v3.0

MiDAS®

MINIBUS DRIVER AWARENESS SCHEME

Information Pack



Hampshire County Council

cta community transport association

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Welcome to MiDAS

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

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

Exclusive discounts on your insurance

CTA is thrilled to be working with **Business Choice Direct (BCD)** as our official insurance partner. As part of this, BCD are able to secure exclusive discounts with certain insurers for organisations who use MiDAS certified drivers.

BCD Business Choice Direct Insurance Services

Click here to contact BCD to find out more and get a quote

Or call 03300 433 785

Join CTA to unlock even more benefits

The Community Transport Association is a UK member-based charity providing leadership, training, advice, and operational support to transport related charities, community groups and social enterprises in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

You do not need to be a CTA member to undertake MiDAS. However, there are lots of benefits, including access to advice, support, events, and discounted training.

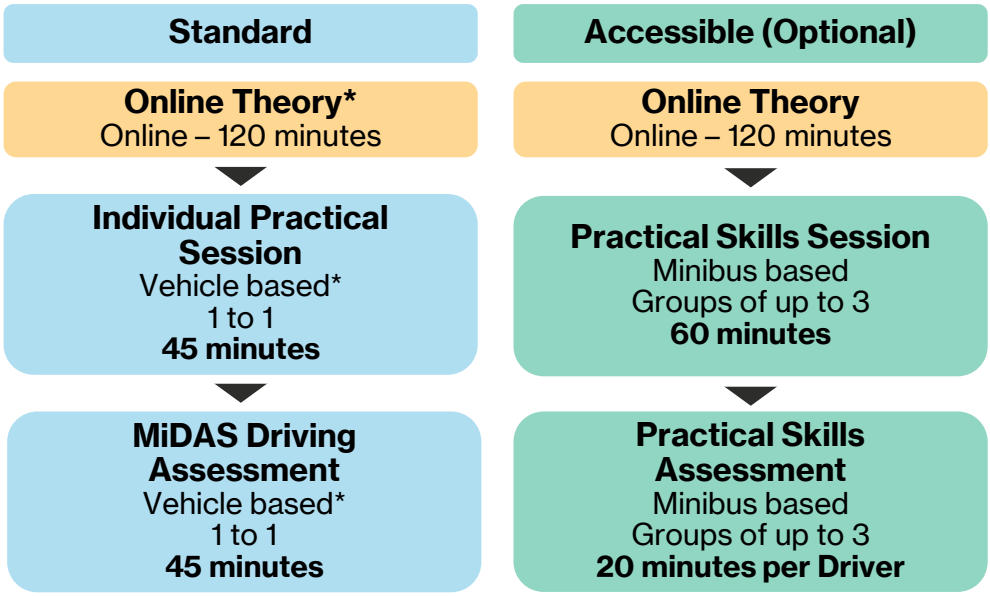
cta community transport association

Click here to see the full list of benefits

MiDAS® MINIBUS DRIVER AWARENESS SCHEME

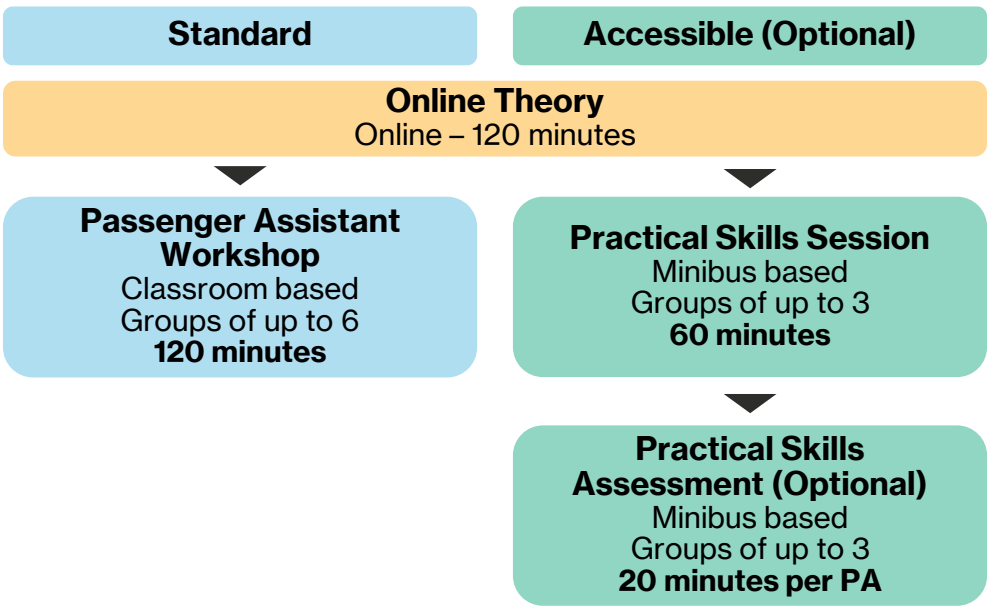
Overview of our courses

MiDAS



*Learners can choose to complete either MiDAS for Minibuses or MiDAS MPV, depending on the type of vehicle they need to drive. The online theory and practical assessment are tailored to their chosen vehicle type.

PATS



Assessor Training

Driver Assessor training develops the skills and knowledge required to deliver MiDAS Standard and Accessible courses for drivers. The course is delivered over 2 days, with an additional day for candidates who would also like to deliver the MiDAS Accessible module for Drivers.

Who can undertake MiDAS for Minibuses?

Drivers undertaking MiDAS for Minibuses or a Driver Assessor course must be legally entitled to drive a minibus. **You should ensure that you understand the requirements before organising a course**. A Driver Assessor will also check the driver's licence and the vehicle being used before an assessment.

A MiDAS certificate does not change a driver's legal entitlement to drive a minibus. A Category B Licence is required for MiDAS MPV. There are no licence requirements for undertaking a PATS course.

Driver licence requirements (GB)

