

Making Aliyah

A Step-by-Step Guide to Your Aliyah and Klita Process



The Aliyah journey involves multiple stages, each involving interactions with different representations and organizations, all playing a crucial role in your path to obtaining Israeli citizenship.

At Belong, we're excited that you've chosen to join Israeli society. We're here to provide guidance and support throughout every essential aspect of your Aliyah and Klita process.

Here's a comprehensive overview of the Aliyah stages, from the initial decision-making phase to assimilating into society, all personalized to your unique Aliyah profile, ensuring a smooth and successful transition.

Who

is a Newcomer (Oleh Chadash)?



A. The definition of an Oleh Chadash:

A newcomer (*Oleh Chadash*) is someone who has decided to settle in Israel, has immigrated, and has been granted an Oleh visa under [the Law of Return](#). This encompasses visas 4b* from the original 1950 Law of Return and 4a* from the 1970 amendment for those ‘Eligible for Aliyah.’

B. A 17-year-old will receive a single Aliyah profile:

For a 17-year-old making Aliyah **alone**, without their parents moving during the year before or after, a single Aliyah profile is created. However, if your parents are making Aliyah within the upcoming year, your status will be part of a family unit, which requires further individual clarification since your rights are considered within the family context.

C. Exceptions:

Certain individuals may be excluded from receiving an Oleh Visa. This includes those who have acted against the Jewish people, those who may pose a threat to public health or the security of the state, and those who could be a danger to public safety.

D. ‘Spouses’ in the Law of Return:

The Law of Return recognizes ‘spouses’ as married couples. This includes common-law couples with children, who can apply to the court to obtain an Oleh profile for the partner who wouldn’t otherwise qualify. Couples married for **less than 1 year prior to Aliyah** must demonstrate the authenticity of their marriage. This is to ensure that the non-eligible partner is joining the Aliyah journey genuinely and not just to acquire an Oleh status.

Initially, the non-eligible spouse is given an A5 Temporary Resident Visa, valid for 1 year. After this period, an interview with the Population and Immigration Authority will take place to confirm the marriage’s validity. If the authenticity is established, an Oleh profile will be granted. Should there be any uncertainties, the A5 visa may be extended for another year for further evaluation, and in persistent cases of doubt, the final decision will be made by the Ministry of Interior.

Who is a Newcomer (Oleh Chadash)?

The Law of Return also extends eligibility to same-sex spouses where one partner is eligible for Aliyah, allowing them to immigrate under the same conditions as opposite-sex couples.

A widow or widower of a Jewish individual retains the right to an Oleh profile, provided they have not entered into a new marriage.

For more information (in Hebrew,) click [here](#).

E. Child/Grandchild/Great-Grandson (Descendants) and Their Eligibility:

The Law of Return extends the right of Aliyah to direct descendants, which includes children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of those eligible. In specific circumstances, these descendants may be granted a Temporary Resident's Visa while their permanent Aliyah status is being finalized:

1. For an **adopted minor** not of Jewish descent, proof of the adoption's legitimacy must be provided if it occurred **less than 1 year prior to Aliyah**. This is to confirm that the adoption wasn't carried out solely to obtain an Aliyah status.
2. A **great-grandson or great-granddaughter of a Jewish person (4th generation)** immigrating as a minor under 18, alongside at least 1 parent qualified for Aliyah, is eligible for a Temporary Resident (A5) Visa. To maintain this status, the following must be met:
 - The minor is directly descended from a Jewish great-grandparent
 - At least 1 parent is recognized as eligible for Aliyah under the Law of Return
 - The minor is immigrating to Israel together with at least 1 of his parents

The A5 Visa is subject to yearly renewal for 3 years. After this period, the minor may apply for Israeli citizenship. To do so, they must show that they and their parent(s) have been residing primarily in Israel.

Should the parent(s) depart from Israel during this time, the minor may continue the citizenship process with a guardian's assistance.

Steps

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A Before Making Aliyah

1. Start by completing the online application available at Nefesh B’Nefesh’s website - <https://www.nbn.org.il/aliyah-application/>
2. Next, open an Aliyah file by submitting your documents for review to the Jewish Agency Global Center- <https://www.jewishagency.org/global-service-form/>
3. Schedule a meeting with a Jewish Agency emissary (*Shaliach*) who will assess your eligibility and aid in planning your Aliyah and integration journey

For a complete list of the various Jewish agency offices and ways to contact the emissaries by region, click [here](#).

During your **meeting** with the Jewish Agency’s Shaliach, you will need to bring the following documents:

- **Birth Certificates:** Ensure you have the original birth certificates for all family members, translated into Hebrew with a notarized apostille. If the originals are not in English, they should be translated into English or Hebrew.
- **Marital Status Documentation:** This includes marriage certificates, divorce decrees, or death certificates (for widows/widowers), all bearing an apostille certification.
- **Good Conduct Certificate:** Acquire a Certificate of Good Conduct that is valid up to 3 months before your Aliyah date.
- **Valid Passport:** Your passport should have at least 6 months remaining until expiration.
- **Proof of Jewish Heritage or Connection:** A letter from a rabbi recognized by the Ministry of the Interior affirming your Jewish roots is required. Other supporting evidence could include your parents’ marriage certificate, bar mitzvah certificates, death or burial certificates of Jewish family members, synagogue or Jewish community organization memberships, and photos or other documents that substantiate your Jewish identity.

Steps

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- **Conversion Certificate (if applicable):** Provide an original conversion certificate, a legal document from where the conversion occurred. Include a letter from an approved community rabbi who oversaw the conversion, outlining the process.
- **Passport Photos:** Prepare 3 recent passport-sized photographs for each family member, with dimensions of 45/55 mm.
- **Legal Guardianship Documents (if necessary):** If you are a minor or a person with special needs, you'll need a court order appointing a guardian.

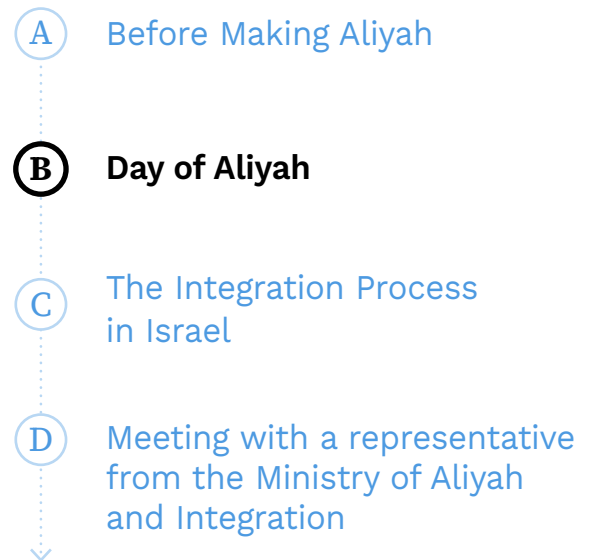
After your meeting with the emissary, who will assist in compiling your application and required documents, they will forward their recommendation to the consulate. This is to request the issuance of the correct Aliyah visa for which you qualify.

You should plan to obtain your Oleh Visa, in line with your eligibility profile, from the local Jewish Agency emissary's office approximately 2 weeks before your flight. This visa will be a crucial addition to your passport.

Also, you'll receive your flight tickets, and as an Oleh, you'll benefit from an increased luggage allowance, which can be a huge advantage when transporting your belongings to Israel.

Steps

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B Day of Aliyah

Upon landing at Ben Gurion Airport in Israel, as a new Oleh, you'll be greeted by a representative from the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration for your initial registration process. This crucial meeting ensures Olim receives essential documents, the first cash installment of the absorption basket, an Israeli cell phone SIM card, and complimentary transportation to your initial place of residence.

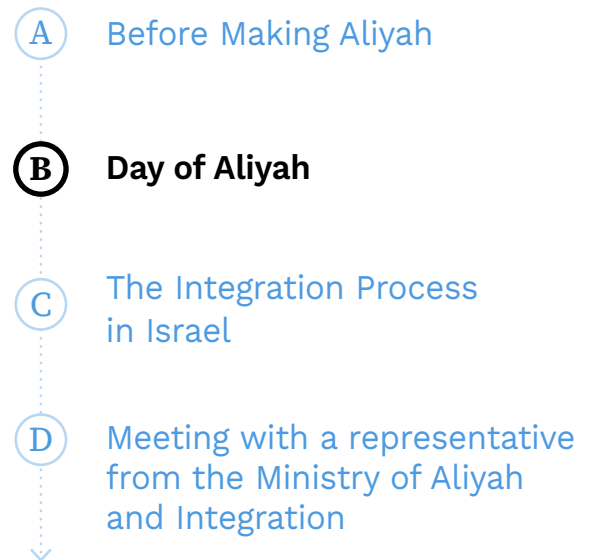
If you're planning to arrive in Eilat, make sure to inform the Ministry well in advance of your arrival to ensure smooth processing.

