Studying In Israel

Jerusalem University College
Travel from the United States and Canada

Individual travellers and group leaders from North America should contact our North American office for information on travel arrangements. The university has engaged MTS Travel Service to help students and groups obtain low fares. (see page 48)

Apply for study as early as possible, then make tentative travel plans until you receive formal acceptance into the program. Upon acceptance you should finalize your travel arrangements.

Please be sure to arrive on the designated arrival day for your program or semester and depart on the designated departure date. Early arrivals and late departures must be requested in writing three months in advance and approval is subject to availability of space. Additional charges for room and board apply to early arrivals and late departures. In many instances kitchen facilities are not available for early arrivals and late departures.

In general, airlines allow one carry-on bag not exceeding 45 inches (sum of length plus width plus height), and two pieces of luggage totalling 70 pounds each. Luggage must not exceed 62 inches each piece (sum of length plus width plus height).

Travel from All Other Countries

Students from all other countries should arrange their travel through a local agency. Please be sure to arrive on the designated arrival day for your program or semester and depart on the designated departure day. Early arrivals and late departures must be requested in writing three months in advance and approval is subject to availability space. Additional charges for room and board apply to early arrivals and late departures. In many instances kitchen facilities are not available for early arrivals and late departures.
Jet Lag

Upon arrival in Israel, the initial excitement may cause you not to notice the strain on your body from the long flight and the crossing of time zones. It is highly recommended that you immediately begin to follow the sleeping patterns of the country. If you arrive during the day, try your best not to go to bed until evening. If you arrive late at night try to rise in the morning with everyone else. In this way the effects of jet lag will be overcome quickly.

Passport

You must have a valid passport from your country. Further, it must not expire until at least six months after your departure from Israel. Be sure to check your passport and make any application for passport well in advance of your program. Remember to sign your passport and keep it with you at all times. Also keep a record of your passport number, traveller’s check numbers, and credit card numbers in a safe place.

Visa

North American citizens are not required to obtain any special visa before travelling to Israel. Passports are stamped with the appropriate tourist visa at Passport/Immigration control at the time of entry in Israel.

Long-term students will be assisted in obtaining an extension of their tourist visas, or long-term visas, by the university after arriving.

Students with passports from countries other than Canada and the United States should check with their consulates and the Israeli consulate in their country to establish the requirements for entry.
into Israel for either short-term or long-term study. Students should apply for a tourist visa through their local Israeli consulate. Please request a letter of assistance from Jerusalem University College should you need to apply for a visa in order to enter Israel. Students from countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel will be unable to gain entrance. The university is unable to provide visa or passport assistance for such students.

**Immunizations**

North American students do not require any special immunizations or proof of prior immunizations. Students from countries other than Canada and the United States should check with their own consulates and the Israeli consulate in their country to determine immunization requirements for entrance into Israel.

All prescription medications must be in their original containers. Obtain extra medication for the length of your stay in Israel. Consult your doctor.

**Travel Insurance**

Often, purchasing tickets with credit cards provides free travel insurance from the credit card company. Other times the travel agency utilized provides free travel insurance. Consult your travel service.

Students from countries other than Canada and the United States who desire travel insurance should check with the travel agency through which they are making their flight arrangements.

You may desire to purchase loss or theft insurance for personal items prior to your departure for Israel. The university does not provide this type of insurance. You are responsible for all your
personal property, whether on or off-campus. (see page 50 – Insurance)

Airport and Security Procedures

For international flights students should arrive at least two hours prior to the flight for baggage check-in, boarding passes, and security check.

At the point of departure from which you will have a direct flight to Israel, Israeli security personnel will take you through a security check. This can take from 30 to 60 minutes with two or more teams of questioners and will involve an inspection of your luggage contents, carry-on bags, questions about yourself and the purpose of your visit to Israel, and questions about any packages you may have received from others to take to Israel.

