



**Tel Aviv University
International
Graduate Students
Handbook
2019-2020**

TELAVIV UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

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WELCOME TO TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL

We congratulate you on your admission to Tel Aviv University International. Soon, you will become a part of the Tel Aviv University family, which boasts a highly acclaimed faculty, a top-tier student body, and international prestige.

You will join other students from all over the world to embark on a unique personal and academic journey. Your experience will surely prove both challenging and rewarding.

Tel Aviv University International is here to help you get acclimated to your new environment and complement your academic experience with an array of services and activities. We invite you to take full advantage of the unique opportunity to live in Tel Aviv, the epicenter of Israeli culture. Being a part of the largest university in Israel allows you to enjoy the many state-of-the-art facilities and a variety of social and athletic clubs on campus.

Our dedicated staff in the USA, Canada, and on campus (us included), are here to accompany and support you on your journey. We want to make sure that you have a rewarding and enjoyable experience during your stay with us at Tel Aviv University and hope to create a life-long connection with you.

With warmest regards,

Professor Raanan Rein

Vice President, Tel Aviv University

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Rein".

Ms. Maureen Meyer Adiri

Director, Tel Aviv University International

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ms. Maureen Meyer Adiri".



Dear Student,

Welcome to Israel, Tel Aviv and Tel Aviv University!

We, your *Madrichot*, are lucky to be the ones in charge of all the extracurricular aspects of your TAU experience. As you are joining our community of international master's students, PhDs, and Post-Docs, you will benefit from a broad range of activities and support.

During the year we will have a **variety of activities** such as trips, parties, cultural events, and much more. For example, you will get a chance to join a **Social Involvement Program**. Our goal is to expose you to the wide and diverse culture Israel has to offer, as well as to create a fun social experience! In order for us to best serve your needs, we will create a **Student Senate** that you will get a chance to join.

Our role is also to be available for you at all times. We will be in the TAU International office several days a week and available on our cell phones 24/7.

In short, we are here to help you find your way around, and to make your stay in Israel as enjoyable as possible. We hope you are excited to get started and that you will take advantage of everything in your academic as well as in our social program.

We look forward to meeting you at the orientation and to spending a great year with you.

We are here if you have any questions!

Danielle Cumpton

Naomi Calderon

Students life Counselor

Students life Counselor

Contact us:

intlgrad@mail.tau.ac.il

Danielle: 972(0)58-4800989

Naomi: 972(0)52-4375832



GENERAL BACKGROUND

ABOUT TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

Tel Aviv University (TAU) is Israel's largest academic institution. Its faculty includes nationally and internationally renowned scholars and scientists, many of whom are leaders in their fields. TAU is a major center of teaching and research, and is composed of nine faculties, 125 schools and departments, and 90 research institutes. There are currently approximately 30,000 students studying at the University in various degree programs.

TAU was founded in 1956 when three smaller education units - the Tel Aviv School of Law and Economics, the Institute of Natural Sciences, and the Institute of Jewish Studies - joined together to form a comprehensive university.

Today, TAU offers an extensive range of degrees in the arts and science domains, within its Faculties of Engineering, Exact Sciences, Life Sciences, Medicine, Humanities, Law, Social Sciences, Arts, and Management. The original 170-acre campus has been expanded to include an additional 50-acre tract, now being developed.

ABOUT TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL

Five decades ago, Tel Aviv University first opened its gates to accomplished students who came from around the world to embark on a remarkable personal and academic journey. Tel Aviv University has since consistently ranked as one of the top institutions of higher learning worldwide. As a world-class academic institution, many members of its distinguished faculty have won international recognition and are considered leaders in their fields of research. Today, Tel Aviv University International provides international students with the opportunity to study in Tel Aviv in English for three years, one-year, a semester or a summer.

Tel Aviv University, through its International School, has enriched the lives of its international students, allowing them to reach new pinnacles of scholarly and personal success. Students who complete one of the programs not only receive a superior education but also gain newfound insight into globalization and learn to live as citizens of the world.



KICKSTART YOUR ACADEMIC YEAR WITH AN INTENSIVE LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Prior to the start of the academic year, our students can choose to study intensive language courses to enhance their academic experience. Tel Aviv University International offers intensive language classes in Hebrew, Yiddish, Arabic (beginners and intermediary), and English (for high intermediate to advanced level).

Hebrew Ulpan is offered twice each year, in the summer and winter prior to the beginning of each semester. The Intensive Arabic and Yiddish programs are offered over the summer. During the academic year visitors can apply for Hebrew or Arabic studies; limited spaces are available for visitors.

This summer, an intensive English course will be offered for students from non-English speaking countries who are interested in improving their reading and writing or listening and speaking skills in preparation for their upcoming academic year.

For more information on all of these options, please contact intl@tauex.tau.ac.il



GRADUATE PROGRAMS

By joining us for your masters' degree, you will be part of a large cohort of international graduate students in a variety of programs some of which are listed below. You will get opportunities to take courses from the various programs.

MA in Ancient Israel Studies: Archaeology and History of the Land of the Bible

This unique one-year program offers students from across the globe a window into ancient Israel's perplexing and complex past through theoretical classes and field work experience, as well as tours to renowned excavation sites such as Jerusalem, Megiddo, Hazor, Lachish, Qumran, Masada, and Caesarea. The curriculum focuses on the periods of the late second millennium BCE to the Roman Period through the study of archaeological finds, Biblical writings, and Ancient Near Eastern texts. Students of the program, who wish to broaden their research, may apply for a second-year thesis track. TAU's Archaeology Department has been ranked the leading archaeological department in Israel and one of the best in the world. Thesis track available for outstanding students.

For more information, contact

maarch@tau.ac.il

MA in Conflict Resolution and Mediation

The International Program in Conflict Resolution and Mediation is a one-year interdisciplinary MA Program taught in English. Students graduate with a Master of Arts in Public Policy – Conflict Resolution and Mediation. The program provides students with tools for effective analysis, negotiation strategies, and conflict resolution frameworks in the international arena. Students also earn a certificate issued by Tel Aviv University for completing the program's workshop in International Mediation. Thesis track is available for outstanding students.

For more information, contact

resolute@tau.ac.il

EMPH – Masters in Public Health Program in Emergency & Disaster Management

This one-year master's program combines academic studies with operational analysis tools for planning and implementing emergency and disaster management during local or national crises. The coursework covers both theoretical and practical aspects of emergency and disaster management. It is a multidisciplinary program that addresses how organizational systems coordinate their efforts with national and international agencies and has pioneered a new way of thinking in the field of disaster management. Students have the opportunity to learn from leading Israeli professionals who have years of accumulated experience in crises management and in extending humanitarian relief to dozens of affected populations, both in Israel and globally. For more information, contact emergex@post.tau.ac.il

MA in Environmental Studies

The program provides candidates with an intensive multidisciplinary insight into environmental studies with an emphasis on Israel's unique geographic and geopolitical setting. Students on the program study a broad selection of environmental subjects, through both core courses and a range of electives, to gain insight into Israel's environmental history both as an individual nation and as part of the greater Middle East region. In parallel to a broad overview of environmental topics, the program covers topics such as ecology, climate change, environmental policy and sustainable development, and also explores water as a shared resource.

Thesis track is available for outstanding students.

For more information, contact

environment@tau.ac.il



Parasol Foundation International LL.M.

This program attracts outstanding law students to study and collaborate with Israel's elite legal academia, students and legal professionals. Nearly 50 classes, taught entirely in English, explore contemporary challenges to law that stem from processes of globalization, the Israeli legal and social systems, the complexities of the Middle East region and the technological and entrepreneurial dynamism of the "Start-up Nation." The 10-month program provides numerous opportunities for networking and professional development. LL.M. candidates will be eligible to apply for conditional admittance to the PhD Program at the Faculty of Law, following the successful completion of the LL.M. degree.

For more information, contact studylaw@tau.ac.il

MA in Middle Eastern Studies

This program is designed for international students interested in careers pertaining to the Middle East in the fields of journalism, diplomacy, government, policy research, and advocacy/activism.

Students are provided with an invaluable opportunity to acquire an in-depth understanding of the political, social and economic dimensions of the region, from within. The program combines theoretical and practical knowledge through a broad array of courses, optional language study, five study trips throughout Israel, internship and publication opportunities through our affiliate research center, The Moshe Dayan Center of Middle Eastern and African Studies.

Thesis track available for outstanding students. For more information, contact mames@tau.ac.il

MA in Political Science & Political Communication

The program is a high-quality graduate program that focuses on the dynamics and complexities of politics in the global age. The Political Science Department stands out in the study of political theories, political leadership, political communication, electoral systems and behavior and is the home of the Israel National Election

Studies. Educational tours guided by top specialists are incorporated into the curriculum. Students meet with political leaders, prominent journalists and election specialists while visiting Israel's governmental, parliamentary and media institutions among other sites of interest.

For more information, contact politicom@tau.ac.il

MA in Security and Diplomacy

The program provides advanced knowledge and analytical tools for the study of strategy, diplomacy, decision-making and the shaping of security and foreign policy. The outlook of the program is global, with a special focus on Israel and the Middle East. At the practical level, the program prepares students for engagement in the international arena, defense bodies, international organizations (and international economic organizations). The curriculum includes security field trips to Israel's various borders, defenses and government offices, a series of meetings with Ambassadors, and a Middle East Crisis Simulation. Thesis is track available for outstanding students.

For more information, contact secdip@post.tau.ac.il

Sofaer Global MBA

Whether you want to found your own venture, dive into Tel Aviv's startup culture, or lead innovative processes in a multinational corporation, the Sofaer Global MBA provides you the skills, practical experience, network, and career services to achieve your goals and make your impact on the world.

The Sofaer GMBA is a one-year program with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, and venture, comprised of academic courses, master classes and practical work. Unique offerings include the Startup Immersion Program, where students have the opportunity to join startups funded by our affiliated Fund, TAU Ventures & the New Venture Creation Class, for student entrepreneurs who have established traction in their venture, measured through sales, investment, and/or IP.

For more information, contact gmba@tauex.tau.ac.il



MA in Social Work

The program offers students the opportunity to learn about the impacts of and coping with major life crises, natural disasters, political violence, and other high stress situations.

The program is intended to provide students with in-depth knowledge in the area of trauma. Israel is a living laboratory for research and practice in stress, crisis, and trauma. Over the years, Israeli scholars and practitioners have developed considerable knowledge and models of intervention in these areas. Our academic staff has been at the forefront of these developments.

Thesis track available for outstanding students.

For more information, contact

intsw@post.tau.ac.il

MA in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)

This program prepares graduates for global career opportunities in the field of English language learning and instruction. Our three-semester interdisciplinary curriculum provides opportunities for professional growth in teaching, research, program development and administration. Taught by world-renowned experts in the field, this innovative program combines advanced academic study with practical teaching experience. Gain expertise in the latest trends in the field while receiving individualized guidance and hands-on experience in the classroom. Thesis track available for outstanding students.

For more information, contact

tesol@post.tau.ac.il

MA in Global Migration and Policy

The Global Migration and Policy MA Program is an interdisciplinary master's taught in English over the course of two years. The curriculum offers students the opportunity to engage critically with international issues that are at the forefront of today's debates around migration. Themes explored include refuge and asylum, labor migration, migration policy, diasporas, ethnic identification, and integration of migrants. Students are first exposed to the main theoretical perspectives and subsequently to the professionally-oriented principles of migration. Students gain hands-on experience in the field and are able to specialize in areas of migration according to their personal preferences. Thesis track available for outstanding students in the second year of studies.

For more information, contact

migration@tauex.tau.ac.il

MSC in Plant Sciences with an Emphasis on Food Safety & Security

The 18-month program in Plant Sciences offers a combination of interdisciplinary academic research with hands-on agricultural experience, in collaboration with the Arava International Center for Agriculture Training (AICAT). The program provides students with academic knowledge from leading faculty, opportunities to gain practical skills and the tools to be a part of creating a sustainable future. Studies are held both in the Tel Aviv and the Arava campus, located in Israel's largest Agricultural region. The program includes an intensive summer semester focused on Food Safety and Security. The program is open to outstanding students from developing countries, and offers scholarships for qualifying students.

Thesis track available for outstanding students.

For more information, contact

foodsecurity@post.tau.ac.il



HANDY INFORMATION



IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

External Telephone Numbers:

- Police 100
- Ambulance (Magen David Adom) 101
- Fire Department 102
- Electric Company 103
- Tel Aviv Municipality
(to pay water bills and municipality tax) 106
- Information 144
- Health Insurance Helpline *2000
- Ichilov Hospital/Sourasky Medical Center
(Weizman Street between Arlozorov and
David Ha'Melech) 03-697-4444

In any case of sexual harassment or sexual assault, you can contact the Association of Rape Crisis Centers:

- Hotline for women 1202
- Hotline for men 1203

TAU Offices Telephone Numbers:

- Tel Aviv University International Office 03-640-8118
- University Security 03-640-5555
(for suspicious objects, fire on campus,
accidents, elevator issues, etc.)
- First Aid Nurse 03-640-8666
- Students life counselor (Naomi) 972(0)52-4375-832
- Students life counselor (Danielle) 972(0)58-4800-989

CAMPUS MAP



[High resolution map](#)

Click [here](#) to find the building you are looking for.