Passed car driving test **before** 1st January 1997 → Hold a D1 (101) driving licence entitlement → 101 denotes a not for hire or reward restriction. However, when driving **under a permit**, they can drive for hire or reward and receive payment for driving

Passed car driving test **after** 1st January 1997 → Hold a category B (car) licence only (No automatic D1 entitlement) → Can drive a minibus if **all** conditions below are met:

- They are **aged 21 or over** and have held a full category B 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 authorised mass (MAM) not exceeding 3500Kg (up to 4250Kg if "accessible")**
- For **electric vehicles,** the MAM is up to 4250Kg or up to 5000Kg if the vehicle is accessible.
- No trailer is being towed
- Automatic transmission licence = automatic minibus only

Drivers aged 70 or over must meet PCV medical standards. Upon reaching 70 (and every 3 years thereafter) drivers with a D1(101) must complete a medical and apply to retain their entitlement.

Driver licence requirements (NI)

In Northern Ireland, the D1 entitlement granted before 1997 is restricted to NFHR (not for hire or reward). This restricts drivers to only driving a minibus on behalf of a **non-commercial body** for **social purposes**. It must be driven on a **voluntary basis** with the driver having a **personal connection** to the organisation. For drivers with a category B licence, these conditions also apply in addition to the list of category B conditions above.

In the majority of cases and where a driver receives payment, a minibus driver in Northern Ireland is required to hold a full category D1 licence and driver qualification card (DQC). If you drive a minibus as part of your employment, even if it is incidentally, this still applies.

How does MiDAS work?

If you would like to access MiDAS for your organisation, there are two options, depending on your needs.

Find a provider	Become a provider
There are **hundreds of organisations across the UK who can deliver MiDAS** courses. We recommend **contacting a few different providers** in your area as availability and costs can vary. Prices can vary depending on the number of people being trained, the modules required and your location. **All of details and arrangements for your course will be organised directly with your chosen provider**, including access to the online theory course (where applicable).	Rather than accessing courses 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 courses to other organisations in your area. **To deliver MiDAS, you need to have a Driver Assessor.** Driver Assessor Training can be accessed through our network of Approved Training Centres.