At the airport's Aliyah and Integration office, Olim are provided with:

- **Oleh Certificate (*Teudat Oleh*):** This document registers the benefits and support Olim are entitled to in their first years after Aliyah. It's vital for accessing services and assistance from various institutions, including the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, banks, customs, social insurance, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), and more.
- **Temporary Identity Card (*Teudat Zehut*):** Initially, you'll receive a temporary ID or a form for applying for one. Securing a permanent identity card should be done within 3 months at the Population and Immigration Authority Bureau closest to your residence, ideally within the first week of Aliyah.
- **Bank Account Form:** This document is for setting up a new Israeli bank account into which payments from the absorption basket will be directed. Olim should complete this form and hand it over to both the bank clerk for account setup and the Ministry representative during the initial meeting. For more information, view our page on [finance](#).
- **Health Insurance:** Olim are provided with a form to join a health insurance fund (HMO) of their choice, which grants free access to health services for 6 months. This registration can be done immediately at the airport or shortly after at any Israel Postal Company branch. If not registered within 90 days of Aliyah, it must be done at the nearest National Insurance Institute branch, though early registration is recommended for immediate coverage.

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- **Absorption Basket (*Sal Briut*):** This financial aid is offered to all newcomers and their families during their first year in Israel, with amounts based on family size and ages. The support is distributed monthly for the first 7 months, with the initial payment provided in cash upon arrival.

Additionally, Olim receive an **Israeli SIM card** for immediate connectivity and **transportation** to their first residential address, marking the beginning of a new life in Israel.

Steps

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© *The Integration Process in Israel*

The general eligibility period for Oleh benefits

The integration process for Olim in Israel is structured to provide a supportive transition, beginning with eligibility for various benefits from the moment of receiving an Aliyah certificate. The scope and duration of this support vary, addressing needs in education, housing, and employment, tailored to the Oleh's family situation, composition, and any prior stays in Israel.

It's crucial for Olim to be aware that the procedures and criteria for these benefits may evolve, ensuring that the assistance offered aligns with current policies at the time their aid is requested.

Opening a single/joint bank account

Opening a bank account upon arrival in Israel is essential for accessing financial assistance, including Sal Klita. You'll be able to select a bank and branch that suits your needs to set up either a single or joint account for couples or families. **To do so, you must bring and present the following:**

- **Aliyah Certificates:** These are required for all Olim. If a spouse cannot be present, a notarized power of attorney is necessary. Ideally, both spouses should familiarize themselves with the bank's services and representatives.
- **ID Card:** A temporary or permanent Teudat Zehut must be presented.
- **Bank Account Opening Form:** Available upon arrival at the airport, this form is crucial for establishing your bank account.
- **For Minors (Under 16):** Parental or guardian permission is needed for account setup.

Maintaining the same bank account in the early years of Aliyah is recommended to ensure uninterrupted receipt of benefits. Any changes to bank account details should be communicated immediately to the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration to avoid any disruption in the receipt of support and benefits.

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D *Meeting with a representative of the Ministry of Absorption*

Scheduling a meeting with an Aliyah consultant at the office closest to your residence is a crucial first step for an Oleh arriving in Israel. This consultation is designed to welcome you, confirm your personal details, outline the financial support available to you, and guide you through the next phases of your integration process.

To find the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration office closest to you, click [here](#).

Here's what to expect during your meeting:

- **Bank Account Updates:** Ensure you bring the bank account opening form, already signed and stamped by your bank, along with your Oleh certificate. This documentation is necessary for arranging the deposit of your absorption basket funds and any additional support into your account.
- **Financial Assistance for Housing:** The meeting will cover the specifics of financial aid for your initial housing needs. This includes direct deposit of rent assistance into your bank account as part of the absorption benefits, starting from your arrival and continuing through the initial stages of your settlement.
- **Extended Rent Assistance:** Beyond the initial support, the Ministry of Construction and Housing (*Misrad Hashikun*) offers rent assistance from the 8th month of your Aliyah until the end of the 5th year (or 6th year for families with an independent parent), contingent upon the presentation of a valid lease agreement.
- **Absorption Center Residency:** If you're residing in an absorption center, it's important to note that this form of accommodation does not impact your eligibility for the absorption basket benefits. However, upon leaving the center, a confirmation of departure is required. The usual allowed duration of stay in an absorption center is up to 1 year.

For any inquiries about rent assistance, Olim can contact the dedicated hotline at *2310, extension 5, for information tailored to their needs.

For further details on the financial support available, including a breakdown of rent assistance for Olim, click [here](#).

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in the Aliyah process



Employment Assistance and Professional Licensing Processes

The Ministry provides guidance on employment opportunities and the licensing process for professionals such as doctors, accountants, and lawyers. This includes referrals for the evaluation of academic degrees by the relevant governmental ministries.

For detailed information on employment services and licensing procedures, visit our [employment](#) page.

Hebrew Studies at Ulpan

To aid in your cultural and societal integration, every Oleh aged 18 and above is entitled to 500 hours of free Hebrew lessons within their first year of Aliyah, courtesy of the Ministry of Education (Misrad Hachinuch). Completion of the program at an Ulpan earns you a graduation certificate. Ulpan classes are available year-round, depending on demand in your area. Following the initial Ulpan A course, you may have the option to proceed to Ulpan B, typically for a fee, based on availability and your progression.

Learn more about Hebrew studies [here](#).

Educational Programs for Kids

Your children's education, from preschool through high school, is coordinated with the local education department. Children in grades 1-12 are entitled to receive individual/group Hebrew instruction hours within school hours.

Health Insurance Premiums

New olim benefit from an exemption on health insurance premiums for the first 6 months post-Aliyah, with the possibility of extending this exemption for an additional 6 months (12 months in total) if you're receiving a subsistence allowance from the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration due to limited work hours or unemployment. This exemption requires proof of your employment status from the Ministry.

Additionally, you may be eligible for other allowances from the National Insurance Institute (*Bituach Leumi*) based on your individual situation, including assistance for the elderly, disabled, maternity leave, and more.

For more information regarding healthcare in Israel, click [here](#).

Ezrach Oleh

(Born Abroad to Israeli Parents)



Your decision to move to Israel marks the start of a new adventure in Israel. This journey, whether on your own or with family, isn't just a change of location but a leap into a world of new possibilities and connections with family and culture. Although an Ezrach Oleh in Israel is considered an oleh in every aspect, the primary distinction typically lies in age, as the individual was born abroad to an Israeli parent. At Belong, we're more than just a guide; we're your partner in this exciting transition to a new life.

We understand that moving to a new country comes with its unique challenges. That's why we're dedicated to providing comprehensive support, ensuring you clearly understand the process from beginning to end. Your journey as an Ezrach Oleh is not just about settling in a new country; it's about weaving your unique story into the vibrant fabric of Israel.

Belong
The Smart Way to Israel

Who

is is an Ezech Oleh?



The definition of an Ezech Oleh:

An Ezech Oleh refers to an individual born outside of Israel to a parent who is an Israeli citizen. This person would qualify for Oleh status under the Law of Return. This applies even if they have never previously visited Israel. Such individuals are recognized as Olim upon their arrival in Israel.

A 17-year-old receiving a single Aliyah profile:

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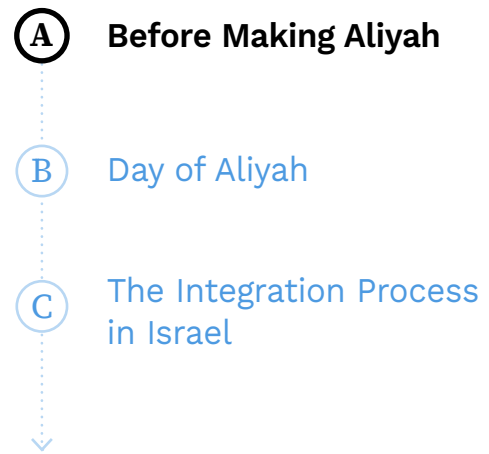
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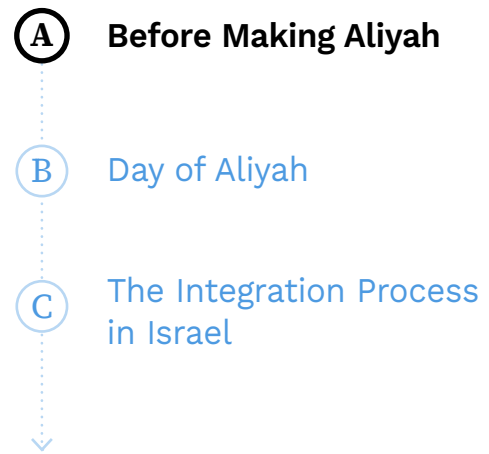
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- **Valid Passport:** Your passport should have at least 6 months remaining until expiration.
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- **Passport Photos:** Prepare 3 recent passport-sized photographs for each family member, with dimensions of 45/55 mm.
- **Legal Guardianship Documents (if necessary):** If you are a minor or a person with special needs, you'll need a court order appointing a guardian.