MAP OF TEL AVIV



- 1 Tel Aviv University, in Ramat Aviv**
- 2 Basel - the North is close to the park, the port and TAU. Tons of restaurants (~10 min)**
- 3 Ben Gurion, Gordon and Frishman - close to the beach and young (~20 min)**
- 4 Rabin Square is very central. You'll find everything there 24/7. (~20 min)**
- 5 The Heart of Tel Aviv - with Rothschild, Shenkin and more is fun and beautiful (~30 min)**
- 6 Neve Tsedek - an old neighborhood full of charm close to the beach (~45 min)**
- 7 Florentin- trendy, vibrant, cheaper but also slightly run-down; many students & artists (~50min)**
- 8 Yafa - many bigger apartments available, great atmosphere, a bit far (~55 min)**

*The time mentioned shows approximately how long it takes to TAU by bus. Biking could be quicker



TAU Academic Calendar (2019-2020)

In Israeli higher education, students are expected to complete papers and assignments during the semester breaks. Therefore, please do not make extensive travel plans until you have a firm grip on how much studying (including group work) you will need to do between semesters. **The following is the standard Tel Aviv University calendar.**

Please consult your respective program director for specific details regarding the dates of your program as program dates may vary.

Entrance date to the Einstein and Broshim dormitories (Summer Ulpan/English Intensive Course/TESOL programs only)	August 4, 2019
Orientation for Summer Semester (Summer Ulpan/English Intensive Course/TESOL)	August 5 - 6, 2019
First day of Summer Ulpan/English Intensive Course/TESOL)	August 7, 2018
The university's one-week collective vacation (classes may be held in some international programs)	August 25 - August 31, 2019
Entrance date to the Einstein and Broshim dormitories	October 22, 2019
Orientation for graduate students (mandatory – all programs)	October 23 - 24, 2019
First day of Fall Semester	October 27, 2019
Hanukah holiday	December 29, 2019
Last day of Fall Semester	January 26, 2020
Fall Semester Exam Period (May vary from program to program)	January 27 - March 6, 2020
First day of Spring Semester	March 8 , 2020
Purim holiday	March 10, 2020
Passover Holiday	April 6 – 16, 2020
Memorial Day for Fallen IDF Soldiers & Victims of Terror (no class)	April 28 , 2020

Independence Day (no class)	April 29, 2020
Shavuot holiday	May 28 - 29, 2020
Last day of Spring Semester	June 26, 2020
Spring Semester Exam Period	TBD
First day of Summer Semester (not relevant for all programs)	July 19, 2020
Fast of Tisha B'Av (no classes)	July 30, 2020
End of the Year Ceremony (subject to change)	August 20, 2020
Last day of Summer Semester (not relevant for all programs)	September 11, 2020
The university's one-week collective vacation	August 23-27, 2020
Memorial Day Ceremonies On the following dates there will be a break in studies from 12:00 to 1:00 pm for these nationally recognized memorial days:	
Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony	April 21 2020



BEFORE YOU
ARRIVE



BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Tuition fees includes administration fees, health insurance, access to university libraries, and a number of social events and trips. Your online account profile serves as your bill and record of payment. Please note that all tuition fees are due in advance. Students may not enter the dormitories or begin classes until fees are paid in full or alternate arrangements with Tel Aviv University International are confirmed in writing. All fees are payable via the payment methods listed below:

- A bank check or a personal check made out to 'Tel Aviv University'.
- A credit card: Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card and American Express are accepted through your online profile.
- A deferred payment plan: an easy plan of equal, interest-free payments can be designed for you. Please contact our office for specific information and to set up your plan. The cost of the payment plan is \$100.
 - For DPP with credit card (all countries besides Canada)- via the US office: PDunn@telavivuniv.org
 - For DPP with credit card only for Canadians- via the Canada office: orna@cftau.ca.
 - For DPP with checks (only from Israeli accounts)- via the Israeli office: intl@tau.ac.il
 - For DPP with checks (only from American accounts)- via the US office: PDunn@telavivuniv.org
- Government-sponsored student aid/loans.
- External scholarships disbursed directly to TAU.

CONDITIONAL FEES

- **Bank Fee:** Bounced checks incur a \$40 fee and cancellation of any payment plan.
- **Cancellation Fee:** A \$500 fee is incurred if withdrawing after submitting the *Confirmation Form* or if withdrawing after the first day of classes, whichever comes first.



- **Collection Fees:** Tel Aviv University may utilize the services of an attorney and/or collection agent to collect any amount past due, and you will be charged an additional amount equal to the cost of collection (approximately 33% of your outstanding balance) as well as any other fees incurred by Tel Aviv University.

REFUND POLICY

Notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing. Refunds are determined by the date of our receipt of the notice. All refunds listed below are in addition to the mandatory **\$500 cancellation fee**.

Tuition:

- Withdrawal prior to or on the first day of class: 100% of tuition minus confirmation fee and cancellation fee.
- Withdrawal after the first day of class, but no later than 5 days after the beginning of classes: 50% of tuition minus confirmation fee and cancellation fee.
- Thereafter (if enrolled for a single semester): no refund.
- Thereafter (with respect to enrollees for the academic year withdrawing during the first term): second-semester tuition portion and summer semester tuition portion minus confirmation fee and cancellation fee.
- Thereafter (with respect to enrollees for the academic year withdrawing during the second or summer term): no refund.
- Withdrawal on the first day of USA federal loan disbursements or thereafter: determined by the department of ed. as per the Return Policies.
- Tuition assistance, grants and scholarships are contingent on successful completion of the course of studies. For clarity: early withdrawal cancels scholarship assistance and makes the student liable for the full tuition as covered in the aforementioned clauses.

Dormitories:

Students will be charged for the dormitories in full, once confirming that they will be living on-campus.

Students leaving the dormitories after the beginning of the program will be charged the entire fee for the duration of the program, unless otherwise agreed in writing. TAU is unable to refund students for early withdrawal from the dorms.

Students will be asked to submit a security deposit form; they will be charged for any damage, missing contents, or negligence.



LATE PAYMENT

Students are responsible for making payments on time. Students are also responsible for any late payment charges on amounts that are overdue. Late payment fees of \$100 will be added to overdue charges for every 30 days of delinquency. In addition, late payments may lead to cancellation of students' payment plan, if one exists, and eventually to collection fees. In any case, students will not be permitted to register for classes or receive a diploma or transcript if they have an outstanding payment balance.

DISMISSAL

Tel Aviv University reserves the right to dismiss any student whose conduct or academic standing warrants such action. In the event that a student is asked to leave the program, no refund is forthcoming. Please refer to the Letter of Agreement.

WITHHOLDING DIPLOMAS & TRANSCRIPTS

It is Tel Aviv University policy to withhold diplomas and transcripts if all financial obligations have not been met. In the event that a diploma or transcript is withheld due to an unpaid bill, a student will be required to make payment in order to release any of the aforementioned documents.

FUNDING AND EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Federal Loans for American Citizens

If you are interested in obtaining loans for your tuition, please contact Ms. Phylicia Dunn at (212) 742-9030, extension 115, or via email at PDunn@telavivuniv.org.

If you have already spoken with Phylicia regarding loans, then follow the details of the loan application process that appear below:

1. Complete and Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Loans (FAFSA)
2. Select Tel Aviv University from the Foreign drop-down menu (make sure the DLIL is G08373)
3. Confirmation Fee to TAU International must be paid.
4. Respond to award letter sent to you via email from Ms. Dunn.
5. Go to <https://studentloans.gov/mydirectLoan/index.action> and sign in with your User ID and Password from FAFSA to complete Required Entrance Counseling and Promissory note for all requested loans.

It is important to check that you have submitted all required documents and that the information is accurate. Once you have finished this process, the application will be certified for origination within 1 week.



MASA

MASA (which means 'Journey' in Hebrew) is a partner of Tel Aviv University's international programs. Masa is an initiative of the government of Israel and the Jewish Agency for Israel to promote participation in long-term programs in Israel, including academic degree programs. Throughout the academic year, MASA sponsors a variety of programs, sometimes at an additional cost. Examples of activities open to all international students, regardless of religion or nationality with specific focus on graduate students are weekend retreats with speakers and outdoor hikes, as well as concerts. Details will be given during orientation week.

MASA REQUIREMENTS AT TAU

The following are the current MASA requirements for students who receive a MASA grant or scholarship:

1. **Hebrew:** Students are required to take 120 hours of Hebrew-language courses, all of which will be fulfilled by completing the summer intensive Ulpan or by taking two consecutive semesters of Hebrew during the academic year.
2. **Volunteer work:** Students must perform 3 hours of volunteer work a week (12 hours per month). TAU International organizes a panel on volunteering. Please note: Volunteering in political organizations, parties or movements as well as commercial organizations will not be considered volunteer work.
3. **Extra-curricular activities:** TAU International organizes several trips throughout the academic year (to Tel Aviv, to the Holocaust Museum and to the South). In addition, individual programs sponsor their own field trips. MASA recipients must participate in all.
4. **Activities with Israeli students:** All the international graduate students are part of the Buddy System. At least once a month, there is a joint activity for both international and Israeli students.

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS

Please review our website for other scholarship opportunities:

https://international.tau.ac.il/scholarship_programs



Travel Documents

PASSPORTS

All visitors to Israel must hold a passport that is valid for at least six months from the date they enter the country. In order to enter Israel as a student, you must have a passport that is valid for at least one year from your date of entry into the country. If you do not have a valid passport, apply for one immediately. If you hold an Israeli passport, you are required to present it upon arrival.

STUDENT VISAS

Students who do not hold an Israeli passport will want to consult with the Israeli Embassy in their home country regarding visa and entry regulations.

A. All students must apply for a student visa (A-2) prior to their departure. The A-2 Student Visa is a multiple-entry visa valid for one year, meaning that you may enter Israel an unlimited number of times for a period of one year without securing a new visa. Student visas are renewable after one year both in Israel and abroad. You must apply for an A-2 visa in person at your nearest Israeli consulate. Please note: It is illegal to study in Israel on a tourist visa. The following is a checklist for this procedure:

1. [Form](http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ConsularServices/Pages/Visas.aspx) <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ConsularServices/Pages/Visas.aspx>
2. Valid passport
3. Passport-sized pictures
4. Acceptance letter to the program
5. Proof of sufficient funds (a bank statement is acceptable)
6. Scholarship statements, if relevant (this assists section 5)
7. Fee of 350 NIS

B. A student visa does not allow you to work in Israel.

C. Some students will not be able to enter Israel without receiving a student visa ahead of time because they are not automatically granted tourist visas upon arrival to Israel.

D. If for some reason you could not apply for your student visa before leaving your home country, you must take care of it immediately upon arrival in Israel at the Ministry of Interior (See "A" above for the checklist).

Ministry of Interior details:

Salame 53, Tel Aviv

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 08:00am – 09:00am

For issues regarding visas, please contact the Tel Aviv University International office: plashevskyy@tauex.tau.ac.il or telephone: +972-3-6408118.



ISRAELI BORN & RETURNING ISRAELI CITIZENS

If you are a returning Israeli citizen or are the child of a parent who holds Israeli citizenship, please contact the nearest Israeli Consulate to clarify your legal status in advance of entering the country. Israeli citizens or children of Israeli citizens should apply for an exemption from military service through their nearest Israeli Consulate before arrival in Israel.

It is also recommended to contact Nefesh B'Nefesh - <http://www.nbn.org.il/> - who are a great resource on topics relevant for olim (new immigrants), returning citizens, and children of Israeli born parents.

LIST OF ISRAELI CONSULATES WORLDWIDE

<http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ConsularServices/Pages/default.aspx>



For general information on transportation to and from Ben Gurion Airport go to:

<http://www.iaa.gov.il/Rashat/en-US/Airports/BenGurion/InformationforTravelers/TransportationToandFromtheAirport/>

Dorms Residents - please do not bring your luggage to the university campus – First go to your housing accommodations and check in there.

Packing Essentials

CLOTHING

Campus dress is fairly casual. Most students attend classes and campus events in jeans and T-shirts. Women may want to bring modest attire (skirts or dresses that cover the shoulders and knees) for visits to religious sites in Israel. Both women and men should plan to bring semi-formal attire for professional meetings and networking, special occasions and nights out. As dry cleaning is relatively expensive in Israel, please bring clothes that can be easily cleaned.

Most of the year is warm or hot. During the hot summer months, the traditional casual dress code becomes even more relaxed - if you are sensitive to air conditioning, make sure to pack a sweater or a shawl. In the winter, warm clothing is necessary, as many buildings are neither centrally heated nor well insulated. From December until March, the weather can be rainy, damp, and cold.

For class trips as well as your own sightseeing, a pair of good walking shoes is a must.

COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES

Cosmetics, toiletries, and other personal supplies are readily found in Israel, although they might be more expensive than in your hometown, and specific brands are not always available.

MEDICATION

If you are taking a prescribed medication, you should bring a supply to last the duration of your time in Israel. It is also recommended that you bring a typewritten, generic prescription for your medication should you need to have it refilled.

Since some medication might not be available in the same brand names in Israel, it is essential that a generic name be provided for reference by a local doctor or pharmacist. Also, in the event that you are sent an additional supply of medication by mail, you will be required to present a prescription to the Israeli Customs Office before the medication is released.

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

Electrical appliances should be kept to an absolute minimum. Because of Israeli customs restrictions, a limit on electrical appliances is advisable. The electrical current in Israel is 220 volts, 50 cycles. You may be able to bring a transformer for certain appliances, such as a hair dryer. Some appliances cannot be converted. Be sure to check with an authorized electronics dealer for detailed information. Most laptops do not need transformers, but require a small inexpensive adaptor.



UPON ARRIVAL



UPON ARRIVAL

FLIGHT AND ARRIVAL

You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements; please check with your specific program coordinator as to the latest date you may arrive before the program starts.

