

Jerusalem 2018-19



Study Abroad Handbook

A useful guide to your
study abroad experience



OVERSEAS STUDY

*The usefulness of this handbook depends on student input.
If you find erroneous information, please contact overseas@iu.edu.
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PROGRAM CONTACTS

Israeli Address:	Rothberg International School The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Boyar Building, Mount Scopus 91905 Jerusalem, ISRAEL
Telephone:	011-972-2-588-2600; (02) 588-2600 (calling within Israel)
Fax:	011-972-2-588-2363; (02) 588-2363 (calling within Israel)
U.S. Address:	Office of Academic Affairs Rothberg International School The Hebrew University of Jerusalem One Battery Park Plaza, 25th Floor New York, NY 10004
U.S. Telephone:	(800) 404-8622 or (212) 607-8520
U.S. Fax:	(212) 809-4183
E-mail:	<i>hebrewu@hebrewu.com</i>
Website:	<i>http://overseas.huji.ac.il</i>

IU HOSTS IN JERUSALEM

Address:	Terry Cohen Hendin 29/10 Rehov Adam Maalot Moriah, East Talpiot, Jerusalem
Home phone:	011-972-2-672-1356; (02) 672-1356 (calling within Israel)
Cell phone:	011-972-50-735-8911; (050) 735-8911 (calling within Israel)
E-mail:	<i>hendinjm@gmail.com</i>

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

For over 45 years Indiana University has sent its students to the Rothberg International School of Hebrew University for IU credit. Indiana University selects, advises and orients you for the experience at Hebrew University and for getting credit for your work abroad. You will also receive extensive pre-departure information from Hebrew University's New York office, and in Israel you will have access to the advising and administrative services provided by the Rothberg International School (RIS).

If you have questions while you are abroad, contact Kyle Hayes (kyghayes@iu.edu). If you are e-mailing with academic questions, always copy your major advisor(s).

Security Issues: Although Indiana University is assisting you to study at Hebrew University, despite the U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories against travel to Israel by U.S. citizens (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/israel-west-bank-and-gaza-travel-advisory.html>), you need to recognize that you are solely responsible for your own safety. By participating in the program, we expect you to exercise your best judgment and to follow the advice of the Office of Overseas Study and the Rothberg School of Hebrew University, although recognizing that in spite of such advice, neither can guarantee your safety.

Should you decide to come home before the end of the program, because of security concerns, there is no guarantee that you will receive credit or a refund of tuition or any other fees paid for study abroad from Hebrew University or IU. We would assist you to the extent possible to return to IU should your safety be compromised.

This booklet is a supplement to the *Getting Started* handbook. While it contains specific program information, *Getting Started* contains information relevant to all students on Indiana University Overseas Study programs. Both booklets should be used now as you prepare to leave and later while you are abroad. Since most student questions are addressed in these handbooks, please consult them before calling the Office of Overseas Study.

This handbook is available on the Web at <http://overseas.iu.edu/docs/Handbooks/Jerusalem.pdf>. The *Getting Started* handbook is also available on the Web at <http://overseas.iu.edu/docs/gettingstarted.html>.

ICONS IN THIS GUIDE



Helpful Program Information

Information to help prepare
you for study abroad



Student Advice

Suggestions from study
abroad returnees

The Program in Jerusalem

Tentative 2018 -19 Calendar*

Arrival date for fall/AY students	August 20
Summer Ulpan (Non-Dance)	July 25 - September 17
Eid Al Adha Vacation	August 22
Summer Ulpan (Dance Students)	August 21 - September 17
Rosh Hashanah.....	September 9 - 11
Yom Kippur	September 18 - 19
Succoth vacation.....	September 20 - October 1
Autumn semester begins.....	October 7
Chanukah vacation	December 9
Autumn semester ends.....	December 23
Modern Hebrew Language Final Exam.....	December 24
Christmas.....	December 25
Final exam week.....	December 26-27
Intersession (winter break).....	December 28 - February 21
Dance Jerusalem ends	TBA
Arrival date for spring students.....	January 23
Winter Ulpan	January 23 - February 18
Spring semester begins	February 24
Purim vacation	March 21 - 22
Passover vacation	April 12 - 29
Memorial and Independence Day vacation.....	May 8 - 9
Spring semester ends (Modern Hebrew only).....	May 30
Modern Hebrew Language final exam	May 31
Final exam week.....	June 2 - 5
Spring semester ends (other tracks)	June 28

**These dates are subject to change. Before making flight arrangements, check the dates online with the Rothberg International School at Hebrew University.*

International Flight

You may make your own travel arrangements or participate in the group flight from New York arranged by Hebrew University. You will receive flight details from Rothberg near the departure date for the program. A chartered bus meets the group flight and takes students to the dormitories.