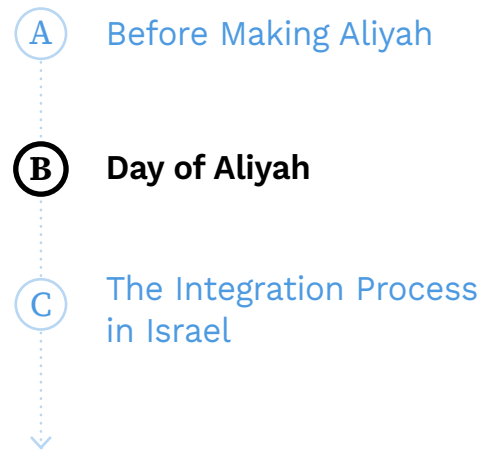
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Also, you'll receive your flight tickets, and as an Oleh, you'll benefit from an increased luggage allowance, which can be a huge advantage when transporting your belongings to Israel.

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B Day of Aliyah

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If you're planning to arrive in Eilat, make sure to inform the Ministry well in advance of your arrival to ensure smooth processing.

Arriving in Israel

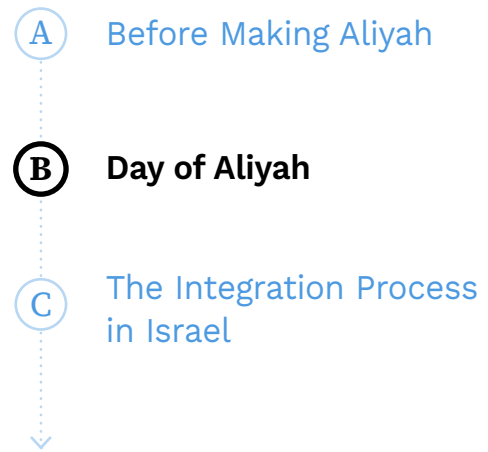
An Ezech Oleh must visit the office of the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration closest to their residence. The consultant will also explain the financial assistance available and guide you through the next steps. This assistance may include an absorption basket, housing aid, employment support, studio studies, entrepreneurship opportunities, student management, and more.

The following documents will be received at the airport's Aliyah and Integration office:

- **Oleh Certificate (Teudat Oleh):** This document registers the benefits and support Olim are entitled to in their first years after Aliyah. It's vital for accessing services and assistance from various institutions, including the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, banks, customs, social insurance, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), and more.
- **Temporary Identity Card (Teudat Zehut):** Initially, you'll receive a temporary ID or a form for applying for one. Securing a permanent identity card should be done within 3 months at the Population and Immigration Authority Bureau closest to your residence, ideally within the first week of Aliyah.
- **Bank Account Form:** This document is for setting up a new Israeli bank account into which payments from the absorption basket will be directed. Olim should complete this form and hand it over to both the bank clerk for account setup and the Ministry representative during the initial meeting. For more information, view our page on [finance](#).

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- **Health Insurance:** Olim are provided with a form to join a health insurance fund (HMO) of their choice, which grants free access to health services for 6 months. This registration can be done immediately at the airport or shortly after at any Israel Postal Company branch. If not registered within 90 days of Aliyah, it must be done at the nearest National Insurance Institute branch, though early registration is recommended for immediate coverage.
- **Absorption Basket (Sal Briut):** This financial aid is offered to all newcomers and their families during their first year in Israel, with amounts based on family size and ages. The support is distributed monthly for the first 7 months, with the initial payment provided in cash upon arrival.

Additionally, Olim receive an **Israeli SIM card** for immediate connectivity and **transportation** to their first residential address, marking the beginning of a new life in Israel.

To find the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration office closest to you, click [here](#).

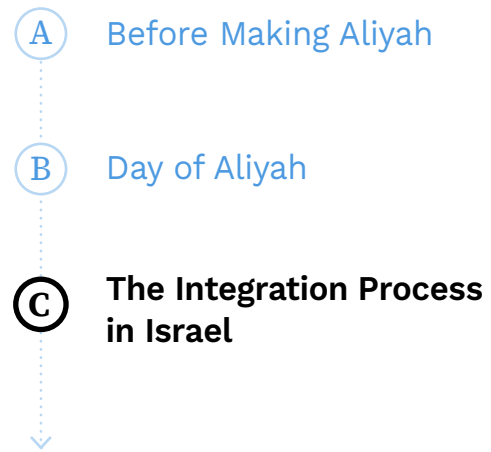
Opening a Bank Account

Opening a bank account is necessary once you have received your Ezech Oleh status. When doing so, **you should bring the following:**

- A valid certificate of Aliyah (*Teudat ole*). If one of the spouses cannot attend, the absent spouse's notarized power of attorney must also be present
- If an identity card (*Te'udat Zehut*) has been issued, it must also be brought
- A form for opening a bank account issued by the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration
- Olim under the age of 16 are required to have permission from a parent or guardian. It is recommended for all Olim to keep the same bank account in the first few years to ensure they continue receiving benefits without interruption. If there is a need to change the bank account, it's important to update the Office of Aliyah and Integration about this change.
- A meeting with the integration consultant at the office of Aliyah and Integration closest to the place of residence

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© *The Integration Process in Israel*

Rights and Benefits for an Ezech Oleh

The level and duration of assistance provided vary based on several factors, including the specific area of assistance, family status, prior residency in Israel, and the number of family members. The Ministry of Aliyah and Integration follows established eligibility procedures that set the guidelines for the provision of assistance and services.

Please note that these procedures are subject to change. Meaning that the definitive decision regarding assistance is based on the policies in place on the day the request for assistance is made.

The start of the eligibility period for assistance is determined by the date on which you receive your eligibility certificate at the Office of Aliyah and Integration at Ben Gurion Airport or the date you receive your identity card (*Te'udat Zehut*) from the Population and Immigration Authority at the Ministry of the Interior, depending on which occurs **first**.

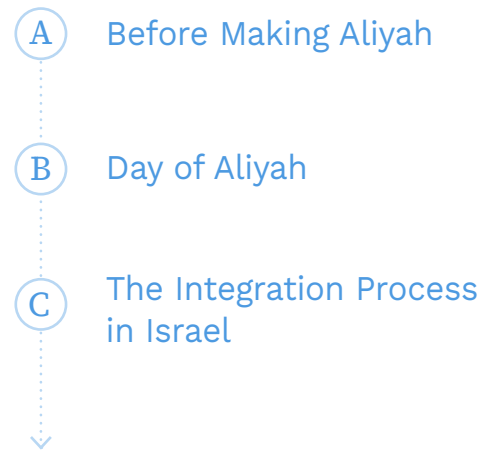
As an Ezech Oleh, you are entitled to a meeting with an admissions counselor, the following rights and benefits will be discussed:

- **Bank account:** To facilitate financial transactions, including the deposit of admission fees, you'll need to provide your bank account details, so remember to bring your signed bank account opening form along with your Oleh certificate.
- **Financial assistance for rent:** The ministry of Aliyah and Integration offers financial aid for rent as part of your absorption package. This begins soon after your arrival and continues until the end of your 5th (or 6th for single-parent Olim families) year in Israel. Remember to have your lease agreement ready to present. Note that this does not apply to Olim living in reception centers.

Additionally, you can click [here](#) to find detailed information about the assistance available in the SDF for an Ezech Oleh.

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- **Registering for learning Hebrew (Ulpan):** If you're 18 or older, you're eligible for 500 hours of free lessons at an Ulpan, with the Ministry of Education overseeing the program. On completing the course, you'll receive a certificate. School-aged children also have access to Hebrew learning within their school day. For a comprehensive list of Ulpanim across the country, click [here](#).
- **Registration for educational frameworks:** Depending on where you settle, registration for educational programs will be necessary, catering to each level from preschool to high school.
- **National insurance premiums:** Should you initially have no income, you're exempt from paying [health insurance premiums](#) for the first six months after moving to Israel. If you're receiving subsistence allowances from the Ministry, this exemption might extend or another 6 months.
- **Welfare assistance for the elderly & disabled:** The National Insurance Institute coordinates aid for those who need it. Click [here](#) for more information on the various disability benefits available.
- **Professional licensing processes:** For professions such as medicine, accounting, and law, guidance on licensing in Israel is available. This includes support in recognizing academic degrees from abroad.
For more information on professional licensing processes, please click [here](#) to refer to our employment page.

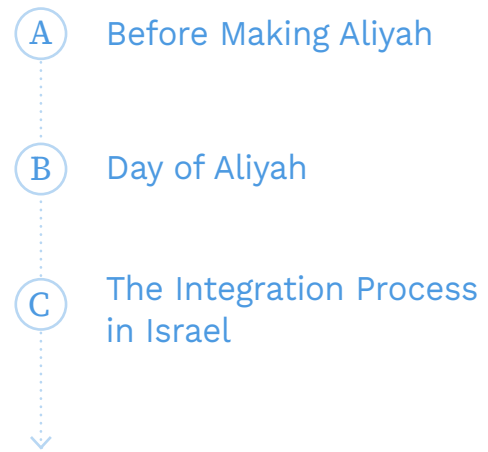
- **Higher education in Israel:** For those eligible, support is available for studies at institutions recognized by the Ministry of Integration. Always check with the administration for specific program recognition and eligibility requirements, which may include volunteer social service.

