

## E-2 Visas Now Available for Israeli Nationals

After a long wait, the U.S. Department of State has announced that a treaty investor agreement has finally been executed between Israel and the United States. Effective today, May 1, 2019, Israeli citizens may now apply for the E-2 visa classification at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Those interested in learning more about the E-2 visa classification for Israeli citizens can refer to the U.S. Department of State website for further information about applying locally in Tel Aviv. While the E-2 visa qualifications are outlined per USCIS regulations, each U.S. Embassy abroad may have a specific filing or submission process it uses, a recommended list or format of required documents, or information regarding processing times available on its website. Certainly, as Tel Aviv now begins to accept and process E-2 visa applications, they are expected to establish their own preferences for submission, adjudication, timing etc. More information is available [here](#).

Once individuals are issued the visa, they may then apply to a DHS immigration officer at a U.S. port of entry for admission as an E-2 nonimmigrant. Similarly, if the treaty investor is currently in the United States in a lawful nonimmigrant status, he or she may file Form I-129 to request a change of status to E-2 classification.

This comes as welcome news for those who have long awaited negotiations between the United States and Israel to be finalized. The Israeli E-2 visa originally evolved from June 2012 legislation signed by then-President Obama that implemented a bilateral investment treaty with Israel and was linked to the ability of U.S. citizens to obtain B-5 Israeli Investor visas. Despite hopefulness that the visas would be available to investors in early 2017, delays have beset the rollout process.

This provides a desirable alternative option for Israeli nationals wishing to set up businesses or make investments in the United States, as well as for Israeli-owned U.S. companies. This includes either established businesses or startup companies that wish to employ and relocate Israelis to work in the United States.

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**Please do not hesitate to reach out to our firm with any questions on the new E-2 visa for Israel.**



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