Find a provider

On our website you can explore our list of MiDAS providers. You can **discuss your requirements with your chosen provider** and **book convenient times for the in-person elements of the courses to take place.**

If you are completing MiDAS Standard or Accessible, once everything is organised, **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 the any other training takes place. Following a MiDAS Standard or Accessible course, delegates **will also be able to download their certificates** through their online account.

The updated PATS course allows you to purchase and allocate Learner Passes for Passenger Assistants in your organisation through your own online account. Your chosen Provider can also do this for you. We recently updated the delivery model of PATS. As we transition, up until 1st March 2026, PATS Providers may still be delivering the previous version which does not include an online element.

Don't forget to register with MiDAS. All organisations undertaking any of the courses under the MiDAS umbrella need to be registered with us. This ensures that we can keep **accurate certificate records** and helps to **maintain MiDAS as a nationally recognised scheme. MiDAS registration is free of charge** and is different from applying to be a CTA member. **You can find out more about CTA membership, here. When you register, you will also be able to create a Training Organiser account, which will allow you to:**

- View the progress of MiDAS and PATS learners from your organisation
- Purchase and allocate PATS Learner Passes
- View your Organisation's certificate records.

Become a provider

You can find out more about the requirements for becoming a MiDAS Provider and training your own Driver Assessor below. DAs are able to deliver the MiDAS Standard and Accessible courses.

Understand your responsibilities

In order to deliver MiDAS, your organisation 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.

Identify a suitable candidate to train as a Driver Assessor

One of the key requirements of becoming a MiDAS Provider is to have a Driver Assessor (DA). Becoming a DA involves an intensive course delivered over 2 days, with an additional day for candidates who would also like to deliver the MiDAS Accessible module for Drivers. Candidates must be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

General requirements

- Passionate about passenger safety and supportive of the MiDAS approach to minibus safety
- Commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Understanding of minibus legislation, health and safety legislation and the Highway Code

Driving experience

- Current MiDAS Standard certificate (desirable)
- D1 driving licence and recent minibus or large vehicle driving experience

Assessment and demonstration skills

- Ability to assess competence against given criteria
- Ability to provide accurate feedback
- Ability to recognise unsafe or incorrect practice
- Ability to demonstrate good practice

Disability Awareness (for those wishing to deliver the Accessible MiDAS course)

- Knowledge of minibus passenger safety issues for disabled people
- Recent and regular experience of assisting people with disabilities (including wheelchair users) to travel by accessible vehicle.

Contact one our Approved Training Centres

Driver Assessor Training is exclusively delivered by our network of CTA Approved Training Centres. You can find a list of our Training Centres on our website. Contact them directly to find out more about course dates and prices.

Course details

MiDAS Standard Overview

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. It is suitable for anyone who is required to drive a minibus as part of their role. The Standard course consists of 3 elements.

Standard Theory *(Online)*	A series of **interactive and engaging eLearning modules** covering the roles and responsibilities of minibus drivers. This also includes a **20- question multiple choice theory assessment** (pass mark 80%).	**90 minutes**
Individual Practical Session *(Minibus based)*	A session tailored to the needs of each driver, allowing them to ask any questions following their online learning and to prepare for undertaking the driving assessment.	**45 minutes**
Driving Assessment *(Minibus based)*	An assessment of a driver's ability to meet the MiDAS driving standard.	**45 minutes**

The Individual Practical Session and Driving Assessment are delivered on a one-to-one basis.

Upon completion, drivers are issued with a certificate which lasts for 4 years. Drivers may also go on to complete the Accessible module.

MiDAS MPV Standard follows the same process as MiDAS for Minibuses. However, the online theory is tailored to MPV driving, and the Individual Practical Session and Driving Assessment are completed in an MPV.