For more information on higher education in Israel, click [here](#) to view our page on higher education.

It's important to note that while an educational institution might be recognized, not all its departments and programs may meet the criteria set by the government and the student administration. Therefore, it's crucial to verify this with the administration before enrolling. Additionally, receiving the full extent of eligibility is contingent upon participating in community social service as a volunteer.

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Upon receiving your Ezech Oleh status, we've compiled a comprehensive set of resources to guide you through the rights and benefits you are entitled to. These resources are designed to provide you with clear and detailed information, ensuring you can fully access and understand the various supports and opportunities available to you as an Ezech Oleh:

For the Absorption Basket (Sal Klita):

https://www.gov.il/en/departments/general/absorption_basket

Health insurance:

To gain residency recognition from the National Insurance Institute and access insurance benefits under the National and State Health Insurance Laws, the Oleh must complete a residency questionnaire with a Ministry of Aliyah and Integration representative:

<https://www.btl.gov.il/English%20homepage/Pages/default.aspx>

For learning Hebrew (Ulpanim):

https://www.gov.il/en/Departments/General/ulpan_main

For Housing assistance:

https://www.gov.il/en/departments/ministry_of_construction_and_housing/govil-landing-page

For payments of "Assured Income" and "Income Support":

https://www.gov.il/en/departments/news/coronavirus_31032020

For assistance in establishing an independent business:

https://www.gov.il/en/service/request_for_consultation_on_taxation?trigger=sugg

For information on tuition grants in higher education institutions:

<https://www.gov.il/en/Departments/faq/students-eligibility-conditions>

For information on aid for lone soldiers:

https://www.gov.il/en/Departments/General/olim_soldiers_lonely_soldiers

Returning Minors

(Over the Age of 17)



Returning to Israel is an exciting journey, and we're here to make this transition as smooth and joyful as possible for you or your family. As a returning minor (Katin Chozer) with Israeli citizenship, you have a unique story. You've experienced life in Israel and abroad, and now you're about to blend these experiences as you reintegrate into Israeli society.

This guide is tailored specifically for you, and we understand that resettling can be a mix of excitement and challenges. We aim to provide you with all the necessary information and assistance to make your transition as welcoming as possible.

Who

is a Katin Chozer?



A Katin Chozer refers to someone who left Israel with their parents or joined them overseas before the age of 14 and returned to Israel at age 17 or older with the intention of settling there permanently. To qualify for this status, several specific conditions must be met. The individual must have lived abroad continuously for at least 4 years and must have been eligible for Oleh status upon their return to Israel.

Moreover, neither of the individual's parents should have been employed by specific entities or served as representatives for any Israeli organizations abroad within the 5 years preceding their return. These entities include the State of Israel, its authorities and government companies, the World Zionist Organization, The Jewish Agency, the National Fund for Israel, Keren Hayesod UIA (United Israel Appeal), UJA (United Jewish Appeal), and Israel Bonds. Meeting these conditions ensures that the return is uncomplicated by affiliations that could affect the status change.

It's important to be aware that a returning minor is allowed to visit Israel for up to 4 months each calendar year in the four years before applying for status without impacting their status as katin chozer.

Additionally, they are entitled to extra time for stays or special visits, **including:**

- Studying at a recognized institution
- Volunteering at a kibbutz
- Participation in a guidance institution
- Engaging in a year of service
- Enrollment in a Yeshiva
- Involvement in a youth movement program
- Joining a pre-military or agency program abroad

Exceptions - Those who cannot receive an Oleh visa:

Individuals who are not eligible for an Oleh visa include those who have committed acts against the Jewish people, those who pose a risk to public health or state security, and those who may compromise public safety.

Who is a Katin Chozer?

Spouses

In the [Law of Return](#), “ spouses “ refers to **married couples**. However, it’s important to note that in situations where individuals are not formally married but **share children and are common-law couples**, an application may be submitted to the court to grant an **Oleh profile to the non-eligible spouse**.

Non-eligible Spouses who were married less than a year before immigrating to Israel must prove the sincerity of their relationship before the spouse can **immigrate together with the eligible Individual** and receive an Oleh profile in Israel.

At the year’s end, the couple will be called for a detailed interview at the Population and Immigration Authority, during which the authenticity of their relationship will be re-evaluated. Should the interviewers be satisfied that the marriage is sincere and not undertaken to obtain status in Israel by fraudulent means, the non-eligible spouse will be granted an Oleh profile. However, if the Ministry of Interior remains unconvinced about the sincerity of the marriage, the temporary A5 visa will be extended for another year. After the additional year, if doubts persist, the case will be moved to the Ministry of Interior headquarters for a final decision regarding the Aliyah profile of the spouse.

For spouses of the same sex, from 2014, they are entitled of the same sex are entitled to immigrate to Israel under the same procedure and under the same conditions as married spouses who are not of the same sex.

Additionally, the widow or widower of a Jewish individual is entitled to receive an Oleh profile if he/she did not remarry.

Child/Grandchild/Great-Grandson (Descendants)

As a general rule, the Law of Return and its amendments stipulate that **every child and grandchild (third generation) of an individual entitled to make Aliyah to Israel is similarly entitled to make Aliyah as well**.

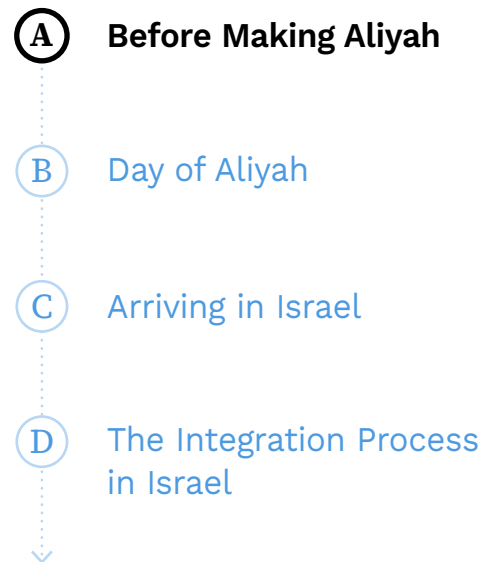
Some **exceptions** are entitled to stay on a **Temporary Resident’s Visa** until their status is decided:

1. In the case of an **adopted minor** who is not genetically Jewish, and if **less than a year has passed since the adoption**, the adoptive parent will be required to demonstrate the sincerity of the adoption before the Population and Immigration Authority to clarify that the adoption was not processed to obtain profile in Israel through fraudulent means.
2. **Great-grandson of a Jew (fourth generation)** - A special procedure states that the great-grandson of a Jew, who [immigrates to Israel](#) as a minor under the age of 18 together with at least one parent who is eligible according to the Law of Return, will receive the profile of a Temporary Resident (A5 Visa) if he meets the following criteria:
 - The minor is the great-grandson of a Jew
 - At least one parent was recognized as entitled to Aliyah
 - The minor is immigrating to Israel together with at least one of his parents

The temporary status can be renewed annually for a total of three years. Once these three years have passed, a minor is eligible to apply for Israeli citizenship. To do so, they must demonstrate that their primary residence is in Israel and their parent(s), even if they have reached adulthood.

Steps

in the Katin Chozer Process



A Katin Chozer will begin the process at their place of residence abroad and complete the integration process until the Aliyah status is received at the branch of the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration closest to the Katin Chozer's place of residence.

A Before Making Aliyah

1. **Fill out an online application** on the website of "[Nefesh B'Nefesh](#)" - It is **highly recommended** to fill out this application **at least six months** prior to the planned Aliyah date.
2. **Open an Aliyah file** and have your documents checked by the [Jewish Agency](#) Global Center- The center will contact the applicant for follow-up if any incomplete or missing forms or documents.
3. **Coordinate an interview** with a Jewish Agency emissary (*Shaliach*) to determine eligibility and to assist in planning the process of Aliyah and Integration

For a complete list of the various Jewish agency offices and ways to contact the emissaries by region, click [here](#).