Students should be prepared with their assistance letters to show security personnel the program they are attending. If you have received packages from others to carry to people in Israel, you must unpack the items and repack them yourself. If you are taking magnetic media of any kind, most airport scanning devices will not harm them. However, you may want to remove and hand-carry those items.

If you are taking elaborate camera or video equipment or computers, please note that you may be required at Israeli customs to place a deposit for the equipment. The deposit will be returned to you upon your departure with the equipment. The deposit varies from a token amount to the total value of the equipment. Having your original receipt may be helpful.

Travel from the Airport to the University

After arriving at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, you will need to travel to the university in Jerusalem.
Special groups of 25 or more may request that the university arrange for bus transportation. The request must be received in writing three months prior to the start of the program. The cost is indicated on the schedule of fees.

Smaller groups and individual students may take a “sherut” (eight-seat taxi) directly to the university for $10.00 each, one way. Taxis are located outside the airport gate and to the right. Please note that you should not take a private taxi. These are unregulated and the drivers will charge you whatever you are willing to pay, which is usually too much.

**Adjusting to a Different Culture**

Life and people outside your country can be quite different from your expectations. Coming to Israel, you will definitely experience change while visiting a land with a wealth of history and a complexity of cultures and communities. It can be an exciting, deepening, and broadening experience. With this experience comes the need for adaptation, for you are a guest in the country. Although Israel is one of the more developed countries in the Middle East, the Orthodox Jewish people and the Arabs (both Christian and Muslim) have very different lifestyles from that with which you are familiar. Therefore, as a guest in Israel, you are asked to be sensitive to this society’s standards of dress and behavior. Modesty in dress is important for our Christian testimony, and for your own safety. It also demonstrates your efforts not to offend our Arab and Jewish neighbors.

**Modest Accommodations**

You will quickly realize you are living on Mount Zion as you walk about the six floors of the university. In other words, climbing begins on-campus! The campus was built completely out of stone in 1853. On-campus housing is dormitory style (10 people or fewer to a room), unless you are a long-term student, in which case there will
be fewer students per room, each provided with a desk, lamp, bookshelf and wardrobe. Washrooms may sometimes be three floors from your sleeping quarters. Bedding, a pillow, and blankets are provided, but bring your own towels, washcloths, and soap.

The university has very limited housing for couples on-campus. According to the season and the demand, private rooms for couples may be secured on or off campus. This is possible only if sufficient advance notice is given, accompanied by an additional fee. This additional fee covers only the expense of this special housing on or off-campus in Jerusalem, and not on field trips outside the city. Without sufficient advance notice and a deposit, private housing for couples cannot be guaranteed. On field trips, in some situations, couples may have to use dormitory accommodations for a few nights.

Married long-term students with children must arrange their own housing off-campus. The university's Student Services Department will assist with this. There are also limited day schools for foreign children in Israel and they can be expensive. You are expected to make your own schooling arrangements for your children. The university has no facilities for housing or schooling children, nor for daycare. The university has a coordinator for services to married students who will assist you in making the transition to life in Israel.

**Important Note**
The university reserves the right to place students in off-campus housing should the facilities be running at capacity.

**Weather and Clothing**

**Summer**
From May through October, the weather in spring, summer, and fall is usually hot and dry with temperatures ranging from 15 degrees
to 32 degrees C (60 to 90 degrees F), and in some parts of the country up to 50 degrees C (120 degrees F). There is no rain in the summer. Men and women are asked to refrain from wearing short-shorts. Men should not walk about without shirts and women should not wear “halter” or midriff tops. These are considered immodest dress by many in this culture.

Wearing a hat is essential to prevent sunstroke and dehydration. Canteens are necessary for field trips. There will be several opportunities to enjoy a refreshing swim, so bring a swimsuit. Good sunglasses and sunscreen are also recommended.