MiDAS Standard

Online theory → Individual Practical Session → Driving Assessment

Online, self-paced

90 minutes

Theory assessment

Prepare for the practical

Your MiDAS Provider will organise access to the online theory course. This is **interactive and engaging E-Learning**, covering the legal responsibilities of drivers and the essential theoretical knowledge needed to provide safe, legal and comfortable journeys. **Your learners will receive an email from training@ctauk.org with instructions to** access the theory course. **Drivers can go through the modules at their own pace.** They do not have to all be completed in one go. At the end there is a theory assessment. This involves multiple choice questions. The pass mark is 80% (16/20). Drivers have 3 attempts to pass. If a driver does not pass after 3 attempts, you can speak to your Driver Assessor about next steps. The exact topics and content will depend on if the driver is completing the minibus or MPV course.

Topics include:

- **The Vehicle:** Introduces the key characteristics and requirements of driving a larger vehicle.
- **Driver Licensing:** Explains licence requirements, entitlements, restrictions, and driver responsibilities.
- **Driving Tips:** Covers practical techniques for safe, legal, and comfortable driving.
- **Reversing and Manoeuvring:** Focuses on safe manoeuvring techniques and reducing the risk of incidents.
- **The Journey:** Covers the key actions to take before, during, and after a journey.
- **Legal Responsibilities:** Explains drivers' responsibilities relating to passengers, vehicle use, and road safety.
- **Breakdown, Collision and Evacuation Procedures:** Covers how to respond safely and effectively in the event of an incident.
- **Theory Assessment:** Tests learners' understanding of the course content.
- **Next Steps:** Explains the practical assessment process and completing MiDAS.

The **online theory course is designed to be as accessible as possible** with easy navigation, plain language and a range of interactive activities. However, we know that **some learners may need additional support.** Some organisations arrange for learners to complete the course at their base so that there is someone available to help if they get stuck or have any questions. Some also **bring learners together so that they can go through the course in a group** with each learner still completing the course on their own device.

MiDAS Standard

Online theory → **Individual Practical Session** → Driving Assessment

One to One

Up to 45 minutes depending on driver

Review the driver's online learning

Prepare for the Driving Assessment

Once a driver has passed their online theory assessment, the next step is the **Individual Practical Session.** The outline below provides a framework for all the elements that should be included. Suggested **timings have been given as a guide**, however, the session is **designed to be tailored to the needs of each driver** so the amount of time taken on each section will vary. For example, if the assessment is taking place in a vehicle that the driver is experienced at driving, less time may be spent on vehicle familiarisation and there may be no need for a demonstration drive. The main aim of this session is to **review the driver's online learning** and **to help them prepare for their driving assessment**.

Introductions and background	Drivers will be asked about their minibus driving experience and their driving role. This will help to inform the questions they are asked throughout the assessment and gauge the level of support that they might need.	10 minutes
Feedback from the online theory	Drivers will have an opportunity to discuss any questions or challenges relating to the online theory course.	10 minutes
Licence, insurance and eyesight checks	Before driving the vehicle, the Driver Assessor will ensure that the driver holds the correct driving licence entitlement and will conduct an eyesight check.	5 minutes
Vehicle familiarisation	The Driver Assessor will ensure that the driver is familiar with the basic driving controls.	10 minutes
Show me / tell me questions	Based on their background and experience, the driver will be asked some Show me / tell me questions. These questions are available to the driver in advance.	5 minutes
Demonstration drive	Opportunity to help the driver feel more at ease, if required.	5 minutes

Total: Approx 45 minutes per driver

MiDAS Standard

Online theory → Individual Practical Session → **Driving Assessment**

One to One

Approx 45 minutes (minimum 30 minutes of assessed driving)

Drivers assessed to the MiDAS Standard – Safe, Legal, Comfortable

The framework below outlines the key requirements of a MiDAS Assessment. A driving assessment is usually delivered immediately after the Individual Practical Session. There are only two constituent elements to the MiDAS "Pass/Fail" criteria. There should never be any "borderline" passes. A driver will fail a MiDAS Driving Assessment where they:

Commit a major driving fault at any point during the assessment.