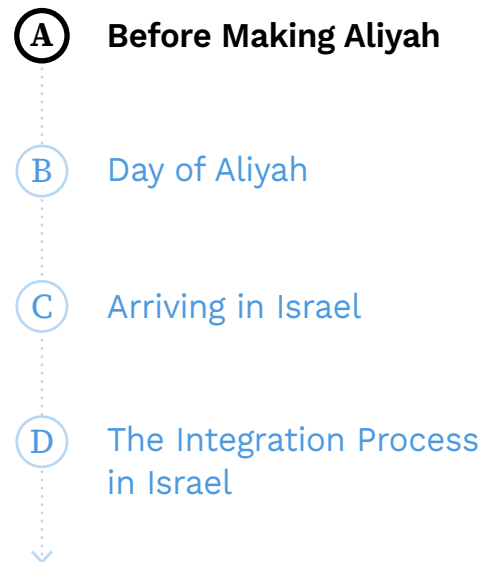
During this meeting, the agency's emissary will fill out a **questionnaire for the Oleh**. Here is a list of the required documents you will need to present during this meeting:

1. **Personal Identification and Status Documentation:**

You will need to present original birth certificates for all family members, translated into Hebrew and authenticated with a notarized apostille. If the certificates are in a language other than English, they must be translated into either English or Hebrew. Additionally, provide marital status certificates, which include marriage certificates, divorce decrees, or death certificates for widows or widowers, all with an apostille stamp.

Steps

in the Katin Chozer Process



2. Legal and Conduct Certifications:

A Certificate of Good Conduct, updated within three months prior to your Aliyah application, is required. Also, ensure your passport is valid with at least six months remaining before expiration. For those who have undergone a conversion, an original conversion certificate and a detailed letter from the community rabbi explaining the conversion process are necessary.

3. Jewish Identity or Affinity Documentation:

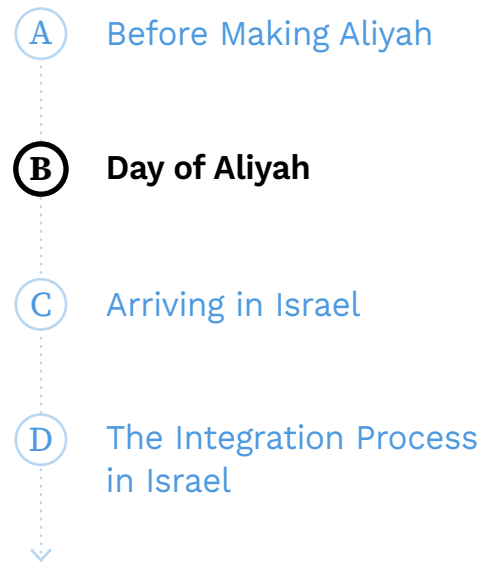
You must submit a letter from a recognized rabbi affirming your Jewish status. Support this with documents like your parents' marriage certificate, a bar mitzvah certificate, death or burial certificates of Jewish ancestors, proof of synagogue membership, or participation in Jewish organizations. Include any photographs or documents that further validate your Jewish identity.

4. Additional Requirements:

Each applicant needs to provide three recent passport-sized photos (45/55 mm). If applicable, a court order for the appointment of a guardian (for minors or individuals with special needs) must be included. Educational certificates such as diplomas and children's school certificates are also required. Any documents that testify to your physical and mental health should be included. For those known as Katin Chozer, you must demonstrate that you departed from Israel before turning 14 and returned after reaching 17, using passport records, and details of time spent in Israel for education or military service.

Steps

in the Katin Chozer Process

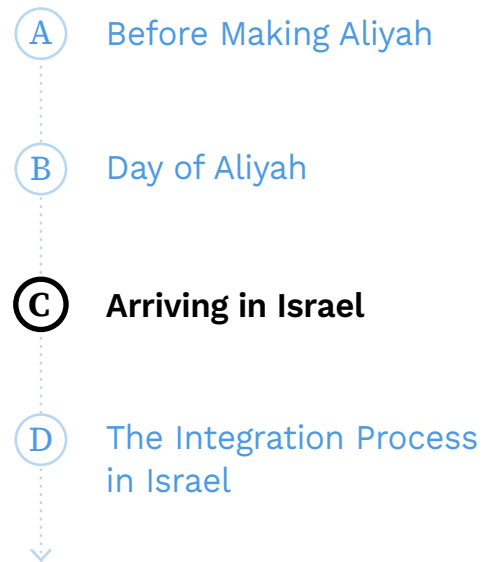


B *Day of Aliyah*

Unlike other categories of Aliyah or returnees, a returning minor does not immediately engage in an initial processing phase upon entering the country. This means that upon landing, there are no immediate formalities or bureaucratic procedures at the airport or entry point specifically tailored for their status as a Katin Chozer.

Steps

in the Katin Chozer Process



© Arriving in Israel

The Katin Chozer must visit the office of the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration closest to their residence. This meeting is crucial for confirming their status as a returning minor.

The consultant will also explain the financial assistance available and guide the katin chozer through the next steps. These steps are based on the final status determination and the level of assistance they are eligible for. This assistance may include an absorption basket, housing aid, employment support, studio studies, entrepreneurship opportunities, student management, and more.

During the appointment, the consultant will review all relevant documents according to the following and verify the individual's personal details. This step is essential to ensure that all necessary information is accurate and complete.

Visiting the Aliyah and Integration office

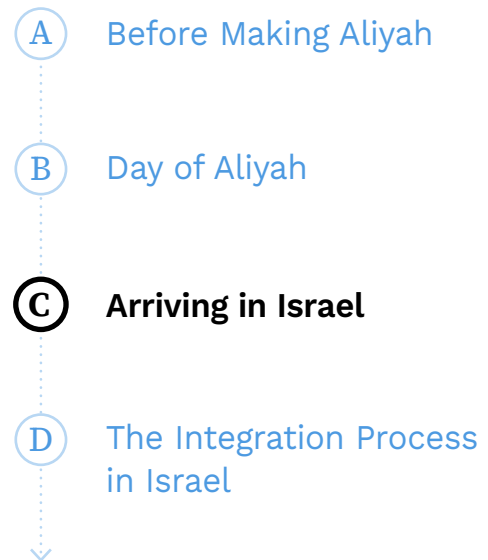
you must submit several important documents to verify your status and history. Firstly, an updated identity card (*Te'udat Zehut*) is essential. Additionally, you'll need to present a passport that shows your date of departure from Israel before turning 14 years old. Documents such as certificates or any suitable proof that demonstrates a continuous stay abroad are necessary to establish your absence from Israel.

Also, documentation related to military service is required. This includes a document confirming registration at the recruitment office, or a certificate of exemption from service in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). For specific individuals, a deferral of service document is needed; this is generally issued to women over 20 years old, women who are married or mothers, and men over 32, with exceptions for doctors and dentists.

If your parents have also spent time abroad, you should provide passports or other relevant documents that mark the dates of their departure from Israel. If you were in Israel for educational purposes, a study permit that confirms a stay of up to one year is also necessary, provided the studies were undertaken in Israel. These documents collectively help the authorities assess your eligibility and status efficiently.

Steps

in the Katin Chozer Process



Recognition by the National Insurance Institute

Please note that to be recognized as a resident of Israel by the [National Insurance Institute](#) and to be eligible for insurance benefits under the National Insurance Law and the State Health Insurance Law, a Katin Chozer must complete a residency determination questionnaire. Additionally, they need to select a health insurance plan in consultation with a representative from the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration.

To find the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration office closest to you, click [here](#).

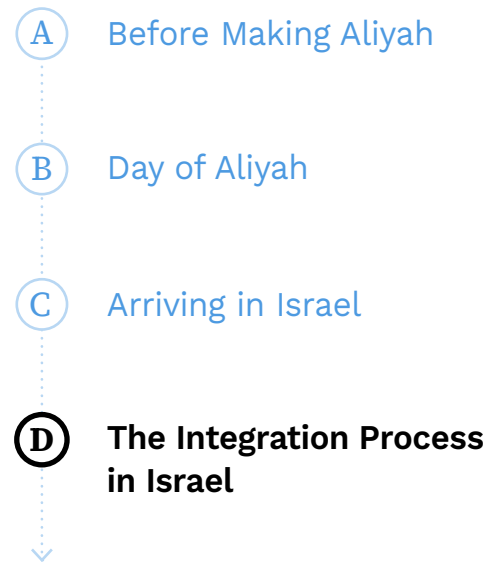
Opening a Bank Account

Once you have secured your status, opening a bank account becomes a necessary step if you do not already possess one. To do this, ensure you bring a valid Te'udat Zehut. If one of the spouses is unable to attend, a notarized power of attorney from the absent spouse must also be presented.

Additionally, you will need to provide a returning minor's certificate issued by the Ministry of Aliyah and integration, as well as a specific form for opening a bank account that the ministry provides. These documents will facilitate the smooth setup of your new bank account.

Steps

in the Katin Chozer Process



D *The Integration Process in Israel*

Rights and Benefits for a Katin Chozer

The level and duration of assistance provided vary based on several factors, including the specific area of assistance, family status, prior residency in Israel, and the number of family members. The Ministry of Aliyah and Integration follows established eligibility procedures that set the guidelines for the provision of assistance and services.

Please note that these procedures are subject to change. Meaning that the definitive decision regarding assistance is based on the policies in place on the day the request for assistance is made.

