

Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories
Procedure for entry and residence of foreigners in the Judea and Samaria
area

Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories Operations
Department

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Part 3 – Permits for specific purposes

1. In this part of the procedure, the categories of permits for specific purposes are listed along with the conditions for their issuance.

2. General points of emphasis:

a) All permits under this section require submission of an application in advance and in compliance with the guidelines that have been established according to the purpose of the specific permit, even if the foreigner's country is signed to a visa waiver agreement with the State of Israel.

b) Permits under this section are not intended for foreigners who are married to a resident of the Area or who form a couple with a resident of the Area, whether the relationship began before or after arrival in the Area.

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c) A foreigner married to a resident of the Area, or forming a couple with one, must proceed to make arrangements according to Part 4 of this procedure before arriving at the Area. If the relationship starts after the foreigner arrived at the Area, then the authorized COGAT official must be informed in writing (at a special e-mail address) within 30 days of the relationship's start. At the same time, an application must be submitted to the Palestinian Authority for formalizing the status in accordance with Part 4 of this procedure. For the purpose, the "starting date of the relationship" shall be considered the day of the engagement ceremony, of the wedding, or of the start of cohabitation – whichever occurs first.

d) If the Israeli side has not received an application for formalizing status within 90 days of the notification's submission to the Civil Administration, then the permit shall expire and the foreigner shall be obliged to depart the Area immediately.

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e) Notwithstanding the above provisions, a permit's term cannot be extended under this part of the procedure to longer than 27 months. However, renewable permits may be obtained under the provisions of this part of the procedure.

3. Lecturers and researchers in the field of higher education:

a) The purpose of this section is to formalize the process of issuing permits for lecturers and researchers in Palestinian academe.

b) A permit under this clause shall also constitute a work permit.

c) Lecturers and guest researchers:

1) Purpose: Conferences, professional enrichment programs, and semester courses in the Area.

2) Academic requirement: The foreigner must hold at least a postgraduate degree.

3) Term of the permit: To be set in accordance with the length of the academic activity, extending up to a period of 5 months in the case of a semester course.

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4) At the end of the permit's term, the foreigner shall leave the Area and, if he/she wishes to return to the Area, may submit a new application for a permit of this kind when at least 9 months have elapsed since the date of departure from the Area. In the case of a semester course, no permit will be approved for a term longer than the calendar length of one course per academic year.

d) Lecturers and researchers who excel in necessary professions:

1) Intended for a limited number of distinguished researchers in accordance with a quota to be set by the authorized COGAT official and detailed in Appendix A of this procedure.

2) Applications for a permit under this section will be approved if it is proven, to the satisfaction of the authorized COGAT official, that the lecturer contributes significantly to academic learning, to the Area's economy, or to advancing regional cooperation and peace.

3) Academic requirement: At least a doctorate.

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4) Term of permit: The permit shall be issued for a one-year period and shall be renewable for a period not exceeding 27 months. If the period of employment for a lecturer or distinguished researcher is to exceed 27 months, then a new application may be submitted after departure overseas, provided that the entire period of residence, cumulatively, does not exceed 5 years.

5) At the end of the permit's term, the foreigner shall leave the Area and, if he/she wishes to return to the Area, may submit a new application for a permit of this kind in order to re-enter when at least 9 months have elapsed since the date of departure from the Area.

6) Entry of accompanying relatives: Spouses and children of a lecturer or distinguished researcher may enter under this clause, by means of an "Accompanying Relatives" permit in accordance with clause 7 of this section.

e) The method:

1) All applications for permits on behalf of lecturers and researchers in the field of higher education, of all types, must be submitted to the Israeli representative office in the foreigner's country of origin, together with a certificate of official invitation on the part of the Palestinian Authority, no less than 60 days before the requested date of entry. Each application must be accompanied by detailed documentation as specified in the "Conditions and Requirements" clause below.

2) The authorized COGAT official is entitled to set a quota for entry of lecturers and researchers. The quotas will be published in Appendix A of this procedure.

3) If the application's documentation is found to be proper and sufficient, and the quota includes a vacancy, the application will be approved. If documents are missing from the application, then a response will be returned allowing 21 days for completing the documentation.

f) Conditions and Requirements:

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1) Minimum age for receiving a permit – 25.

2) For a lecturer or guest researcher, a permit application must include the following documents:

a) A permit application form, a declaration of the rationale for the application to enter the Area, and a questionnaire covering the curriculum vitae and any familial and spousal connections in the Area.

b) Papers and documentation attesting to the applicant's education and training, with his/her academic degree certified in writing by the institution that granted the degree.

c) A photograph of the invitee's birth certificate. In the case of a change of name (whether given name or surname) the official document certifying the name change must be presented.

d) The applicant's foreign passport, valid for more than 6 months past the requested period of residence. If there is a passport from an additional country, it must be reported and its details supplied.