BAGGAGE INFORMATION

Please contact your airline operator regarding baggage regulations.

Experience has shown that it is best to take your belongings with you and to check them on the flight. It is not recommended to ship luggage to Israel for the duration of your stay, as incoming goods may be taxed if they are shipped. This is the case even if they are your own personal items and even if they are used. Further problems may arise, as there is no way to know exactly how long your shipment will take to arrive. In addition, packages shipped by sea will arrive at the Port of Haifa, which is more than an hour away from Tel Aviv. You will have to get to Haifa, take the shipment through customs, declare all items, and then transport your luggage from Haifa to your apartment. Former participants have said that if you have an extra piece of luggage, you are bringing too much. However, if you must, it is worthwhile to avoid shipping and pay the extra charge for each additional piece of luggage taken on your flight.

ARRIVAL

At Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport (known by its Hebrew acronym 'Natbag'), your first step is passport control. Please note that passport control might take some time depending on how busy the airport is and how many questions the officers have for you. Come prepared with your acceptance letter to show the inspectors. Make sure that you have made arrangements for housing, or arrangements to stay with friends or family, or to stay in a youth hostel or hotel when you arrive.

Upon your arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, there are two main ways to get to Tel Aviv:

Arriving by Train:

The station to reach is 'Tel Aviv University Station'. The train ride is approximately 30 minutes from the airport. When you get off at the station you can take a short cab ride to the Einstein Dorms (about 30 NIS) or you take the bus from the train station to the Einstein Dorms: bus number 7 or bus number 45. For Broshim, the Broshim Dormitories are a short walk from the train station although be mindful that some of this walk is uphill. We recommend consulting Google Maps or the campus map ([click here](#)) for more information. If you want to consult train schedules ahead of time, you can see these on their [website](#).

Arriving by Taxi:

The cost is about 150-175 NIS from the airport to the Einstein or the Broshim Dorms. You should only get a taxi at the airport from the official Ben Gurion Airport Taxi Stand which is outside the doors of the airport (there will be signs pointing you to the stand when you walk through the airport). We strongly recommend that you do not accept a taxi ride from anyone offering inside the airport. These are not regulated taxis and the fare could be much higher. Regardless of which taxi you take, it is recommended when you get in the taxi to ask the driver to put on the meter, or set a price similar to 150 NIS. It is recommended that you have cash (ATM's are inside the



airport) for the taxi, although some will take credit cards. Always ask before you get in the taxi if credit is accepted. The address to tell the taxi for Einstein is Chaim Levanon Street 63 and for Broshim it is George Wise Street 20.

ORIENTATION DAYS

Immediately before the start of the programs, an orientation is organized for the incoming international graduate students. Its purpose is to familiarize our new international students with their program, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, and Israel. Orientation will take place on October 23-24, 2019 (students starting their studies in the summer will have an orientation prior to the start of the summer program).

The orientation is divided into two parts: It is partly organized by Tel Aviv University International and partly organized by your specific program.

Orientation will include:

- Campus tour including library orientation.
- A review of TAU's academic policy and introduction to the TAU writing center.
- Information and instructions regarding the health insurance.
- Introduction of the Social team, events, clubs and volunteering opportunities.
- Information session for on-campus and off-campus housing.
- Getting familiar with on-campus organizations and services: Student Union and its Buddy System, Hillel, Elite Sports Center, LGBTQ, and others.
- Evening get together with all international programs.
- And more...



Safety, Security, Health and Wellness Guidelines

The safety of our TAU International students is our highest priority. Information regarding safety and security is given to all international students at a mandatory student orientation session upon arrival to campus. In addition, this information is shared with students pre-arrival as a section of our Pre-Departure Handbook in order to prepare students for life in Israel and Tel Aviv. Students are encouraged to read this information very carefully and have it accessible during their stay in Tel Aviv. In addition, every student is provided with a Welcome Kit upon arrival listing the telephone numbers of all relevant personnel and campus offices (such as the TAU International Office staff), TAU Security Department contacts, instructions on medical care and emergencies, and the mobile numbers of the TAU International Student Life Team who can be contacted in case of emergency 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including holidays.

SECURITY

Like all public institutions in Israel, Tel Aviv University employs a sophisticated network of security personnel covering all campus entrances and patrolling throughout the campus and dormitory complexes 24 hours a day. All students, faculty, staff and campus visitors are required to show student ID cards or another picture ID and submit bags for search. In dormitory complexes, no one is admitted without a dormitory clearance chip (FOB); dormitory areas are exclusively for residents. Temporary guest passes can be obtained but guests must be identified by a dorm resident and follow guest procedures with the main security desk in order to be granted entry permission.

The University's Security Department maintains very frequent contact with government security agencies. The TAU International student population is updated as needed (by phone and/or email) regarding security matters and receives copies of all relevant official campus safety and security communications. TAU International requires all students to carry a working mobile telephone with an Israeli number (see details under "Telephone Services"). This allows our staff to contact all program participants at any time via WhatsApp, SMS text messages, or other forms of group messaging. TAU International also encourages students to join the private Facebook page of our Student Life Team so that this can also be used as an additional method of updating and reaching students.

Additionally, US citizens are advised to register for the U.S. Embassy's STEP program. This can be done either in person, or online at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. A member of the U.S. Embassy's American Citizens Services unit based in Tel Aviv also comes to campus each semester to speak to students regarding STEP and other Embassy safety and security resources available to students.

Tel Aviv University has well-marked signage in Hebrew and English directing people on campus and in the dormitories to the closest shelters ("miklat or mamad") should there be a need to take shelter. All shelter locations for campus and the dormitories are posted on the TAU web site; please click [here](#) to read more



information about how to react in case of a siren. Additionally, Tel Aviv University has outstanding evacuation arrangements with other institutions throughout Israel. Specific information on such arrangements can be obtained from the TAU International Office.

Important Contact Information

External Telephone Numbers:

Police	100
Ambulance (Magen David Adom, Emergency First Aid)	101
Fire Department	102
Electric Company	103
City Municipality (Tel Aviv)	106
Phone Information Center	144
Health Insurance Helpline	*2000
Ichilov Hospital/Sourasky Medical Center (Weizman St. between Arlozorov and David Hamelech)	03-697-4444
Association of Rape Crisis Center	Women: 1202 Men: 1203

TAU International 24/7 Emergency Contact Information

If you need to contact a TAU International staff member in Tel Aviv in case of emergency, you can call us on the following emergency phone numbers. Please use office phone numbers during work hours.

In Case of Emergency in Israel during Office Hours -

TAU International Office, Carter Building 108

Open each day Sunday through Thursday*, 9:00am-3:00pm

Office Number: +972-(0)3-640-8118 (Ask for the Student Life Counselor on duty)

*Students will be notified of office closure for holidays in advance. In case of office closure, students should use the 24/7 Student Life contact information below in case of emergency.



In Case of Emergency in Israel outside Office Hours -

Contact the TAU International Student Life Team - 24/7 Mobile:

Danielle: 972(0)58-4800989

Naomi: 972(0)52-4375832

TAU International New York Office Emergency Contact Information -

Students, Partners and Parents of U.S. University Students can use this information as needed. Please be aware that due to educational privacy laws, if you are calling on behalf of a student currently enrolled with TAU International we are restricted in what information can be shared regarding our students' individual circumstances when it comes to health and safety.

Director of Admissions, TAU International New York

Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm EST

Tel: (212) 742-9030, (800) 665-9828

After Hours Emergency Number: +1-973-919-5988

Other Campus Emergency Numbers:

University Security 03-640-5555

(For suspicious objects, fire on campus, accidents, etc.)

First Aid Nurse 03-640-8666

Psychologist on Campus 052-671-0409

Evening Crisis Hotline (for any matter of wellness) 03-640-5352

TAU Security Office 03-640-8484 or 03-640-9595



Mobile Phone Services and Requirements

In Israel, there are several service providers for mobile phones, such as: Cellcom, Partner, Pelephone, Hot Mobile, Golan Telecom, etc. This is a very competitive market and students are encouraged to check several companies for service plans. Please note that Israeli law forbids temporary international students from signing long-term commitments with communication service providers.

Tel Aviv University has arranged for all international students to receive a rent-free cell phone through IsraelPhones upon arrival to Israel. Instructions on how to order these phones in advance of arrival is given to students during their pre-departure phase. For students who do not choose this option, guidance on how to purchase a cell phone and SIM is available from our Student Life Team.

Upon arrival, students are sent a Google form on which they are required to give their Israeli mobile phone number to the TAU International Student Life Team so that they will be included in the program's emergency contact services. In this form, students are also asked to provide updated Emergency Contact Information in case of emergency. Should any contact information change during the course of the program, it is the student responsibility to inform TAU International Student Life Team of this.

Psychological and Wellness Services

Psychological services in English are available for all international students. To make an appointment, students can either ask a member of our Student Life Team for help making the appointment or students can directly contact the University's Psychological Services at 03-6408505 or clinic@post.tau.ac.il. These offices are located in the Mitchell Building, Room 216. Psychological services are strictly confidential by law. Office hours are Sundays-Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. After hours, a student services hotline has been established to handle psychological counseling and crises. This hotline runs from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. nightly and the number is 03-640-5352.

The fees for psychological consultation and counseling are estimated as follows:

Initial consultation session	150 shekels
Second and further therapy sessions	150 shekels
First psychiatric consultation	205 shekels
Further psychiatric consultations	150 shekels

Confidentiality and privacy: The content of psychological and psychiatric appointments is absolutely confidential. No information whatsoever regarding students is divulged to any University officials, nor to any



other institution. Only if the student signs a waiver authorizing release of information can any information be divulged.

Mandatory Health Insurance

Regardless of other existing coverage, all international students are required to have a mandatory health insurance plan provided by the University; this plan is included in the cost of tuition. If students are dual Israeli citizens with an active Israeli health insurance account, occasionally they can be exempt from the mandatory plan but must first speak with the TAU International Office about these circumstances. No other exceptions are granted.

The mandatory insurance is with Menora Health Insurance Company. The policy covers treatment by a large selection of private English-speaking doctors in Leumit Clinics. It also covers hospitalization in public hospitals. Coverage includes all program and vacation days. This insurance provides coverage for students only within Israel (does not include coverage anywhere abroad including in the West Bank). Optional health insurance coverage is offered for travel outside Israel for an additional fee. You may purchase the additional coverage directly from an insurance agent in Israel and the TAU International Office Housing and Insurance Coordinator can guide students in this process.

All students enrolled with TAU International are automatically enrolled in this insurance plan and are covered from day one in Israel throughout the entire duration of their program. Prior to arrival, all students are required to submit a Health Declaration Form (Self Evaluation) and also a Medical Form (Signed by a physician) to give the TAU Student Life Team a more complete profile of an individual situation so that accommodations can be made as necessary.

Students receive their insurance card during mandatory orientation and are told to always carry their card/number with them at all times while in Israel as well as to take a photo of it. Students are also given detailed information for how to make an appointment, receive health services, fill prescriptions, and receive emergency treatment in Israel during the mandatory orientation.

This information is also listed below:

IMPORTANT HEALTH-RELATED PHONE NUMBERS

- Call *507 for the 24/7 Leumit Call Center (Leumit = Health Insurance Approved Medical Services)
- For a doctor's home visit, call *9101 and a doctor will arrive to your apartment within 3 hours. The TAU International Student Life Team can also assist you in arranging this service.
- For the full list of Clalit clinics, please go to: www.leumit.co.il
- The nearest 'Leumit' Clinic is located on Aba Akhime'ir St 26, Tel Aviv-Yafo. Bus lines from TAU: 126, 171 to "Schuster Centre". Phone: 03-7450400. Opening hours:
 - Sun, Tue: 7:30am – 7pm
 - Mon, Thu: 7:30am – 1pm
 - Wed: 7:30am-1pm, 4pm-7pm
 - Fri: 7:30am – 12pm
 - Saturday: Closed
- For general information about the Insurance students can call the information number at *2000. TAU International also has on staff a Housing and Insurance Coordinator who can be of assistance.

Please note that we recommend students ask for assistance from the TAU International Student Life Team in making health related appointments. In addition, a member of the team can accompany students to any medical visit or hospitalization to provide support and translation if needed.