Visa

Students attending a program for a semester or longer get an A-2 Student Visa, valid for one year. Contact the Israeli Consulate nearest you in order to request a visa application. Apply for your visa immediately upon notification of acceptance.

To find your local Consulate go to www.israelemb.org and click on the link for “find the Consulate nearest you.” Your application will be processed upon receipt of all required items and will take a minimum of three weeks.

Jerusalem

Jerusalem, the Holy City of the three great monotheistic religions, is about 4,000 years old. It has been the heart of Judaism since King David made it the capital of Israel around 1,000 BCE. It has been destroyed and rebuilt many times as rulers and kingdoms have changed throughout its long history. Following the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, Jerusalem was declared its capital city and today houses Israel's main administrative and cultural institutions. Jerusalem's population is about 810,000.

Hebrew University

Hebrew University was opened in 1925 on Mount Scopus, with a spectacular view of the old city on one side and the Judean Desert and the Dead Sea on the other. When Jerusalem was divided in 1948, the Mount Scopus campus remained in Arab territory, so a second Hebrew University campus was built at Givat Ram in west Jerusalem. In 1967, as a result of the reunification of the two sections of Jerusalem, rapid redevelopment of the Mount Scopus campus began. Today most departments are located there in a dramatic series of connected buildings perched atop the hill which constitutes the eastern perimeter of Jerusalem. A direct bus line connects the Givat Ram and Mount Scopus campuses. IU students will study on the Mount Scopus campus and live in the K'far HaStudentim (student village), which is in walking distance of the campus.

Academic Program

Academic Advising

You can search for courses offered at the Rothberg International School (RIS) on-line at <http://overseas.huji.ac.il/undergraduatecourses>. Upon acceptance, your study abroad advisor will e-mail you overseas advising instructions. The advising process will

include meetings with your major advisor(s) and study abroad advisor to confirm your current academic progress, to make tentative plans for the courses you will take abroad, and to determine courses remaining once you return to IU.

The Rothberg School's course offerings may **change at the last minute**, so the courses you discussed with advisors in Bloomington may not be offered when you arrive. You will also have a "**shopping period**" during the first week of classes in which you can visit the classes you plan to take before committing to them. Consult your school or college's Bulletin, your Overseas Study advising plan, and your Advisement Report on One.IU as you select alternate courses. If you deviate away from courses you planned to take on your Overseas advising plan or have questions regarding academics, please consult Overseas Study (overseas@iu.edu). **If you are a Jewish Studies major, minor, Hebrew minor, or certificate student, please also copy Carolyn Lipson-Walker (clipsonw@indiana.edu) and your major advisor(s) on the message. If you are changing Ulpan level or a Hebrew language course, also copy Ayelet Weiss (ayweiss@indiana.edu), Director of the IU Hebrew Program.**

Registration: RIS/Hebrew University registration is not computerized. You'll have an individual meeting with an academic advisor at RIS and your advisor will enroll you after all paperwork is completed.

Course Equivalencies: Final determination of IUB credits and course equivalencies will be completed mostly upon your return. **Bring all course materials back with you.** Many departments need to see course syllabi and other materials (assignments, corrected papers, reading lists, and exams) to assess the appropriate equivalencies at IUB. **To find out whether courses have already been pre-equated, contact Overseas Study at overseas@iu.edu.** The most important thing that you can do is to be in communication about the courses you are taking with both your major advisor at IU and study abroad advisor before, during, and after your time abroad. **When you finalize your courses for the semester, send a list, with full titles, to your major advisor/s, Carolyn Lipson-Walker (if you are a Jewish Studies certificate, minor, or Hebrew minor student), and to overseas@iu.edu. Use the same procedure if you have academic questions or concerns while you are abroad.**

Course Load in Jerusalem

All students will take Ulpan for their first three to six weeks. Depending on your selected term and program track, students will take a different combination of courses during the semester. Regular classes at Hebrew University begin in October and conclude at the end of June. The academic year is divided into two semesters, but most regular Hebrew University courses extend for the full academic year.

Courses in the Rothberg International School are generally one semester long with final examinations in December and late May or early June (see calendar on p. 7 for precise dates). Depending on the selected term and program track, students will devote 16-20 classroom hours per week to studies chosen from five main categories:

- 1) Hebrew language courses
- 2) Special courses in English for overseas students, including courses in Judaic studies, history, sociology, folklore, political science, literature and psychology.
- 3) Courses in Hebrew for overseas students who have completed Hebrew level Dalet;

4) Regular university courses in Hebrew for students with working knowledge of Hebrew or regular university courses taught in English within a variety of disciplines.

5) Courses for specific tracks.