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e) An official invitation on the part of the Palestinian Authority.

f) An official invitation from the academic institution, including the requested dates of the visit, the nature of the academic activity, and the employment contract.

g) A full-face headshot of the applicant.

h) Certification of medical insurance for the period of the requested stay.

3) Lecturers and distinguished researchers shall attach the following additional documents:

a) A signed and verified document issued on behalf of the rector of an academic institution (or the holder of a similar position although the title may differ) including explanation of the

professional duties in question and the contribution to academic learning, to the Area's economy, or to advancing regional cooperation and peace.

b) Complete details about the invited expert's family, in keeping with clause 7 of this part.

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g) Extending the permit of a distinguished researcher/lecturer:

1) Applications for permit extensions must be submitted to the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Civil Affairs at least two months before the start of the upcoming academic year.

2) The request to extend the permit must be accompanied by proof of actual employment in the previous academic year (certification from the academic institution, including proof that salary was paid in accordance with a contract). Certification of medical insurance for the period of the requested stay must also be attached.

3) The application must also include the details of the lecturers' spouses and children.

4) Students:

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a) The purpose of this section is to formalize the permit application procedure for students wishing to pursue degree studies at recognized institutions of higher education in the Area as detailed in Appendix D of this procedure (hereafter, a "recognized institution").

b) The method:

1) Each request to receive a first student permit for the academic year must be submitted to the Israeli representative office in the foreigner's country of origin, by April 1 of the calendar year preceding the academic year, accompanied by an official invitation document from the Palestinian Authority. Each application must be accompanied by detailed documentation as specified in the "Conditions and Requirements" clause below.

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2) The authorized COGAT official is empowered to set a quota for entry of students. The quota may be divided into categories according to existing degrees (a category for bachelor's degrees, one for master's degrees, one for doctoral and post-doctoral degrees) and it may be limited to certain disciplines. The quotas will be published in Appendix A of this procedure.

3) If the application's documentation is found to be proper and sufficient, then the foreigner's particulars will be included in the list of foreigners who in principle have permission, a list to be put together by the authorized COGAT official.

4) A copy of the list mentioned in Clause 3 shall be sent to the consular department at the Foreign Ministry, which will forward it to the appropriate Israeli representative offices abroad together with instructions to receive the foreigners for interviews at the representative offices.

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5) It is the student's responsibility to contact the Israeli representative office in his/her country of origin and arrange to attend an interview no later than May 15 of the same calendar year. All the summations of the interviews, together with the recommendations from the representative offices, shall be passed from the Israeli representative offices overseas to the authorized COGAT official by June 15 of the same calendar year.

6) The authorized COGAT official will prepare a final assessment of the applications together with the summations of the interviews, and will compile the list of approved students for the upcoming academic year. The list will be passed to the Head of the Population Registry Unit.

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7) The term of the foreign student permits is a single academic year, in accordance with the relevant dates for the student and for the academic institution where he/she is enrolled. A number of extensions may be issued for the same degree, provided that they do not exceed 27 months. If the student's studies extend past 27 months, the student must submit a new application after leaving for abroad. However, the total period of residence must not exceed a cumulative four years for any given degree, or a cumulative five years for a doctorate or post-doctorate, and the permit's conditions must be honored.

c) Conditions and Requirements:

1) Minimum age for receiving a permit: 18.

2) Applications for a student permit must include the following documentation:

a) A permit application form, including curriculum vitae and a declaration of the reasons for seeking the degree.

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b) A questionnaire covering the curriculum vitae and any family or spousal connections in the Area.

c) The applicant's foreign passport, valid for more than 6 months past the requested period of residence.

d) The applicant's birth certificate. If an original certificate is presented, then it need not be verified. If a public certificate is presented, then it must be verified and translated into English, Arabic, or Hebrew. It is to be attached to the first application only.

e) A full-face headshot of the applicant.

f) A letter of invitation from the recognized educational institution, and confirmation of acceptance to that institution, signed by a representative of the institution and including details of the discipline to be studied, the type of degree, and the expected length of the course of study.

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g) Certified proof of the applicant's means of support, including any scholarships, payment of tuition fees, bank balance, etc.

h) Certification of medical insurance for the period of the requested stay.

i) Academic certification of the applicant's previous degrees, if any.

d) Extending a student permit:

- 1) Applications for permit extensions must be submitted through the Palestinian Authority at least two months before the start of the upcoming academic year.
- 2) The permit extension application must be accompanied by proofs that the applicant studied in the previous year (certification of the previous year's studies, from the institution, and certification of the studies' continuation and scope) and that the applicant has means of support, has paid tuition fees, has a place of residence, and has medical insurance for the period of the requested stay.

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e) Additional stipulations:

- 1) As a rule, during the period of studies it is forbidden to seek employment in the Area. Nonetheless, students for a master's degree or higher are permitted to work part-time in a job that amounts to practicing or teaching in their field of study at the university where they are enrolled.
- 2) A permit under this part of the procedure shall be considered a work permit subject to the conditions stipulated in subclause 1 above.