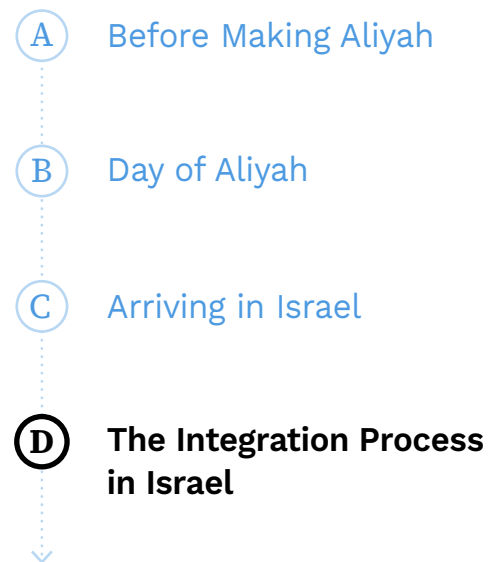
The Ministry of Aliyah and Integration functions based on specific procedures that define the eligibility criteria for Olim, citizen-immigrants, returning minors, and returning residents to receive assistance. These procedures also determine the extent of the assistance provided.

An appeals committee reviews cases of individuals who, as per existing procedures, do not qualify for a certain type of status and/or assistance but believe they have exceptional reasons warranting approval. Applicants must approach the office nearest their residence to apply to this national appeals committee. They should consult with the admissions counselor and provide all relevant documents and a personal letter supporting their application. The committee communicates its decisions to the applicants in writing.

The period of eligibility for benefits for a returning minor begins from the date of the final status determination by the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration.

Steps

in the Katin Chozer Process



Resources

Upon receiving your Katin Chozer status, we've compiled a comprehensive set of resources to guide you through the rights and benefits you are entitled to. These resources are designed to provide you with clear and detailed information, ensuring you can fully access and understand the various supports and opportunities available to you as a returning minor:

For the Absorption Basket (Sal Klita)

https://www.gov.il/en/departments/general/absorption_basket

Health insurance

To gain residency recognition from the National Insurance Institute and access insurance benefits under the National and State Health Insurance Laws, the Oleh must complete a residency questionnaire with a Ministry of Aliyah and Integration representative:

<https://www.btl.gov.il/English%20homepage/Pages/default.aspx>

For learning Hebrew (Ulpanim)

https://www.gov.il/en/Departments/General/ulpan_main

For Housing assistance

https://www.gov.il/en/departments/ministry_of_construction_and_housing/govil-landing-page

For payments of "Assured Income" and "Income Support"

https://www.gov.il/en/departments/news/coronavirus_31032020

For assistance in establishing an independent business

https://www.gov.il/en/service/request_for_consultation_on_taxation?trigger=sugg

For information on tuition grants in higher education institutions

<https://www.gov.il/en/Departments/faq/students-eligibility-conditions>

For information on aid for lone soldiers

https://www.gov.il/en/Departments/General/olim_soldiers_lonely_soldiers

Transitioning From a Tourist to an Israeli Citizen (Meshane Status)



Already in Israel? Ready to become a full-fledged citizen?

You've come to the right place. Embarking on a transitional journey from tourist to citizen (Meshane Status) is a path filled with transformation and a deeper connection to the country you already know and love.

Belong is happily here to help you navigate the intricacies of legal procedures and paperwork while discussing the practical tips you'll need to unlock the full spectrum of Israeli citizenship. Welcome to your new chapter in life.

Belong
The Smart Way to Israel

What

is Meshane Status?



Changing status (*Meshane Status*) from a tourist to an Oleh visa in Israel allows individuals who initially enter Israel as tourists or students to become new immigrants (Olim) under [the Law of Return](#). This transition grants them the [rights and benefits](#) associated with new Oleh status.

[The definition of Meshane Status according to the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration Misrad Haklita](#):

- A tourist in Israel on a B/2 visitor visa who seeks to transition to new immigrant (Oleh Chadash) status under the Law of Return, 1950, will need to undergo a status change process
- A 17-year-old who immigrates alone will be granted the status of a single immigrant (Oleh) only if neither parent made Aliyah to Israel either in the year preceding or following the individual's Aliyah date.

If either or both parents make Aliyah to Israel within 1 year before or after the individual's arrival, they will be classified as part of an Oleh family. This status requires further personal clarification since the entitlements are determined by family rights. In this case, or for individual benefits like flight tickets or accommodation, it's recommended to [contact](#) a representative from the Jewish Agency.

Exceptions

Certain individuals are not eligible for new Oleh status under the following conditions: if they commit acts against the Jewish people, are considered a threat to public health or state security, or if they endanger public safety.

What is Meshane Status?

Spouses

In the [Law of Return](#), “spouses” typically refers to married couples. However, it’s important to consider a few special conditions:

- For common-law couples who have children but aren’t formally married, the non-eligible partner can apply for an Oleh profile through the court.
- If a non-eligible spouse married an eligible individual less than a year before immigrating, they must prove their relationship’s sincerity to receive an Oleh profile. After a year, the couple will be interviewed by the Population and Immigration Authority to confirm their relationship. If the marriage is deemed genuine, the non-eligible spouse will receive an Oleh profile. If not, the A5 visa will be extended for another year, and if doubts persist, the Ministry of Interior will make a final decision.
- Since 2014, same-sex spouses of Jews are entitled to immigrate to Israel under the same conditions as opposite-sex married couples.
- Widows or widowers of Jewish individuals are eligible for an Oleh profile if they haven’t remarried.

Child/Grandchild/Great-Grandson Descendants

According to the Law of Return, children and grandchildren (third generation) of individuals entitled to make Aliyah to Israel are also entitled to do so. However, there are some exceptions where a Temporary Resident’s Visa may be granted until their status is finalized:

- **Adopted Minor:** If an adopted minor is not genetically Jewish and less than a year has passed since the adoption, the adoptive parent must demonstrate the sincerity of the adoption to the Population and Immigration Authority, proving that it was not done to obtain Israeli residency through fraudulent means.
- **Great-Grandson of a Jew (Fourth Generation):** The [great-grandson of a Jew](#) who immigrates to Israel as a minor under the age of 18, together with at least one eligible parent, will receive a Temporary Resident (A5 Visa) under the following conditions:
 - » The minor is the great-grandson of a Jew.
 - » At least one parent is recognized as eligible for Aliyah.
 - » The minor is immigrating to Israel with at least one parent.

The temporary status can be renewed annually for up to three years. After this period, the minor can apply for Israeli citizenship, provided their primary residence is in Israel and their parent(s) are also residing in the country, even if they have reached adulthood.

Steps

in the Meshane Status Process



Changing from a tourist visa to Oleh status in Israel involves several important steps. It's essential to ensure all forms and documents are correctly prepared and submitted. Here's what you'll need to do:

- **Personal Appearance:** Visit the Population and Immigration Authority closest to your residence.
- **Passport:** Present a foreign passport that is valid for at least one year from the application date.
- **Application Forms:** Submit the [Ash 4](#) application for permanent residence and the [MR 1](#) application for an identity card (Teudat Zehut).
- **Photos:** Provide three recent passport-sized photos for the applications.
- **Documentation:** Provide original documents (and translations if not already in Hebrew or English) that establish your eligibility for citizenship under the Law of Return, such as synagogue membership, Jewish burial rights, marriage certificates, bar mitzvah certificates, and other relevant documents.
- **Birth Certificate:** Provide a birth certificate for the applicant.
- **Name Change Documentation:** If applicable, provide proof of any name changes.
- **Marital Status Certificate:** Provide a current certificate from your country showing your marital status, if applicable.
- **Certificate of Integrity:** Provide a recent certificate from your country of origin.
- **Fee:** There is no fee for applicants changing their status to Oleh under the Law of Return.
- **Signatures:** Sign the required declarations on religion, nationality, health, and residency. A detailed medical approval may be required.
- **Verification Process:** The bureau will verify your details, including previous entries into Israel. If you've been in Israel for more than six months, a criminal record check will be conducted.

Steps in the Meshane Status Process

If you are ineligible, you will be notified and required to leave within 30 days or according to the date of your visa upon entry, and you will receive a refusal stamp on your passport. If you are eligible, you will be invited back to the bureau for final verification and signing. You will receive an Oleh sticker and ID number in your passport, and once approved, you will need to register for a biometric ID card.