IU students are required to take the minimum amount of courses as follows:

Academic-year students:

- Summer Ulpan
- During Fall (4 courses): 1 Hebrew language course, 1 Jewish or Israeli studies course, and 2 other courses.
- During Spring (4 courses): 1 Hebrew language course, 1 Jewish or Israeli studies course, and 2 other courses

Fall-only students:

- Summer Ulpan
- 4 courses: 1 Hebrew language course, 1 Jewish or Israeli studies course, and 2 other courses.

Spring-only students:

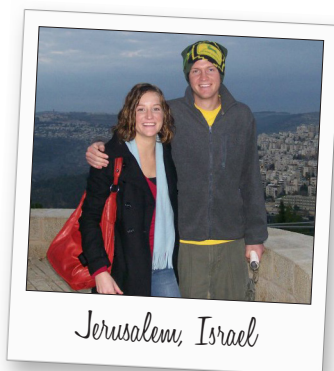
- Winter Ulpan
- 3-4 courses: 1 Hebrew language course, 1 Jewish or Israeli studies course, and 1-2 other courses.

Dance Jerusalem:

- Summer Ulpan and Israeli Choreographers Repertoire Workshop (academic year or fall-only students)
- Winter Ulpan and Israeli Choreographers Repertoire Workshop (spring-only students)
- Dance courses from a variety of modern and contemporary course offerings
- 2 RIS Courses per semester (including one Jewish or Israeli studies course per semester)

Art Jerusalem:

- Summer / Winter Uplan
- Art Courses
- 1-3 RIS Courses depending on level in Art Program



Please note that IU is not bound by the amount of credits recommended by HU for your classes. Further, Overseas Study has a limited number of credits they can award students abroad. IU generally awards the number of credits carried by the equivalent IU course in Bloomington (unless the HU course meets for considerably fewer contact hours than its IU equivalent). **If you plan on taking more courses than outlined above, you must clear it first through the Office of Overseas Study.**

Ulpan (2 sessions)

Unless you have an exceptional knowledge of Hebrew, you will be required to participate in the Ulpan, a Hebrew language course that is taught before each semester begins. The Ulpan is intensive. Teachers conduct even beginning classes entirely in Hebrew, with lots of gestures and body language. It may take a while for your ear to become attuned to conversational Hebrew and to build up the number of vocabulary words needed to have conversations in Jerusalem.

Ulpan Placement: Hebrew proficiency for Ulpan placement is based on the language exam administered by RIS as part of the admission process. Students who have taken the same level of Hebrew courses at IU may be placed in different Ulpan levels in Jerusalem. Note: Once an Ulpan has begun, it is sometimes possible for students to request a change of level if the placement does not seem appropriate.

Ulpan Credit: Students on the academic year and fall programs receive 6 IU credits for the seven-week summer Ulpan; students on the spring program receive 3 credits for the four-week winter Ulpan. Dance students will earn 3-5 credits for the shorter summer Ulpan. **All IU students must take the Ulpan for a letter grade. It may not be taken on a pass/fail basis in either summer or winter.**

Hebrew Language Course

IU requires you to take a Hebrew language course each semester, except for dance students. This may differ from rules at RIS or for students studying in Jerusalem from other U.S. institutions. Your placement for the semester will depend on your Hebrew proficiency at the end of the Ulpan. Students who finish Ulpan above the Dalet level or above may opt to take content courses, in Hebrew, during the semester, to fulfill the language requirement.

Hebrew Credit: Regular semester-long Hebrew language courses are normally equivalent to 3-4 IUB credits per semester. Intensive semester-long Hebrew language courses may earn students more credit.

IUB Credit for Ulpan and Semester's Hebrew Language Course

Students participating in an Ulpan and the required semester language course will typically receive credit for one semester of Hebrew (H100, H150, H200, H250, etc.) and elective foreign study credit for Ulpan (H196, H296, H396, or H496) or vice versa. Most students do not advance quickly enough during Ulpan and one semester to receive two semesters of Hebrew credit at IUB. If you are placed at a lower language level than expected, you will receive the elective credit as described above.

Students studying at RIS/Hebrew University for an academic year typically receive credit for two semesters of Hebrew at IUB, although that is not guaranteed. **If you take Hebrew courses and complete them with a minimum grade of C+, then you might earn some automatic Hebrew credit under the following circumstances:**

To receive automatic Hebrew credit, students **MUST** take and successfully pass the level exam for their respective level. The level exam is only offered at the end of the semester, upon the successful completion of that level. The level exam is different



**Helpful
Program
Information**



Both Jewish Studies Certificate and Major Students must be advised by the Jewish Studies advisor prior to departure from Bloomington.

than the final of the course. It is necessary to specifically register for the level exam at the beginning of the course in order to take this exam at the end of the semester. Only courses which complete the level will offer the level exam. For example, a student who places into level Gimel should take the "Gimel-upper Intermediate Part II" course and pass the level Gimel exam, in order to automatically receive the 300-level credit at IUB.

