliver MiDAS to other organisations in your area. You can find out more about the steps involved with becoming a MiDAS Provider below.

Understand the responsibilities of a MiDAS Provider

In order to become a MiDAS Provider you must:

- ✓ Be passionate about passenger safety
- ✓ Be committed to maintaining and supporting the MiDAS Standard – Safe, Legal, Comfortable.
- ✓ Have a Driver Assessor

There's some more practical responsibilities too – You must:

- ✓ Have policies and procedures in place to ensure that anyone undertaking a MiDAS course with your organisation is treated equally and is not discriminated against. This includes being able to provide reasonable additional support or assistance to candidates where required.
- ✓ Ensure that any records you keep are in line with your privacy policy.
- ✓ Ensure that suitable training venues, vehicles and equipment are used.
- ✓ Ensure that there are effective processes in place to quality assure the courses being delivered by your Driver Assessor(s).
- ✓ Ensure that appropriate insurance is in place such as employer's liability cover and professional indemnity cover.

Sound like your organisation? We're currently reviewing the MiDAS Driver Assessor course. More information will be available, [here](#), in March 2024.