COVERAGE IN ISRAEL

The Insurance Company will provide students with professional and efficient health services which include:

- 1) Comprehensive Medical Providers Network covering all of Israel. This includes physicians, practitioners and specialists, pharmacies, laboratories, and x-ray facilities.
- 2) 24-hour assistance center for immediate treatment and referral.
- 3) Services provided within close proximity to the university (Ramat Aviv and North Tel Aviv).
- 4) House calls when the student is unable to visit a physician.
- 5) Hospitalization in any hospital within the State of Israel.
- 6) Refund for ambulance transportation in cases of emergency.
- 7) Administration of injections, excluding daily injections (such as insulin). Medicine to be provided by the student.
- 8) Every student receives a personal medical service ID card and an index of participating network physicians and pharmacies. Upon presenting the card, the student is eligible to receive all services at no charge. Medicines, laboratory tests, or x-rays prescribed by the physician are provided or administered by Network providers at no charge.
- 9) Students may visit any participating general practitioner or specialist listed in the index without referral.
- 10) Coverage includes emergency dental treatment.
- 11) The 24-Hour Assistance Center can be contacted regarding any medical problem that arises outside of business hours, or that does not have a solution within the framework of the Network.
- 12) Referral for hospitalization may be made by any participating physician or the 24-Hour Assistance Center. This referral is required prior to going to the hospital in order to receive coverage for the visit. In life threatening emergencies, the student may go to the nearest hospital without prior notice to the Insurance provider. The Insurance provider should be advised as soon as possible after admittance.
- 13) Students may use the Network anywhere within the State of Israel. The 24-hour Assistance Center will provide referrals to the nearest physician.
- 14) Exclusions and limitations:
 - Pre-existing conditions to the commencement date of the insurance.
 - Any medicine or treatment not prescribed by The Insurance Company's physicians.
 - Psychiatric treatment.
 - Treatments related to HIV/AIDS.
 - Aesthetic treatments and/or surgeries.
 - Pregnancy and delivery.
 - Work - related accidents.
 - Dental treatment which is not considered an emergency designed to relieve immediate pain.
 - Injuries incurred while intoxicated or under the influence of illegal substances.
 - Injuries incurred while participating in extreme sport activities (e.g. bungee jumping, mountain climbing, etc.).
 - Traffic accidents are not covered by medical insurance provider. In such cases, coverage is through the responsible party's insurance or through a government fund, Karnit - <http://www.karnit.co.il/category/krnoffice>



PERSONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

TAU suggests that students consider carrying private comprehensive health insurance. In the event that a medical need arises that is excluded by the policy - such as a pre-existing condition or prescriptions - your insurance may enable you to recover those costs. Please make sure that you have insurance coverage that is effective throughout Israel if you plan on being in the country before the program begins. If you plan on traveling abroad either during or after the program, please ensure that you have insurance coverage that is effective anywhere you intend to travel.

For an additional fee, students may be able to extend their insurance coverage outside of their program dates if they plan to remain in Israel for a short time after the program ends or before it begins. Students can discuss this option with the TAU International Housing and Insurance Coordinator and will be given instructions for how to enroll in this option if suitable.

TAU International Excursions and Activities

In the planning and execution of all excursions and activities, TAU international strictly obeys the security policies established by Israel's Ministry of Education, the Israeli National Security Center (Moked Teva,) and TAU'S Security Department. Transportation to all programmed activities, such as seminars, excursions, visits and conferences, is handled by University chartered buses and only TAU International authorized passengers are permitted.

All TAU International excursions are cleared far in advance by the Israeli National Security Center ("Moked Teva") and the Ministry of Education. This clearance is coordinated with all appropriate authorities (including Israeli police and army). The Moked Teva is then updated with the groups' whereabouts and plans daily leading up to and during the excursions; should an adjustment to the itinerary need to be made at the last minute for security reasons, the TAU International Student Life Team is prepared with a back-up activity or visit. In rare cases, an excursion or activity will be canceled. In accordance to the recommendation of the Moked Teva, armed guards and trained first-aid personnel carrying first aid kits escort the students throughout each excursion.

TAU International does not travel into the West Bank over the green line, except in very specific areas determined safe by Israel's security services (for example, parts of the Old City of Jerusalem).



Independent Student Travel

TAU International students often enjoy traveling throughout Israel during their time at TAU, and in addition many take advantage of the close proximity to Europe and other nearby destinations such as Cyprus. Students are not excused from class for purposes of traveling, but each semester there are designated holiday breaks in which students can travel independently as well as, of course, weekends.

Students traveling independently are asked to do three things:

- 1) Check with the Student Life Team regarding travel plans while students are in the planning phases. The Student Life Team is happy to give advice and share insight into what past students have enjoyed, recommended, etc. In addition, the Student Life Team can discuss known safety or security concerns regarding a potential destination.
- 2) Complete an Independent Student Travel Form. This form allows the Student Life Team to know student whereabouts and how to contact the student in Israel or abroad in case their usual mobile number will not be available. This Google form is shared with students at the beginning of each semester and students should complete it each time they travel outside the program, even for day trips.
- 3) Ensure that proper health insurance coverage is secured prior to travel, if traveling outside Israel.

Because of safety concerns, TAU International strictly prohibits travel to the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza, Lebanon and Syria during a student's program at TAU. TAU International strongly discourages travel in the West Bank with the exception of parts of Jerusalem. Students are encouraged to check with the Student Life Team to understand the most up-to-date current safety and security updates for parts of Jerusalem if this is part of their travel plan.

While abroad, students are encouraged to keep a low profile regarding both their U.S. identification (for students from or studying in the U.S.) and also all students are encouraged to keep a low profile regarding their current study in Israel.

Additional Safety Concerns (Crime, Fire Safety, Natural Disaster, etc.)

Political Demonstrations

Students are advised to avoid attending any political gatherings or political demonstrations of any nature or cause.

Petty Crime

Compared to most large cities, Tel Aviv has a relatively low rate of petty crime (theft). That said, careful precautions should always be taken just as in any city: keep doors locked, lock bicycles securely, keep personal items in sight at all times (particularly on beaches and other public areas), do not bring valuables on the program, etc.



Sexual Assault or Harassment

While Tel Aviv has a vibrant and exciting scene that is for the most part very safe, students are encouraged to adhere to the “buddy system” while out in Tel Aviv, remaining with at least one friend at all times. We encourage students to not engage in any displays of public intoxication, as unfortunately this is often the state in which unwanted advances may be made.

Students should ALWAYS keep a close eye on their drinks, never leaving a drink unattended and making sure to watch carefully how a drink is made. If you have any reason to suspect your drink has been compromised, do not test it out – just get a new one. Do not accept any gum or candy from strangers.

Students are encouraged to use Gett or an authorized taxi service; do not get in an unmarked or unrecognizable taxi at any time.

Again, Tel Aviv is quite safe as far as large cities go. That said, we don’t recommend students walk alone late at night especially in remote areas, areas that are not well-lit, or in areas which students aren’t familiar with.

Should a student experience sexual assault or harassment, there are several resources available:

- Contact the Student Life Team 24/7; the team can help walk you through the resources available to you and discuss various steps you can take depending on your circumstances and wishes
- You can contact Police – call 100
- For any sexual harassment or assault, you can contact the Association of Rape Crisis Centers (English speaking) – Women call 1202; Men call 1203
- Between the hours of 6-10pm, students can call the Campus Crisis Hotline at 03-640-5352
- Should you need medical assistance as a result of harassment or assault, please contact the Student Life Team for assistance making an appointment. If you don’t feel comfortable doing that, please consult the information in your Welcome Kit on making a doctor’s appointment or seeking urgent healthcare in Israel

Discrimination

TAU International strives to create a safe, equal and fair environment for all students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, citizenship, religion, disability, veteran status, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. If students wish to report any perceived cases of discrimination which occur within or outside of the university, they should contact the Head of the TAU International Student Life Team at 052-525-5137.

Suspicious Objects and/or People

The majority of Israelis are very used to having a heightened sense of awareness regarding their surroundings. It stems more from common sense as opposed to paranoia – it’s just a good idea in general to know what’s happening around you, wherever you may be in the world. Students are encouraged to keep an eye on their surroundings at all times and be aware of people, objects, etc. in their vicinity. Report any suspicious or abandoned objects or suspicious people immediately to the nearest security personnel.



Fire Safety

All TAU facilities, including dormitories, are regularly inspected for Fire Safety and Compliance in accordance with Israeli law. Students should make note of the location of the fire extinguishers in the dormitories or in the place of residence (for those living off-campus) and make note of how to use them in case of fire emergency. Students are also encouraged to make note of all sprinklers and fire evacuation routes. In case of fire, elevators should never be used. Students should not take any personal belongings with them if evacuation is necessary; students should evacuate the building calmly and once outside proceed to a safe area while taking care not to cross any streets without thoroughly checking to be sure it is safe to cross.

Electrical Safety in the Dormitories

Should students notice wires are exposed, outlets or switches are broken or damaged, appliances are broken etc. they should must notify the dorms maintenance immediately upon the discovery of a safety hazard. It is stated emphatically that the resident may not make any changes and/or additions to the electrical systems, on his own or through a licensed technician.

Danger of Falling

It is absolutely forbidden to go on the rooftops of any of the buildings including the dormitories for any reason, to climb or sit on the window sills or in high places that do not have railings. Windows, screens or any part of them may not be dismantled. Planters, flower pots or any other item may not be placed on the outside sills of the windows or on the outer building walls.

Environmental Safety Concerns

From the standpoint of natural hazards, there are a few in which we are most mindful in Israel: Earthquakes, Swimming/Water Safety, and Heat.

Earthquakes - To best prepare for the event of an earthquake, please consult an important resource which is the [Israeli Home Front Command](#) website. This is a national web site that monitors public safety in Israel and it contains the safety guidelines to follow in case of an earthquake event. As earthquakes can come without prior warning, a high level of awareness and familiarity with these guidelines can save lives. Following is the link to the Home Front Command's instructions on the subject, with details of the [earthquake safety procedures](#).

Swimming/Water Safety – One of the greatest things about Tel Aviv are the incredible city beaches and the beautiful Mediterranean Sea spanning the entire coastline of Israel. While enjoying this natural wonder, it's important to review the [Tel Aviv Municipality guidelines](#) for beach safety:

- Swimming at the Tel Aviv beaches is prohibited when there is no lifeguard on duty. Outside of Tel Aviv, we strongly recommend that you never enter the water if not in an area where there is a designated lifeguard on duty.
- Bathers must comply with the lifeguard and rescue guards at all times.



- Swimming/entering the sea is prohibited when the black flag(s) is raised. Even if the sea looks calm, a black flag indicates dangerous currents. Do not enter the sea in this case.
- Building a fire is always prohibited on beaches.
- Rescue services at the Tel Aviv beaches are available during set hours during the summer season which are typically 07:15am- 16:45pm (consult web site to verify). Do not swim outside of these hours.
- Never, ever swim while intoxicated.

Heat/Dehydration - Israel's strong, Mediterranean sun, coupled with hot, dry weather in many parts of the country, for the majority of the year, pose health risks that include dehydration and heat stroke, as well as long-term damage and risk of skin cancer from exposure to the sun. Other consequences of sun damage can include severe burns. Some tips to stay cool and safe from the heat:

- Avoid prolonged exposure to the sun between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Use a sunscreen of at least 15 SPF applied 1/2 hour before going outside. Reapply sunscreen every few hours, or after exercising, swimming, or playing.
- Avoid clothing that exposes sensitive skin to the sun. Wear light, loose garments with sleeves, in natural fabrics such as cotton. White and other light colors deflect the sun, while dark colors absorb heat.
- Wear a hat with a brim to keep the sun off your face. Covering of the head helps to prevent heat stroke as well.
- Wear sunglasses which protect from harmful ultra-violet rays.
- Don't forget to drink plenty of water frequently. During the summer months, you can dehydrate even before you feel thirsty. Remember that alcohol and caffeinated drinks can dehydrate you further.
- Remember that risks are present even in cooler winter weather. Take precautions such as the above year-round.

Drugs and Alcohol

The legal drinking age in Israel is 18. Should students choose to drink alcohol, they are advised to drink in moderation. Like all big cities, nightlife in Tel Aviv is not without its risks. While nightlife in Tel Aviv is lively and fun, it is essential that students maintain awareness of surroundings and it is advised that students stick together and watch out for one another. In addition, students are advised to watch their drinks at all times. Never accept a drink from a stranger or drink from something that has been left unattended. It should be noted that the majority of Israelis do not drink heavily. Thus, from a cultural standpoint, heavy drinking and public drunkenness will stand out in Israel and therefore is not advised.

Drugs – including marijuana – are illegal in Israel, period. Drug use can result in arrest, fines, deportation, and more. TAU (and your home country Embassy) is unable to intervene on your behalf in any matter of the law including suspected drug use.

Should students need assistance in managing drug and alcohol use, there are resources available. Please read further TAU's information on drug and alcohol use here: <https://acad-sec.tau.ac.il/preventing-eng>.



Additional Information

If students, parents or home institutions would like additional information regarding any matters of safety, security, health and wellness at TAU International, please do not hesitate to contact the [TAU International Office](#) at any time.



HOUSING

HOUSING

DORMITORY FACILITIES

General Information

The two relevant dormitory complexes are adjacent to campus. Please click [here](#) to see the location of the dormitories on the TAU map.

The official check-in day to the dormitories is on Sunday, October 22, 2019 from 8am to 4pm (besides students who are already living in the dorms).

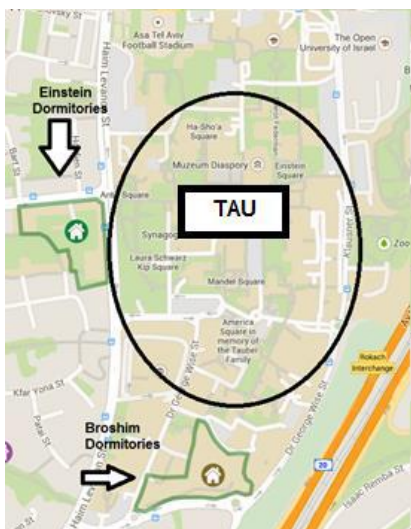
During orientation week, Tel Aviv University International will conduct an information session on housing, where the rules and regulations will be provided in detail.

Please note that the following items are not supplied by the University: blankets, pillows, towels, kitchen utensils, and household goods. Students may bring their own linens and electrical appliances or choose to buy from an Israeli company that provides these supplies, such as [4-Less](#) or [IsraDorm](#). Please visit their websites for details and prices. If you have questions they can be reached toll-free at (866) 404-5377. The following quantities of linens are usually sufficient: two blankets, two to four sheets, two pillowcases, one pillow, and four towels. Please note that beds in the dorms are slightly longer and narrower than American twin beds.

