Dear Exchange Students,

On behalf of the administration, welcome to the Coller School of Management Exchange program!

This booklet is meant to relieve some of that initial stress and shell-shock of being in a new country with a new language, and studying at a new school. Hopefully it will allow you to focus a little more on what you're doing here in Tel Aviv.

We couldn't of course include everything, but we believe that many of the really important questions you may have immediately will be found in this booklet. Please send us your questions, and if relevant to all, we will update this file so we can all benefit together!

Looking forward to meeting you soon and happy reading!
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEFORE YOU ARRIVE</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSING</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIVING IN TEL AVIV</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USEFUL TOOLS</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPLORING TEL AVIV AND ISRAEL</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT INFORMATION</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tel Aviv University was founded in 1956 with the union of three small education units – The Tel Aviv School of Law and Economics, an Institute of Natural Sciences, and an Institute of Jewish Studies. Today, it is Israel’s largest academic institution, with faculty members who are nationally and internationally renowned scholars and scientists, many of them leaders in their fields. A major center of teaching and research, it comprises nine faculties, 106 departments, and 90 research institutes. There are currently around 30,000 students studying at the university in various degree programs.

Tel Aviv University offers an extensive range of degrees in the arts and sciences, within its Faculties of Engineering, Exact Sciences, Life Sciences, Medicine, Humanities, Law, Social Sciences, Arts, and Business, on its 220-acre campus.

Tel Aviv University is situated only a short distance from both the Mediterranean coast and bustling downtown Tel Aviv.

The Coller School of Management is the top business school in Israel and the only Israeli academic institution to be awarded the international accreditation of the AACSB (the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business).

Through its various programs of study, Coller School of Management prepares its students for leading positions in business and public institutions, in various sectors of the Israeli and international economy:

- Sofaer iMBA - Full-time program
- Flagship MBA program (MBA)
- Master in Health Administration (MHA)
- Master of Science in Management Sciences (M.Sc.)
- MBA Specializing in Financial Management (MBA, for CPAs only)
- MBA Specializing in Management of Technology, Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Recanati Executive MBA (EMBA)
- Kellogg-Recanati International Executive MBA (EMBA, conducted in English)

Campus Map (Online Version: http://www2.tau.ac.il/map/unimaple1.asp)
Before You Arrive

Packing Essentials

Clothing

- **School and Work**
  
  Campus dress and the Israeli professional atmosphere in general is fairly casual. Most students attend classes and campus events in jeans and T-shirts.

  During Professional Development Sessions, site visits, case competitions, conferences, and networking events, students will be asked to appear in formal business attire with appropriate footwear.

  We recommend bringing a computer bag/backpack for campus, and a purse/briefcase for meetings or professional visits.

  Note: There are no lockers on campus

- **Home and the Outdoors**
  
  Summer in Israel is hot and humid. Pack lots of light clothing, sunglasses, sandals and a hat.

  Winter is cold and rainy. Pack warm clothes, an umbrella and a waterproof jacket and shoes. Note: most houses in Israel are not insulated.

  Bring a few nicer items for cocktails, parties, clubs etc. and some more modest clothing for visits to religious sites.

  Throughout Israel are thousands of trails for hiking, camping, swimming, horseback riding, ATVing, and (even) skiing! For any trip good walking shoes/hiking boots, a hat, water bottle and sunscreen are a must. You may also want to bring a sleeping bag and camera.

Other

- **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.

- **Electricity Outlets**
  
  Israel’s electrical current is 220v, 50 cycles. Students are advised to make sure they have the required adaptors and transformers for their laptops and other electrical appliances before their arrival.

- **Computer Requirements**
  
  All students in the program are required to have a laptop. Use of Excel is crucial in many classes. If you have an Apple computer, you will have to run Windows on it concurrently. The Excel version for Apple computers will not be sufficient.
Health Suggestions

As when visiting any foreign country, there are often some adjustments your body will need to make to the new environment.

**Water:** Newcomers to Israel may suffer from an initial sensitivity to tap water, and bottled water is recommended for those with sensitive stomachs. At the same time remain aware of the high risk of dehydration, especially during the summer months.

