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Procedure for Applications to Employ or Grant a Residence Permit to Researchers and Lecturers in Institutes of Higher Education Who Are on a Tenure Track and to Their Family Members

A. Background

- A.1 Following numerous inquiries from various actors including university heads, it was found that offering the option of granting long-term status in Israel to a limited number of outstanding scientists and researchers who, according to the recommendation of the president of an institute of higher education that is a research institute or an institution possessing a relevant research institute, are on a track to receive tenure at the institution, will significantly contribute to maintaining the State of Israel's status at a high place on the global academic map, and will increase opportunities for academic-scientific collaboration by the State of Israel's institutes of higher education with the leading research institutes worldwide.
- A.2 This procedure was established by the head of the Population and Immigration Authority based on his authority under the Foreign Workers Law, 1991, and under the Entry into Israel Law, 1952 (hereinafter: the "Entry into Israel Law"). The Director General of the Authority is at any time permitted to direct the amendment, updating or modification of this procedure, as well as to add additional conditions at any time, all in accordance with to the circumstances, based on need and his judgment.
- A.3 We emphasize that this procedure does not replace the accelerated processing of an ordinary application for temporary employment of a foreign researcher or lecturer at an institute of higher education for a period that does not exceed 45 days, where the researcher or lecturer is a citizen of a country with regard to which a waiver of preapproved entry visas to Israel has been established, as regulated by procedure number 5.3.0040, "Provisional Procedure for Expedited Handling of Applications for Employment of a Foreign Expert Who is a Citizen of a Country to Which a Waiver of Tourist Visas Applies Who is Invited to Israel for a Period of Up to 45 Days a Year" published on the Population and Immigration Authority's website at the following link: [Procedure 5.3.0040](#).
- A.4 Similarly, this procedure does not replace the manner in which an ordinary application to employ a researcher or lecturer at an institute of higher education for a period exceeding 45 days is handled, as regulated by the Authority's procedure numbers 5.3.005, "Procedure for Handling the Grant of an Employment Permit, Visa, and Residence Permit to a Guest Lecturer/Researcher



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in an Institute of Higher Education” and 5.3.0041 “Procedure for the Treatment of Requests for Grant of an Employment Permit and Residence and Work License to Foreign Experts”, that are published on the Population and Immigration Authority’s website at the following link: [Procedure 5.3.0041](#) (see section C.4.c of the procedure).


B. Purpose of the Procedure

This procedure is intended to regulate the handling of a limited number of special applications that shall be submitted on behalf of the president of an institution accredited under section 9 of the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958, or the president of an institution whose degree is recognized under section 28A of the above law (hereinafter: an “Institution of Higher Education”), for long-term employment or to grant permanent status in Israel to an outstanding researcher or lecturer in his field, who has undergone a prolonged academic suitability assessment process and has been found suitable by the academic institution to receive tenure at a research institute in an institution of education, as well as to regulate the granting of [immigration] status in Israel to the spouse of such outstanding lecturer or researcher, and their children up to the age of 21 years. Similarly, this procedure regulates the manner of submission of an application for a “General B-1 Residence and Work License” for spouse of the researcher or lecturer whose field relates to one of the high-technology fields in Israel.

C. Application to Employ a Foreign Researcher or Lecturer Who is On a Tenure Track

- C.1 An institution of higher education that seeks to employ a guest lecturer or researcher must first submit an application for a permit under section 1M of the Foreign Workers Law, 1991, to employ a foreign lecturer or researcher (hereinafter: the Employment Permit), as specified in procedures 5.3.0041 and 5.3.0005, in accordance with the guidelines and together with the forms and appendices therein.
- C.2 Attached to the Employment Permit application there must be an affidavit by the president of the institution of higher education, declaring that the institute of higher education which he heads is a research institution or contains a relevant research institute, that the foreign researcher or lecturer possesses at least a PhD and excels in his field, and that he is on a tenure track at an institution based upon the institution’s determination and in accordance with the institution’s academic criteria. The affidavit will further indicate that in light of what is stated, the president is making an exceptional request that the permit to employ the researcher or lecturer at a research institute or at the institution’s research institute will be specially granted for a period that will be indicated in the affidavit and that will not exceed 5 years (one year at a time). Similarly, a copy of a decision by the authorized entity at the institute of higher education




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regarding the tenure track will be attached, as well as a copy of a letter sent by the institution of higher education to the lecturer or researcher regarding his being on a tenure track.