Winter
From November through March or April, the weather is often rainy and temperatures range from freezing to 15 degrees C (60 degrees F). Be prepared for a variety of weather. The best thing is layering, adding and removing layers as the weather changes. Be ready for rain. Long, waterproof rain coats/parkas are a must, especially since the rains are often accompanied by high winds. Umbrellas are useful when it is not too windy. Fuel is very expensive; the university buildings are constructed completely out of stone and may not always be heated to the degree you may be used to. Therefore, thermal underwear is recommended. Bring a swimsuit as swimming is sometimes possible in winter in the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee.

The tendency in Israel is to dress informally but modestly. In summer, cotton clothing (cooler than synthetics), sunglasses and a hat are necessary. Comfortable, sturdy shoes are recommended for walking and field trips. Thongs are impractical and dangerous on stone. Longer length skirts, slacks, jeans and knee length walking shorts are acceptable. For winter, thermal wear, fleece sports wear, warm pajamas, socks, sweaters, slacks, skirts, jackets, gloves, boots, and rain gear are best. Layering also helps. Friday night Shabbat dinner with Vespers is more dressy.
Dress Code

Students are required to follow the dress code in the Student Manual, and are expected to bring to Israel adequate clothing according to the standards published in the Student Manual.

Public Behavior and the Statement of Standards

As part of the application process, all students are required to read and sign a statement of standards of conduct to be followed while in Israel. It reads as follows:

“Jerusalem University College, located on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, is a Christian institution in Israel serving several purposes. The first purpose is to provide a place for serious Christian students to study the Bible in its original setting with all the modern resources at their fingertips. The second purpose is to aid in understanding the culture of this land while demonstrating what a ‘Christian’ is by living the Christ-like life in the midst of Jewish and Arab cultures.

The two dominant Arab and Jewish cultures differ from one another. But even more important than this, they are different from the Western culture of which most incoming students are a part. While there are many similarities between the large non-religious segment of the Jewish culture and Western culture, the Arab peoples here – both Muslim and Christian – have different values and norms of behavior from those with which the student may be familiar.

The rule of modesty applies to conduct as well as dress. This is especially the case while dealing with conduct between the sexes. The Arab community does not have the equivalent of the word ‘dating’ in its vocabulary and every time a woman is even seen with a man, it is assumed that if they are not married, they are living together; therefore the woman (unmarried) would be considered a “promiscuous woman.” Because of this, individuals must be careful about how they relate to members of the opposite sex while
in public. Even such simple Western cultural habits as hand-holding can be misinterpreted and could lead to unwanted consequences.

We hope you will appreciate it when we call attention to some of these cultural differences while you are with us. If it is necessary to make adjustments for your protection or our testimony, we hope they can be made cheerfully.

We are grateful for those people coming from Western cultures who have been eager to learn about the peoples of Israel and other Middle Eastern countries. We are especially appreciative of those who are sensitive to the differences among the cultures in these countries, and whose lives allow us to maintain a positive evangelical Christian witness.”

Safety

The university has an excellent safety record. University personnel are trained to assist and instruct you in matters of personal and group safety. The university grounds are located in a safe area of Jerusalem and are patrolled regularly.

During your security orientation period you will be instructed on matters to ensure your personal safety while in Israel. Despite most portrayals of Israel and the Middle East by the media, the places where university students travel and visit are quite safe.

All students are required to sign a waiver of responsibility for personal injury.

Public Transportation

There is taxi and bus service 900 meters (1/2 mile) away. Bus service within the country is good and reasonably priced. Bus fare
within the city is about $1.20 U.S. Monthly bus passes are available. Bus service stops Friday afternoon for Shabbat and does not resume until one hour after sunset on Saturday evening. Sheruts (shared taxis that travel only specific routes) continue to operate between cities on Saturdays, with fares slightly higher than buses. Within the city, taxi service continues on Shabbat, although rates increase.

**Electricity**

Electric current in Israel is 50 cycles, 220 volts. Small converter-adapters, capable of 1,500 watt conversion, are adequate for use with shavers, hair dryers, or small appliances and are available in Israel. You may purchase one before coming.

**Food Service**

Food is a combination of American and Middle East dishes, adapted to local products. The university kitchen cannot prepare food for special diets or offer meals at irregular times.