The beds in Broshim have 2 different sizes. Since we can't alert in advance of the exact size of the bed, we recommend buying linings after checking in. For the first night you can bring basic linings from home.

Management of the dormitories is handled by a third-party company (*Shikun U-Binu'i*), which should be contacted directly regarding any maintenance-related issues. Contact information will be provided upon entrance to the dorms.

For any inquiries regarding housing please be in touch with us at housing@tauex.tau.ac.il



Einstein Dormitories

The Einstein student dormitories are located across the street from the Tel Aviv University main entrance (to the west). **Shared rooms** are available there for our international graduate students.

Each dormitory suite is divided into two bedrooms; two students sharing each bedroom. Each suite is fully furnished and includes a new kitchen and bathroom, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, and cable TV. The dorms are inspected upon move-in and any damage done during students' stay will have to be covered by the students. A self-service laundry and a small gym is located within the dormitory complex. Additional laundry and cleaning facilities are available in nearby shopping centers.



Prices are 600 USD month for a shared room, utilities and municipal tax included. Students who are living in the dorms are expected to sign a contract and pay in advance. Students who wish to room with a friend may indicate this on their Confirmation Form.



Inside an Einstein dorm room

Student City- Broshim Dormitories

The brand new Student City (Broshim student dormitories) is located a few minutes away by foot south of the Tel Aviv University campus. **Studio rooms** are available there for our international graduate students.

Broshim offers studio apartments suited for single occupancy. Each suite is fully furnished and includes a new kitchen and bathroom, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, and cable TV. The dorms are inspected upon move-in and any damage done during students' stay will have to be covered by the students. A self-service laundry is located within the dormitory complex. Additional laundry and cleaning facilities are available in nearby shopping centers.

Fees: \$800 for a studio apartment utilities and municipality tax included. Students who are living in the dorms are expected to sign a contract and pay in advance.



Broshim dorms



OFF-CAMPUS LIVING

Many international graduate students choose to live in nearby off-campus apartments. Sharing a standard apartment with one or two roommates may cost the same as the dorms. Around orientation time, there will be sessions meant to guide you with off-campus housing in Tel Aviv. In the meantime, please find some general guidelines here.

If you live in Ramat Aviv (the neighborhood closest to campus) you can walk to TAU. However, living in the city center allows you to have access to the beach and the city action. From the city center, the bus takes anywhere from 30 to 40 minutes to reach the university. The first question to ask yourself when looking for housing is: whether you prefer to live near the university in Ramat Aviv or in central Tel Aviv. Please refer to the map of Tel Aviv at the beginning of this booklet.

Apartment hunting in Tel Aviv can be quite time consuming, and the process might be lengthy. This can be partially explained by the extremely fast-moving market. **Students are advised to set time aside specifically for apartment hunting prior to the start of the program.** At least three weeks are recommended for apartment searching.

There are plenty of real estate brokers but expect to pay one month's rent as a finder's fee if you find an apartment through them, plus 17% VAT.

Students may want to consider finding a short-term rental for the first couple of weeks while looking for a permanent apartment. Airbnb is very popular in Tel Aviv and you might find great solutions for short term housing: <https://www.airbnb.com/s/Tel-Aviv~Yafo--Israel>. In addition, Hostels could be a great option for short term solutions- Please find a list of providers here:

Name	Street/ Tel Aviv	Tel	Email
Abraham Hostel	21 LEVONTINE STREET	(972) 3-6249200	infotlv@abrahamhostels.com
Arbel Hotel Apt	11 Hulda	(972) 3-5225450	sales@arbelhotel.com
Bnei Dan Hostel	36 Bnei Dan	(972) 2-5945655	telaviv@iyha.org.il
Dinami Apt	7 Shaul Avigdor	(972) 3-7414795	dinami@internet-zahav.net
Dizengoff Square Apt	89 Dizengoff	(972) 3-5241151	neeamam@netvision.net.il
Dizengoff Suite Apt	39 Gordon	(972) 3-5234363	info@dizengoffsuites.co.il
Holiday 2002 Apt	113 Dizengoff	(972) 3-5271438	dyszalg@netvision.net.il
Holiday Rentals	37 Reines Street	(972) 3 951 3964	Office@Holiday-Rentals.co.il
Madness Apt	119-121 Ben Yehuda st.	(972) 3-5229393	officeteam@tel-aviv-rental.co.il
Rothschild Residence	71 Rothschild	(972) 3-6290555	contact@rothschild-residence.co.il

Sea Hotel Tel Aviv	76 Herbert Samuel St.	(972) 3-7952465	sea@sea-hotel.co.il
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Sea Land Apt	84 Bnei Dan	(972) 3-5225450	info@sea-land.co.il
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Depending on a variety of factors, you should be prepared to pay anywhere from NIS 2500 (living with 1/2 roommates) to NIS 3600 (living alone) per month for a partially furnished apartment. The following websites will help you in your search:

- [Yad2](#): (Hebrew)
- [Jaanglo](#): (English)
- [Taanglo - Facebook](#)
- [Tanglo - Yahoo group](#)
- [WinWin](#): (Hebrew)
- [Homeless](#): (Hebrew)
- [Flat Club](#): (English)
- [Craigslist](#) (English)

Facebook groups:

We have created a FB group for students who are leaving to be able to pass on their apartments to incoming students. We hope to get more activity as we approach the beginning of the next academic year: [TAU International off campus housing](#)

Note: Some of the groups maybe closed groups, meaning you should ask to join and the administrator needs to approve the request.

- [Secret Tel Aviv Facebook Group](#)
- [Tel Aviv Apartments Buy Rent Sell Trade!!!!](#)
- [דירות מפה לאוזן בתל אביב העמוד החדש](#)
- [Internationals in Tel Aviv](#)
- [Apartments for singles or couples in Tel Aviv](#)
- [Apartments in TLV Old North and Downtown](#)
- [Apartments/roommates in Tel Aviv](#)
- [דירות להשכרה והחלפה בין חברים בתל אביב](#) (Hebrew)
- [דירות ריקות בין חברים בתל אביב, לפני שמתפרסמות בהומלס](#) (Hebrew)
- [Looking for an Apartment in Tel Aviv...](#)
- [דירות תל אביב Tel Aviv Apartments](#)
- [דירות יחיד עד 3000 ש"ח בתל אביב](#) (Hebrew)
- [מחפשים דירה להשכיר / לשכור בתל אביב](#) (Hebrew)
- [דירות להשכרה/מכירה מפה לאוזן בתל אביב](#) (Hebrew)
- [Batim LeOlim - Rentals in Tel Aviv](#)

Feel free to ask anybody and everybody. This is actually a very effective way of finding housing, jobs, and information. Personal connections go far in Israel, especially since apartments come and go very quickly in the city. We are happy to help, even if it is just to brainstorm ideas about finding what is right for you.

When looking for an apartment, we highly recommend clarifying the following details:

Apartment Details

- Where is the apartment located?



- How big is the apartment in square meters?
- On what floor is the apartment? If it is on the ground floor, are there security bars on the windows?
- What appliances are included in the apartment (many apartments do not include major appliances such as an oven, stove, or fridge)?
- What furniture is included?
- Is there air conditioning? Heating?
- What else is included in the apartment?
- Is there a roommate? What are your impressions of him/her?

Rent

- What does your rental payment include (*va'ad bayit* - building maintenance fees? all inclusive - water, gas, electricity, maintenance fees, cable Internet, phone, etc.)?
- How often is payment due and in what form (12 checks in advance? 6 checks in advance? 1 lump sum? Cash - never pay cash unless you receive a receipt)?

Bills

- How much is *arnona* (municipality tax) and water every month?
- Is there an electric heater for water (*dood chashmal*) or is it solar powered (*dood shemesh*)?
- How much is electricity, on average, per month?
- How much are the *va'ad bayit* maintenance fees each month?

Signing the Lease

- Can the lease be written in English?
- Is there a need for a guarantor?
- Do they require a lawyer to review the lease? If so, who covers the cost?

The Area

- Visit the neighborhood during both the day and at night to get a feel for the area. Is it loud at night? Does it feel safe after dark? Is it near a bus route to the university?

For more information regarding the legal aspects of leases, the Student Union offers free legal consulting. To receive this service, please make an appointment to visit their office in the Mitchell Building, room 112. Additional information is available on their website, [press here](#).



ACADEMICS



ACADEMICS

ACCREDITATION

For FFELP purposes, Tel Aviv University is registered with the US Department of Education (Title IV Code 008373-00 or electronic G08373). In Israel, Tel Aviv University is accredited by the Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education.

Attendance in the intensive international graduate programs is compulsory.

GRADING SYSTEM

The following is the grading system used at Tel Aviv University:

A+ = 97-100%	D+ = 67-69%
A = 93-96%	D = 63-66%
A- = 90-92%	D- = 60-62%
B = 83-86%	P = Pass (70% or higher)
B- = 80-82%	W = Withdrawal
C+ = 77-79%	W/F = Withdrawal with failure
C = 73-76%	INC = Incomplete
C- = 70-72%	

INCOMPLETE COURSES

Students who fail to complete any of the course requirements during the period of instruction have an incomplete (INC) grade recorded on the transcript. In special cases, a student may complete the course requirements after the semester within a given time frame. The grade would then be changed accordingly.

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

Disciplinary issues such as plagiarism and other violations of university guidelines are taken very seriously by the university administration, which has strict guidelines regarding their definition and consequences. Details regarding these policies will be communicated during orientation week and throughout the year.

Violations of this nature will be brought before the University's Disciplinary Committee.

SYLLABI

You will receive a syllabus from the lecturer of each course for which you are registered. It will specify the reading materials for the course and describe the assignments and requirements, grading policy, the form and date that assignments should be submitted, and the availability of the lecturer outside of class.



RIGHT TO APPEAL

Students have the right to appeal the results of a written examination within two weeks from the day the papers are returned to the office. If there has been no appeal during that period, the grade is final. The appeal process will be communicated to you during orientation week. The last grade given will be the determining grade (even if the grade received after the appeal is lower than that given for the exam/paper).

During the appeal period, students may not take their original papers/exams out of the office. They may look at their papers and make a copy if allowed by their program administration.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Tel Aviv University believes that all of its students and staff should be entitled to equal access to university facilities, resources and activities, regardless of physical, sensory or mental limitations and disabilities. TAU strives to provide a safe and welcoming environment for people with disabilities and makes accessibility a priority in designing and upgrading the TAU campus.

In accordance with university guidelines, students requesting extended time or other accommodations must bring official documentation from their home country (translated into English by notary), and should be in touch with their respective program coordinator regarding any specific needs they have, and in accordance with the university or program policies and guidelines.

Tel Aviv University has charged the [Dean of Students](#) with ensuring the welfare of students with disabilities. The Dean of Students' office currently provides support and academic assistance to students with disabilities through sponsorships, counseling services and technological study aids. For additional information please contact the Executive Assistant to the Director General on Accessibility Issues, Mariela Yabo at marielay@tauex.tau.ac.il.

EXEMPTIONS FROM COURSES

If you wish to be exempt from a specific course due to a similar, graduate-level course taken previously, you need to bring the previous class syllabus to the relevant lecturer, along with an original academic transcript documenting satisfactory completion of that course. The lecturer's recommendation should be approved by the respective program's academic committee.

- Exemptions from core courses based on prior studies will be registered without a grade pending approval of the program's academic committee.
- Exemptions from elective courses- students must register for an alternative course to complete the program's course unit requirements

ELECTIVES FROM OTHER PROGRAMS

Students of the international graduate programs are invited to broaden their horizons by taking courses in the other programs, pending the approval of the student's program administration and the host program. Towards the beginning of each semester, the program administrators will advertise the course offerings in other programs that are open to students outside their programs.



TRANSCRIPTS AND DIPLOMAS

Students may order official transcripts at any time for a modest fee. For more information, please contact your program coordinator.

Upon successful completion of all courses, an official transcript from Tel Aviv University together with your diploma will be sent to the address you request by mail, several months after graduation.

Eligibility to graduate and/or receive an official transcript is granted only to students who have completed their academic requirements and have finalized tuition and other debts.

LANGUAGE STUDY OPTIONS

General Ulpan

A number of Ulpan (intensive Hebrew program) options are offered to international graduate students during the summer and during the academic year. No Hebrew language background is required for Ulpan studies; upon registering for the class you will be given a placement test to determine your proficiency level, from beginner to advanced. At the end of the Ulpan, students are retested and given a final grade. Please check with your respective program coordinator regarding requirements for your program. A detailed description of each Ulpan level can be found online [here](#).

English

The intensive English summer program is intended for students who would like to improve their English language skills before beginning their undergraduate or graduate studies at Tel Aviv University or elsewhere. Students should have high intermediate to advanced level proficiency in English (if demand is sufficient, courses will be offered at lower proficiency levels as well). The program focuses on reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in academic contexts. Topics covered include building academic vocabulary, reading more efficiently, writing academic papers, listening to lectures and note-taking, participating in seminar discussions, and delivering oral presentations. Students will also receive guidance in library and research skills. The courses are taught by qualified and experienced teachers who specialize in teaching English for academic purposes. The courses are taught in small classes.

During the summer, two courses are offered:

1. Academic English - Reading and Writing (2 credit hours)
2. Academic English - Listening and Speaking (2 credit hours)

Students may register for either or both courses.

