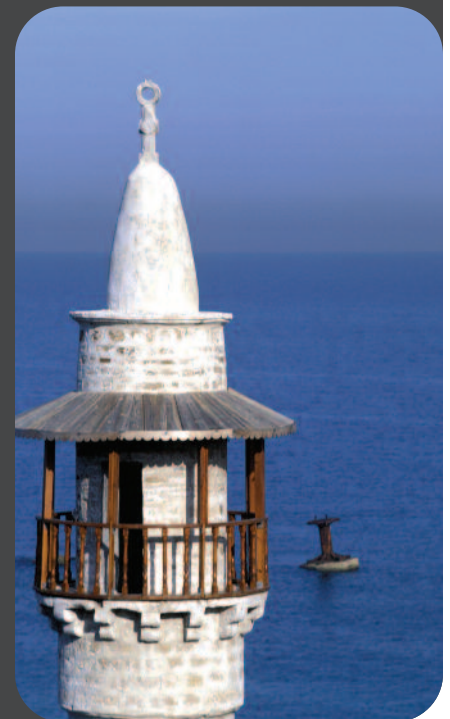


Boston University Study Abroad



TEL AVIV ISRAEL
2012 Handbook



BU in Tel Aviv

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Getting Ready to Go

YOUR SEMESTER IN TEL AVIV

Congratulations on your decision to study abroad in Israel this semester. Tel Aviv is Israel's cultural and economic center and the second largest city in the country. Tel Aviv is well known for its technology and industries. Additionally, Tel Aviv is well known for its cosmopolitan lifestyle.

LANGUAGE PREPARATION

While Hebrew is not a prerequisite of the program and your courses are taught in English, it is a good idea to have a basic knowledge of common Hebrew phrases before you go. You can pick up a Hebrew phrasebook or CDs or rent Hebrew-language films to start to familiarize yourself before you go.

Many people speak decent English in Tel Aviv. If you go into a commercial area (like downtown), it is likely that the people will speak English. But in more rural areas, it is likely that the people will not speak English. Also, younger people are more likely to speak English than older people.

A SENSE OF PURPOSE

There's more to preparing for your semester in Tel Aviv than deciding what to pack or purchasing textbooks. You'll also need to identify your own personal goals and objectives. Remember, the semester at Tel Aviv University requires students to be independent and exceptionally motivated. This is your semester and your experience abroad. Responsibility for the quality of your semester in Tel Aviv lies largely with you.

To ensure a positive experience, you should begin to reflect now on your goals for your semester abroad. These goals may be personal, academic, and linguistic in nature. A journal can help you maintain perspective throughout your semester abroad.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

- * Students Abroad Website
www.studentsabroad.state.gov

This website created by the Department of State offers valuable information for students studying or traveling abroad. The website is an excellent resource to refer to before and during your semester abroad. In addition to practical information such as instructions on obtaining a passport and American Embassy contact information, the website also provides health tips and links for information regarding immunizations and health precautions to take abroad. Visit the Smart Travel section for insights for GLBT

travelers, women and travelers with disabilities as well as information pertaining to local laws and packing for international travel. The website provides two checklists in its To Go section: a "Prep-list" and a "Pack-list" to help keep you on track as you prepare for your experience overseas.

- * Tel Aviv University
www.international.tau.ac.il
- * Embassy of Israel in Washington, DC
www.israelemb.org
- * US Embassy in Tel Aviv
usembassy-israel.org.il
- * State Department Travel Site
www.state.gov/travel
- * Center for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov/travel
- * Skype (cheap/free Internet phone calls)
www.skype.com

Academics

ACADEMIC CONDUCT CODE

All students participating in a Boston University Study Abroad program are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. It is the responsibility of every student to be aware of the Academic Conduct Code's contents and to abide by its provisions. The Academic Conduct Code can be found at www.bu.edu/eng/handbook.

TEL AVIV FACILITIES

Boston University's Engineering Program in Tel Aviv is affiliated with Tel Aviv University (TAU). The university is about a 30 minute bus ride from the city center. The secure campus has a library, computer facilities, and recreational facilities. The university is also the home of the Museum of the Jewish People (Beth Hatefutsoth) which represents an historic view of the Jewish population and diaspora.

