

Jerusalem 2009-10

Read this handbook **now** and again **before** you leave the U.S.
Consult it again before you register for classes overseas.

This handbook is supplemental to the information provided to you in
"Getting Started." Please read both handbooks.

The usefulness of this handbook depends on student input.
If you find erroneous information, please contact *overseas@indiana.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: 011-972-2-588-2610

FAX: 011-972-2-582-7078

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

Telephone: (800) 404-8622 or (212) 607-8520

FAX: (212) 809-4183

e-mail: *hebrewu@hebrewu.com*

Web Address: <http://overseas.huji.ac.il/>

IU Hosts in Jerusalem:

Address: Terry Cohen Hendin
29/10 Rehov Adam
Maalot Moriah, East Talpiot, Jerusalem

Home Phone: 011-972-2-672-1356

Cell Phone: 011-972-2-050-735-8911

E-mail: *hendinjm@netvision.net.il*

INDIANA UNIVERSITY PROGRAM

For over 30 years Indiana University has sent its students to the Rothberg International School at Hebrew University for IU credit. Indiana University selects, advises and orients you for the experience at Hebrew University and getting credit for your work abroad. You will also receive extensive predeparture 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 your on-site staff or overseas@indiana.edu.

Security Issues: Although Indiana University is assisting you to study at Hebrew University, despite the U.S. Department of State Travel Warning against travel to Israel by U.S. citizens (http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_922.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.

INTRODUCTION

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 also available on the web:

www.indiana.edu/~overseas/programs/handbooks/Jerusalem.pdf

The Program in Jerusalem

TENTATIVE 2009-10 CALENDAR*

Arrival date for fall/AY students	August 3 or 4
Summer Ulpan.....	August 5-September 24
Rosh Hashanah.....	September 18-20
Yom Kippur.....	September 27-28
Succoth vacation.....	October 2-10
Autumn semester begins	October 18
Midterm exam week	November 22-26
Chanukah vacation	December 13
Autumn semester ends.....	December 31
Final exam week	January 3-7
Intercession (winter break)	January 8-February 20

Arrival date for spring students	January 24
Winter Ulpan	January 25-February 18
Spring semester begins.....	February 21
Purim vacation.....	February 28- March 1
Midterm exam week	April 11-15
Passover vacation	March 25-April 6
Independence Day vacation	April 19-20
Student Day	May 12
Shavuot vacation	May 18-19
Spring semester ends	May 27
Hebrew final exam.....	May 30
Final exam week	May 31-June 3

** 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. A chartered bus meets the group flight and takes students to the dormitories.

VISA

We recommend that 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.

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.

If you do not apply for a Student Visa, upon arrival in Israel holders of U.S. passports will automatically receive a B-2 tourist visa valid for a three-month stay. Students who intend to travel outside of Israel during the duration of their studies at HU may find their tourist visa will suffice, as long as they travel out of Israel at least every three months. Immigration officials have recently denied students entry if they did not have a Student Visa and a return ticket with a specific date noted (rather than an open ended ticket).

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 630,000.

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.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM



Academic Advising

You can search for courses offered at the Rothberg International School (RIS) on-line at <http://overseas.huji.ac.il/search.asp?cat=88>. 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, make tentative plans for the courses you will take abroad, and 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**" 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 OneStart as you select alternate courses. If you deviate away from courses you planned to take on your Overseas advising plan, please consult Overseas Study (overseas@indiana.edu) to confirm the acceptability of alternate selections. **If you are a Jewish Studies major or area certificate student, please also copy Carolyn Lipson-Walker (clipsonw@indiana.edu) on the message. All students, please copy your major advisor(s).**

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, since 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@indiana.edu. The most important thing that you can do is to be in communication about the courses you are taking with your major advisor at IU and study abroad advisor before, during, and after your time abroad. If questions arise while you are abroad regarding academic issues, you should e-mail your study abroad advisor and copy your major advisor.

Course Load in Jerusalem

Regular classes at the Hebrew University begin in October and conclude at the end of May. 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. 6 for precise dates). Students devote 16 to 20 classroom hours per week to studies which are chosen from four main categories:

- 1) Hebrew language courses
- 2) Special courses in English for overseas students, including courses in Judaic studies, history, sociology, folklore, political science, and literature;
- 3) Courses in easy Hebrew for overseas students who have completed Dalet;
- 4) Regular university courses in Hebrew for students with working knowledge of Hebrew or, on rare occasions, regular university courses taught in English.

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

Academic-year students:

- Summer Ulpan*
- During Fall: 1 Hebrew language course**, 1 Jewish or Israeli studies course, and 2 other courses.
- During Spring: 1 Hebrew language course**, 1 Jewish or Israeli studies course, and 3 other courses

Fall-only students:

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

Spring-only students:

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

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). **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. If you plan on taking more courses than outlined above, you must clear it first through the Office of Overseas Study.