- C.3 The application and accompanying documents shall be submitted to the offices of the Experts Branch of the Permits Department at the Employers and Foreign Workers Service Administration at the Population and Immigration Authority.
- C.4 An employee of the Population and Immigration Authority will examine the application documents, and will also check the Authority's computer systems to ascertain that there is no information in the Population and Immigration Authority's system that, on his face, raises an obstacle to approval of the application.
- C.5 In the event that said information or the circumstances of the application, in accordance with the above examinations, demonstrate that there is a prima facie obstacle to the approval of the application, the application will be sent for deliberation by the advisory committee under procedure 5.3.0041, which shall be permitted to turn to the institution of higher education or any other relevant actor according to its judgment in order to obtain information that will assist in the consideration of the application. At the end of its deliberations, the committee will make a recommendation to the Director General of the Population and Immigration Authority regarding approval or denial of the application and, in the event of a recommendation to approve the application, also with regard to the duration of the permit that is issued and/or special conditions that should be set.
- C.6 In the event that the review by the employee of the Authority does not reveal an obstacle to approving the application, the Authority employee shall issue to the requesting institution an employment permit that is valid for the requested period of time but not more than 63 months, to employ the lecturer or researcher.
- C.7 After receipt of the employment permit, the institution of higher education and the researcher and the members of his family must act as set forth in the aforementioned procedure 5.3.005 in order to obtain a visa and Residence and Work license for the lecturer or researcher, as well as in order to obtain a visa and license to visit Israel for the spouse of the researcher or lecturer as well as for his children up to the age of 21 years.
- C.8 Six months prior to the expiration of the permit issued to the institution to employ the outstanding researcher or lecturer, to the extent the institution of higher education wishes to continue to employ the researcher/lecturer on a tenure track for more than the 63 months that



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were approved, the institution may submit an application to the Experts Branch in the Permits Department to extend the duration of the permit to employ the researcher or lecturer, together with an affidavit from the president of the university according to which there has been no change in circumstances, such that the researcher/lecturer who excels in his field is on a tenure track at the institution, together with up-to-date supporting documents as specified in section C.2, above, and requesting an extension of the permit to employ the outstanding researcher/lecturer, and also an extension of the term of the license for a period of up to 5 additional years (one year at a time). After submitting the application, it will be processed in accordance with section 3A(c1) of the Entry into Israel Law.

D. Submission of an Application for a General B-1 Residence and Work License for the Spouse of a Researcher or Lecturer on a Tenure Track in a High-technology Field:

- D.1 A researcher or lecturer who is involved in high-technology in an Institution of Higher Education in Israel for whom a B-1 Researcher/Lecturer license was approved under this procedure because he is on a tenure track, is entitled to apply for a license for residence and employment in Israel for his spouse.
- D.2 The license will permit the spouse of the aforementioned researcher/lecturer to work for any employer in Israel without the employer being obligated to obtain an employment permit for so long as the researcher/lecturer's license is in force.
- D.3 The application for a General B-1 Residence and Work License for the spouse will be submitted to the regional Population Authority Bureau according to the address of the institution of higher education in which the researcher/lecturer is employed.
- D.4 Conditions and requirements for submission of the application:




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- D.4.a The obligatory personal appearance of both spouses at the Authority's Bureau when filing the application.
- D.4.b Application Form to Change Visa Type (V/3).
- D.4.c The applicant spouse's foreign passport. It must be ensured that the passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of the expiration of the requested license.
- D.4.d An original certificate of good conduct, verified and translated, issued within 6 months prior to the submission of the application.
- D.4.e Medical certification.
- D.4.f A declaration regarding the existence of a spousal relationship with the lecturer/researcher in the high-tech field.
- D.4.g License fee – The service is subject to payment of a fee as specified in the fee schedule.
- D.4.h An affidavit signed by the president of the institution of higher education in which the researcher/lecturer is employed, according to which all of the following conditions are met:
 - (1) The lecturer/researcher excels in his field of expertise and is on a tenure track at an institution of higher education;
 - (2) The above lecturer's or researcher's field of research relates to one of the high-technology fields in Israel as described in branches 21, 26, 62 (other than sub branch 6209), and 72 (other than subbranch 722), or in subbranches 303 and 631 in the uniform classification of the Economic Branches 2011, published on the Central Statistic Bureau's website, and that he belongs to one of the departments or schools specified below:
 - (a) Exact sciences;
 - (b) Life sciences;
 - (c) Computer sciences;
 - (d) Engineering;
 - (e) Medicine;
 - (3) The lecturer's or researcher's monthly salary for his work at the institution of higher education, in accordance with the applicable collective agreements, is not less than twice the average salary – as defined in the National Insurance Law (Consolidated Version), 1995, as last published by the National Insurance Institute.




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- D.4.i The Authority employee handling the application will identify the applicant in the Aviva System. He will further ensure that the application meets the conditions and requirements and that all required documents specified above have been submitted. The employee will ascertain, *inter alia*, that the Aviv System is updated to reflect the researcher's/lecturer's spouse's license and its duration. In the event not all documents are provided as required, it will be necessary to complete them in order to continue processing the application.
- D.4.j The Authority employee will check whether the applicant has stayed in Israel in the past. In the event it is found that he stayed in Israel in the past, a link will be established to his prior case files, and the following data will be examined: The legality of his entries into Israel, the cumulative duration of his stays in Israel in the last year, the legality of his stays, the type of license issued him, and the manner of his exit from Israel. The employee will also check that there are no restrictions (past illegal stays, etc.) or any other obstacle to approving the application. If there is such a restriction, the "Provision of Services Requiring Preliminary Clarification Procedure" number 1.2.0001 will be followed.
- D.4.k In the event it is found that the researcher entered Israel unlawfully/was refused entry to Israel in the past/stayed unlawfully, was arrested and deported/attempted to obtain any type of status in Israel/his family members are illegally present in Israel/provided misleading details, etc., the application for his invitation will be transferred for decision by the Bureau's visa center.
- D.4.l In cases in which the invitee's country of origin/citizenship is designated as a country requiring scrutiny by security personnel, the Bureau employee will make sure that all of the columns in the personal details form (V/22) have been filled out prior to transferring it for analysis.
- D.4.m In the event the application meets the conditions and requirements specified above, the application will be approved and the applicant will be issued a General B-1 license, an entry will be made on the visa tab in the Aviv System, approval of the application and the duration of the approved stay will be noted on the Registration Sheet as well as the fact that the application was approved in the framework of a tenure track in institutions of higher education. The duration of the license issued to the spouse shall be for a duration of up to one year or until the expiration of the work license issued to the researcher or lecturer, whichever is earlier.
- D.4.n If the visa center decides to deny the application, the denial will be entered into an Aviv System file and a detailed written decision will be sent to the applicant and the institution of higher education.



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D.4.o The arrangement for granting a General B-1 license to the spouse of a lecturer/researcher in a high-tech field as described above is established as a temporary provision for one year only as of the date of publication of the Entry into Israel Regulations (Exemption from a Permit to Grant a Visa and a Residence License to Foreign Workers) (Temporary Provision)-2017. Expiration of the temporary provision will not affect the validity of a B/1 (General) license that has already been issued to the spouse of a researcher/lecturer in the high-tech field under this procedure.