COURSES

Courses for program participants have been arranged by Boston University to fulfill Boston University College of Engineering requirements. Since the courses will be taught by Israeli professors at TAU (in English), you will no doubt encounter a new approach to the subject matter and different styles of teaching. In addition to these engineering courses, you will also be taking an intensive Hebrew language course (Ulpan) during the first few weeks of the program and a sociology elective offered by the School for Overseas Students (OSP). The OSP course offerings can be found on their website www.international.tau.ac.il. Students will take a Hebrew placement exam upon arrival to determine appropriate Hebrew course placement.

Each of the engineering courses is worth four credits. Most TAU electives will carry three credits. The Ulpan is worth four or five credits.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

(See also “Academic Expectations and Guidelines” in the Student Handbook.) You will receive more detailed information on course/academic requirements once you are in Israel. Courses are offered through Boston University's College of Engineering, whose academic policies and procedures apply. Students are expected to be familiar with the regulations of the University.

Attendance

You are expected to attend each class session, field trip, and any other course-related event. Attendance and class participation will influence your grade for the course. You will be required to account for your absence either by personal explanation to the course instructor and/or to the resident director, or by written statement from another authority.

If you have been excessively absent from a course, you may be required to withdraw from that course without credit. If you are absent from class for more than two days for medical reasons, please seek medical attention.

Please be aware that any holiday travel you undertake should be in strict compliance with any scheduled class break. You may not miss class due to travel arrangements. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Tardiness

All students must make every effort to be on time for all scheduled meetings and class sessions, and should notify the appropriate persons by phone or written message of extenuating circumstances that result in tardiness. If you should arrive late to class, please make your arrival as quiet as possible; it will be disruptive, and some instructors will not tolerate it until break time.

Coursework

You are expected to turn in all course assignments on time; turning in assignments late will have a negative effect on your grades. All academic commitments must be completed before you leave Tel Aviv; no incompletes are permitted. Students who do not complete a course on time will receive an “F.”

In addition, students are not permitted to audit courses or to take courses on a pass/fail basis.

What to Bring

Along with the documents and materials listed in your Student Handbook, be sure to bring:

HANDBOOKS

Bring this handbook as well as your Student Handbook with you to Tel Aviv. They contain information that will prove useful to you as you begin to orient yourself to Tel Aviv and to TAU. TAU also provides a thorough pre-departure preparation guide. This contains practical information for life in Tel Aviv.

DOCUMENTS

Passport

To travel to Israel, you should have a passport that is valid at least six months beyond the date you will return to the US. If you have not yet applied for your passport, you should start the process immediately. Application forms are available at www.travel.state.gov/passport and we recommend using Expedited Service. If you are traveling on a passport other than a US one, please check with the nearest Israeli Consulate as soon as possible to determine the visa requirements. The website for the Israeli Consulate in Boston is <http://boston.mfa.gov.il>.

Student Visa

It is our strong recommendation that all students apply for a student visa (A/2) for the semester in Tel Aviv prior to departure. The student visa allows for unlimited entries into Israel for the duration of the program. To apply for your visa in the US, you will need to apply in person at your nearest Israeli Consulate.

Student Identification

Bring your student ID card from your home university, along with your driver's license for identification purposes. You will also receive a TAU student ID once in Israel. Bring four passport-sized photos so that your TAU ID can be made upon arrival.

Other Documents

You should also bring copies of your travel itinerary, proof of financial support (a credit card or bank statement), and all documentation related to the program.

BOOKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

You should purchase all of your books in the United States prior to departure. Course books (particularly those that you will be using) are costly in Israel and take time to be shipped to you. Shipping books to Tel Aviv can be costly and uncertain. Therefore, make sure to bring all of your books

with you. You should also bring your calculator. Other school supplies such as pens and notebooks can be purchased in Israel. Your program fee covers partial books. A \$200 credit will be applied to your student account shortly after the start of the program to offset the cost of books.

COMPUTERS

Your laptop will come in handy in Tel Aviv. Much of the campus is wireless. Also buy a headset with a built-in microphone before you go if you plan on using Skype. Please keep in mind that electronics in Israel are generally more expensive than they are in the US.

