



# VISA OPTIONS FOR ISRAELI ENTREPRENEURS AND INVESTORS IN EMERGING TECH AND BEYOND

## Nonimmigrant Visa Options

Immigrant entrepreneurs, immigrant investors and immigrant-founded companies have always been at the core of the American economy—contributing intellectual property leading to significant socioeconomic advancements within the United States. Here is an overview of the nonimmigrant and immigrant visa options available for Israelis in the emerging tech space who are highly regarded as a critical component to the advancement of the U.S. emerging technology space.

Visa Type	General Description of Visa
<b>B-1: Business Visitor</b>	The B-1 visa is for temporary business visitors. The visa itself does not provide work authorization however does allow the foreigner to engage in limited business activities.
<b>E-2: Treaty Investor</b>	As of May 1, 2019, Israeli citizens are finally eligible for E-2 visas. The E-2 visa is for foreign entrepreneurs who make a substantial investment in a new U.S. business or acquire an existing business. The visa category allows for self-petitioning by the investor and can be renewed indefinitely based on the viability of the business. The visa is only available to nationals of countries which have entered into treaties with the United States (notably excluding the BRIC countries). Israeli citizens holding dual citizenship with an E-2 treaty country have enjoyed this visa benefit for many years.
<b>H-1B: Specialty Occupation</b>	The H-1B visa is for employment in a specialty occupation (generally an occupation requiring the attainment of at least a bachelor's degree or its equivalent). This visa requires employer sponsorship and the petition must illustrate the employer / employee relationship exists where the employer can demonstrate control over the employee.
<b>L-1A: Intra-company Transferee</b>	The L-1A visa category is reserved for intra-company managerial transferees where a foreign national has worked for the company abroad and is being transferred to the United States to either start a new office or work for the U.S. subsidiary/affiliate. This visa category is ideal for foreign companies looking to open a new office in the United States.
<b>O-1: Extraordinary Ability/Achievement</b>	The O-1 visa is a unique category for those who can demonstrate extraordinary ability or achievement in the sciences, arts, education, business, athletics, film or television. This visa may be a suitable option for entrepreneurs in high-tech businesses who invent a new technology and receive significant recognition.



## Immigrant Visa Options

Visa Type	General Description of Visa
<b>EB-5: Immigrant Investor</b>	The EB-5 category is for immigrant investors who invest \$500,000 or \$1 million in a Regional Center or their own business, and create 10 jobs per investor. This is an excellent option for foreigners who want to obtain a green card and focus on their entrepreneurial pursuits. Note: the minimum investment amounts described above will increase to \$900,000 and \$1.8 million, respectively, on November 21, 2019.
<b>EB-1A: Extraordinary Ability</b>	The EB-1A category is for immigrants who can demonstrate extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics through documented national or international acclaim. This category allows for self-petitioning.
<b>EB-2: National Interest Waiver</b>	The EB-2 category is for immigrants who are a member of a profession holding an advanced degree or have exceptional ability. Though most filings in the EB-2 category require employer sponsorship, there is an exception for immigrants seeking a national interest waiver. In these cases, the individual may self-petition and request a waiver of the Labor Certification requirement due to the job being in the national interest of the United States. These are typically favored for foreigners of exceptional ability in the arts/sciences/business, and whose employment would benefit the United States.

## Key Contact



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