

Congratulations on your decision to explore your future in Israel!



PROVIDING YOU WITH WORLD CLASS SERVICE

We recognize that the choice to make Aliyah is a profound one. The Jewish Agency for Israel's North American Aliyah Offices are here for you. Our Shlichim are here for you every step of the way as you embark on the journey of a lifetime.

The Jewish Agency for Israel has been entrusted by the government of Israel since 1948 to be the gatekeepers of Aliyah throughout the world. As experts in the process of Aliyah, we facilitate a smooth transition to life in Israel by offering dozens of world-class programs, events, services and benefits. We have partnered with Nefesh B'Nefesh to streamline the Aliyah application process and to provide you with the best in individual grants, pre-Aliyah services and post-Aliyah programs that our two organizations have to offer.



הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל
Jewish Agency for Israel

DETERMINING YOUR ELIGIBILITY AND YOUR STATUS



The Law of Return

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/laws/special/eng/return.htm>

On July 5, 1950 the Knesset established the Law of Return. **This law declares the right of all Jews to immigrate to Israel. It has since been amended to include family members of Jews.**

DETERMINING YOUR STATUS

Every individual has a legal “status” determined by the Government of Israel. A person’s status affects their Aliyah benefits, military service, and other absorption factors.

Oleh Chadash (New Immigrant)

A person eligible under the Law of Return according to the following criteria: was born to a Jewish mother or father; is the grandchild of a Jewish grandparent; or whose conversion is recognized by one of the Jewish streams (orthodox, reform, conservative, or reconstructionist).

Ezrach Oleh (Citizen Immigrant)

A person who was born abroad (outside of Israel) to at least one Israeli parent. This person has not ever lived in Israel.

Katin Chozer (Returning Minor)

A person who was born in Israel to at least one Jewish parent. This person left Israel before the age of 14 and has not lived in Israel for more than four months at a time (with the exception of one year spent in Israel in an accredited program) and whose parents have not worked for an Israel-based company while abroad, during the past five years.

BENEFITS

Every person who makes Aliyah is entitled to receive temporary support, subsidies, and tax exemptions. Specific benefits vary according to status, family size, and other determining factors. **The list below is for general reference only.** Talk with your Aliyah Shaliach directly to clarify what you and your family will receive.

- ✦ Sal Klita (Absorption Basket) is a **financial grant** provided by Misrad Haklita (Ministry of Immigrant Absorption), intended to help you during your initial adjustment in Israel. You will receive an initial cash payment upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, followed by wire transfers after you provide Misrad Haklita with your bank information.
- ✦ Complimentary **Flight** and Increased Baggage Allowance
- ✦ **Transportation** from Ben Gurion Airport
- ✦ **Health Insurance:** fully subsidized up to one year for unemployed Olim*
- ✦ **Ulpan** (Hebrew Language Learning): full-time study for up to five months
- ✦ Minimal **Rental Assistance:** For four years beginning in the second year
- ✦ Arnona (**Municipal Tax**) **Reduction:** Up to 90% on 100 sq. meters for 1 year
- ✦ **Mortgage Assistance:** First time buyers eligible for up to ten years
- ✦ Mas Rechisha (Property **Acquisition Tax**) **Reduction:** up to 7 years
- ✦ **Tuition Assistance:** for undergraduate and graduate degrees (age restrictions apply)
- ✦ **TV Tax Exemptions:** Up to one year per household during the first 2 years
- ✦ **Income Tax Credits:** Up to 3 ½ years
- ✦ **Customs Authority Tax Reductions** on purchase of a car
- ✦ **Shipment Tax Exemptions** on 3 shipments up to 3 years from Aliyah date
- ✦ **Appliance Purchase Tax Exemptions**



ALIYAH ON YOUR MIND?

WE OFFER A VARIETY OF PRE-ALIYAH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

Informal Meetings with Your Aliyah Shaliach

Together you will explore the possibilities of Aliyah, answer all your questions about the process, and receive personalized guidance on building your plan.

Aliyah Starter Sessions (*Cafe Oleh*)

Join others considering Aliyah to meet your local Shaliach and find out exactly what the process entails. Includes a Q&A session and light refreshments.

First Steps in Israel

Visa in hand? Ticket booked? Come to this informative session to meet other olim and find out what to expect at Ben Gurion and beyond.

Preparatory Ulpan Programs

Want a head-start on your Hebrew? Our Aliyah offices co-sponsor Ulpan programs throughout the year.

And More!

We sponsor events featuring guest speakers, Israeli music and comedy. Check out your region's calendar on our website to view upcoming events. Find it at www.jewishagency.org/aliyahna

*All Israeli citizens are entitled to full health coverage for a nominal monthly fee. While this fee is subsidized for Olim; Ezechim Olim and Katinim Chozirim do not receive this benefit.

