



RETURN TO ISRAEL

Guide 2: Benefits & Rights

A practical guide for new Olim and returning Israeli residents

What help may be available, who it is generally for, and where to verify your personal eligibility using official Israeli government sources.

Important

Benefits are not identical for every person. Eligibility can depend on immigration status, age, family composition, time spent abroad, previous residence in Israel, income, military or national service, and the date you arrive. Government rules and payment amounts can change. Always verify your personal entitlement with the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration or the relevant authority.

1. Start Here: Confirm Your Status

Before planning around any benefit, determine which legal/eligibility category applies to you. A new Oleh (Oleh Hadash) and a returning Israeli resident (Toshav Hozer) can receive very different benefits. Returning residents may also have different eligibility depending on how many years they lived abroad.

- **New Oleh:** a person receiving new-immigrant status under Israeli law.
- **Returning resident:** an Israeli returning after living abroad; many Ministry benefits require a minimum period abroad.
- **Veteran returning resident (Toshav Hozer Vatik):** a separate category relevant especially to certain tax benefits; the official pre-return tax consultation page refers to people who lived abroad for at least 10 consecutive years.

The Ministry states that most assistance for returning residents is offered after five or more years abroad, while some assistance can apply after at least two years.

[Official: Returning Residents - Ministry of Aliyah and Integration](#)

[Official: Returning Resident Rights & Assistance Guide](#)

[Official: Easy-Zechut Eligibility Calculator](#)

2. The Absorption Basket (Sal Klita)

For eligible new Olim, the Absorption Basket is one of the main initial financial benefits. The Ministry describes it as financial assistance for everyday needs during the first six months in Israel. The first portion may be provided at arrival and subsequent payments are generally transferred to the Israeli bank account you register with the Ministry.

- Designed to help with initial living and absorption expenses.
- Amount depends on personal and family circumstances.
- Use the Ministry calculator rather than relying on a fixed amount quoted online.

[Official: Rights of New Immigrants](#)

[Official: Financial Support / Absorption Basket Calculator](#)

3. Arrival Assistance & First Documents

Eligible new Olim arriving with an Oleh visa can receive initial processing through the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration at Ben Gurion Airport. The official guide lists documents and services that may include the Teudat Oleh or eligibility certificate, identification documentation, a bank-account form and health-fund registration authorization.

- Initial registration at the airport.
- Initial Sal Klita payment arrangements.
- Transport from the airport to the first residence in Israel is provided under the Ministry's new-Oleh arrival process.

[Official: New Olim Rights Guide - First Steps](#)

4. Hebrew - Ulpan

Hebrew study is a major absorption benefit for new Olim. The Ministry's official guide states that eligible new immigrants can be referred to an appropriate Ulpan and receive an exemption from tuition. Private-framework Hebrew study may also be available through vouchers for eligible Olim.

- Referral and guidance for finding an Ulpan.
- Tuition exemption for eligible new Olim.
- Living support during early Ulpan study is generally incorporated into Sal Klita during the first six months; other income-support rules can apply in specific cases.
- Transportation support for Ulpan is included within the Absorption Basket according to the Ministry guide.

[Official: Hebrew Study / Ulpan Rights](#)

5. Health Insurance & National Insurance

New Olim should register with an Israeli health fund (Kupat Holim) as part of their first steps. National Insurance and health-insurance contribution rules include special provisions for new immigrants, and eligibility depends on circumstances. Returning residents who ceased to be Israeli residents must re-establish their residency and health coverage with the National Insurance Institute.

- Choose/register with a health fund.
- Check whether you qualify for an initial exemption from National Insurance and health-insurance contributions.
- Returning residents should resolve residency status with Bituach Leumi as early as possible; health-service waiting-period rules may apply.

[Official: New Olim - Health and National Insurance](#)

[Official: Returning Residents - National Health Insurance](#)

[Official: National Insurance Institute](#)

6. Tax Benefits - Potentially Very Valuable

Tax is one of the areas where professional advice before moving can be especially valuable. The Ministry's official consultation service states that new immigrants and veteran returning residents who lived abroad for at least ten consecutive years can qualify for significant Israeli tax treatment relating to foreign assets and foreign-source income, including a 10-year exemption framework, subject to the law and the individual's circumstances.

- **Foreign-source income/assets:** potentially substantial exemptions for qualifying new Olim and veteran returning residents.
- **Adjustment/acclimation year:** qualifying individuals may elect an adjustment year for Israeli income-tax residency purposes; the Ministry states that the application must be made within 90 days of Aliyah/return.
- **2026 special tax relief:** the Tax Authority currently has a specific application for eligible new immigrants and veteran returning residents arriving in the defined 2025-2026 period.

Because cross-border tax can affect investments, companies, pensions, property, trusts and foreign employment, obtain qualified Israeli tax advice before changing residency or transferring assets.

[Official: Pre-Aliyah Tax / Business Consultation](#)

[Official: Israel Tax Authority - New Immigrants & Foreign Residents](#)

[Official: 2026-2030 Tax Relief Application](#)

7. Customs, Household Goods & Personal Imports

New Olim can receive customs/import-tax benefits on qualifying personal and household goods. The Tax Authority's current guide states that an immigrant's standard customs eligibility period runs from receiving immigrant status until three years after Aliyah, with possible extensions in defined circumstances such as military/national service, academic study or qualifying time abroad.

