



Australian Friends of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem Limited

STUDYING IN ISRAEL HANDY HINTS

INTRODUCTION

Soon you will be leaving to start your studies at the Hebrew University. Your experience there will definitely be a new and exciting one. Here are a few tips and other useful bits of information for you before you leave and whilst you are there. Just remember that for any problems or concerns, or just to keep in touch, e-mail any one of the Australian Friends' offices!

It is essential that you read the Rothberg International School's *Pre-Departure Information*. To access this, please [click here](#).

Provided below is a list of things you may like to ensure or consider are under control before you take off to your studies in Jerusalem. Read through carefully.

☆ VISAS ☆

You can only obtain a student visa if you will be studying in Israel for a semester or year. If you are only attending the Hebrew University for a semester, or a short course, you will have to go into Israel on a tourist visa, which is issued when you enter the country. This is only valid for 3 months. To renew it, you have to go to the Ministry of Interior. Set aside at least a day for this as Israeli bureaucracy takes forever!

Any students who were born in Israel or who have an Israeli parent are considered Israeli and should contact the Israeli Consulate regarding status and army exemptions. You should make arrangements regarding these matters before leaving Australia to avoid difficulties upon arrival.

For more information contact the Israeli Embassy in Canberra on
+61 (0)2 6215 4500

If you have any concerns, it is prudent to speak with someone at the embassy:
consular@canberra.mfa.gov.il

!! WELCOME TO ISRAEL!!

REGISTRATION

Once you arrive in Israel, you will make your way to the University yourself. The easiest way to get to the University is by *Sherut*, which is an oversized taxi that seats seven people. The Sherut will drop you at the University. Another option is to take a bus from the airport to the central bus station in Jerusalem, and another bus from there to the University. This option is cheaper, but longer.

If you are arriving before the registration dates, you will need to make arrangements at a hotel/hostel or with family/friends.

Students undertaking Freshman Autumn Semester will register for both Ulpan and Semester together. The office is only open between 9am and 2pm. If you are unable to make it to registration during those times need to notify the Finance office in advance by e-mail: lindal@savion.huji.ac.il.

Registration takes place at the Rothberg International School in the Boyar Building on Mount Scopus. Make sure to bring with you, the letter of acceptance and your passport.

Registration involves filling in a lot of forms, paying the balance of your fees, receiving a student card, and possibly getting frustrated. Don't lose your cool; it doesn't help! It shouldn't take too long and then you'll have a room and you can begin settling in.

\$ PAYMENT \$

The easiest way to pay the balance of your fees is either using a **bank draft** made out to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem or **by credit card (VISA or MASTERCARD ONLY)** upon registration. There is also the option of paying by travellers cheques, however, if doing so bear in mind that change may be provided in \$US. There may be an option of paying directly into the Hebrew University's account. If you are interested, then please ask us about this.

It is also worth having a look on the Hebrew University Website → <http://overseas.huji.ac.il>, and clicking apply now, other countries, ulpan/semester programs, then click on financial aid and payment information.

NOTE: You should all confirm for yourselves that your preferred method of payment is accepted prior to registration!

E-MAIL

Once you have received a student card upon registration, you will have access to the many computer labs at the RIS and around campus. Take a look at the name of the lab you are in as there are a few that have donated by Australian scattered around campus. Electronic mail facilities are available in the Boyar Building and you will have a plug in station for internet in your hotel room if you choose.

✠ RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES ✠

Religious activities at the Hebrew University are coordinated by the Office of Judaic Affairs, which is located at the Hecht Synagogue on Mount Scopus. A wide variety of religious services are available to meet the needs of all students. You can go to the Hecht Synagogue or the Office of Student Activities to find out more about the options available. There is also a Beit Midrash study program in which any student can participate.

OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Office of Student Activities (OSA) serves as the focal point for extracurricular activities at the Rothberg International School. The OSA organises activities such as hikes, study tours, workshops, volunteer projects, seminars, parties, and social events. The OSA Office is located in the Boyar Building. You can stop by any time to find out what sort of activities are on offer. Each week, the OSA puts out a bulletin called *HaShavua* (*This Week*), which contains up-to-date information about social and cultural events on campus and in town.

The OSA runs heaps of interesting and enjoyable tiyulum (trips) throughout the year, as well as Shabbat dinners and lunches. Other trips include to the Negev desert, in and around Jerusalem, Shabbat in Tsfat, a hiking trip to the Golan, Masada and the Judean Desert. You can even get membership to the gym on campus and or discounted tickets to the Israel Museum through the OSA. Another amazing opportunity is the Yam l'Yam Hike (Sea to Sea Hike) which is worth 8 points and is usually held over the Pesach break.