- **Personal Appearance:** Visit the Population and Immigration Authority closest to your area of [residence](#)
- **Passport:** Present a foreign passport valid for at least 1 year from the application date
- **Application forms:** The following forms must be submitted- an '[Ash 4](#)' application for permanent residence in Israel and an '[MR 1](#)' application for an identity card (*Teudat zehut*).
- **Photos:** Provide 3 recent passport-sized photos for the applications
- **Documentation:** Supply original documents (and translations if not already in Hebrew or English) providing eligibility for citizenship under the Law of Return, such as synagogue membership, Jewish burial rights, marriage certificates, bar mitzvah certificates, and/or other relevant documents
- **Birth Certificate:** A birth certificate for the applicant must be presented
- **Name Change Documentation:** If applicable, provide proof of any name changes
- **Marital Status Certificate:** Offer a current certificate from your country showing your marital status, if applicable
- **Certificate of Integrity:** Provide a recent certificate from your country of origin
- **Fee:** There is **no fee** for applicants changing their status to Oleh under the Law of Return
- **Signatures:** Sign required declarations on religion, nationality, health, and residency. A detailed medical approval may be required
- **Verification Process:** The bureau will verify your details, including previous entries into Israel. A criminal record check will be conducted for those in Israel over 6 months

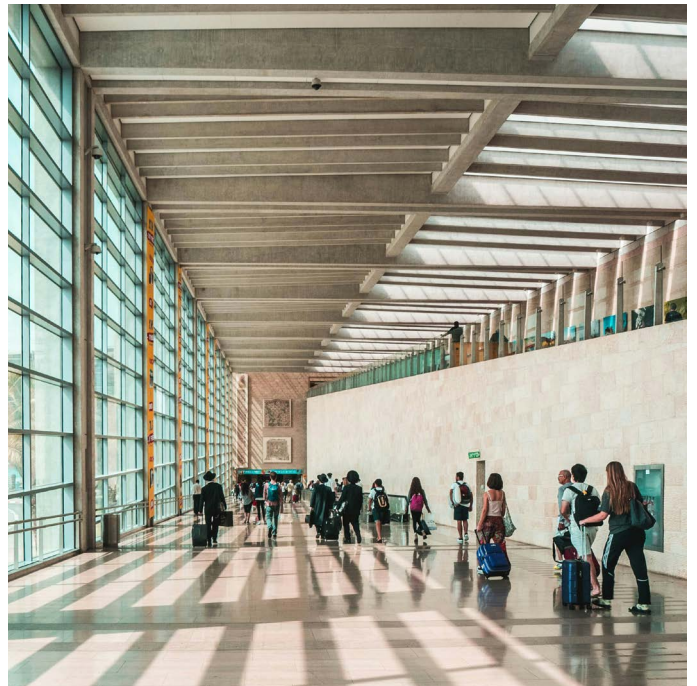
Please note that if you are **ineligible**, you will be notified and required to leave within 30 days, or according to the date of your visa upon entry, and you will receive a refusal stamp on your passport.

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If you are **eligible**, you will be invited back to the bureau for final verification and signing. You will receive an Oleh sticker and ID number in your passport, and once approved, you will need to register for a biometric ID card.

Rights

& Benefits



The level and duration of assistance provided by the [Ministry of Aliyah and Integration](#) are influenced by several factors, including the type of aid, family composition, any prior time spent in Israel, and the size of the family unit. The Ministry follows specific eligibility [guidelines](#) that outline the assistance and services available.

For individuals transitioning to Meshane Status, entitlement to benefits begins from the date their immigrant status is officially recognized by the Population and Immigration Authority. Upon this recognition, they gain access to the full suite of rights and benefits accorded to new immigrants.

It's important to note that these guidelines are subject to updates and revisions, with eligibility for assistance being determined at the time of application submission.

Opening a Bank Account

Opening a bank account is crucial for receiving the financial assistance and benefits offered to help you transition from a visitor to an Israeli citizen.

To open a single or joint bank account, choose your preferred bank and branch, and bring the following documents:

- A valid ID card (Te'udat Zehut). If one spouse can't attend, a notarized power of attorney for the absent spouse is necessary.
- The completed bank account opening form provided by the National Bank of Israel.
- Olim younger than 16 years old will need parental or guardian consent.
- It's advisable to keep the same bank account for the first few years to ensure uninterrupted receipt of benefits. If you need to change your account, inform the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration.

Rights & Benefits

Meeting with the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration

As part of your integration into Israel as a new citizen, you must schedule a meeting with the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration office closest to your place of residence. This meeting ensures that you'll be fully informed about the support and resources available to you. During the meeting, you'll:

1. Verify Personal Details and Financial Aid:

- **Bank Account Updates:** You'll need the bank account opening form signed by the bank and an Oleh certificate to facilitate the admission fee deposit.
- **Financial Assistance for Rent:** Rent allowance is provided directly by the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration as part of the [absorption basket](#) (Sal Klita) for the initial months. Assistance from the Ministry of Construction and Housing begins in the 8th month and continues until the end of the 5th year (6th year for single-parent Olim families). Note that assistance isn't available for those living in reception centers.

2. Hebrew Studies Registration (*Ulpan*):

- **Ulpan Studies:** You're entitled to 500 hours of free [Ulpan studies](#) under the Ministry of Education, with certification upon completion. Children in grades 1-12 receive individual/group Hebrew instruction within school hours.

3. Academic Registration:

- **Eligibility for Financing:** Information will be provided on financing the first 3 years of study at recognized institutions, including preparatory programs. This is contingent on community service volunteering. For more information, view our page on academics [here](#).

4. National Insurance Premiums and Healthcare Benefits:

- **National Insurance:** You'll receive guidance on referral to the National Insurance Institute for benefits for the elderly, disabled, and for exemptions from health insurance premiums for the first 6 to 12 months, depending on income and receipt of subsistence allowances from the Ministry of Aliyah. For more information, view our page on healthcare [here](#).

5. Professional Licensing and Academic Degree Evaluation:

- **Licensing and Degree Evaluation:** You'll learn about licensing processes for various professions and the evaluation of foreign academic degrees. You can find more information on our employment page [here](#).

Rights & Benefits

Helpful Resources for Meshane Status

For housing assistance:

<https://belong.co.il/living/housing/>

For payments of “Assured Income” and “Income Support”:

<https://belong.co.il/living/employment/>

For assistance in establishing an independent business:

<https://belong.co.il/living/entrepreneurship-in-israel/>

For information on tuition grants in higher education institutions:

<https://belong.co.il/living/academics-in-israel/>

For information on aid for lone soldiers:

<https://belong.co.il/living/idf-and-national-service/>

Returning Residents

(Toshav Chozer)



Have you decided to make your way home to Israel?

Welcome back - we're happy to have you here. Let's provide you with essential information to help you navigate the process of resettling in Israel, both before and after your return.

It's important to understand that the criteria for a 'returning resident' (Toshav Chozer) can differ across various departments, impacting eligibility periods and associated rights. This might seem daunting but Belong is here to make sure your transition is as smooth, clear, and straightforward as possible. Let's break down what it means to be a Toshav Chozer, starting with the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration.

Belong
The Smart Way to Israel

Who

is a Toshav Chozer According to the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration (*Misrad Haklita*)?



To be recognized as a returning resident (Toshav Chozer) by the [Ministry of Aliyah and Integration](#) (Misrad Haklita), you need to meet several criteria. Firstly, you must have Israeli citizenship, which requires an Israeli ID or passport as proof. Additionally, you must be at least 17 years old at the time of your return to Israel.

In terms of residence, you should have lived abroad for at least 2 consecutive years. However, for “returning scientists” or “business entrepreneurs,” the requirement is 3 years. During this time, you should not have spent more than 4 months in Israel per year, unless you’re in entrepreneurship or science, where the limit extends to 5 years.

Exemptions

For a Toshav Chozer, there’s a notable exception regarding time spent abroad: if the stay was part of an emissary mission, it doesn’t disqualify you from being considered a returning resident unless less than 5 years have passed since that mission ended.

Additionally, to qualify as a Toshav Chozer, neither you, your spouse, nor your parents should have been stationed abroad as an employee of specific Israeli or Jewish institutions. These include any authority of the State of Israel, such as government companies, The World Zionist Organization, The Jewish Agency, The Jewish National Fund, Keren HaYesod, The United Jewish Appeal, or The Israel Bonds.

Understanding Eligibility for Toshav Chozer Status

Eligibility for Toshav Chozer status depends on how long you’ve lived abroad, typically ranging from 2 to 5 years, as previously mentioned. To confirm your status, you’ll need to visit a Ministry of Aliyah and Integration [office](#) in Israel near your residence.

During the visit, officials will review your passport’s entry and exit stamps and check records at the Ministry of the Interior to confirm your time spent abroad. It’s a good idea to keep older passports, as they might be required for this assessment.

Who is a Toshav Chozer According to the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration (*Misrad Haklita*)?

Period of Eligibility for Assistance

The period during which you can receive assistance and services from the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration is 24 months from the date of your return to Israel, with assured income limited to 12 months from your return date. Additionally, [customs](#) concessions are available for 9 months from your return date, applicable to individuals over the age of 16.

Procedures for Receiving Eligibility for Assistance

To receive eligibility for Toshav Chozer status, start by consulting with a personal counselor at the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration's nearest branch or bureau to apply for a Returning Resident's Certificate (*Te'udat Toshav Chozer*). Ensure your Israeli identity card (*Te'udat Zehut*) is up to date at the Population Registry beforehand. This update helps streamline the process of obtaining your Toshav Chozer Certificate.