**Kitchen Duties**

All on-campus students take turns on dishwashing teams for the evening meal. Students will be assigned to one of these teams.

**Laundry**

Automatic washers and dryers, and clotheslines for use during the warm months, are available at the university. Irons are provided. Dry cleaning is available in the city.

**Telephone Calls to Jerusalem**

Student telephone numbers are (international access number plus): 972-2-673-5200 and (international access number plus): 972-2-
673-5909. Most students make first telephone contact to family or friends by calling from Israel. The university office telephone number is (international access number plus): 972-2-671-8628. The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Israel time, which is seven hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time.

Hospitalization

All students must have hospitalization insurance. All hospital and clinic bills must be paid in cash, by local check, or by credit card before the patient is discharged. Therefore, you must choose one of the following:

1. Students using U.S. (or other foreign) hospitalization insurance policies should have access to contingency funds should an emergency arise. A claim may then be filed with the insurance company for reimbursement of the medical fees. If the student wishes to make use of a foreign insurance policy, a letter from the insurance carrier, stating the student is covered while in Israel, must be submitted to the Jerusalem office. A visit to a clinic may cost $35 - $75 U.S. plus medicine ($15 - $25 U.S.). Payment may usually be made using VISA or MasterCard.

2. Obtain health/hospitalization insurance in Israel through the Student Services office upon arrival. The cost for such insurance is approximately $1.00 per day.

Banking-Transfer of Funds

U.S. dollars are accepted almost everywhere in Israel. Major credit cards are also widely accepted.

Travellers’ checks are acceptable in Israel. Since a bank fee is charged for cashing each check, denominations of $50s and $100s
are preferable to $10s and $20s. For exchange purposes, cash receives a higher rate. While the university does not assume responsibility, funds may be placed in the office safe. Funds may also be secured at the bank through the use of a VISA card and an identification number from the bank issuing the card, or with a Cirrus ATM card.

**Mailings**

**Books and Printed Matter**

Books and printed matter are duty-free items. They may be shipped at lower cost with little risk of loss if they are sent as “direct sack mail.” The Post Office will give you the mail sack and address labels. Use paper cartons with less than 24 pounds in each. Do not seal with tape but tie with strong cord. Address the cartons to yourself at the university and write “Books – Postage Prepaid” or “Printed Matter – Postage Prepaid.” Each sack and carton must weigh at least 30 pounds but not more than 60. Address two tags to yourself at the university and tie them to the sack. No customs declaration form is required as there is no duty on printed matter. Expect two or three months for delivery. Please do not mail your books more than six weeks before you leave for Israel.

**Personal Effects**

You will be charged duty on radios, computers, cameras, film, tape recorders, and tapes that are mailed. Boxes of clothing marked “Used Clothing, No Value” usually enter the country duty-free, although there is no guarantee. Postage expense and the two-to-three-month delivery time make it more practical to pay for an extra bag on the plane.

You should allow up to two weeks for letter airmail to reach Israel and to reach any destination from Israel. Usually airmail moves considerably faster than two weeks.
Other Items to Bring