- Tax relief/exemption on qualifying household and personal items.
- The Ministry's rights guide notes entitlement to import up to three shipments of belongings under the applicable rules.
- Special rules and limits apply to particular products.
- Vehicle taxation is separate and should be checked before shipping or purchasing a car.

[Official: Import Tax Guide for New Immigrants](#)

[Official: Check Import-Tax Eligibility](#)

8. Vehicle Benefits & Driving

New Olim can have preferential vehicle-tax treatment under specific conditions, but it is not simply a tax-free car. Vehicle type, licensing, timing, ownership and resale restrictions can matter. Returning residents also have specific personal-import provisions.

- Check the exact tax calculation before purchasing or importing a vehicle.
- Check both Customs and Ministry of Transport requirements.
- Returning residents with a qualifying foreign licence may be able to convert it under the applicable conditions. The Ministry guide says a foreign licence may generally be used for one year after arrival and describes a five-year conversion window for qualifying returning residents.

[Official: Vehicle Personal Import](#)

[Official: Returning Resident Rights Guide](#)

9. Housing & Property

Housing assistance can depend heavily on status, family situation and eligibility. New Olim should check Ministry housing assistance rather than assuming a fixed grant. Separately, the Tax Authority offers a procedure for eligible new immigrants to request a reduced purchase-tax treatment for a residential apartment under the applicable rules.

- Possible rental/housing assistance depending on eligibility.
- Potential reduced purchase tax for an eligible Oleh purchasing a qualifying home.
- Mortgage and other programs have their own eligibility rules and should be verified before signing a contract.

[Official: New Olim Rights Guide](#)

[Official: Israel Tax Authority - New Immigrant Services](#)

10. Employment, Careers & Business

The Ministry offers employment and integration support that can include counseling, professional direction and programs aimed at helping Olim enter the Israeli labor market. For entrepreneurs and business owners, official assistance can include business consulting, business-plan preparation, mentoring, courses and access to preferential loan programs subject to eligibility.

- Employment counseling and professional integration.
- Support relating to professional licensing/recognition may be relevant for regulated professions.
- Entrepreneurship and business-relocation assistance is available to new Olim and returning citizens under Ministry programs.

[Official: New Olim Rights Guide](#)

[Official: Tax, Entrepreneurship & Financial Consultation](#)

11. Income Support & Additional Assistance

Not every household becomes financially independent immediately. Depending on age, income, employment status and other criteria, additional subsistence or income-support programs may be available after or alongside initial absorption assistance.

- New Olim should check the Ministry's financial-support calculator.
- Returning residents may receive Ministry support during the first year in some circumstances.
- Bituach Leumi states that some returning residents may also qualify for income support, subject to Israeli residency and other conditions.

[Official: Financial Support Calculator](#)

[Official: Bituach Leumi - Returning Resident Income Support](#)

12. Education, Students, Soldiers & Families

Additional benefits can apply according to age and life stage. These can include educational assistance, programs for students, support for children integrating into Israeli schools, and special rules for Olim who enter military or national service.

- Check education and student benefits before enrolling or paying tuition.
- Families should ask the local municipality and Ministry about school integration support.
- Military-service obligations and benefits depend strongly on age, family status and previous time in Israel.

[Official: Complete New Olim Rights Guide](#)

13. Returning Residents: Do Not Assume Oleh Benefits Apply

A returning Israeli is not automatically entitled to the same package as a first-time Oleh. The length of time abroad is particularly important. The Ministry's returning-resident guide states that most assistance is offered to people who stayed abroad for five years or more, while certain benefits can apply after at least two years.

- Verify returning-resident status before the move.
- Check health-insurance/residency restoration.
- Check employment and business assistance.
- Check customs and vehicle rights.
- If you lived abroad for 10+ consecutive years, investigate veteran-returning-resident tax treatment before returning.

[Official: Returning Residents Portal](#)

[Official: Returning Resident Rights Guide](#)

14. Your Personal Benefits Checklist

Before booking the move, collect the information below. It determines which benefits are worth investigating.

Question	Why it matters
Are you a new Oleh or returning Israeli?	The benefit systems are different.
How many consecutive years have you lived abroad?	Critical for returning-resident and tax categories.
What is your planned Aliyah/return date?	Eligibility windows and temporary tax provisions can depend on dates.
Single, couple, or family? Ages of children?	Affects financial support and family programs.
Will you work as employee, self-employed or remotely abroad?	Important for tax, National Insurance and employment planning.
Do you own foreign companies, investments, property or pensions?	Cross-border tax planning may be important before arrival.
Will you ship household goods or a vehicle?	Customs eligibility has deadlines and conditions.
Do you need Hebrew study?	Ulpan benefits may be available.
Will you rent or buy?	Housing assistance and purchase-tax rules differ.

Best next step

Use the Ministry's Easy-Zechut calculator and financial-support calculator, then save the results and confirm them with an absorption counselor. For substantial foreign assets, businesses, pensions or investments, obtain tax advice before the move rather than after becoming Israeli tax resident.

[Easy-Zechut - Personalized Rights Calculator](#)

[Financial Support Calculator](#)

[Ministry of Aliyah and Integration - Returning Residents](#)

ReturnToIsrael.com

Independent practical guidance for people planning a move to Israel. Not an Israeli government authority. Official government rules prevail.