LINENS

The beds in the dorms are slightly narrower than American twin beds. Blankets, sheets, pillows, and towels are not supplied by the university. As linens are relatively expensive in Israel, it is recommended that you bring a supply. The following quantities are usually sufficient: two blankets, two to four sheets, two pillowcases, one pillow, and four towels. Many students use their sleeping bag as an extra blanket during the cold winter months.

CLOTHING

The climate in Tel Aviv is much milder than in New England. You will probably not need a winter coat, hat and gloves, but evenings and nights do get chilly, so pack appropriately. You should bring clothes that you can layer easily and mix and match. Bringing one dressier outfit for a special evening out is also a good idea.

PRESCRIPTIONS AND DRUG STORE ITEMS

You should bring copies of prescriptions for any medications you may need and for glasses and contact lenses if you wear them. Shipping medications from the US is not very reliable. We recommend taking a supply of all medications you will need during your semester. Your insurance company may ask for a copy of your itinerary to cover a semester supply.

CELL PHONE

TAU requires international students to carry an Israeli cell phone. Information on ordering a cell phone is available on the TAU website.

OTHER ITEMS

Leave most electrical appliances at home. You can buy an inexpensive hairdryer in Israel.

Money Matters

PROGRAM FEE

For information about the program fee and personal budgeting guidelines visit: www.bu.edu/abroad/aid/finances.html.

TEXTBOOKS AND COURSE MATERIALS

You will need to purchase your engineering books in the US prior to departure or order them online. A \$200 credit will be applied to your student account to offset the cost of books after the start of the program.

CURRENCY

The currency of Israel is the shekel. For the most up to date exchange rate, visit a website such as www.xe.com.

ROOM AND BOARD

Your room is covered throughout the semester by your program fee. You are responsible for the cost of all meals. There are grocery stores and restaurants near the campus. Dining out is fun and easy. However this can be expensive and adds up fast. The dorm rooms are equipped with modest kitchenettes where you can prepare your own meals, or you can eat at one of the many local restaurants.

TRANSFERRING FUNDS

Travelers Checks

A safe way to get your money to Tel Aviv is by carrying travelers checks, which you can deposit in a local bank or keep in a safe place with your own belongings. When purchasing checks, keep in mind that even if you are able to purchase them without charge, there will always be some kind of charge when you cash them. It is usually best to cash a larger amount at one time than smaller amounts more frequently in order to reduce check cashing fees. Travelers checks can be cashed at large banks. Also, many hotels will cash travelers checks. In general, travelers checks cannot be used for purchases in stores or restaurants.

Credit Cards

Credit cards are a very good emergency money source. Card holders can get cash on the spot from participating banks. Don't forget to bring your PIN. VISA and Mastercard are more widely accepted than American Express and Discover.

Instead of only using travelers checks, most students now rely on a combination of travelers checks, an ATM card, and a credit card. Remember to bring both types of cards with you, as your ATM card will be useless if demagnetized, damaged or lost.

With your ATM card from home, you may be able to withdraw funds from your US checking account. However, there will probably be a fee for each transaction at another bank's ATM machine. US banks vary widely in the charges they attach to foreign ATM withdrawals. Shop around well before leaving and consider moving your account based on what you learn. Check with your bank to determine if your ATM card will work in Israel.

Money deposited into your US bank account during the normal work day is typically updated on the US bank's computer at midnight that day, which means that you cannot withdraw money until the Israeli bank's computers have similarly updated their records at midnight the following night—in other words, there generally will be a delay of 2 business days before you can access those funds. For some banks, you will need to inform them that you plan to use your ATM card abroad so that bank officials can allow overseas card transactions. Be persistent in finding out information on service fees and restrictions.

If your ATM Personal Identification Number (PIN) is not four digits long, change it to four digits before you leave the US. Many international ATMs cannot accept a longer PIN, and many ATM keyboards may not list letters.

