INTRODUCTION: We at the Jerusalem University College, most particularly in the Student Services Department, will do our best to assist you in your preparations to come to Jerusalem and in providing for your orientation when you arrive. We have a variety of information to give you upon your arrival including books, a telephone guide, hints for shopping in Israel, etc. Depending upon the number of married students during a semester, special activities are planned throughout your time here to help you get acquainted with the city and with other married students and families, and to provide family fun times. We suggest that you also try to get information about Israel, before you come, from the Israel Department of Tourism in your area. You may also want to visit the following expatriate website for some good information prior to coming and it is especially helpful once you are here in the country: www.jerusalemexpats.com Several other websites of interest: www.a2zisrael.com and www.janglo.net, www.tefah.com, www.craigslist.com These websites have a variety of apartments listed for rent and may prove helpful in setting up a place prior to your arrival.

1. Where to Live
If you are a couple without children, there is, at times, on campus housing available. This includes room and board. Couples are charged room and board for two, plus there is an additional surcharge for spouses who are not full-time JUC students. It is an advantage to live on campus because you do not have to travel to and from the college. It is also highly recommended that those who are non-native speakers of English live on campus because it assists you in your learning and using of English. Couples with children must live off campus. If you will be living off campus, see the housing information below. We suggest that those who will be living off campus come 5-7 days prior to orientation in order to find housing. Those who do may be able to stay on campus for a fee if there is room, although usually there are no food services during that time. Some cooking services, such as a microwave and refrigerator are available. We will assist you in locating your off-campus housing once you arrive and can forward some information on possibilities via e-mail before your arrival. At times through various Internet sites it is possible to arrange for your housing prior to coming to Israel. (See above.)

2. Banking
The College does accept dollar checks and you may use personal checks with a money changer as a way to obtain local currency from your U.S. based checking account. You can use credit cards at most establishments, especially in West Jerusalem. You can also use credit cards or international bank cards at some banks and ATMs for cash.

3. Children
A. Schooling
1. There are two English-speaking schools in Jerusalem:

   **The Anglican International School**
   P.O. Box 191
   91001 Jerusalem
   Tel. 972-2-567-7200

   **The Jerusalem School**
   P.O. Box 21784
   Beit Hanina, Jerusalem
   Tel. 972-2-581-8611

   Please contact us at our Jerusalem office for further information about these schools.
2. Home schooling is available and legal. If you prefer to home school your children, we recommend that you investigate the options and obtain curriculum in the U.S. The schools in Jerusalem do not offer assistance or information necessary for home schooling. Three curriculums often used are “Bob Jones”, “A Beka” (used by the Jerusalem School) and “A.C.E.”

3. There are a number of “gans” (nursery schools) available for children 2-5 years of age. They usually function during the morning hours.

B. Libraries:
There are no “public” libraries; however, there are libraries where you can get a membership for about $20/year.

C. Baby-sitting:
Often JUC students will be willing and available to work as a baby sitter if needed.

D. Baby foods:
Most American baby foods are available in Jerusalem, although they are more expensive here. Bringing a blender is a good idea. Bottles, nipples, and Johnson and Johnson baby products are available and reasonably priced. All regular baby formulas can be purchased in Jerusalem.

E. What to bring for children:
1. A lightweight collapsible stroller with good wheels and a carrier or a place to hang bags.
2. A good backpack for each family member.
3. Toys: bring a sensible supply. Quality toys are expensive in Israel.
4. An adequate supply of clothing. Baby shoes are expensive. When selecting clothing for the winter months, remember the lack of adequate central heating. Warm clothing is necessary for children playing on the floors. Warm “sleepers” are good for winter nights.
5. Disposable diapers are available. If you bring regular ones, remember that pre-folded diapers are difficult to dry during the winter months if you do not have a clothes dryer (this is often the case in furnished apartments).

4. Medical Care
1. Our student phone directory will have listings. Medical services in Israel are good and costs for doctors and medications are comparable to those in the U.S.
2. You may wish to bring a quantity of children’s medicines you normally use, such as children’s aspirin, etc. In general, adequate medical supplies are available in Israel and are reasonably priced.
3. The Friday edition of the Jerusalem Post each week lists the pharmacies open and hospitals working on Shabbat.
4. Generally, you can keep your prescriptions and have them refilled without having to see the doctor again.
5. If someone needs an injection or immunization, you are often required to go to the pharmacy yourself to get the medication and then return to the doctor’s office for the actual shot.
6. The normal immunizations and tests for babies may be secured through well-baby clinics. A token membership fee covers all services. Other pediatric care is available through private doctors.

5. Renting a House/Apartment

A. Introduction:
You can check out the ads in the international edition of the Jerusalem Post at www.jerusalempost.com. Also, www.a2zisrael.com and www.janglo.net are useful sites and
various couples over the past several years have been able to pre-arrange housing through these sites and go directly from the airport to their new apartment.

B. Costs:
1. A 1-2 bedroom furnished apartment will cost at least $1000-1200.
2. Usually one has to pay a deposit plus several months rent in advance.
3. Watch for hidden costs:
   - T.V. tax ($35/month; $150/year)
   - “Armona” (municipality tax): amount depends on home size, location, etc.; it runs about $100 per month; if paid at the beginning of the year, there is a discount; can be paid in installments; check re discounts for clergy or organizations or students.
   - Utilities (per month):
     - Gas for cooking, approx. $5
     - Water: approx. $25
     - Electricity: approx. $70
     - Telephone: approx. $25
     - Total: approx. $125

C. Unfurnished Apartments:
There are no closets. Wardrobes are used here and must be bought. Appliances are not furnished. There are used appliances available at average prices.

D. Furnished Apartments:
Level of furnishing may vary. It’s good to check out ahead of time.

E. What to Bring: Check with the apartment landlord to see exactly what you can expect to have furnished.
1. Linens - minimal supply; some furnished apartments have, some do not
   - bring flat sheets; mattress sizes are different; most beds are singles or 2 singles pushed together; some double sheets are helpful
   - blankets only if room; can be purchased
   - towels for each person.
2. Other household/kitchen items:
   - iron
   - hand mixer
   - blender
   - measuring cups and spoons
   (Note: transformers are available in Israel)
3. Kitchen items for unfurnished apartments:
   - Plastic dishes are good; many floors are stone tile (inexpensive dishes may be purchased here)
   - Cutlery, gadgets (peeler, grater, garlic press – anything you can’t live without!)
   - Cookware; casserole, cake pan
   (Note: inexpensive plastic wear is available here eg. dishpan, laundry basket etc.)

6. Grocery Shopping:
You will find well-stocked supermarkets, smaller grocery stores and a large open market. While some food items, particularly meats, are more expensive then U.S. prices, basic items and fresh fruits and vegetables are reasonable.