Students who choose not to take these courses which offer the level exam for their level, or do not pass the level exam, will be required to take a Hebrew Proficiency Exam at IUB in order to receive distributed Hebrew credits. For additional details about the exam please see www.indiana.edu/~jsp/undergraduates/hebrewProficiencyExam.shtml.

In all other cases, in order to earn Hebrew language credit, you must upon returning to IUB, apply for such credit by submitting your course materials to the Hebrew Language Program Director at IUB. This includes the official syllabus and course description for each of the courses taken at HU, your official transcript, the notes, assignments and exams completed in each course, and any books and handouts that you used. If you are unable to submit all of these materials, you should submit as much of them as you can; however, as your credit distribution would be determined by the actual materials submitted, you are encouraged to supplement the lacking materials by taking the Hebrew proficiency exam, which is offered every semester at IUB. The Hebrew Program will determine the final Hebrew credit distribution for you. For additional details on how to apply for credit please see www.indiana.edu/~jsp/hebrew/index.shtml#credit.

Any Hebrew language courses (Ulpan or Hebrew Semester Course) which are not awarded JSTU Hebrew credit will be awarded elective credit in JSTU (i.e. JSTU-H 196, 296, 396, 496: Foreign Study Hebrew) based on the level of courses taken at HU. These courses are counted toward graduation hours, but **NOT** toward a Jewish Studies major, certificate or Hebrew minor. Nor do they fulfill the foreign language requirement at IUB.

It is highly recommended that students meet with the Hebrew Program Director (ayweiss@indiana.edu) to discuss their planned course of action for their Hebrew language studies at Hebrew University in order to guarantee that they maximize the possible Hebrew credit they could earn while in Jerusalem.

NOTES:

- 1) Extensive coursework in Hebrew does not automatically satisfy requirements for an IU major in Hebrew. If you wish to declare a **Hebrew major**, discuss your course of study with the advisor in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures prior to going to Israel to determine which courses will satisfy major requirements. The Hebrew language classes of the program do not count towards the five advanced courses required for the Hebrew major. If you are majoring in Hebrew, you should count on taking an advanced course in Hebrew upon your return to IU.
- 2) For requirements and other information about the Hebrew minor, please consult www.indiana.edu/~jsp.

Pass/Fail

Pass/Fail is **NOT** an option for Indiana University students at Hebrew University. All courses (including Ulpan) must be taken for a letter grade.

Auditing

Hebrew University generally allows students to audit classes, but does not grant credit for auditing. A student may only audit a course that is in addition to minimum required courses.

Jewish Studies Requirement

Each participant is required by Hebrew University to take at least one course each semester in Jewish or Israeli studies. A wide range of courses is offered including biblical studies, history, archaeology, folklore, literature, religious thought, political science, and art. If you wish to have HU credits count toward a Jewish Studies major certificate, minor, or Hebrew minor, meet with the IU Jewish Studies advisor (812-855-0453) and sign up for either the major certificate, minor, or Hebrew minor in Jewish Studies prior to departing the Bloomington campus. If you have questions regarding the major or certificate, minor, or Hebrew minor, while in Jerusalem, you may contact the advisor at clipsonw@indiana.edu.

Jewish Studies Major

Jewish Studies majors should remember that required courses JSTU- J 251 and, JSTU-J 252 cannot be taken at HU, but must be completed on the IUB campus. For the B.A. in Jewish Studies, a minimum of 10 credit hours of coursework in Jewish Studies must be taken on the Bloomington campus. Credit received for JSTU-H 196, H 296, H 396, and H 496 during study at HUJ cannot be used toward a major certificate or minor. It is elective credit. Jewish studies majors are encouraged to take at least one course with a Jewish Studies faculty member during their senior year.

Jewish Studies Certificate

Credit received for JSTU H196, H296, H396, and H496 during study at HU cannot be used toward the certificate. It is elective credit.

88-100	A	68-71	C
85-87	A-	65-67	C-
82-84	B+	60-64	D+
78-81	B	55-59	D
75-77	B-	50-54	D-
72-74.....	C+	00-49	F

Grades

The scale for converting Hebrew University grades to IU grades is:

Internship Options

Academic Internship

The Rothberg International School offers the option of a 1-credit internship. Please contact the Rothberg office in Jerusalem if you have questions about this option.

Libraries

The Judah L. Berger Memorial Library & Mekler-Benenson Families Reference Library is located in the Boyar Building where at least one textbook and recommended readings for all courses are kept on reserve. The library serves the academic units of the RIS and contains publications in various languages, including English, French, Spanish, Russian and Hebrew, reflecting the diverse student body at the School. The library's main fields of interest are Jewish Studies, Israel Studies, and the Middle East, although many other subjects in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences are also represented.