Commit the same minor driving fault three or more times during the second part of the driving assessment

Part 1	Part 1 is 15 minutes of assessed driving. During this time, only major faults are formally counted. Driver Assessors will note down any minor faults to feedback.	15 minutes
Half time feedback	This is an opportunity for the driver to receive feedback before moving onto the second part of the assessment.	10 minutes
Part 2	A further 15 minutes of assessed driving. During this part of the assessment, any minor faults are formally noted, as well as any major faults. Drivers will also be asked to complete at least 1 reversing manoeuvre.	15 minutes
Result and feedback	Following the completion of the assessment, the Driver Assessor will tell the driver their result and provide feedback.	5 minutes

Total: Approx 45 minutes per driver

Following the Driving Assessment, a driver's result will be uploaded to our online system (usually within 10 working days). Drivers will then receive an email letting them know that your certificate is available to download. For drivers completing MiDAS Accessible, they will not receive your certificate until they have also completed the accessible training.

The vehicle type used for the driving assessment must match the theory type that has been completed (MPV or Minibus).

MiDAS Accessible Overview

MiDAS Accessible is additional training for drivers who are responsible for transporting disabled passengers. MiDAS Standard is a prerequisite.

Following the completion of MiDAS Standard, there is an additional module available for the drivers responsible for driving Accessible vehicles.

Accessible Theory *(Online)*	A series of **interactive and engaging eLearning modules** which cover Passenger Centred Journeys, boarding and alighting and the use of specialist accessible equipment. This also includes a **10- question multiple choice theory assessment** (pass mark 80%). These modules follow on from the MiDAS Standard theory modules.	**90 minutes**
Practical Skills Session *(Minibus based)*	Opportunity to **discuss the online theory**. Includes a **demonstration** from a DA showing best practice of the use of a Passenger Lift or ramp and WTORS. Additional **time for supervised practices** may be required for delegates who are less experienced.	**60 minutes**
Practical Skills Assessment *(Minibus based)*	An assessment of a driver's ability to demonstrate safe practice when using a Passenger Lift (or ramp) and WTORS.	**20 minutes per driver**

The Practical Skills Session and Assessment may be delivered in small groups (max 3). It may also be delivered on a 1 to 1 basis following a driving assessment.

MiDAS MPV Accessible follows the same process as MiDAS for Minibuses. However, the online theory is tailored to MPV driving, and the Practical Skills Session and Practical Skills Assessment are completed in an MPV.

MiDAS Accessible

Accessible theory → Practical Skills Session → Practical Skills Assessment



Online, self-paced



90 minutes



Theory assessment

Prepare for the practical

The online Accessible modules follow the Standard modules. In most cases, learners will complete all the online modules (both Standard and Accessible) before attending their practical sessions.

Drivers do not have to have completed their driving assessment before they complete the online Accessible modules, however, they do need to have been completed before being issued with a certificate.

At the end of the online course there is a theory assessment. This involves 10 multiple choice questions. The pass mark is 80% (8/10). Drivers have 3 attempts to pass. If a driver does not pass after 3 attempts, their account can be reset so that they can go through the course again and reattempt. Before doing so, your MiDAS Provider will discuss any additional support that the driver might need.

A learner must pass the theory assessment before they attend their practical.

Passenger Centred Journeys

Demonstrating the impact of safe, legal and comfortable journeys on passengers and the vital role that drivers play.

MiDAS Accessible

Guidance for ensuring safe, legal, and comfortable journeys including planning, reporting, and using specialist equipment.

Theory Assessment

To check the learner's understanding of the theory content.

Next Steps

To understand what happens before, during and after a Practical Skills Session.

MiDAS Accessible

Accessible theory → **Practical Skills Session** → Practical Skills Assessment

Groups up to 3

Up to 60 minutes depending on group

Review the driver's online learning

Prepare for the Practical Skills Assessment

Once a driver has passed their online Accessible Theory Assessment, the next step is the **Practical Skills Session.** The outline below provides a framework for all the elements that should be included. Suggested **timings have been given as a guide**, however, the session is **designed to be tailored to the needs of each driver** so the amount of time taken on each section will vary. For example, if drivers are experienced and regularly use accessibility equipment then they may need less time for supervised practices. The main aim of this session is to **review the driver's online learning** and **to help them prepare for their Practical Skills Assessment**.