Replacing lost/stolen credit/debit cards

Students should take at least 2 copies of all credit cards (front and back). One copy should be left at home with a parent. The other should be taken to Israel and kept in a safe place. Having copies of credit cards and important documents on hand will make it easier to replace them if lost or stolen.

Cash

The obvious danger of losing your cash or having it stolen does not make this a good option for large sums of money. **No student should ever keep large amounts of cash in his/her room or on his/her person. Only go out with the smallest amount of money you need.**

Arrival

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Your program fee for the Tel Aviv program includes a round-trip group flight from a designated US city. If you plan to take the group flight, you must contact the travel agency directly to make your reservations; we will not do this for you. A TAU representative accompanies the group flight. Students arriving on the group flight will be met at the airport by TAU staff.

INDEPENDENT TRAVELERS

Independent travelers must notify the BU Study Abroad Office of their precise travel plans. An itinerary forwarded by e-mail to ogburn@bu.edu will suffice. A credit for the cost of the group flight will be placed on the student's account approximately two weeks after the start date of the program.

If you are arriving around the same time as the group flight, you may accompany the group from the airport to TAU. Otherwise, please refer to the TAU website for arrival instructions. Students not on the group flight must be prepared to take a taxi to the university dorms.

LATE ARRIVALS

Intentional late arrivals are not permitted. Should your flight be delayed, please call either TAU or the Boston office.

Note: If you arrive in Tel Aviv earlier than the official arrival date and/or stay later than the official departure date, you will need to make your own housing arrangements.

ORIENTATION

The OSP will conduct an on-site orientation for all international students at TAU, including a tour of the campus and excursions to the city and surrounding area.

Housing

DORMITORY

Students live in the dormitory on the TAU campus in double or triple occupancy rooms. Students can request to be placed with an Israeli student. TAU can not guarantee that the request will be met but will make every effort to fulfill it. The dorm rooms on the TAU campus are very modest and will probably not be as nice as you are used to at your home institution. However, they are secure, as a security guard is present 24/7.

LAUNDRY

Laundry facilities are available in the dormitories.

TELEPHONE

Students are required to purchase an Israeli cell phone. Information is available on the TAU website. In many cases, your American cell phone may function in Israel. However, we strongly discourage using an American phone as the fees for international calls can be exorbitant.

Rather than purchasing a phone card, the most cost effective way to call long-distance is to download the Computer-to-Phone program known as Skype (<http://skype.com>). Skype allows you make free or cheap Internet phone calls. The only thing you would need to use Skype is a headset that includes a microphone.

INTERNET

Wireless internet is provided on campus and in the dorm rooms.

GENERAL HOUSING RULES

You will receive information on housing policies at orientation in Tel Aviv.

SECURITY

The dorm has a guard on watch 24/7. Visitors, faculty and students must show ID and have their bags searched prior to entering the campus. Nonetheless, even on campus, you should always lock your door and keep an eye on your belongings. When out and about in the city, be aware of your surroundings at all times and use common sense when interacting with people you don't know.

Life in Tel Aviv

INSURANCE COVERAGE AND HEALTH CLINIC ACCESS

Health and Accident Insurance

All students participating in a Boston University Study Abroad program must carry adequate health insurance. With the exception of the medical evacuation coverage provided, the student policy available through Boston University is considered adequate by BU Study Abroad.

Medical Evacuation Insurance

In addition to regular health and accident insurance, we require that all participants carry medical evacuation insurance from On Call International. You do not need to enroll in this plan yourself; BU Study Abroad will automatically arrange coverage for all students on the program.

Clinic Access in Israel

TAU has a small clinic for students. The School for Overseas Students at TAU also has a listing of doctors and dentists and will assist you if you have problems. All students on the Tel Aviv Program are enrolled in Israeli insurance, which means that most medical costs should be covered on-site. For information on this coverage visit www.international.tau.ac.il under the "Pre-Departure Information" for newly-enrolled students. For costs that are not covered (such as for a pre-existing condition), depending on your health

insurance policy, you may be able to apply for reimbursement upon your return to the US or by forwarding a claim form to your insurance company from Israel. Be sure that you bring a copy of your insurance company's claim form. If you anticipate a need for dental work, get it done before departure.