If you didn't register online before returning to Israel, you must complete a "returning resident [questionnaire](#)." This involves presenting your passport, updated *Te'udat Zehut*, and other required documents to the absorption counselor. To receive financial assistance, make sure to open a bank account in Israel.

In some cases, a Toshav Chozer might be classified as a child or spouse, aligning with the criteria of a returning minor, immigrant citizen, or new Oleh. This classification can impact your eligibility and benefits.

Who

is a Toshav Chozer
According to
the Customs
Department?



The Department of Customs defines a Toshav Chozer in 3 possible ways:

- An individual who lived in Israel, spent at least 2 years abroad, and has now returned to Israel. This is similar to the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration's definition.
- A person who made Aliyah to Israel for a second time, as outlined in the Ministry of the Interior guidelines.
- A person classified by the Israel Tax Authority as a Toshav Chozer for customs purposes based on specific criteria.
- For applying for a customs duty exemption as a Toshav Chozer, you can access the application form [here](#).

The Department of Customs requires the following documents to confirm your Toshav Chozer status:

- Your current Israeli identity card (Te'udat Zehut), which should include your current residential address.
- Valid passports for all family members, which serve as proof of residence abroad. It's advisable to keep previous passports, including foreign ones, as these might be needed.
- Certificates related to education or professional qualifications.
- A detailed inventory list for customs purposes, outlining all items you plan to bring into Israel.

Who

is a Long-Term Toshav Chozer According to the Tax Department?



The Tax Department (*rashut hamisim*) considers someone a “long-term resident” if they return to permanent residency in Israel after living abroad for at least 10 consecutive years. To determine a Toshav Chozer’s tax obligations, authorities assess various aspects of the individual’s life in Israel. They examine factors like:

- Where the Toshav Chozer’s permanent home is located
- Where the Toshav Chozer and their family live
- The usual or permanent place of business or employment
- Where they have significant economic interests
- Where they participate in activities with various organizations, unions, or institutions

Two key points can help determine if Israel is the center of a Toshav Chozer’s life for tax purposes:

- If they spent 183 days or more in Israel during a specific tax year
- If they spent at least 30 days in Israel during the current tax year, and the total time spent in Israel across that year plus the two preceding years is 425 days or more

Residency Criteria for Toshav Chozer under the Minister of Finance

The Minister of Finance, with the approval of the Knesset’s Finance Committee, has the authority to set conditions for determining who qualifies as a resident of Israel for tax purposes. This authority allows individuals who might not meet traditional residency criteria to be deemed residents of Israel if they meet specific conditions. To be considered a Toshav Chozer under these circumstances, individuals should meet at least one of the following criteria:

- They are employed by the State of Israel
- They work for a local authority in Israel
- They are employed by the Jewish Agency in Israel
- They work for the National Fund for Israel or the United Israel Fund (Keren Hayesod)
- They are employees of a government company
- They work for a state authority or a corporation established by law

Who is a Long-Term Toshav Chozer According to the Tax Department?

The Ministry of Finance holds the final authority to determine whether specific Toshav Chozer should be considered residents or not, even if they meet the previously mentioned criteria. This power is subject to various conditions set by the Ministry.

In 2006, the Minister of Finance issued Income Tax Regulations, providing guidelines to determine who qualifies as a resident of Israel for tax purposes. These regulations account for scenarios where someone might not meet typical residency conditions but can still be considered a resident in certain situations. For example:

- If the Toshav Chozer is employed by the State of Israel, with the employment relationship established while they were a resident of Israel.
- If the Toshav Chozer works for a government employer and began their employment while residing in Israel, they can maintain residency status if they haven't worked for this employer outside Israel for more than five years. However, the tax assessor may override this condition if other circumstances apply.

Understanding these criteria is crucial for 2 primary reasons related to tax:

- **Income Tax:** It affects your obligation to report income to tax authorities and pay income tax in Israel.
- **Real Estate Taxes:** It determines your liability for taxes related to real estate, such as appreciation tax and purchase tax. Under the Real Estate Taxation [Law](#), tax exemptions and reliefs are typically available only to residents of Israel.

Financial Assistance for Toshav Chozer

As a Toshav Chozer, you are entitled to financial [aid](#). To access these funds, you need to provide details of an Israeli bank account registered in your name. This step is essential for processing and receiving financial support.

Health Insurance

If you returned to Israel as a Toshav Chozer after living abroad and lost your residency status, it's critical to re-establish your residency with the National Insurance Institute (bituach leumi). This allows you to access National Insurance benefits and healthcare services. You must also set up your national insurance and health insurance contributions.

Once you receive initial approval confirming your eligibility, ensure you have health insurance. This can be arranged through the National Insurance Institute, either via their [website](#) or by calling their customer service at *6050 or 04-8812345.

To formalize your Toshav Chozer status with National Insurance, complete the Online Recognition Form for Returning Residents. This step is crucial for ensuring your eligibility for National Insurance benefits and services.

Returning

to Israel with Minor Children (under 18)



If you return to Israel with children, especially in cases of separation, divorce, or when one spouse arrives ahead of the other, you must provide specific documentation:

- **Separated or Divorced Parents:** A notarized affidavit or an affidavit before the Israeli consul general from the non-returning spouse, granting consent for the children to live with the returning parent in Israel.
- **Spouses Arriving Separately:** Similar documentation is required when one spouse arrives with the children before the other spouse.
- **Alternative Documentation:** A court ruling that shows the returning parent has sole legal custody of the children.

These documents are crucial for the following reasons:

- **Rights from the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration:** To claim various rights and benefits for the children.
- **Customs Requirements:** To process and receive customs rights for the children.

Additionally, enrollment in kindergartens and schools should be based on the current residential address registered with the Ministry of Population. This ensures children are placed in the appropriate educational frameworks.

Toshav Chozer's

Rights & Benefits



A Toshav Chozer (returning resident) is eligible for a range of rights and benefits from three primary institutions: the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, the Customs Authorities (Ministry of Finance), and the Income Tax Authority.

Here's an overview of the rights you can expect in each category:

[Financial Assistance from the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration](#)

- The recognition of care and assistance status extends 12-24 months from the date of return to Israel.
- Income guarantee is available for 12 months.
- A returning resident certificate can be obtained.
- Discounts on El-Al flight tickets and extra baggage allowances.
- Access to conversion and professional training courses.
- Licensing and certification for various professions.
- Placement for academics in employment within government, public institutions, and the private sector.
- Assistance for scientists, business entrepreneurs, and artists.
- Employment placement for non-academics in the private sector for up to six months.
- Housing assistance for renting or purchasing according to specific guidelines.
- Assistance for lone soldiers.

Toshav Chozer's Rights & Benefits

Customs Authorities (Ministry of Finance) Benefits

- Exemption from customs duties for personal importation applies for nine months from your return to Israel. Note that IDF service (regular or reserve) isn't included in the calculation of eligibility for those over one year old.
- The laws differentiate between short-term Toshav Chozer (over two years) and long-term Toshav Chozer (over six years):
- Short-term returning residents generally have fewer benefits and quicker tax obligations due to their shorter absence from Israel.
- Long-term returning residents are eligible for more substantial benefits and tax concessions, often resembling those given to new Olim. This can include significant tax breaks, like exemptions from reporting overseas income and assets for up to 10 years, thanks to Amendment 168.
- Purchase tax relief is available for long-term returning residents who bought an apartment before returning to Israel.

Income Tax Authority Benefits

- For returning residents who stayed abroad between six and ten years.
- For returning residents abroad for over ten years, known as veteran returning residents.
- Offers a 10-year concession with extensive exemptions for all income outside Israel, along with broad exemptions from reporting those assets.
- Amendment 168 to the Income Tax Ordinance provides similar tax benefits to those granted to new Olim.
- A foreign resident must inform the Tax Authority on a special [form](#) within 90 days of arrival in Israel for an income tax adjustment year. The "adjustment year" lasts one year from your return date.


Education and Local Authority Benefits


- Assistance in acquiring a language for returning residents aged 16 and older, with special permission from the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration.
- Tutoring in Hebrew for children from pre-compulsory Kindergarten to 12th grade, requiring proof of a four-year stay abroad from the Ministry of Education.
- Discounts on pre-compulsory Kindergarten fees from the [Ministry of Education](#) and local authorities.

Health Insurance

If you stayed abroad for over a year and a half and haven't paid health insurance premiums for at least 1 year, or if you revoked your residency, you might not immediately qualify for health [services](#) upon return. A waiting period is calculated based on the date of return to Israel recorded in the returning resident's certificate. The waiting period is one month per year of absence, with a maximum of 6 months.

For more informatio:

 +972-58-6706700

 members@belong.co.il

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The Smart Way to Israel

Photo credits: yoav hornung, priscilla du preez,
anton mislawsky, cole keister, yoav aziz,
chen mizrach, daniel klein, joseph barrientos,
levi meir clancy, mor shani, ondrej bocek