LEARNING HEBREW IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN A SUCCESSFUL ALIYAH

Every Oleh is eligible for fully subsidized five months of full-time Hebrew study. An Oleh can enroll in any program available in their community.

Eligible olim can also register for one of our unique Ulpan “communities.”

Ulpan Etzion in Jerusalem

Five months living with other Olim in a dorm-style setting and studying Hebrew full-time while receiving personal support in integrating into Israeli society and culture. (Open to college graduates, January and July, ages 22-35)

Ulpan Etzion in Haifa

Five months living with other Olim and studying Hebrew full-time in personal rooms while receiving personal support in integrating into Israeli society and culture. Shabbat community placements available. (Open to college graduates, October and April, ages 22-35)

Kibbutz Ulpan

Live, work, and learn Hebrew on one of 13 kibbutzim for five months. Join group hikes; attend lectures about Israel life, and much more! (Open dates vary according to Kibbutz, ages 18-28)

*Additional programs for families, advanced Hebrew speakers, and native Russian speakers may be available. Speak with your Shaliach to find out more.

BUILD YOUR LANDING PLAN

LEARN, WORK, AND THRIVE IN ISRAEL



We know that it's easy to become overwhelmed when planning your future. Life in Israel comes with new demands and an adjustment period. The Jewish Agency for Israel is the only organization in the world which customizes the “absorption process” to suit your personal needs. Explore some of the programs available. Don't see one that works for you? Talk to your Shaliach to see what you can create together.

We highly recommend that you **begin** your Hebrew language studies **prior to making Aliyah**. The Jewish Agency for Israel sponsors Ulpanim around the country. Contact your local Aliyah Shaliach to find out more.



A COLLEGE OR GRADUATE DEGREE IN YOUR FUTURE? FIND OUT ABOUT THE ACADEMIC BENEFITS OF ALIYAH.

The Student Authority

Provides academic guidance and grants for eligible olim for fully-subsidized undergraduate and graduate tuition as well as preparatory programs and technical degrees.

Mechina

A post high-school preparatory program which includes an Ulpan and ten months of study. Each Oleh receives personal support and is connected with “adoptive” Israeli families upon completion (Open in July for high school graduates 17.5 – 21).

TAKA (Tochnit Klita Academit)

A unique five month, dorm-style program designed to help immigrant students prepare for the academic and Hebrew language demands of University. (Open September and March).

Did You Know?

The Jewish Agency for Israel built a custom program for students who wanted to live in a youth kibbutz and build a sustainable community while majoring in Environmental Studies at Ben Gurion University. It's called **Olim With Ayalim**, check it out!

ARMY SERVICE ON THE HORIZON?

Garin Tzabar

A program specifically for eligible Olim headed to the army. Make Aliyah with a group (garin) – live together, learn Hebrew together, and go through army training together.

Sherut Leumi

National Service for Observant Young Women is an ideal alternative for religious 18-20 year olds who need to fulfill their Army requirement.

WANT SUPPORT WHILE GETTING SETTLED?

The Jewish Agency For Israel's Job Center

We know that employment and initial adjustment is one of the major concerns for people making Aliyah. We built a comprehensive Job Center – an online service that connects you directly with employers in your field. You can start your online search now on our website, www.aliyah.org. Click on the link “finding a job” to begin.

Bebayit B'Yachad (At Home Together)

The rising star in our roster of programs; Concerned you won't know where to turn for on-the-ground support in Israel? This program connects volunteers (generally veteran Olim) with new Olim around Israel to provide you with personal assistance in everything from managing your bills, to writing your resume, to finding a meal for Shabbat. Ask your Shaliach to help you get connected.

Want to include some Tikkun Olam in your Aliyah?

Consider **Shnat Kehila**, a youth kibbutz community that provides support for Olim who want to contribute to peripheral Israeli communities in need.

IMMEDIATE QUESTIONS? IMMEDIATE ANSWERS.

Contact the Aliyah Service Center

Open 24/6:

gci-en@jafi.org

ISRAEL: 1-800-228-055

USA: 1-866-835-0430

CANADA: 1-866-421-8912

Pacific Northwest Region

(415) 369-2865

aliyahsf@jafi.org

Not sure what region you live in?

Visit us online to find out!

Pacific Southwest Region

(323) 658-7302

aliyahla@jafi.org

www.jewishagency.org/aliyahna

www.aliyah.org

Midwest Region

(847) 674-8861

aliyahchicago@jafi.org

Southeast Region

(305) 438-4203

aliyahmiami@jafi.org

Mid-Atlantic Region

(301) 881-4407

dcaliyah@jafi.org

Northeast Region

(212) 339-6067

aliyahny@jafi.org

Canada

(416) 633-4766 ext. 2, 3

aliyahto@jafi.org