*Ulpan

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, with classes from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. 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 eight-week summer Ulpan; students on

the spring program receive 3 credits for the four-week winter 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. This may differ from rules at RIS or for students studying in Jerusalem from other U.S. institutions. Your placement will depend on your Hebrew proficiency at the end of the Ulpan. Students in the 4th level of Ulpan or above may opt to take content courses, in Hebrew, to fulfill the language requirement.

Hebrew Credit*:** Semester-long Hebrew language courses are normally equivalent to 3-4 IUB credits per semester.

*****Hebrew Language Credit for Ulpan & Hebrew at IUB**

Students studying at RIS/Hebrew University for a semester typically receive credit for one semester of Hebrew (H100, 150, 200, 250, etc.) and elective foreign study credit for Ulpan (H196, H296, H396, or H496) or vice versa. **Most students do not advance quickly enough during 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 on the program and complete them with a minimum grade of C, then you might earn some automatic Hebrew credit under the following circumstances:**

~Students who successfully complete a "level BET - lower intermediate" course at HU will be awarded automatic credit for JSTU-H 100 and/or JSTU-H 150.

~Students who successfully complete a "level Gimmel - Upper Intermediate" course at HU will be awarded automatic credit for JSTU-H 200 and/or JSTU-H 250.

In all other cases, in order to earn Hebrew language credit, you must 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 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.

Any Hebrew language courses (Ulpan or Hebrew) 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. The courses are counted toward graduation hours, but NOT toward a Jewish Studies major, area certificate or Hebrew minor.

NOTES: 1) Merely completing the Ulpan and a required Hebrew language course does not necessarily satisfy the language/literature area of specialization of the **Jewish Studies major**. If you elect this specialization, you need to validate your Hebrew level by taking an additional course at IUB upon your return, unless you receive a special exemption from the Jewish Studies advisor.

2) 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 director of undergraduate studies in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures prior to going to Israel to determine which courses will satisfy major requirements. The Hebrew language classes on 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.

3) The Jewish Studies Hebrew minor requires 9 credit hours of Hebrew course work (language or literature) on the IUB campus. Six of these credits, which must be at 300 or 400 level, cannot count toward the Jewish Studies major or area certificate. The six credits at 300 or 400 level must also be taken on the IUB campus.

Pass/Fail

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

Auditing

Hebrew University generally allows students to audit classes, but does not grant credit for auditing.

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 or area certificate, or Hebrew minor, meet with the IU Jewish Studies advisor (855-0453) and sign up for either the major, or area certificate, or Hebrew minor in Jewish Studies prior to departing the Bloomington campus. If you have questions regarding the major or area certificate, 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 HIST-H 251, HIST-H 252 and REL-R 245 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. Jewish Studies majors who elect the Language and Literature area of specialization and attend HU should expect to take an advanced Hebrew language course on IU's Bloomington campus upon their return from Jerusalem. Credit received for JSTU-H196, H296, H396, and H496, during study at Hebrew University cannot be used toward concentration in Language and Literature. It is elective credit. Majors are encouraged to take at least one course with a Jewish Studies faculty member during their senior year.

Jewish Studies Area Certificate

Normally, Jewish Studies area certificate students must take a minimum of 4 of the 8 required courses on the IU Bloomington campus, but students participating in the HU program may take only 3 courses on the Bloomington campus and the remainder at HU with prior approval from the IU Jewish Studies advisor. Credit received for JSTU H196, H296, H396, and H496 during study at HU cannot be used toward the certificate. It is elective credit.

BOTH JEWISH STUDIES AREA CERTIFICATE AND MAJOR STUDENTS MUST BE ADVISED BY THE JEWISH STUDIES ADVISOR PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM BLOOMINGTON.

GRADES

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

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

Internship Options

Academic Internship

The Rothberg International School offers several internship opportunities. IU students are required to commit 8 weekly hours to their place of internship, enroll in the course "In the Community: Israel Case Studies," and complete an academic research paper for a letter grade. To obtain IU credit for your internship, you must follow all of Hebrew University's guidelines for getting a letter grade. **Please**

discuss any plans to enroll in an internship with the Office of Overseas Study and your academic advisor. The credits you obtain for your internship will count toward one class of your minimum enrollment requirement, as long as it is taken for a letter grade.

Israel Interns for Jewish Education North America (JESNA)

For students selected by interview during the Ulpan, JESNA sponsors a special seminar in the field of Jewish education and assists students in finding an internship in Jewish education. Upon your return to the United States you will be expected to do an internship in the Jewish community and will be invited over winter break to a conference which is highly subsidized. This program is particularly appropriate for those considering a career in Jewish education since it gives you access to an extensive JESNA network. For information, call (212) 284-6879 or visit http://secure.jesna.org/j/err_lainer.asp

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.