Hebrew and Arabic Language Classes during the Academic Year

Hebrew and Arabic classes are offered especially for international students and will be offered during the year for an additional fee. Registration for Hebrew and Arabic courses takes place during orientation week at TAU International offices. Additional information can be found [here](#)

The Division of Foreign Languages at Tel Aviv University

Foreign Language Courses: The Division of Foreign Languages offers courses in Arabic, Czech, French, German, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Yiddish. These full year (two-semester) courses are offered on two levels, beginners and advanced, both consisting of 4 class hours a week for the entire academic year. Students may be eligible for scholarships in foreign language programs; please approach



the language course coordinators for information. The Division of Foreign Languages also offers intensive one-year courses in French, German, and Spanish for students studying toward a post-graduate degree. The courses are intended for students whose department or faculty requires a second foreign language for use as an academic/research tool. Students are advised to inquire which languages their individual department accepts as second foreign languages. These intensive courses meet for two 3-hour sessions per week.

Post-advanced Courses: Yearly post-advanced level courses are offered in Italian, Yiddish, and Russian.

TAU WRITING CENTER - DIVISION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

“My task, which I am trying to achieve is, by the power of the written word, to make you hear, to make you feel—it is, before all, to make you see.”
Joseph Conrad, Lord Jim

TAU's Writing Center in the Division of Foreign Languages invites you to improve your academic writing in English at any stage of your studies and writing. We offer individualized sessions with professional, experienced tutors in a supportive peer-based environment. During these sessions, tutors will address your personal academic writing strengths and challenges, empowering you to improve your academic performance at all levels.

WHO ARE WE?

We are a team of experienced and dedicated TAU faculty members and graduate students in the field of teaching English as a foreign language. All are involved in teaching and researching academic writing from the undergraduate to the doctoral level.

WHAT CAN WE OFFER YOU?

- We provide one-on-one tutoring sessions of 45 or 90 minutes, tailor made to suit your needs at any stage of the writing process.
- Our tutors will assist and support you as you develop your English language skills in writing, reading and speaking.
- We offer targeted guidance and feedback on your academic essays, papers and presentations.

PERSONALIZED MEETINGS - YOU CHOOSE THE TIME

Using our online scheduling system, set up a convenient time to meet with one of our tutors at the Writing Center (meetings are held in Webb Building, room 210).

WE SHOW YOU HOW

Our tutors will help you expand your expertise by showing you how to implement useful strategies on your own. In short, we help you to become a more effective and confident writer.

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Come in for a one-time session or a series of meetings – either way, you are always welcome!

GENERAL WORKSHOPS

We offer group workshops on essential topics such as effective essay writing for exams, avoiding plagiarism, presenting at conferences and meetings, as well as professional writing for post-graduate placements, fellowships, and grants.

HOW CAN YOU ENJOY OUR SERVICES?

Schedule a meeting via our online system with a tutor of your choice or drop by to make an appointment. To learn more about TAU's Writing Center, please visit our [website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

Feel free to contact us at: writingcenter@post.tau.ac.il



END OF YEAR CEREMONY

Tel Aviv University International conducts an "End of Year Ceremony" for all students in the international graduate programs. The ceremony will include congratulatory addresses from top university management, an inspirational keynote speech, cap and gowns, and a cocktail. The event will take place towards the end of the summer semester in August (exact date to be announced). Family members are warmly invited!



CAMPUS LIFE



CAMPUS LIFE

TELAVIV UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Situated in the heart of Israel's coastal region, Tel Aviv University resides on a spacious 220 acre campus. Located in suburban Ramat Aviv, just north of the city, the University is minutes away from downtown Tel Aviv. Tel Aviv University's proximity to the cultural and commercial capital of Israel allows students to absorb the best of Israeli society. Please find a map in the section on Handy Information.

TAU INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE TEAM



To complement your academic experience, TAU International puts great emphasis on the social component of your TAU experience. This was the basis of the establishment of our graduate students' social office.

Our Students life counselors are here to help you with all the non-academic components of your life in Israel: consulting on day to day issues related to your adjustment to Israel, helping with housing, helping you work with the medical insurance (if needed), etc. They're available for you 24/7 for any type of emergency.

Our counselors also conduct a broad social program that includes trips all over Israel (North, South, Jerusalem), parties, cultural events, etc. They will do this while also providing you with the tools to help you to integrate independently into Tel Aviv's vibrant cultural scene.

Also, the Students life staff is active in volunteering projects. You will get more information about volunteering opportunities during the orientation week.

Important for you to remember all the way: the counselors are here to help you!

Email us at: intlgrad@mail.tau.ac.il

GREEN CAMPUS AT TAU

In a milestone for environmentalism at TAU, the university was accredited in 2011 as a "green campus" by the Israeli government, in recognition of its efforts to create a more sustainable institution. The accreditation is awarded to Israeli universities that implement programs in three key areas: academic degrees and courses in environmental studies (given by the Porter School of Environmental Studies), heightened resource efficiency through recycling and reduction of electricity and water use, and community-related projects that strengthen environmental awareness both on and off campus. Among the green innovations at TAU are more energy efficient lighting, the "Nature Campus" educational initiative, stands for the city of Tel Aviv's new bicycle rental system, and a comprehensive plan for campus bicycle paths.

TAU's support for sustainable projects on campus is further underscored by the Porter School of Environmental Studies' new EcoBuilding. The EcoBuilding is designed to meet the highest standards of green building- platinum LEED- and will demonstrate innovative environmental technologies.



LIBRARIES

As a Tel Aviv University student, you will have access to all the university's general and professional libraries. A tour of the libraries will be organized for you during the orientation week. A complete list of on-campus libraries is available at: <http://www.tau.ac.il/libraries-eng.html>

Students enjoy high quality library services across campus. In addition, the Bender-Moss Social Science Library will be open 24 hours a day during exam periods.

Please note that it is your responsibility to return library books on time and that you will not be entitled to receive your diploma until all books are returned.

THE STUDENT UNION

The Student Union is one of the most active bodies on campus, and offers all its services in both Hebrew and English. Services to students include, but are not limited to, private tutoring, legal support, and extracurricular activities.

The Student Union is located in the Mitchell Building. Please read the section on the Buddy System for more information about the Student Union's programs or visit https://international.tau.ac.il/student_union



ENGLISH-SPEAKING STUDENT CLUBS

The Students life staff of TAUi coordinates several clubs run for the students in English such as Soccer/ Running club, etc.

In addition, there are some TAU Clubs run in English:

Model UN is an academic simulation of the United Nations that aims to educate participants about current events, selected topics in international relations, diplomacy, and the United Nations agenda. The participants role-play diplomats representing a country or NGO in a simulated committee session of the United Nations, such as the Security Council, or the General Assembly. Participants research a country, take on roles as diplomats, investigate international issues, debate, deliberate, consult, and then develop solutions to world problems.

For more information and registration, please contact: taumunclub@gmail.com.

The Ambassadors' Club is a project of Tel Aviv University International and **Stand With Us**, aiming at establishing a leadership and advocacy program that allows outstanding international and Israeli students from TAU to be trained by experts in an interactive fashion.

Through **eight** sessions, including a field trip, the program provides the students with necessary tools in different disciplines concerning public advocacy and diplomacy.

Throughout the semester, the club uses a two-level approach: on the one hand, offering information regarding the issues, and on the other, developing the skills necessary to best utilize this knowledge.

Please contact Tel Aviv University International for more information.

MOODLE

Students have access to Moodle, the online course management system used at Tel Aviv University. Users can access course materials and activities, grades, and communicate with lecturers and other students in the program. Login information and a tutorial will be provided to students during orientation week.

ELITE SPORTS CENTER

The Elite Sports Center (<http://www.sports-center.co.il/?CategoryID=1029>) serves as the venue for all regular university physical education courses, as well as competitive intercollegiate and Israeli league activities in a variety of sports. Facilities include an Olympic-size swimming pool, lighted tennis courts, a basketball court, a track, and a soccer stadium. The Goldreich Multipurpose Sports building houses fitness and weight rooms, squash courts, and a gymnastics hall. You may purchase a sports pass entitling you to the use of all sports facilities and activities during your stay in Tel Aviv. Separate passes must be purchased for the use of tennis and squash courts.

For membership, you will need to provide the Sport Center with the medical [form](#) signed by your doctor.

The Tel Aviv University's Elite Sports Center is also host to the [Tel Aviv Pioneers American Football Team](#). The Pioneers are one of three founding members of the Israeli Football League (IFL) (Israel's amateur football league with eleven teams across the country). The Pioneers are the 2008/2009 and 2013/14 league champions and perennial championship contenders. If you are interested in joining the team or just interested in coming to support us, contact us via or [email us](#).



VOLUNTEER AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Tel Aviv University believes in encouraging its students to be involved, caring, active citizens who are committed to affecting social change and constantly improving Israeli society.

Students interested in volunteer and internship opportunities should meet with the program coordinator and/or the internship coordinator in the TAU International office in Israel. Internships are not available for credit and are unpaid unless special arrangements have been made.

Some fields of volunteering opportunities are:

- Children and education
- Refugees
- Women
- Nature and animals

BUDDY SYSTEM

The Buddy System is a project created in collaboration with the Tel Aviv University Student Union especially for international students. It is a group for students, run by students. The Buddy System's goal is to create a united and multicultural campus at Tel Aviv University.



The program offers all international students the opportunity to enhance their connection to the city, country, and community by connecting them with Israeli students at events held throughout the academic year.

The Buddy System provides the opportunity to meet and build real friendships with Israeli students. The experience is enhanced by Buddy System activities such as trips, lectures, volunteering, parties, and more.

The project is led by four student volunteers and a team of passionate students who want to meet you and make your TAU experience unforgettable.

For more information and photos from previous events, see the Facebook page, TAU Buddy System, at: <https://www.facebook.com/TAUBuddySystem> or email them at: people@taubuddysystem.com

Additional information will be provided during orientation week.

TAU LGBTQ GROUP

TAU LGBTQ group is happy to welcome you to campus!

Our group is a Loving home to all gay, lesbian, bi, trans, queers and confused friends.

We meet every other week for different activities that concern our life on campus and in Israel, followed by our local bar for some drinks and hanging out.

Most of the weekly meetings are in Hebrew, with all other activities conducted in English and Hebrew.

You can sign up for our mailing list (<http://goo.gl/Jaf2r>) to stay up to date, and you can always call or look for us on Facebook!



RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

It Tel Aviv University policy to respect all religious beliefs. No student will be penalized for absence due to religious observance, and alternative arrangements will be sought to meet the academic requirements. Please consult your program's coordinator regarding any questions or issues you might have. For national and religious observance holidays, please refer to our academic calendar.

Please see section on Life in Israel for explanations about the major holidays celebrated in Israel.

CRISIS HOTLINE

In the event that discrimination, harassment, or other conflicts arise, please contact the TAU International office located in the Carter Building on campus. In addition, a student services hotline has been established to handle psychological counseling and crisis. This hotline runs from 6:00pm to 10:00pm nightly. **Phone: 03-6405352**

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Psychological services in English are available for international students. To make an appointment, please contact Ms. Lena Arbiv, secretary of the university's psychological services, 03-6408505 or clinic@post.tau.ac.il. Their offices are located in the Mitchell Building, room 216. Psychological services are strictly confidential by law. Office hours are Sundays-Thursdays from 8:30am to 2:30pm.

The fees for psychological consultation and counseling are as follows:

Initial consultation session	200 shekels
Second and further psychotherapy sessions	200 shekels
First psychiatric consultation	275 shekels
Further psychiatric consultations *	200 shekels

*Students can receive continued psychiatric consultation, but only concurrently with psychotherapy. Confidentiality and privacy: The content of psychological and psychiatric appointments is absolutely confidential. No information whatsoever regarding students is divulged to any university officials, nor to any other institution or party. Only if the student signs a waiver authorizing release of information can any information be divulged.

FOOD AND LIVING EXPENSES

Tel Aviv is a relatively expensive city, but it is also possible to economize. Plan to spend up to 1,200 USD per month for food, independent travel, and incidental expenses. Allow about twice as much for the first month to cover initial purchases. Of course, the amount spent varies per person.



There is no inclusive meal plan at Tel Aviv University. There are several supermarkets nearby, as well as shops that sell prepared foods. University subsidized cafeterias on campus serve excellent kosher meals at very reasonable prices. There are plenty of restaurants and cafés in close proximity to the campus.

Some of the larger grocery store chains in Israel are Supersol (also known as Shufersal), Mega, and Tiv Ta'am. Supersol and Mega are closed on the Sabbath (Saturdays), and everything in the stores is kosher. Tiv Ta'am, on the other hand, sells non-kosher products and is open on Saturdays.

Also open on Saturdays is AM:PM, which is a grocery chain that sells fresh produce and most staple groceries. As the name suggests, AM:PM is also open all night long.

The two main health food chains are Teva Kastel (many locations throughout the city) and Eden (in Gan Ha'ir shopping center - Ibn Gvirol Street at the corner of Hadassa Street). Many international products are also available at these stores. If you are looking for marmite, sushi rice, curry, or root beer, this store is for you!

Another great way to shop is by visiting the outdoor markets. Carmel Market, located at the intersection of King George, Allenby, and Sheinkin Streets, is a great place to get anything you might ever need. Beyond food, the market also has shops that sell flowers, hardware, clothes, and many other items.

There are many free cultural events and the beach is free, but concerts, designer shops, and eating out can add up. The costs of living will therefore very much depend on you. We suggest that you consider adopting the eating habits of Israelis - fruit and vegetables are relatively inexpensive and readily available. Chicken is the most popular meat, as beef is costly and features less prominently in the Israeli diet.

Students can purchase discounted vouchers for purchasing food in supermarkets from the Student Union.