The library includes a lending library service open only to students enrolled at the School, a computerized catalog linked to the Aleph network, enabling students to search additional university catalogs as well, and a reading room with reserve book service. Access to other databases and to the Internet is also available. The RIS library has 30 public ports for connecting laptops, and wireless internet is also available. The Berger Memorial Library on Mount Scopus serves the academic units of the Rothberg International School and contains publications in various languages.

The Jewish National and University Library on the Givat Ram campus (45 minutes by bus from Mount Scopus) has reading rooms for general studies, Judaic studies, Afro-Asian studies, fine arts, and music, and a reading room for microfilms. It has some resources in English and is a good place to study, but the English language books must be used at the library and cannot be checked out. Students must first request the texts and may not obtain them for several hours.

English libraries at the Hillel House, U.S. Cultural Center, and the British Council at Terra Sancta are excellent sources for books on international relations and American and British literature.

Unlike the IU Library, which is open until late at night and has open stacks, the libraries in Jerusalem are open for limited hours and many have closed stacks. They are closed on Friday, Saturday and weekday evenings.

Transcript

Before you depart, you must instruct Hebrew University to send your final transcript to the Office of Overseas Study, 111 South Jordan Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47405. Your grades may be delayed if you do not submit this address to the appropriate office at the Rothberg School.

Each student who takes Hebrew courses at the Rothberg School **should** receive a formal Final Hebrew Level letter. This letter must be attached to your transcript and sent directly to the Office of Overseas Study, in order for you to receive automatic Hebrew credits at IUB. **Please make sure to request that RIS send this letter on your behalf along with your official transcript; without this formal final-Hebrew-level confirmation from HUJ, your Hebrew credit transfer could significantly be delayed.**

E-mail

All Rothberg International School students who have paid their tuition and submitted a class schedule are eligible to receive a free e-mail account. There is also free wireless Internet access across campus. Internet is provided with tuition in the dormitories. Detailed information will be given to you in Israel.

Life in Jerusalem

IU Hosts in Jerusalem

IU has arranged for someone familiar with both Bloomington and Jerusalem to serve as a special friend and contact for IU students in Jerusalem in order to introduce you to people and places you might not otherwise find in Israel. Since 1999, Terry and Ron Hendin, both graduates of IU, have served in that capacity and are delighted to welcome you to Jerusalem and invite you to social events at their home in East Talpiot.

The Rothberg School will handle emergency situations and health concerns. Overseas Study, in conjunction with Jewish Studies, will provide academic advising. But feel free to contact the Hendins with any questions or other concerns you might have during your stay in Jerusalem. They have experience working with American students abroad and are a good resource for you since they also know Bloomington and your IU experience.

Housing

On-campus Housing:

Most IU students choose to live in the new HU Student Village apartments about 15 minutes walking distance from campus in the French Hill neighborhood. The apartments include 5 individual rooms with shared living space including one shower, two toilets, living room, and kitchen. The unfurnished kitchen has a refrigerator, stove (no oven), and sink. The Student Village is also walking distance to the sports complex (see Student Activities section). Internet access is provided as part of the housing fee. A small convenience store is available for items you may need, instead of taking a bus into the city center. The Student Village is equipped with central heating, air conditioning, hot water, and a laundry facility. *Madrachim* (the equivalent to RAs) live in the Student Village or nearby and serve as a support resource for students during their time at HUJ.

Facilities in the Student Village consist of dormitories with double rooms or apartments shared by six individuals (any mix of Americans, Israelis or others). There are common restroom and shower facilities at the end of the hallway and a common living area for everyone on that floor. Students who observe kashruth and are shomrei Shabbat can request to live with other observant students

Each dorm has laundry sinks and clothes lines in the basement. On campus and in town you will find both self-service laundromats and full-service laundromats where you can have your clothes washed, dried and folded.

Bedding and towels are not provided, but you can easily purchase towels, sheets, pillow cases, pillows and blankets—new or used—in Israel. Be sure to have a warm comforter/quilt for the winter—Mount Scopus is the coldest part of Jerusalem. Departing students are usually more than willing to sell their things to incoming students.

Off-campus Housing:

Renting off-campus housing is also an option. Monthly rent for an individual sharing an apartment will generally cost US\$200-\$400, depending upon the size, location, and amenities of the room/apartment, as well as the number of roommates. When renting an apartment, students must take into account additional expenses: electricity, water, gas, municipal taxes (*arnona*), and the monthly building maintenance fee (*va'ad bayit*).

Students who do not apply for campus housing by the deadline determined by Rothberg International School may have no other option than to find an apartment off-campus. RIS provides a helpful list to students who find themselves in that situation.