TRANSCRIPTS

Before you depart, you must instruct Hebrew University to send your final transcript to the Office of Overseas Study, Franklin Hall 303, Bloomington, IN 47405-1223. Your grades may be delayed if you do not submit this address to the appropriate office at the Rothberg School.

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. However, wireless Internet is not always available 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 page 20). Internet access is available for an additional charge. A small convenience store is available for items you may need, instead of taking a bus into Jerusalem.

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."

Facilities on the Mount Scopus campus, where some students live, consist of dormitories with double rooms or apartments shared by six individuals (any mix of Americans, Israelis or others). In the buildings with doubles, there are common restroom and shower facilities at the end of the hallway and a common living area for everyone on that floor. Most dorms have central heating for only a few hours each day, even though Jerusalem is quite cold from November to March. In the winter, hot water for showers is usually available only during evening hours. 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. A sleeping bag is essential. 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. Dorms have well-equipped communal kitchens on each floor with limited individual cabinet space and gas burners. There are small refrigerators in most dorm rooms. Dorm kitchens do not have ovens, but you can buy inexpensive "wonder pots" in market places to use for baking on stove burners. 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.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Your semester tuition to Hebrew University includes comprehensive medical insurance through University Medical Services (UMS) policy of Harel Insurance Company Ltd. During spring and winter Ulpan you will have to pay for this insurance separately.

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. There is also an office on campus where the health insurance company representative is available for questions.

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 can purchase a membership to the sports complex which includes tennis and basketball courts, football fields, a running track, and a weight-lifting room. Students who choose this option also have access to an Olympic-sized swimming pool for an additional membership fee. The Rothberg International School solicits participants for volunteer programs that provide excellent opportunities for students to meet Israelis and practice their spoken Hebrew.

Student Advice

"Make an effort to attend various programs and events, on and off campus, especially in the early months of the semester--they are great opportunities to meet other students and to get a feel for all that the Jerusalem community offers."

Hillel House on the Mount Scopus campus serves as a Jewish cultural center for students and university staff. It contains a music room, a large record library, an art and music library,

and rooms for meetings, study and games. Students may arrange to practice their instruments at Hillel, meet there with a singing group or try out for their plays. Its program of activities includes concerts, lectures, discussions, and receptions.

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

Refa'im, 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.

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. Hillel also has a hiking club for speakers of Hebrew, which is excellent outdoor fun. Hebrew University also provides guides and university madrichim (counselors or resident assistants).

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

Trains

Although the train does not run locally through Jerusalem, 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.

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.

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. They cost about the same as buses and are more comfortable. 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.

Student Advice

"There is a great travel agency on campus, located in the Forum, called ISSA that offers excellent fares to anywhere in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia, etc."

for long-distance or intra-city travel by a group going to the same destination. They cost about the same as buses and are more comfortable. 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. 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 25-30 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 will have found themselves deceived very easily by taxi drivers.

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

You can order a cell phone through the Rothberg International School which gets a special deal. Cell phones come equipped with voice and text messaging and the service includes free incoming calls and competitive rates for outgoing calls, including special rates for one designated “home number” in the United States. Cell phones may be picked up at registration upon arrival at the RIS, or may be shipped to home addresses prior to departure for a small additional fee. They can be used in conjunction with prepaid phone cards purchased in Israel or with international calling cards obtained before you leave home from your U.S. phone carrier.

EMPLOYMENT

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 are usually from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. It is wise to start your day early while it is still cool. Shopkeepers rest during hot afternoons, and so should you. Be prepared for stores to close approximately 1/2 hour before sundown on Fridays and do not reopen until Sunday in order 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.

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. All 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.

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 should have a dressy outfit for weddings or other festive occasions and at least one modest outfit with long sleeves and a long skirt for visiting churches, shrines and synagogues.

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 coat, boots, gloves, hat, scarf
- Sturdy rain coat, umbrella
- Warm pajamas, tights, socks, and long underwear
- Portable MP3 player, tape or CD player and music
- 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)
- Contact lens and glasses prescriptions, extra pair of glasses, contact lens solution
- Overseas advising plan (keep in your e-mail)

Cosmetics and feminine hygiene products are widely available and reasonably priced in Israel, as are sheets, towels, blankets, and pillows. These products are sold at a small store in the Student Village for reasonable prices.

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.

Computers: It can be convenient to have a laptop computer for word processing, 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. Although internet access is available on campus (including free wireless), it may or may not be available in dormitories.

SHIPPING

You are urged not to ship items to Israel. Virtually anything for sale in the United States is available in Israel.