ON CAMPUS FOOD

In each building there is a Cafeteria- go and explore your culinary choices! Here are some options:

- Aroma- Café in the Diaspora Museum building (near Tel Aviv University International offices)
- McDonald's- Sharett building.
- Kakao- Café, hummus, and snacks in the faculty.
- Japanika – Sushi Bar - Right outside of TAU's main gate.

POST OFFICE

There is a post office located just outside the main gate of the University on Levanon Street, across from the main entrance to the University. There are many services and products offered, including postage stamps, phone cards, fax services, money exchange (with better rates than at the bank), and money orders via Western Union. You can even buy a credit card and pay most of your bills there. For more information about Israel's Postal Services go to: <http://www.israelpost.co.il/>

You should allow at least ten days for a letter mailed from Tel Aviv via standard airmail to be delivered in New York. Mind this gap in time when you send a letter home and vice versa. For reduced delivery time, mail may be sent by Special Delivery Air Mail from the United States or by Express Mail from Israel at an additional charge. Packages may be sent by air or surface mail, the latter taking up to several months for delivery. Packages sent by mail may be subject to duty charges.



For students living in the dormitories, mail that is sent to the university is delivered to a central mailbox outside the Tel Aviv University International Office. You must check this box daily for your mail and messages. Mail should be addressed to:

Your Name
c/o Tel Aviv University International
Tel Aviv University
Carter Building, Room 108
Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv 69978
ISRAEL

TIME ZONE

Israel's time zone is UTC + 2. Israel follows Daylight Saving Time, but has a slightly different changeover schedule than Europe and North America. For the exact time in Israel click:

http://www.worldtimeserver.com/current_time_in%20%20%20IL.aspx.

Israel is seven hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (for example, when it is 4:00 a.m. in New York, it is 11:00 a.m. in Tel Aviv). Keep in mind that Israel follows a slightly different changeover schedule for daylight savings time.

TELEPHONE SERVICES

In Israel, there are several service providers for mobile phones, such as: Cellcom, Orange, Pelephone, Hot Mobile, Golan Telecom, etc. This is a very competitive market and it is recommended to check several companies for service plans. Please note that Israeli law forbids signing long-term commitments with communication service providers. Tel Aviv University has arranged for all international students to receive a rent-free cell phone through IsraelPhones. We **strongly recommend** that all students carry these phones for their convenience and safety. To sign up for your phone or for a complete list of benefits, go to <http://www.israelphones.com/tau.htm>.

Please note that you will be charged a **fully refundable \$175 deposit** to ensure that your mobile phone is returned. For a complete list of benefits for both students and parents, please refer to the above webpage. The phones will be distributed during orientation.

Note: Please give your phone number to your program administration.

INTERNATIONAL CALLS

Since the international telecommunications market in Israel was opened to competition, rates on international calls dialed directly from Israel are often cheaper than from the opposite direction. To make an overseas call, dial one of the following 3-digit codes before your country code and area code: 012 (Smile), 013 (Netvision-Barak), or 014 (Bezeq International). If you are coming to Israel from the United States or Canada, you may want to purchase Vonage or MagicJack to make long-distance calls. In addition, using Skype or Google Voice from a computer is always an option.



INTERNET ACCESS

All international students will receive an email account from Tel Aviv University. In addition to several conveniently located computer labs, most areas on campus offer wireless Internet access.

All the computers used at Tel Aviv University are PC compatible. If you decide to bring your own laptop computer, please make sure that it is compatible to 220 volts.

You can log on to the following WIFI networks while on campus:

Free-TAU Password: free-tau
Public-TAU Password: publictau

SCHOOL AND OFFICE SUPPLIES

An office supplies store is conveniently located at the main entrance of Tel Aviv University and sells most of the necessary supplies you will need for your academic studies. You will find everything from pens and notebooks, to printers and USB memory sticks/flash drives. Students with a photo student ID receive a discount. In addition there is also a store located in the Ramat Aviv Mall as well as stores all over Tel Aviv.



LIFE IN TEL AVIV



LIFE IN TEL AVIV

ABOUT TEL AVIV-YAFO

Greater Tel Aviv-Yafo is a world-class academic hub and a popular destination for international students. Four universities and a dozen colleges offer a wide range of programs - from short semesters to full degrees, all taught in English. Together with top academic programs, Tel-Aviv-Yafo offers young people a dynamic student life. Lonely Planet ranked Tel-Aviv-Yafo as number 3 in the hottest destinations for 2011, thanks to its bustling nightlife, lively art scene, and 14-kilometer beach. One out of three residents in the city is between the ages of 18 and 35, making it a perfect location to study!

Tel Aviv was established in 1909, by a group of Jewish families from Jaffa, a port city which has been inhabited for over seven thousand years. Tel Aviv originally began where Jaffa ended, however in 1950 the two cities were united into a single municipal entity. Tel Aviv-Jaffa is now Israel's cultural as well as financial center, a mix of antiquity and innovation, and the center of Israel's high-tech industry and youth culture.

Tel Aviv is the center of Israeli industry and commerce. Israel's only stock exchange as well as nearly 40% of the country's finance and banking industry is located in Tel Aviv.

High-tech is Israel's number one industry and has been the engine of Israel's rapid economic development over the last decades, even in the face of a global economic crisis. Israel has the largest number of startup firms per capita of any country and the second largest concentration of high-tech companies (after Silicon Valley). As a city that encourages innovation and creativity, Tel Aviv is the heart Israel's high-tech and information-based industries, home to most of the country's startup companies.

Lonely Planet magazine has ranked Tel Aviv third on its list of Top Ten Cities to Visit, calling it "a truly diverse 21st-century Mediterranean hub" and "by far the most international city in Israel." In 2012 MasterCard reported Tel Aviv was the fifth most visited destination in all of Africa and the Middle East. Thanks to its 14-kilometer-long beach strip, in 2010 National Geographic magazine included Tel Aviv on its list of "World's 10 Best Beach Cities," along with Barcelona and Rio de Janeiro.

Unique in its status as a major center of industry as well as a hub of youth culture, Tel Aviv is located on the Mediterranean coast and enjoys, on average, 318 sunny days a year. The city's public beaches are meticulously maintained and are open to visitors year-round, encouraging everything from laid back sunbathing on the sand to sporting activities such as wind surfing – a sport in which Israel won its first Olympic gold medal in 2004.

Tel Aviv has the largest concentration of night clubs and restaurants in Israel, despite being the country's second most populous city. Nightlife thrives in Tel Aviv due to the city's high percentage of residents between the ages of 18 and 35. Some are students at Tel Aviv University, some are young entrepreneurs, many are artists come to experience Israel's most vibrant city.

- City of Tel Aviv: <http://www.tel-aviv.gov.il/english/>
- Tel Aviv Entertainment Guide: <http://telavivcity.com/eng/>
- Ministry of Tourism: http://www.tourism.gov.il/Tourism_Eng



SUSTAINABILITY IN TEL AVIV

From local organic community gardens to large organizations fighting for national laws on environmental issues, Tel Aviv is the heart and mind of environmental initiatives in Israel and houses the offices of most of Israel's numerous environmental NGOs (non-governmental organizations). Together with the increasingly influential work of these NGOs, a new generation of environmentally conscious Israelis is growing and developing.

DID YOU KNOW?

Tel Aviv, "The White City", is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Tel Aviv is home to over 5,000 Bauhaus buildings - the largest concentration per city in the world. In recent years, the city has been undergoing a massive reconstruction and preservation effort, which has earned it the status of a world heritage site by UNESCO. Take a tour of the buildings at the Bauhaus Center: <http://www.bauhaus-center.com/>



TRANSPORTATION

It is very easy to travel within Tel Aviv by bus, foot, or bicycle, depending on the distance. For example, the ride from the city center to the university is 30 minutes by bus, even though the distance is just a few kilometers. If you live in Ramat Aviv, you can walk to the university. If you live in the city center, it is possible to walk to the beach and ride a bike to almost anywhere in the city. Buying and maintaining a car is very costly, and parking is a very time consuming and expensive endeavor. If you plan to go out at night, your best bet is to take a taxi.

General information on buses: www.bus.co.il/en, Tel. 1-900-72-1111

Please note that most public transport in Israel stops on Shabbat; though intercity sherut taxis do continue to operate.

'Rav-Kav' is a rechargeable electronic bus and train card at reduced student prices. Please check which 'Rav-Kav' student profile suits you best. 'Studan' is a semester/year program that can be worthwhile if you use it daily. You can also get a regular Rav Kav with 30% student discount.

To receive the Rav Kav card, please bring your student ID and an approval letter from TAU (available from the TAU International office), to the Arlozorov Bus Station or the Central Bus Station (7th floor), Sundays through Thursdays from 8am to 6pm, Fridays 8am to 1pm. During the first week of the semester, you can get it at the Student Union tent on Campus.

Public transportation- FREE APPS

- Moovit- Moovit is a free, local public transit planner, featuring live arrival & departure times, updated line schedules, local station maps, service alerts and advisories that affect current trip. Moovit offers real-time public transit information and GPS navigation across transit modes, including buses, trolleybuses and trains. Users can access a live map and view nearby stops and stations based on their current GPS location, as well as plan trips across transportation modes based on real-time data. NOTE – Some streets are being recognized only by their Hebrew name, so you can use Google Maps to find the right place first.
- We also recommend using Google Maps in order to check which buses goes from place to place.

- HopOn – app for charging the RavKav (public transportation card), and ticket purchase on bus.

BUSES

- Dan Buses: Tel: 03-6394444 www.dan.co.il/english/ -
Sun-Thurs: 5:30am-midnight, Fri: 6:00am-3:00pm
Sat: End of Shabbat-midnight.
- Egged Buses: 03-6948888 (Dial 3) www.egged.co.il/eng
Sun: 6:30am-11:00pm, Mon-Thurs: 7:00am-11:00pm
Fri: 8:00am-3:00pm, Sat: End of Shabbat-midnight
- Night buses (Kavei Layla) are available on Thurs and Sat night. For more information please dial “Call Kav” hotline at *8787. <http://www.kav-layla.co.il/>

Bus Line	Destination	Company
24 & 25	The city, the market, Allenby, Rothschild, Dizengoff Center	Dan
171	Azrieli Center, Central Bus Station	Egged
7	TAU Train Station, Arlozorov Train/Bus station	Dan
274	Azrieli Center	Egged
289	Ibn Gvirol, Rabin Square	Dan
90	Herzliya: Arena Mall/Marina, Herzliya Pituah (with restaurants, bars and clubs).	Metropoline
480	Jerusalem Central Bus Station. From Arlozorov Bus Station (near Savidor Mercas Train Station).	Egged

- **TRAINS**: Israel Trains: 03-5774000 or *5770, www.rail.co.il/en
Sun-Thurs: 6:00am-11:00pm, Fri: 6:00am-3:00pm
Sat: End of Shabbat –11pm
The train station is about 20 min walk from the dorms.
- **SHERUT**: Between a taxi and a small bus, costs is the same as a bus (6-10 NIS per ride). Goes to Tel Aviv and to the beach:

Sherut number: 4'x (which means- Four Aleph)
- **TAXIS**



FOR TAXIS, MAKE SURE YOU KNOW:

- a.** If you ask, your driver has to put the meter (Moneh), as opposed to a fixed rate
- b.** To Tel Aviv center should cost NIS 40-60 & not more!

Local Taxi Services:

Tel: Palatin Taxi: 03-6214621 or Castel Taxi: 03-6994242

There are several applications for taxi services - it is highly recommended to use them. The most popular is gettaxi and can also be used in English.

▪ [Bikes & Scooters](#)

- [Tel-O-Fun](#) - Bike Sharing Rental System
- [Mobike](#) - Bike Sharing Rental System
- You can purchase second hand bikes for good prices in the south of Tel Aviv. Note that they are not always consensually second hand.
- [Bird Scooters](#) - scooter Sharing Rental System
- [Lime Scooters](#) - scooter Sharing Rental System
- [Wind scooters](#) - scooter Sharing Rental System

DRIVING IN ISRAEL

Students holding a valid foreign driver's license should be able to rent and drive cars in Israel. Many rental companies are located on HaYarkon Street, near Frishman Street.

Students may also consider signing up for a car sharing service such as Car to Go: <https://www.car2go.com/>. Tell them you're a student at TAU - they may give you a discount.

BANKING

We advise our students to avoid traveling to Israel with large sums of money, but you may want to have a small amount of cash for your first days. Do not open a bank account in a U.S. branch of an Israeli bank since Israeli branches do not have information about accounts opened abroad.

Opening an Israeli bank account: The main banks in Israel are Leumi, Hapoalim, and Discount (all have branches conveniently close to campus). Some international students choose to open an Israeli bank account. Certain services, such as depositing checks, can only be done at the same branch at which you opened your account, but withdrawing money from an ATM can be done from any bank. American citizens must report their Israeli bank account in their annual income tax filing, regardless of its duration and total sum.

If you do not have Israeli ID, the bank clerk, when opening an account, will randomly assign you a fictional ID number. Please make sure you write down this number. You will need it for future services provided by the bank.



Mandatory to have while going to open a bank account

- TAU Student I.D
- A study approval (a formal form that states your studying in the university this year, the same one used for the Rav Kav)
- Passport
- I.D from your home country which has a photo in it (in addition to your passport).

The bank branches bellow around campus open bank accounts for foreign citizens

*You can open an account in other branches also, these are near campus.