Introductions and background	Opportunity for the Driver Assessor to understand the experience of drivers and their role so that they can tailor the session accordingly.	5 minutes
Feedback from the online theory	An opportunity to discuss any questions or challenges relating to the online theory.	5 minutes
Equipment familiarisation	The Driver Assessor will provide an overview of the vehicle's ramp or lift, WTORS, and the wheelchair which will be used during the assessment.	5 minutes
Demonstration	Demonstration from a Driver Assessor of safe practice when using a Passenger Lift (or ramp) and WTORS.	15 minutes
Supervised practice	Time for each driver to practice under the supervision of a Driver Assessor. Time will vary depending on the experience of the driver(s).	30 minutes *(or as required)*

Total: Approx 60 minutes

MiDAS Accessible

Accessible theory → Practical Skills Session → **Practical Skills Assessment**

Following the completion of the Practical Skills Session, drivers must pass a Practical Skills Assessment. This consists of drivers demonstrating that they can complete 3 elements:

Passenger lift or ramp	Assist a wheelchair user to board and alight from a minibus using a passenger lift or ramp.
Wheelchair Tie-Down Equipment	Secure a passenger's wheelchair in the minibus before a journey and release it afterwards.
Occupant Restraint System	Assist a passenger to fit a safety belt or harness before a journey and assist them to remove it afterwards.

Driver Assessors may *"prompt"* drivers during the assessment (*rather than waiting until the end where any minor mistakes are made*). However, **they will not issue advice or instruction.** The driver should be able to **self-identify and correct any minor mistakes themselves**. The DA may also prompt them to consult and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Drivers are given a pass or fail in relation to each key element. A result is considered in relation to the following criteria:

- The driver's ability to self-identify and correct errors
- The driver's ability to identify and correct errors following a prompt
- The accuracy to which manufacturer's instructions are followed
- The effectiveness of communication with the passenger

Where a fail is given in any one of the 3 elements then a certificate should not be issued until shortcomings have been resolved, and another complete assessment is satisfactorily completed.

An assessment should usually last **around 20 minutes per driver**. Less experienced drivers may need more time.

If the driver does not meet the pass criteria, they should not be responsible for transporting wheelchair passengers without supervision until they have undertaken further supervised practice and a reassessment. **There should be no borderline passes**. If a driver repeatedly fails to demonstrate safe practice despite extensive supervised practise, the Driver Assessor will recommend next steps.

PATS Overview

PATS is the gold standard training scheme for passenger assistants in the community transport sector and beyond, ensuring that PAs are able to provide **safe, legal and comfortable journeys.** As with MiDAS, the course consists of Standard training which providers and introduction into the roles and responsibilities of passenger assistants. There is also additional Accessible training for Passenger Assistants who have responsibilities for transporting passengers seated in wheelchairs. **A PATS certificate is valid for 3 years.**

Standard	**PATS Theory** *Online*	A series of **interactive and engaging eLearning modules** which cover, Passenger Centred Journeys and the Role of Passenger Assistants. This also includes a **20-question multiple choice theory assessment** (pass mark 80%).	**120 minutes**
	Passenger Assistant Workshop *Classroom* *Max groups of 6*	Opportunity to **discuss the online theory** and apply the knowledge to real life case studies and scenarios.	**120 minutes**
Accessible	**Practical Skills Session** *Minibus based* *Max groups of 3*	Includes a **demonstration** from an Assessor showing best practice of the use of a Passenger Lift or ramp and WTORS, followed by supervised practices. **Additional time** may be required for delegates who are less experienced.	**60 minutes**
	Practical Skills Assessment *Minibus based* *Max groups of 3*	An **assessment** of a Passenger Assistant's ability to demonstrate safe practice when using a Passenger Lift (or ramp) and WTORS. **Optional** for those who do not have responsibly for using this equipment	**Up to 20 minutes per PA**

PATS Standard

Online theory → Passenger Assistant Workshop

Online, self-paced

120 minutes

Theory assessment

Prepare for in person session

The online PATS course is a series of **interactive and engaging online modules**.