Meals

Students who observe the laws of kashruth and are shomrei Shabbat can request to live with other observant students.

Most students purchase groceries and prepare their own meals. There are good grocery stores within walking distance of the Mount Scopus campus, and large supermarkets at several locations in the city. Apartments have well-equipped communal kitchens with limited individual cabinet space and gas burners. There are refrigerators in each apartment. Kitchens do not have ovens, but you can buy inexpensive "wonder pots" in market places to use for baking on stove burners, a microwave oven, or a toaster oven. Student diets include lots of fresh produce, eggs, bread, cheese, and yogurt.

University cafeterias, normally open from breakfast until 5:00 p.m., are subsidized and very reasonably priced and the food is good. You will pay cash for each meal, since there is no pre-paid dormitory meal plan. There is also a café in the Rothberg building.

Although students tend to eat at hours more conducive to their class schedule, it is helpful to know what the local meal customs are. Many Israelis eat a big breakfast early in the morning, usually cheese, eggs, and fresh vegetables. Mid-morning coffee breaks are the rule in all offices and among students at the university. Lunch is the main meal of the day and usually includes soup, meat, fish or chicken, cooked vegetables, bread and fruit. Coffee or tea is served again at 4:00 p.m., usually with cake or biscuits, and dinner is taken at 7:00 p.m. and is usually light and very similar to breakfast. Jewish dietary laws are observed in many restaurants in Jerusalem, except in the non-Jewish parts of the Old City.

Tourist-class restaurants and hotels are expensive but sometimes worth it. Students will find that they don't eat quite like the Israelis because of their student schedule which requires quicker meals than the usual leisurely Israeli ones.



STUDENT ADVICE

The dorm experience is convenient and a great social opportunity with both American and Israeli students. However, many year students opt to move out into apartments in various areas of Jerusalem, which provides a more "real-life" Israel living experience.

Health Insurance

Your semester tuition to Hebrew University includes comprehensive medical insurance through University Medical Services (UMS) policy of Harel Insurance Company Ltd. You do not have to pay for insurance separately during summer and winter Ulpan.

Medical Care

Medical facilities are available in Jerusalem and Israel. There are provisions for both emergency treatment and longer-term care. The health insurance company provides a list of compatible doctors and pharmacies. If you are unsure what doctors or facilities are approved, call the health insurance company to get a list of nearby locations that students can use.

Student Activities

There are extensive support activities for students. Tuition includes an activities package with daily and overnight trips around Jerusalem and Israel. Overseas students have a membership to the sports complex which includes tennis and basketball courts, football fields, a running track, a weight-lifting room and cardio machines. Students who choose this option also have access to a half-Olympic sized swimming pool. The Rothberg International School solicits participants for volunteer programs that provide excellent opportunities for students to meet Israelis and practice their spoken Hebrew.

Students can participate on university-sponsored trips using a points system. Some trips require more points than others. After all points are used, the student is responsible for the cost of the trip. However, the points provided as part of the program fee cover a wide range of options. Overseas Study encourages students to take advantage of these opportunities as they are cost-effective and safe.

Be sure to join the Student Union (small membership fee), which is concerned with the social and cultural life of the student and facilitates participation in activities on and around the campus. Needless to say, Jerusalem is replete with interesting nooks and crannies, from Old Jerusalem's fascinating quarters to spectacular museums and holy sites.

Recreation in Jerusalem is also abundant. American movies are plentiful. Israeli movies are a must for testing your Hebrew, and good entertainment besides, acquainting you with lifestyles, humor, etc.

Students often stroll around in the Ben Yehuda district, which has a wide variety of interesting eating establishments and shops. Emek Refaim, the German colony, is also a great place to hang out. Hillel House and student clubs on campus often show movies at reduced prices. Hebrew theater is good and widely available in Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem. The best listing of leisure activities is the entertainment section of the English language daily, *The Jerusalem Post* (www.jpost.com), or in the Hebrew papers. The numerous bulletin boards around the city and university advertise films and cultural events.

Tickets can be purchased at the university at discounted prices, and at ticket agencies in town at a slightly higher price than at the box office. Israel is the home of the Batsheva Dance Company, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Habimah Theater, and other world-renowned groups. There are usually a handful of rock concerts which are reasonably priced and fun. Israeli rock music is very popular, so you should go to a few of those concerts as well. The university also hosts events for several holidays.

Getting Around Israel

Transportation within Israel is relatively cheap, especially with monthly or weekly bus passes or with special discounts to holders of International Student IDs or Hebrew University identification. The Hebrew University student activities fee includes trips within the country, such as a weekend at the Sea of Galilee. These trips are fun and a good way to begin traveling around Israel and meet other students.