E. Application for Granting of Status in Israel to a Researcher or Lecturer to Whom the Institution of Higher Education Has Decided to Grant Tenure:

- E.1 If an institution of higher education has decided to grant tenure to a foreign lecturer or researcher who excels in his field who will be employed by the institution, due to his contribution to research or teaching, and in light of his meeting the criteria established by the institution for granting tenure, the president of the institution may make a written application to the head of the Population and Immigration Authority requesting that the researcher or lecturer, as well as his spouse and children up to 21 years of age, be granted a license to reside in Israel.
- E.2 The application shall be submitted to the visa department in the Authority's Bureau in the region in which the institution of higher education is located. After entry of the application by the Bureau, it will be transferred for review by the head of the Authority together with the recommendation of the professional echelon at the Authority's headquarters.
- E.3 To the extent that there is no impediment to granting the application, the head of the Authority will instruct that an A/5 temporary residence license be issued to the researcher/lecturer and the members of his family for a period of 4 years (two years each time). The license issued to the family members shall be subject to the continued validity of the license issued to the lecturer/researcher.
- E.4 Accordingly, the lecturer/researcher's and his family members' case files will be updated in the Aviv System, and the president of the institution of higher education shall be sent written notice that the application has been approved and that the lecturer and the members of his family must go to the Authority's regional Bureau in the region of their residence for continued processing of the application in accordance with the provisions of procedure 5.2.0023, "Procedure for the Actual Provision/Extension of an A/5 Temporary Residence License and Permanent Residence License" published on the Authority's website and to the following link: [Procedure 5.2.0023](#), and while fulfilling the conditions and requirements specified therein.




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- E.5 If the researcher/lecturer and the members of his family are located outside of Israel, the researcher and the members of his family will enter Israel on a B/2 tourist license, and, after their arrival, they must apply to the Authority's Bureau to receive the license. Upon arrival of the researcher/lecturer and the members of his family at the Authority's Bureau in order to submit the application, they must present a copy of the application approval notice as sent to the president of the institution of higher education.
- E.6 Extensions of the A/5 temporary residence license shall be subject to the researcher/lecturer and the members of his family fulfilling the requirements of procedure 5.2.0023 including presenting an up-to-date letter from the institution of higher education that the researcher/lecturer continues to be permanently employed by the institution.
- E.7 After 4 years under and A/5 temporary residence license, the president of the university may contact is the Director General of the Authority with an application to grant the lecturer or researcher, his spouse, and his children up to 21 years of age, permanent status in Israel subject to it being proved that the circumstances leading to the granting of the A/5 temporary residence license have not changed, that the lecturer or researcher serves in such position at the institution of higher education in which he received tenure, and that the center of the lecturer's or researcher's life and the lives of the members of his family is in Israel.
- E.8 To the extent that there is no impediment to granting the application, the Director General of the Authority will order a permanent residence license to be issued to the researcher/lecturer and the members of his family.
- E.9 Accordingly, the case files of the lecturer/researcher and the members of his family will be updated in the Aviv System, and the president of the institution of higher education will be sent written notice that the application was approved and that the researcher and the members of his family must go to the Authority's Bureau in the region where they live for continued processing of the application in accordance with the provisions of procedure 5.2.0023 – "Procedure for Actually Granting/Extension of an A/5 Temporary Residence License and Permanent Residence License" published on the Authority's website at the following link: [Procedure 5.2.0023](#), and while fulfilling the conditions and requirements specified therein. Upon arrival of the researcher/lecturer and the members of his family at the Authority's Bureau for the purpose of filing the application, they will be required to present a copy of the notice of approval of the application as sent to the president of the institution of higher education.



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F. The Law:

- F.1 Foreign Workers Law, 1991
- F.2 Entry into Israel Law, 1952
- F.3 Entry into Israel Regulations, 1974
- F.4 Entry into Israel Regulations (Exemption from a Permit to Grant a Visa and a Residence License to Foreign Workers) (Temporary Provision), 2017