Activities change from year to year so it is best to plan which you will partake in once you arrive.

STUDENT CONDUCT

You are expected to abide by the laws of the State of Israel and by the regulations of the Hebrew University while on campus, in University owned dorms, or on University organised trips.

Israeli law prohibits the importation, possession, trafficking, or use of any type of illegal drug or narcotics. Infraction of this law will result in immediate expulsion from the University and possible detainment by Israeli authorities.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE: Students charged with breaking University regulation, such as frequent absences from classes, cheating on examinations, damaging University property etc, will be brought before the disciplinary committee which has the authority to expel or suspend any student.

Students accepted to any program at the University agree to meet all course requirements including full participation in courses and excursions, and the completion of all requirements for each course. Those who do not fulfil these requirements may face the disciplinary committee and be considered to have withdrawn from the program.

SECURITY

We strongly recommend that students do not walk or jog alone on the outskirts of the University campus at night and that students do not tour the Old City alone. Also be aware that it is very dangerous to hitch-hike in Israel. Use common sense and a bit of caution with regard to sighting and reporting of suspicious objects, people, etc. Don't forget that you should never leave your bag anywhere as it may be considered a suspicious object and destroyed by security.

Obviously, with the current situation, personal safety is a more central issue than it has been in past years. In general, it is strongly advised that you not travel to the West Bank and Gaza. Most restaurants and cafes retain security personnel on staff but constant vigilance is essential. We strongly advise against travel to the Arab quarter of the Old City or travel to East Jerusalem. You may find it better to share cabs into town than to take a bus (it ends up the same cost if you share with friends). Listen to the news and your madrichim for any up-to-date travel advice.

Within the University, it is strongly recommended that you lock your windows and doors when you leave your room, even if only for a short period of time. It may be safer to leave your passport and valuables with family or in a safety deposit box. It is also recommended that you do not carry large sums of cash.

EXPENSES

It is difficult to estimate how much money is needed. The Hebrew University estimates that you will need US\$400 - US\$500 a month for general living expenses.

SHOPPING

Most shops in Jerusalem close early on Friday and are not open on Saturday because of Shabbat. The best fruit and vegetables are found at Machane Yehuda, the market (shuk) in downtown Jerusalem. It is located on Jaffa Road and you can get there by taking the 9/4/4a/23 bus from the campus to King David Street. From there walk up Jaffa Street, away from Ben Yehuda, toward the Central Bus Station. Or walk up Agrippas Street which is parallel to Jaffa, on the left, if you stand with your back to Ben Yehuda and the old city. (Right near Melach ha'Felafel). Good buys at the shuk include household articles such as pots, pans, crockery, cutlery, and staples like rice, pasta and flour. The shuk is an experience in itself and is definitely the most cost effective, enjoyable, way of shopping. If you have a chance to visit on Friday morning it is an experience worth its while.

Any items that can't be found at the shuk can be bought at a supermarket. There is one on the campus, and a larger one around the corner, in French Hill. (French Hill is a suburb that borders Mount Scopus. To get there walk away from the university toward the Idelson Dorms and the Hyatt. Follow this street upwards and then turn left at the round-about/circle, you will arrive at the French Hill shops. Here there is a bank (bank Ha'Polaim), a newsagent, a laundromat, a café and a hair salon. There is also a supermarket. If you keep walking you will notice that on the other side of the street there is a pizza take out. (This is HAGANA St.). There is a great look out point over the Judean Desert behind these shops.

MONEY AND BANKING

Jerusalem is overflowing with banks, most of which will cash foreign currency and travellers cheques. However, the easiest way to handle your money is by having a VISA card. VISA is the most widely accepted credit card in Israel, and you can withdraw money from almost any ATM if you have a PIN number. You can also use your VISA card for purchases.

It is also useful to have some traveller's cheques and American cash, especially if you are planning to travel to Egypt or Jordan where ATM's are not as common. You can cash traveller's cheques at banks and also at a few change points in and near Kikar Zion.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Students at the Hebrew University's Rothberg International School are strongly advised to take out comprehensive travel insurance.

Students at the Hebrew University's Rothberg International School who are under the age of 28 and who have no chronic diseases or conditions are covered by the Hadassah - Hebrew University Student Health Services for the period enrolled. There are Health Centres on campus at which you are entitled to health care.

It is strongly urged that you take out travel insurance from Australia as this health insurance does not cover any hospital bills. It is also useful to have travel insurance in case you leave Israel. This entails that you are covered for everything from lost baggage to flight delays, etc. Having this type of insurance also entitles you to better access to health care than the health insurance the university provides.