Since Israel is a fairly small country, you are able to reach dramatically different terrain in a relatively short period of time—from the desert near Beersheva to the hilltop city of Haifa. And there are an infinite number of archaeological sites you should plan on visiting across the entire country.

Be sure to follow Hebrew University recommendations regarding safety concerns while traveling within Jerusalem and elsewhere in Israel.

Light Rail

A new service called "*harakevet hakalah*" runs throughout Jerusalem. The light rail will take you from Hebrew University to many locations throughout Jerusalem. There are stops at the Old City, Ben Yehudah Street, the Shuk and the Central Bus Station. The Light Rail costs the same as taking a bus, but routes can be more direct. The rail also has security guards.

Buses

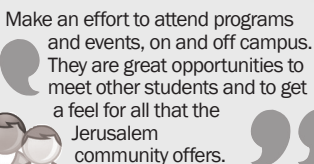
Bus transportation within the cities is excellent and connections between major points are frequent. At the central bus station there is an information center with an English speaker always on duty to answer your questions about routes, prices and connections. Students have reported that the bus (vs. the train) is the preferred method of travel from Jerusalem to places like the Dead Sea or Eilat, but is not available for travel to all places.

RavKav

"RavKav" is a reloadable bus and LightRail travel pass. If you go to the central bus station with a stamped letter from Hebrew U, you can get a student RavKav for discounted rides. The RavKav also provides free transfers between LightRail and buses for 1.5 hours.

Taxis

Given the security concerns with buses, it is recommended that you use taxis. There are two types of taxis. Sherut are shared cabs available for long-distance or intra-city travel by a group going to the same destination. Taxis as we know them are called specials and are strictly for private hire. Because of safety concerns, some former program participants recommend students only take the taxis with yellow license plates.



Make an effort to attend programs and events, on and off campus. They are great opportunities to meet other students and to get a feel for all that the Jerusalem community offers.

STUDENT ADVICE

If you take a "special" be sure your fee is being computed by a running meter, or else negotiate a fee for your destination with the driver before getting in. You shouldn't pay more than 40 shekels for a cab to downtown, which you will have to bargain for. It is not customary to tip. Students who don't speak Hebrew have found themselves deceived very easily by taxi drivers.

Trains

Students can purchase monthly/annual tickets through the train or bus services in either Jerusalem or Tel-Aviv. These are good for both the buses and the train that can also be used on buses in Tel-Aviv. It is possible to take the train to Tel Aviv, but some students have reported that the bus is much easier. Some students will take a bus from Jerusalem to the train station in Tel Aviv, and from there travel to places north such as Zichron Yaakov or further.

Hitchhiking

Hitchhiking in Israel is **NOT** safe.

Travel outside Israel

If you hope to travel outside of Israel you are strongly encouraged to consult the Hebrew University staff for advice and safety related information.

The Ben Yehudah area of Jerusalem is filled with English-speaking travel agents who can assist you in your travels outside Israel whether you want to book an organized tour (recommended especially for females traveling alone or in small groups to Arab countries) or plan an individual getaway to Europe. For safety's sake, check the news before traveling and be aware of world events.

Telephones

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Students are strongly encouraged to have an active cell phone throughout the duration of the program. RIS students are given the option of renting a free phone, though other options may prove more affordable depending on usage. Most students select one of the three packages.

- Free phone which can receive RIS calls and text messages at no cost. Outgoing calls cost \$5/day*.
- SIM card and unlimited communications package (calls, text messages and internet) for \$30/month*. Student must provide an unlocked smartphone.
- Cell phone and unlimited communications package (calls, text messages and internet) for \$42/month*.

*Prices may vary as Hebrew University must renegotiate these packages every year.

Employment

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Students who need to supplement their income in Israel may find employment at minimum wages although this is **NOT** recommended. It is also extremely difficult to obtain work visas, particularly for non-Jewish students.

Shopping

Israeli business hours will vary. The hours of 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. are typical for small privately owned stores or stores in small towns. It is wise to start your day early while it is still cool. Shopkeepers rest during hot afternoons, and so should you. However, many stores, especially in a mall, are open straight through the afternoon and into the evening. Be prepared for stores to close approximately 20 minutes to a half hour before sundown on Fridays and not reopen until late Saturday night or Sunday to honor the Jewish Sabbath.

Security

Israel is always ready militarily. You will see soldiers in uniform, and purses and bags are routinely checked at the entrances of public buildings and gateways to large gatherings. Airport security has been routinely considered the tightest in the world.

Be prepared to answer many detailed questions, including some about your personal life and why you will be in Israel for a long period of time. Never leave your luggage out of your sight, since one of the main concerns of security personnel will be that your luggage may have been tampered with. Never agree to take to (or from) Israel, as a favor, a package, suitcase or envelope for a stranger, friend or relative.

Hebrew University will brief you on security issues during orientation and will administer guidelines regarding safety precautions.