- ["Discount" bank branch on Yehuda Ha-Nasi st. 34](#) (most recommended)
- ["Leumi" bank branch on Brodetski st. 43](#)
- [Israel post office, Chaim Levanon st 67](#)
- ["Leumi" bank branch on Aba Akhime'ir st. 15](#)
- ["Leumi" bank branch on Rav Ashi st. 18](#)

ATM cards: The easiest way to have immediate access to your money from your account in the United States is with an ATM card. We strongly suggest that you arrange for an ATM card from your local bank along with a 4-digit pin number (personal identification number), and that you make sure it can be used in Israel. Please be aware that you will not be able to use a debit card that does not have a credit card logo. Therefore, you should make sure that your bank card is both a debit card and a credit card even if you will not use it as such. We do not advise relying exclusively on ATMs as your only source of cash, due to potentially high transaction fees per each withdrawal.

Credit cards: The most popular credit card in Israel is Visa. MasterCard and American Express are also widely accepted. Most businesses accept these cards for goods and services, and banks offer cash advances. Transactions are then billed to an account back home.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Please see the Elite Sports Center on Campus life section.

PUBLIC SPORTS FACILITIES

Park Hayarkon, Tel Aviv's largest public park, is within walking distance of the University. Features include extensive picnic areas, gardens, a man-made lake, a bicycle path along the Yarkon River, boats for hire, a small children's zoo, and more.

In order to reach the park, walk towards the University Railway Station on the campus's southeastern side. Cross Rokach Boulevard, then turn left, and enter the grounds beyond the parking lot. In the park you will find the Sportek.

Sportek, the Park HaYarkon Sports Center, tel. 03-6422828, 03-6990307.



OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

- The Safari Park – Spacious safari park with zoo and petting corner, Ramat Gan, Tel. 03-6312181.
- Israel Tennis Center, Ramat HaSharon, Tel. 03-6456666.
- For a map of Israel, including sites and attractions, you can visit the website <http://www.eyeonisrael.com>.
- A good resource for travelers is <http://www.tripadvisor.com/AllReviews-g293977-Israel.html>

BEACHES

Tel Aviv has excellent public beaches with changing rooms, restrooms, and cafes right on the sand. Beach chairs and parasols are available for a small fee. For more information, including directions, please visit the following link:

<http://www.tel-aviv-insider.com/beaches-north.php>.

SHOPPING CENTERS

The closest shopping center to the campus is the Ramat Aviv Mall, which is a five-minute walk from the University's main gate, at 40 Einstein Street, tel. 03-6426612. The mall has two large supermarkets and two levels of shops, restaurants, cafes, and cinemas.

Other options in Tel Aviv are:

- Dizengoff Center, 50 Dizengoff Street, tel. 03-6212416.
- Azrieli Center, off the Ayalon Freeway, tel. 03-6081400.
- Opera Tower, right on the sea at 1 Allenby Street., tel. 03-5107496.
- Gan Ha'ir, designer boutiques, 71 Ibn Gvirol Street, tel. 03-5279111.

Tel Aviv has a number of colorful and lively bazaars, or open-air markets, which are open from early morning to early evening, Sundays through Fridays. While it is less customary to bargain on food prices, it is acceptable to try for a discount on clothes and housewares. The word in Hebrew for bazaar, or open-air market, is *shuk*.

- Shuk Hacarmel - The largest and best market for fresh fruit and vegetables, cheese, meat, Asian and other specialty foods, cleaning supplies, inexpensive clothes, and every other consumer item under the sun. Begins at the corner of Allenby and King George Streets.
- Nahalat Binyamin - An arts and crafts market held every Tuesday and Friday with live music and entertainment. On the Nahalat Binyamin pedestrian-only street, right off Allenby Street and parallel to Shuk Hacarmel.
- Shuk Bezalel - Discount clothes. Off King George St., very close to the corner of Allenby Street.



- Levinsky Street - A wonderful street market for spices, nuts, dried fruit, etc.
- Flea Market (*Shuk Hapishp'shim*) - Second-hand clothes, furniture, and general household items. In Jaffa.

RELIGIOUS LIFE IN TEL AVIV

Tel Aviv University is host to a diversity of students from various ethnic and religious backgrounds. It is the university policy to respect all religious beliefs – no student will be penalized for absence due to religious observance, and alternative arrangements will be sought to satisfy the academic requirements involved. Please consult your program's coordinator regarding any questions or issues you might have.

For the dates of national and Jewish religious holidays, please refer to our academic calendar. On the section on Life in Israel you can find explanations about the major holidays celebrated in Israel.

Hillel: the Foundation for Jewish Life on Campus, is a student-run organization that provides a variety of programming on college campuses around the world. Throughout the school year, TAU Hillel offers events in English and Hebrew that are open to all regardless of religion or nationality. For more information regarding Hillel, go to <http://www.hilleltau.org.il/90826/Hillel-Programs>.

Below is a list of places of worship in Tel Aviv-Yafo, please contact them directly for times of worship.

Judaism:

- Conservative/Masorti- Kehilat Sinai, Tel Aviv, <http://taliaharris.wix.com/sinai>. The New Kehila, Ramat Aviv, <https://www.facebook.com/HaKehila>
- Orthodox- http://www.rabanut.co.il/show_item.asp?levelId=60315 (Hebrew only)
- Progressive/Reform- Beit Daniel, Tel Aviv, <http://www.beit-daniel.org.il/>

Christianity:

- Lutheran- Immanuel Church, Jaffa (English services)
<http://www.immanuelchurch-jaffa.com/>
- Roman Catholic- St. Peter Church, Jaffa (English, Italian, Spanish, Polish, and German services).
St. Anthony of Padua Church, Jaffa (English and Arabic services)
<http://www.jaffatsparish.com/services.htm>
- Greek Orthodox- St. Michael Church, Jaffa (Greek services), Phone: 03-6823451

Islam (Sunni):

Al-Ajami Mosque, Jaffa; Mahmoudiya Mosque (Great Mosque), Jaffa; Al Bahr Mosque, Jaffa; Hassan Bek Mosque, Tel Aviv



LIFE IN ISRAEL



LIFE IN ISRAEL

JEWISH AND NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

All holidays in Israel begin at sundown on the previous day and their precise dates on the Gregorian calendar change from year to year. The High Holidays (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur) will take place in mid to late September. Sukkot follows in the beginning of October. Other main Jewish holidays include Hanukkah, Purim, Passover, and Shavuot. There are also a number of national civil holidays celebrated in Israel including Holocaust Memorial Day, Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terror, and Independence Day. More details about these special days are provided below. Both Hillel and the Buddy System provide holiday-related programming throughout the academic year, and international students will be notified of all.

Rosh Hashanah - The holiday represents the beginning of the Jewish year and civil calendar; its name in Hebrew means “The Head (beginning) of the Year.” The holiday is a time when people look back at the occurrences of the past year and think about how they plan to make changes in the upcoming year. Families gather to share a large festive holiday meal.

Yom Kippur - The most solemn day of the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur occurs 10 days after Rosh Hashanah. This “Day of Atonement” is a fast day, and is usually observed by attending synagogue to repent and ask forgiveness. It is said that on Rosh Hashanah, God writes the judgment of every person in the “Book of Life” and on Yom Kippur, the book is signed and sealed. Thus, the ten days between the two holidays is a time to ask forgiveness from others. Please note that most of the country literally closes down during Yom Kippur, including transportation.

Sukkot - Translated as “The Feast of the Booths” and also called the “Feast of the Tabernacles”, Sukkot is both a religious and agricultural holiday. The holiday commemorates the forty years that the people of Israel wandered the desert after the exodus from Egypt. The holiday is also a celebration of the harvest season in the region. During the holiday, families erect booths (*sukkot*) outside their homes, in which they sit to eat their meals and even sleep at night. In order for a booth to be 'kosher', its occupants must be able to see stars through the roof of the structure.

Hanukkah - Known as “The Festival of Lights,” Hanukkah tells the story of assimilation, suppression, and the fight to maintain the Jewish faith in the face of secularizing Hellenism. During the holiday Jewish people light an eight-pronged candelabrum to symbolize the eight days that the oil burned in the Temple after it was reclaimed from the Hellenists. The connection with oil extends also to the food that is customary to eat during the holiday - jelly-filled donuts and *latkes* (potato pancakes).

Tu B'Shvat - The “New Year for the Trees” is celebrated by planting trees in Israel and eating different kinds of fruit and nuts. The holiday is another agricultural holiday that has its roots in the “Mishna” (rabbinical commentary on Jewish law).

Purim - Purim commemorates the time in which Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination at the hands of Haman, the king’s advisor. On this holiday, the Scroll of Esther is read twice, small gift packages of goodies are sent to friends, money is given to charity, and people dress up in costume and celebrate.



Passover - Commemorating the exodus from Egypt, this holiday is observed in a number of ways. During the first night, the story of the flight from Egypt is recited around the dinner table. Throughout the weeklong holiday, there is a very rigid dietary requirement of not eating bread or any other leavened food. In fact, Israeli law prohibits the sale of these items during Passover, so you may choose to stock up in advance.

Holocaust Memorial Day - Starting at sundown, TV broadcasts and radio programs are dedicated to the subject of the *Shoah* (Holocaust). A two-minute air siren goes off at 10:00 the following morning. During the siren people drop whatever they are doing in order to stand in silence and contemplation. Memorial ceremonies are held at the University and main city squares (Rabin Square in Tel Aviv).

Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism - One week after Holocaust Memorial Day, Israel commemorates its soldiers who have fallen in battle as well as the victims of terrorism. A siren is sounded at 8:00 pm and again at 11:00 am the following morning. It is customary to stop and stand in silence during the sirens. Local radio and television channels will also broadcast programs commemorating the fallen, as well as events leading to the creation of Israel and its subsequent wars. Ceremonies are held both on campus and at Rabin Square. Immediately at the conclusion of Memorial Day (*Yom Ha-Zikaron*), Israel's Independence Day begins.

Israel Independence Day - At the precise moment that Memorial Day ends, Independence Day (*Yom Ha-Azma'ut*) begins - drawing an inseparable link between fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism and the country's independence. The mood instantly changes as people celebrate Israel's independence. Ceremonies are held at night in Rabin Square, and the next day many people celebrate by getting together with friends and family for a barbeque (*mangal* or *al ha'esh*).

Shavuot - This holiday is otherwise known as *Chag Matan Torah*, the holiday to commemorate when the Jewish people received the *Torah* (first five books of the Bible) at Mount Sinai. Shavuot comes 49 days after Passover, and illustrates that while the children of Israel were physically released from bondage on Passover, they were redeemed from idolatry and immorality by receiving the *Torah* on Shavuot. On this holiday, it is customary to eat dairy products, particularly cheesecake, and study *Torah* through the night.

Tisha B'Av - Occurring on the 9th day of the Hebrew month of *Av*, this is a day of fasting and mourning in commemoration of tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people. According to tradition, both the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem were destroyed on this date.

If you would like to find out more about the Jewish holidays, a great resource is the Jewish Virtual Library: <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/holidays.html>

WORKING HOURS IN ISRAEL

The Israeli work week is from Sunday through Thursday, with a few offices also open on Friday mornings. The weekend for most office workers is Friday and Saturday. At Tel Aviv University, courses are held and administrative offices are open from Sunday through Thursday, although some academic activities do occur on Friday mornings. Stores in Israel are generally open from Sunday through Friday afternoon. Some malls and stores also open for Saturday evening shopping.



TOURING AND ACTIVITIES

You should plan to travel extensively throughout Israel. For University-sponsored trips, students need a backpack large enough to carry two changes of clothes, sturdy walking shoes, and a sleeping bag (most youth hostels provide sleeping bags but some do not). Your sleeping bag can also double as an extra blanket in your dorm room during the winter months. If you are an avid hiker, you may want to bring a larger backpack, sleeping bag, hiking boots, a flashlight, and a mess kit. There may be some additional tours or activities that will be added during the year and may cost an additional fee. In such instances, participation is optional and the additional fee will be charged in Israel.

During your stay in Israel, there will be many opportunities for personal travel. You may wish to visit sites in Israel that are not included in the University-sponsored tours or return to those that particularly interest you.

If you plan to be away from campus for an extended period of time, please inform your program coordinator of your itinerary. Please include the date you plan to return to campus and a telephone number or address where you can be reached in the event of an emergency.

While the program places no travel prohibitions on you, we strongly urge you to seriously consider the potential dangers inherent in visiting countries with which Israel does not have diplomatic relations. Entry to and exit from these countries is not always easy, and TAU is not responsible for you should you decide to undertake such a trip. Additionally, TAU is not liable for any independent travel undertaken in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

We will be more than happy to assist you with suggested trips and places to visit. We will also be regularly updating you on the exciting events happening in and around the Tel Aviv area such as festivals, film events, conferences, and exhibitions.

USEFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

Maps:

- Map of Tel Aviv: <http://www.tel-aviv.gov.il/eng/Pages/mapsnew.aspx>
- Interactive map of Israel: <http://www.eyeonisrael.com>

Resources for Travelers:

- Secret Tel Aviv - <https://www.secrettelaviv.com/>
- Tourist Israel - <https://www.touristisrael.com>
- Let's Go Guide: <http://www.lets-go.com/middle-east/israel>
- Tel Aviv Global City Guide: http://issuu.com/gagnshalom/docs/tlv_globalcity
- TimeOut Tel Aviv: http://digital.timeout.co.il/activemagazine/welcome/TO_globalcity2.asp

Media Sites:

- Haaretz: <http://www.haaretz.com/>
- Jerusalem Post: <http://www.jpost.com/>
- Ynet (affiliated with Yediot Acharonot): <http://ynetnews.com>
- Times of Israel: <http://www.timesofisrael.com/>