

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2023



Israel

Revised salary requirements, immigration application processing fees and COVID-19 testing requirements for travelers from China Mainland

Executive summary

Effective 1 January 2023, the monthly wage threshold for foreign experts working in Israel for more than three months has increased to ILS 23,460. In addition, the government processing fees for multiple immigration applications has also increased. Finally, individuals traveling from China Mainland must now test negative for COVID-19 prior to travel to Israel.

Salary requirements for foreign experts

Effective 1 January 2023, foreign nationals who seek to work in Israel for more than three months must earn a minimum monthly salary of ILS 23,460 (up from ILS 20,856 in 2022). This also applies to foreign experts who are employed by companies recognized as high tech companies by the Israeli Innovation Authority.

The revised salary requirements are linked to the average base gross salary per month in Israel (not including any allowance or overtime), which was increased to ILS 11,730 (up from ILS 10,428 in 2022) effective 1 January 2023. The monthly salary requirement for foreign nationals who seek to apply for B-1 Work Visas and work in Israel for up to three months remains unchanged at ILS 5,300.

Government processing fees

The government processing fees for B-1 Visa applications have increased as follows:

- ▶ Stage 1 (work permit applications): ILS 1,300 (up from ILS 1,210)
- ▶ Stage 2 (visas issued for up to one year): ILS 10,525 (up from ILS 10,000)

- ▶ Stage 3 (multiple-entry visas): ILS 185 (up from ILS 180)
- ▶ Dependent B-2 Visas: ILS 280 (up from ILS 270)

COVID-19 testing requirement

Effective 3 January 2023, individuals traveling from China Mainland must take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test no more than 72 hours prior to boarding their flight to Israel, and test negative, to be admitted.

Impact on employers

Employers may confirm that they comply with the new salary thresholds to ensure they meet the requirements for B-1 Visas. The salary requirements are subject to periodic changes at the discretion of the authorities. In addition, employers may inform impacted employees traveling from China Mainland of the new testing requirement to avoid delays relating to travel to Israel.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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EYG no. 000304-23Gbl

2101-3682263
ED None

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