If the State Department issues an announcement regarding safety in Israel or makes a change to the current Travel Warning during your time abroad, the Office of Overseas Study will bring it to your attention. Due to the ongoing threat of terrorist activities throughout Israel, it is critical that you maintain a heightened state of awareness at all times as you move about. It is essential for you to follow Hebrew University's security precautions at all times.

The university will also routinely communicate with students if acts of violence occur or are an imminent threat. Therefore, it is imperative to read communications from the Office of Overseas Study and Rothberg concerning safety and security.

Religion

The Jewish Sabbath begins at sundown on Friday and ends at sundown on Saturday. About 1/2 hour before sundown the city will shut down and there is no public transportation. Private cabs are the only transportation available in Jerusalem and often charge a higher Sabbath rate, at least double the normal rate. If you need a cab, you will have to call to get one. Most stores, restaurants and public facilities close, but many night spots and movie theaters stay open. If you plan to go to the beach for the Sabbath, visit the grocery store on Friday and stock up on non-perishables that you can take in your knapsack.

All Jewish holidays begin and end at sundown. Familiarize yourself with the cycle of the Jewish calendar and holiday observance, as the whole country observes the Jewish holidays culturally if not religiously. All stores close in mid-afternoon before holidays, so a Jewish calendar is essential to know when holiday closings are coming.

Churches of all Christian denominations have religious services. Non-Jewish students are encouraged to connect with their respective places of worship or to inquire more about the Jewish faith. Many groups on campus will host Shabbat dinners and students are strongly encouraged to attend.

Packing

Travel light. A small, coordinated wardrobe of items that can be mixed for variety and layered to respond to changes in weather is more practical than a large one. Israelis don't have vast wardrobes, and most people dress casually, so you can dress much as you do in the U.S. On the other hand, laundry facilities are not as easily accessible as in the United States and your wardrobe needs to be large enough to stretch until the next wash day.

Israeli men rarely wear jackets or ties. A white shirt or dress shirt is adequate for most occasions. Women need a couple of modest outfits with long sleeves, a long skirt and a long jacket for visiting churches, shrines, synagogues and Shabbat dinners. In general, Israelis are far less formal than Americans, both in how they dress and in how they conduct themselves.

Temperatures in Jerusalem climb as high as the 90s or 100s in the summer but drop to the 30s in mid-winter. Thirty degrees outdoors doesn't seem cold to a Midwesterner, but you will find that few Israeli homes have central heating, and many public buildings are not heated at all. Indoor temperatures will therefore be much lower than you are used to, and you will welcome tights, long underwear and warm socks and pajamas.

Pack the following:

- Jeans (expensive in Israel)
- Wool sweaters
- Warm winter coat, boots, gloves, hat, scarf
- Cooler clothes for spring
- Sturdy rain coat, umbrella, rain boots
- Warm pajamas, tights, socks, and long underwear
- MP3 player/iPod
- Travel alarm clock, flashlight
- Swimming suit, sun glasses
- Sewing kit
- Backpack, canteen
- Hiking boots, compact sleeping bag or hostel sheet
- 4 passport-size photos for Hebrew University
- Bible (Hebrew-English)
- Let's Go: Israel* or other good guidebook
- Hebrew-English dictionary*
- 201 Hebrew Verbs*
- Paperback novels in English to trade with others

- Typewritten copy of any prescriptions (using generic terms, not brand names). Bring enough prescriptions to last through your time abroad.
- Contact lens and glasses prescriptions, extra pair of glasses, contact solution
- Overseas advising plan (keep in your e-mail)

Toiletries and feminine hygiene products are widely available in Israel. As the water is different there, you should buy these items abroad. Make-up is also available in many places, but may be more expensive than in the U.S. Sheets, towels, blankets and pillows are sold at the supermarket by the Student Village as well as the home store students visit on the first day in Israel.

Electrical current in Israel is 220 volts at 50 Hertz. Buy a converter for electronics brought from home. If you use a hairdryer, leave yours at home and buy one in Israel. If your computer or other electronics have a three-pronged plug instead of two-pronged, make sure you have adapters to accommodate.

**Students are encouraged to take the dictionary and verb charts, which are in use at IUB, especially if they have taken Hebrew courses at IUB or will be doing so upon their return from Jerusalem. If you have taken Hebrew levels 100-250 using the books Hebrew from Scratch, Hebrew University uses the same books.*

Computers:

It can be convenient to have a laptop computer, particularly in the final weeks of the semester when many students are trying to use the limited number of computers at the Rothberg School. You may be required to pay taxes when bringing the computer into Israel as a guarantee that you will not sell it in the country. The customs officials may require you to register your laptop as a "luxury item," and you may have to pay duty on it if you do not take it out of Israel with you.