Long-Term Students

1. Towels and washcloths (several).
2. Converter/adapters for your hair dryers, shavers, etc.
3. Summer clothing: sunglasses and a hat are a must; clothing (cotton is best because it is coolest): skirts for women (longer and full); trousers, walking shorts (knee length), shirts/ tops. (Short skirts, short shorts, halters and tank tops are not appropriate for women in Arab or Orthodox Jewish cultures. Blouses and shirts with elbow-length sleeves are appropriate.) Light jacket or sweatshirt for cool evenings. (Women bring more than one pair of long trousers or a skirt that will slip on over other clothing.) Bring one dress-up outfit.
4. Winter clothing: thermal wear, fleece sports wear, warm pajamas, socks, sweaters, trousers, skirts, jackets, gloves, boots, and rain wear. A long waterproof raincoat or parka is a must because the rains often come with strong winds. Umbrellas are good if it is calm.
5. Shoes: comfortable, sturdy walking shoes. (Thongs are impractical and dangerous on stone.) Sturdy sandals are popular. “Flip-flops” or other beach shoes for stony beaches are helpful.
7. Sewing kit.
8. Radio (short-wave is best) for news and practicing Hebrew.
9. Clock (battery operated or wind-up only).
10. Camera and film. Ektachrome is not processed in Israel. All other films are, and some developers have special deals with processing. Costs for film developing are similar to the States. The Oasis (campus store) sells print film at reasonable rates.
11. Desk Supplies: Spiral notebooks, clipboard, notebooks, tape, colored felt tip pens. (These are available in Israel but are more expensive. Two-holed paper and binders are reasonably priced in Israel.)
12. The university has a limited number of computers and word-
processors for student use. You may wish to bring your own.

13. Eye glass prescriptions. (Examination and glasses are significantly more expensive in Israel.)


15. An adequate supply of medications for such common problems such as sore throat, cough, cold, insect bites, diarrhea, headache, sunburn and muscle strain.

16. Toiletries: cosmetics, and items of personal hygiene as you have room. They are available but expensive, compared with U.S. prices.

17. A day pack (backpack) and sleeping bag if you like hiking/camping.

18. Water canteen.


20. One smaller suitcase or backpack is great for overnight field trips.

21. Bible (not a paraphrase); also a small Bible for your backpack.

22. A beverage cup for your own personal use.

23. A cassette recorder for language learning or for taping class lectures with consent of the instructor. Cassette tapes and batteries are expensive in Israel.

**Do not bring unnecessary valuables such as expensive jewelry.**

**Short-Term Students**

1. Towels and washcloths (several).

2. Converter/adapters for your hair dryers, shavers, etc.

3. Summer clothing: sunglasses and a hat are a must; clothing (cotton is best because it is coolest): skirts for women (longer and full); trousers, walking shorts (knee length), shirts/tops.

   (Short skirts, short shorts, halters and tank tops are not appropriate for women in Arab or Orthodox Jewish cultures. Blouses and shirts with elbow length sleeves are appropriate.) Light jacket or sweatshirt for cool evenings. (Women bring more than one pair of long trousers or a skirt that will slip on over other clothing.) Bring one dress-up outfit.
4. Winter clothing: thermal wear, fleece sports wear, warm pajamas, socks, sweaters, trousers, skirts, jackets, gloves, boots, and rain wear. A long waterproof raincoat or parka is a must because the rains often come with strong winds. Umbrellas are good if it is calm.

5. Shoes: comfortable, sturdy walking shoes. (Thongs are impractical and dangerous on stone.) “Flip-flops” or other beach shoes for stony beaches are helpful.


7. Sewing kit.

8. Clock (battery operated or wind-up only).

9. Camera and film. Ektachrome is not processed in Israel. All other films are, and some developers have special deals with processing. Costs for film developing are similar to the States.

10. An adequate supply of any prescription drugs you currently use.

11. An adequate supply of medications for such common problems such as sore throat, cough, cold, insect bites, diarrhea (Imodium AD), headache, sunburn. Band-Aids.

12. Toiletries: cosmetics, deodorant, toothpaste, tampons (toiletries are available but expensive).

13. A day pack (backpack).


15. Waistpack.

16. One smaller suitcase or backpack is great for overnight field trips.

17. Cash, traveler’s checks.

18. Bible (not a paraphrase); also a small Bible without notes to carry in a backpack.

19. Pre-Israel assignments.

Do not bring unnecessary valuables such as expensive jewelry

Student Manuals

Upon acceptance into your program of study, you will be sent the applicable student manual. This manual will be your introduction to life at Jerusalem University College. It will answer many questions, explain our services, and help make your stay in Israel enjoyable and enriching. It will also clarify the expectations we at the university have concerning you and your conduct and lifestyle here. It is our intent that this manual contribute to a wholesome and positive community life.