EATING IN/DINING OUT

Israeli cuisine is very delicious, as you will discover. Israel is famous for its hummus, falafel, and olives. Vegetarians and omnivores alike will have no problem finding delicious food options. There are many restaurants surrounding the campus and in the city.

Many, but not all, restaurants in Tel Aviv are kosher. Due to the influx of Jewish immigrants from all over the globe, Tel Aviv offers an array of ethnic restaurant options.

SHOPPING

You will find lots of great places to shop in Tel Aviv. There are malls with high-end and moderately priced stores. In Jaffa, there are also lots of great markets selling artisan goods. These tend to be inexpensive and make great souvenirs.

GETTING AROUND

Bus is the cheapest way to get around locally--downtown and about. The frequency of bus stops by the campus is about every 10 minutes.

During late night adventures out into the city, cabs are always found.

STUDY ABROAD POLICY ON TRANSPORTATION

While abroad, you should remember that public transportation is the way the great majority of local residents get around their town and country, and so it should be a part of your experience as well. **For that reason, and for reasons of safety, we strongly discourage students from renting automobiles or other motorized vehicles while abroad. If your internship, community placement, study adventure or cultural reimbursement activity involves travel, you may not rent a car or other motorized vehicle for that purpose.**

MAIL/FAX

The general mail system (snail-mail) is reliable but slow. FedEx, DHL, and UPS are the best bets for receiving packages from the US. It is best to make sure that you have all of your important things with you, such a medication, school books, etc., when you arrive in Tel Aviv.

Faxes can be sent to the Study Abroad Office at TAU.

OUTSIDE OF TEL AVIV

Bus and train are the best way to travel to other cities outside of Tel Aviv. There is a station downtown that is similar to Greyhound and offers trips to various locations frequently. More information can be found at the OSP. Inexpensive flights to Europe and Turkey are usually available.

When independent travel takes you outside of Tel Aviv, you should always consult with the Study Abroad Office at Tel Aviv University and www.travel.state.gov to find out if there are any specific issues you should be aware of at your destination.

Names and Numbers

MAILING ADDRESS

Student Name
TAU International Tel Aviv University
The Carter Building, Rm. 108
Ramat Aviv, 69978
ISRAEL

Advisor to Boston University Study Abroad Tel Aviv Engineering Program:

Joanne Cornell
jcornell@bu.edu
Director, Undergraduate Programs
College of Engineering
Boston University, Boston, MA

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

US Consulate

972-03-519-7475 (office number)
972-03-519-7575 (emergency number)

Isram Travel

800-942-2114



Boston University Study Abroad

888 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Phone: 617-353-9888
Fax: 617-353-5402
E-mail: abroad@bu.edu
www.bu.edu/abroad

All of the foregoing information is subject to change without notice.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Jenia Gilgoulin, Head Counselor in Israel
Mobile: + 972-(52)-600-0570
US Director - TAU (Emergency): 203-848-5280

Parents who need to contact their son or daughter in Israel in an emergency should first call him/her at his/her residence. If the student can't be reached there, the parent should contact the resident coordinator directly.

During weekday office hours:

(Program Office)
Overseas Programs Office
972-03-640-8639

TAU International, Tel Aviv University
Office of Academic Affairs
39 Broadway, Suite 1510
New York, NY 10006
Phone: 212-742-9030 / 800-665-9828
Fax: 212-742-9031

Weekend and evening emergency number will be given out on site.

You will be notified of any changes in the emergency contact numbers.

Tell us about your experience in Tel Aviv!

Share your favorite photo, a link to your blog, or post your story directly on our Facebook fan page (note that you'll have to 'like' our page in order to post to it). And be sure to tag "BU Study Abroad" in all your great photos.

Let the rest of the BU community hear about your time abroad and upload your videos on BU Universe. Tag them as "study abroad."

Want to see your photo in our next study abroad catalog, on the website, or on a poster? Email, snail mail, or drop off a high-resolution copy (on a CD or flash drive) at the BU Study Abroad office, for the marketing department.

And don't forget to follow us on Twitter to learn about BU happenings around the globe as well as new developments in our study abroad programs.

Good luck next semester!

—BU Study Abroad