The online modules do not have to all be completed in one go. At the end there is a theory assessment. This involves **20 multiple choice questions**. The pass mark is 80% (16/20). Passenger Assistants have 3 attempts to pass. If a Passenger Assistant does not pass after 3 attempts, you can speak to your Assessor about next steps. **A Passenger Assistant must pass the theory assessment before they proceed with the rest of the course.**

Passenger Centred Journeys

Demonstrating the role which Passenger Assistants play in putting the needs of passengers at the centre of every journey and why it is so important.

The Role of Passenger Assistants

An introduction into the roles and responsibilities of Passenger Assistants, including planning, reporting, and using specialist equipment.

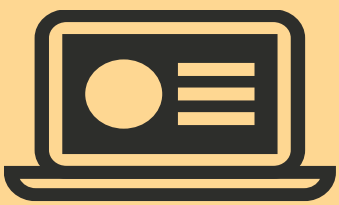
Theory Assessment

To check the learner's understanding of the theory content.

Next Steps

To set clear expectations about the Passenger Assistant Workshop and PATS Accessible.

The **online theory course is designed to be as accessible as possible** with easy navigation, plain language and a range of interactive activities. However, we know that **some learners may need additional support.** Some organisations arrange for learners to complete the course at their base so that there is someone available to help if they get stuck or have any questions. Some also **bring learners together so that they can go through the course in a group** with each learner still completing the course on their own device.



PATS Standard

PATS theory → **Passenger Assistant Workshop**

Groups of up to 6

120 minutes

Review the Passenger Assistant's online learning

Apply knowledge into practice

Once a Passenger Assistant has passed their online PATS Theory Assessment, the next step is the **Passenger Assistant Workshop.** This is facilitated by a PATS Assessor. The main aims of this session are to:

- Review the PA's understanding of the online learning.
- Help them apply their knowledge to practical scenarios.
- Encourage PAs to reflect on their professional development.

Introductions and background	The Assessor will learn more about the PAs, their experience and the types of journeys that they work on which will help them to tailor the session to the needs of the group.	15 minutes
Online theory discussion	An opportunity for PAs to discuss any questions relating to the online theory course. PAs can also raise any challenges that they have experienced in their role which they would like the opportunity to discuss.	15 minutes
Scenarios	To help PAs apply everything that they've covered, they will discuss a series of scenarios which relate to their role. The Assessor will help to facilitate discussions, ensuring that key points are understood and that questions are clarified.	75 minutes
Professional Development Plan	PAs will be asked to reflect on their professional development and identify key skills which they would like to improve further following the course.	15 minutes

Total: 120 minutes

PATS Accessible

Practical Skills Session → Practical Skills Assessment

Groups up to 3

Up to 60 minutes depending on group

Practical understanding of specialist equipment

Prepare for the Practical Skills Assessment

PATS Accessible is additional training for PAs who are responsible for transporting disabled passengers. PATS Standard is a prerequisite.

All Passenger Assistants will receive an overview of the use of specialist accessible equipment such as lifts, ramps and WTORS through their online theory. For Passenger Assistants travelling in accessible vehicles or who have a responsibility for helping to secure passengers seated in wheelchairs, the PATS Accessible module provides practical demonstrations, the opportunity to practice using the equipment and the option to be assessed.

PAs can be issued with a **PATS Accessible: Certificate of Attendance** by attending this session. The Practical Skills Assessment is optional depending on the Passenger Assistant's role.