Should you require medical attention, the foremost place in Jerusalem is the Wolfson Centre. It is run by American and English-speaking doctors and provides excellent medical care, including GPs, Dental, etc. They are located in Kiryat Wolfson which is near the Knesset and the neighbourhood of Rehavia. You can usually get an appointment straight away and the cost of the service is usually 200 shekels. Make sure to keep all receipts, send them home and then you will get the money back from your travel insurance.

THINGS TO DO IN JERUSALEM

Jerusalem is a city buzzing with activity and around every corner you will certainly find something new and exciting to occupy your mind and your time.

JERUSALEM NEIGHBOURHOODS

Perhaps one of the most fascinating things about Jerusalem is its colourful and diverse neighbourhoods. Each street tells its own tale. Here is a run-down of neighbourhoods you may wish to visit.

Down Town Jerusalem – The busy, commercial heart of this mid-sized city. The most famous thoroughfare is *Midrahov Ben-Yehuda* where you can get quality frozen yoghurt, discount Hebrew books, tacky souvenirs and army memorabilia.

Emek Refa'im – Trendy, middle-class neighbourhood south of the city. Nice boutique shops and café's. Perhaps a better place to shop, Emek Refaim boasts amazing restaurants and cafes and has a range of contemporary Israeli art and craft. Definitely worth a stroll down.

Rehavia – Upmarket neighbourhood immediately south of the downtown district. Great for pleasant strolls and watching the café latté set chat over philosophy, politics and life.

Yemin Moshe – The first Jewish colony outside the Old City, established in the 1880's. Easily noticeable by its trademark windmill which was earmarked to generate energy for the new colony. Unfortunately, the dream failed and the charming suburb is now a very artistic (and expensive) one. A wonderful place to walk around on Saturday.

Me'a Shearim – This *Haredi* (ultra-orthodox) neighbourhood provides an interesting insight into Jewish culture as it was 200 years ago. Preserving their trademark black garb and side locks, watch as many *yeshiva* (seminary) students go about tackling Jewish religious and legal issues. This is a great spot for Judaica shopping. **Note: Women should wear a loose, long skirt and cover their shoulders, Men should cover their heads to avoid offending the residents.**

The Old City – The most recognisable of all suburbs, 4 distinct, religious quarters, spanning the ethnic, linguistic and religious spectrum, combine to create the Old City of Jerusalem. The Jewish quarter is (oddly) more English speaking than Hebrew and therefore you will have no problems. It is also considered the safest quarter. Check out the ornate and *Four Sephardic Synagogues* or *Rambam Synagogue*. For a haunting glimpse of the 1948 fall of Jerusalem, see the photo exhibition at the *One Last Day Museum*. The Armenian Quarter is the smallest of the quarters but a charming walk-through nonetheless. The Christian Quarter is where the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (the site of Jesus' crucifixion.) The Muslim Quarters hosts a healthy variety of souks and bazaars. **Note: Given the current security situation, we strongly advise that you stay clear of the Muslim (and to a lesser extent the Christian) Quarter. In the event that you do go, please assess the security situation beforehand.**

SITES OF INTEREST

- Yad Vashem (*Hand and Name*) Off Herzl Blvd (02) 6751611
The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority. Vast archives, library, Historical Museum, Hall of Remembrance, Hall of Names, the International Center for Holocaust Studies.

- ◆ The Tower of David Museum:
(02) 6265333. This fascinating museum, located in the walls of the Old City provides a fascinating insight into the history of Jerusalem. Medieval fortress on the site of the Old City's fortifications throughout the ages. Houses a museum tracing 4,000 years of history of Jerusalem through models, dioramas and replicas. Check out the views on the top! They are *to die for!*
- ◆ The Israel Museum. Ruppin Boulevard in *Neve Granot*. (02) 6708801
The nation's largest museum and leading cultural institution. Four wings and the Billy Rose Garden sculpture exhibits cover periods and cultures worldwide from ancient through modern times. World-renowned permanent collection of fine arts. Rare Biblical artefacts, sacred objects from the time of Jesus. The shrine of the book housing the Dead Sea Scrolls. The most comprehensive collection of Holy Land archaeology. World's most complete collection of Judaica. More than 30 new exhibitions yearly. Lectures, films and concert performances.
- Bible Lands Museum. Granot St in *Neve Granot*. (02) 5611066
Ancient artefacts which chronicle the civilisation and lands during the Biblical period. Displays of symbols which bring to life the history of Judaism and the entire emergence of early Christianity. New: Multimedia Interactive computer program. Educational & musical programs for adults & children.
Other places to investigate - Ein Kerem, The High Court, Kav Tefer Museum, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Teyelet.
- The Knesset: Israel's raucous Parliament House. An impressive Greek-inspired building and internal furnishings modelled on Jewish insignia. See also the neighbouring Supreme Court building.

NIGHTCLUBS

Campus Nightclub

30 Haoman St.
Talpiot Industrial Zone.

Although Jerusalem has little to offer in the way of nightlife, Campus is one of the most frequented clubs, mainly by students and young people. Its two dance floors are packed on Fridays (the only night it is open), and guest DJs play a selection of dance beats from trance to R&B. Dress to reveal as much as you dare, and watch out for the acts performed on stage by fire-throwers and the like. The decor reflects that of the surrounding industrial estate - it's better to keep your eyes on the dance floor and your ears on the music.

Haoman 17

17 Haoman St.
West Jerusalem

This famous and trendy dance club brings the best DJs from around the world spinning primarily house, trip-hop and acid jazz electronic music. Each week houses different theme parties with the latest sounds and various other weekly entertainment, such as trapeze artists, fashion shows and fire eaters. Find the latest in sound and light technology, including the raised platform surrounding the main dance floor. Getting in is sometimes a hassle as patrons must wait on long lines. Try downloading weekly party invitations from the website for easy access. There is a full bar but not many people come to drink. Sushi is served.

Yellow Submarine

Talpiot Industrial Zone

This typical Israeli club has contemporary Israeli music and up and coming young Israeli bands playing all year round. It's definitely worth investigating.

CAFÉS

Please note that cafes open and close all the time so this list is limited to the experience of those creating it.

Aroma (Emek Refaim Branch)

A Jerusalem institution

38 Emek Refaim

Cafe B'Gina (Garden Cafe)

Leafy garden cafe in old Arab house

74 Bethlehem Road

Cafe Neeman

Patisserie-cum-cafe with garden seating

37 Emek Refaim

Chakra

Trendy Israeli cafe-bar with full menu

18 Shlomtzion

Riff-Raff

Open around-the-clock hangout

19 Hillel Street

Smadar Cafe

Patio cafe of art-house cinema

4 Lloyd George Street

The Coffee Mill

Bar for coffee aficionados
23 Emek Refaim Street

Etmol Shlishi

Amazing food and atmosphere for those who like the bookstore/café style chill out space. It is in the centre of town just down from Kikar Tzion (on Jaffa St) so ask around.

Finally – HAVE FUN! – and let us know if you discovered anything else interesting that we can add to this list!

SHORT PHRASES IN HEBREW

Hello

Good bye
How are you? (formal)
How are you? (informal)
What's happening?
Yes
No
I don't know
Please
Thank You
Good morning
Good evening
My name is...

Shalom

L'Hitra'ot
Mashlomcha? (m) / *Mashlomech?* (f)
Ma Nishma?
Ma Ha Matsav?
Ken
Loh
Ani Lo Mevim (m) / *Ani Lo Mevina* (f)
Bevakasha
Toda
Boker Tov
Erev Tov
Shmi

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

* The ISD code for Israel is 972, followed by 2 for Jerusalem or 3 for Tel Aviv

TELEPHONE SERVICES:

International operator - 188
Information (numbers) - 144
Australia direct operator (Telstra) -177 610 2727
(Optus) - 177 611 2727

UNIVERSITY NUMBERS:

Main University switchboard
Rothberg International School

02 5882111
02 5882610

University Health Services (Mount Scopus)

02 5882618

TRAVEL INFORMATION:

Ben Gurion Airport flight information	03 9723344
El Al at Ben Gurion	03 976111
El Al (Hillel Street, Jerusalem)	02 6254330
Al Italia -Tel Aviv	03 228653
- Jerusalem	02 6258653
ISSTA (student travel; on Mount Scopus campus)	02 5826116
Egged bus information	02 5304555
Nesher (Sherut taxi service)	02 6253233
Tourist information	02 6241281

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

Police:	100 or 6244 444
Tourist Police:	391 254
Ambulance:	101 or 6523133
Fire:	102 or 6789401

AUSTRALIAN FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY:

Sydney (Head Office): Phone 61-2-9267 7144; Fax 61-2-9267 2148;
Email studynsw@austfhu.org.au

Melbourne: Phone 61-3-9272 5511; Fax 61-3-9272 5510;
Email studyvic@austfhu.org.au

Contact us anytime you need help with anything!

Please Note: All the information contained here is correct up until the time of printing. This information is only meant as a guide and it is advisable that you cross-check the information before relying on it.