Introductions and background	Opportunity for the Assessor to understand the experience of PAs and their role so that they can tailor the session accordingly.	5 minutes
Feedback from the online theory	An opportunity to discuss any questions or challenges relating to the areas of online theory course which covered lifts, ramps and WTORS.	5 minutes
Equipment familiarisation	An overview of the vehicle's ramp or lift, WTORS, and the wheelchair which will be used during the assessment.	5 minutes
Demonstration	Demonstration of safe practice when using a Passenger Lift (or ramp) and WTORS from an Assessor.	15 minutes
Supervised practice	Time for each PA to practice under the supervision of an Assessor.	30 minutes *(or as required)*

Total: Approx 60 minutes

PATS Accessible

Practical Skills Session → **Practical Skills Assessment**

The Practical Skills Assessment is **optional**. It should be conducted where Passenger Assistants have a responsibility for using specialist equipment. The assessment consists of Passenger Assistants demonstrating that they can complete 3 elements:

Passenger lift or ramp	Assist a wheelchair user to board and alight from a vehicle using a passenger lift or ramp.
Wheelchair Tie-Down Equipment	Secure a passenger's wheelchair in the vehicle before a journey and release it afterwards.
Occupant Restraint System	Assist a passenger to fit a safety belt or harness before a journey and assist them to remove it afterwards.

Assessors may *"prompt"* PAs during the assessment (*rather than waiting until the end where any minor mistakes are made*). However, **they will not issue advice or instruction.** The PA should be able to **self-identify and correct any minor mistakes themselves**. You can also prompt them to consult and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

PAs are given a pass or fail in relation to each key element. Consider the result in relation to the following criteria:

- The PA's ability to self-identify and correct errors
- The PA's ability to identify and correct errors following a prompt
- The accuracy to which manufacturer's instructions are followed
- The effectiveness of communication with the passenger

Where a fail is given in any one of the 3 elements then a certificate should not be issued until another complete assessment is satisfactorily completed.

An assessment should usually last **around 20 minutes per PA**. Less experienced PAs may need more time.

If successful, the PA will be issued with a **PATS Accessible: Certificate of Proficiency.**

If the PA does not meet the pass criteria, they should not be responsible for transporting wheelchair passengers without supervision until they have undertaken further supervised practice and a reassessment. **There should be no borderline passes**. If a PA repeatedly fails to demonstrate safe practice despite extensive supervised practice, the Assessor will recommend next steps.

Driver Assessor Training



Classroom based



2 days (+1 day for Accessible)



Certificate valid for 2 years

Can be refreshed with a 1-day refresher course

Driver Assessors are able to deliver **MiDAS for Drivers. They are responsible for helping to maintain the nationally recognised MiDAS Standard** by ensuring that **all drivers with a MiDAS certificate** can demonstrate the **skills and knowledge to provide safe, legal and comfortable journeys to passengers**. They must ensure that **all drivers, regardless of their background and experience,** are **fairly and consistently assessed** using the MiDAS framework. This brings a **high level of responsibility**. Driver Assessor Training is therefore **intensive and requires a high level of commitment**. Candidates should review the requirements of a Driver Assessor before undertaking a course.

By successfully completing the Driver Assessor course, candidates are authorised to deliver both MiDAS for Minibus Drivers and MiDAS MPV for Drivers.

Day 1	• MiDAS Structure • Individual Practical Session for MiDAS Drivers • Licence Checks • MiDAS Driving Assessment • MiDAS Pass/Fail Criteria (Measuring "Safe, Legal & Comfortable") • Common Minibus Driving Faults Prior to starting the course, candidates will complete the online driver theory course if they haven't completed it previously.
Day 2 (On-road)	• Driving fault identification and analysis • Constructive driving feedback • Driving Assessment • Appraisal of Assessment Skills
Day 3 (Optional)	• Passenger awareness and assistance • Using passenger lifts and ramps • Assisting passengers who travel in their wheelchairs • MiDAS Accessible Assessments

In order to pass, candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- Demonstrate effective feedback techniques and accurate assessment scoring
- Pass a multiple choice theory assessment with a mark of at least 80%
- Meet the MiDAS Driving standard
- Demonstrate the ability to accurately assess a driver using wheelchair tie down and occupant restraint systems (Accessible only).