**Sun:** The sun in Israel is extremely strong – much stronger than in many other countries. Even for short periods of time, sun protection (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen etc.) is very important. If you plan on being at the beach all day, be sure to reapply sunscreen regularly. You may want to bring a sufficient supply of sunscreen, as your favorite brand may not be available or may be significantly more expensive.

**Medications:** Consult with your family doctor regarding any additional medical recommendations, such as vaccinations. It is recommended you bring a sufficient supply of medication for your time here, and a printed generic prescription for any medication, should you need it refilled. Please keep in mind that while many drugs can be over the counter in your home country, it will not necessarily be the case in Israel.

What to Prepare?

**Health Insurance**

You must get health insurance for your stay in Israel, either through an Israeli company or one of your homeland companies. Yedidim Agency offers a $2.15 per day plan, more information can be provided upon request. Please note the campus clinic will not accept foreign health insurance.

**Visas for Foreign Students**

- **Passports**

In order to enter Israel as a student, you must have a passport that is valid for at least a 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 may want to consult with the Israeli embassy in their home country regarding visa and entry regulations.

  A. All students should 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, allowing you to enter Israel an unlimited number of times for a period of one year. 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.

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

Ministry of Interior details:
53 Salame St. 4th Floor, Tel Aviv
Office hours: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00AM-9:00AM

D. Please note – 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 in Israel.

**Israeli Born & Returning Israeli Citizens:**
If you are a returning Israeli citizen or child of a parent with an Israeli citizenship, please contact the nearest Israeli Consulate in order to clarify your legal status in advance of entering the country. Israeli citizens or children of Israeli citizens should check their status regarding military service and might want to apply for exemption through their nearest Israeli Consulate before arrival in Israel.

**List of Israeli Consulates Worldwide:**
http://embassies.gov.il/Pages/IsraeliMissionsAroundTheWorld.aspx

More information can be found at https://www.gov.il/en/Subjects/certificates_and_passports. For issues regarding visas, please contact Avi Zarakhovsky 03-6409989 or aviz@tauex.tau.ac.il.

**Phone Plans**
There are many phone companies available in Israel including: Golan Telecom, HOT Mobile, Cellcom, Pelephone, Orange, etc. Most companies require a passport number and address in Israel to sign up and plans range from 30 – 99 shekels, depending on minutes and internet usage. Plans usually do not require a time commitment however there may be fees for setup and the SIM card.

For short term contracts, most cellphone stores found all around Tel Aviv also sell pre-paid SIMs. Make sure your foreign phone is unlocked for international SIMs before leaving your home country.

---

**Housing in Tel Aviv**

Unfortunately, the university does not currently offer dormitories for students in the Exchange program. Students attending the program will need to find an apartment in Tel Aviv, Ramat Aviv or commute.

Tel Aviv has an extremely fast-moving housing market and many different areas to choose from. If you are looking for a quiet, neighborhood location close to the university, consider looking in Ramat Aviv. For a more central location to bars and beaches, take a look at the center of Tel Aviv. Students are advised to set time aside specifically for apartment hunting prior to the start of the program (2-3 weeks is recommended).

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.
Depending on a variety of factors, you should be prepared to pay anywhere from 2,500 NIS (living with roommates) to 4,500 NIS (living alone) per month for a partially furnished apartment.

For the first couple of days, you may also want to consider using a hostel. For more information see the following link - http://www.hostelsweb.com/cities/telaviv.html, and the table below.

Some options:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Street</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Hostel Tel Aviv</td>
<td>21 Levontin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:infotlv@abrahamhostels.com">infotlv@abrahamhostels.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbel-Hotel Apt</td>
<td>11 Hulda</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sales@arbelhotel.com">sales@arbelhotel.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Yehuda Apartments</td>
<td>119 Ben Yehuda</td>
<td><a href="mailto:officeteam@tel-aviv-rental.co.il">officeteam@tel-aviv-rental.co.il</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bnei-Dan Hostel</td>
<td>36 Bnei Dan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:telaviv@iyha.org.il">telaviv@iyha.org.il</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dizengoff Suite Apt</td>
<td>39 Gordon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@dizengoffsuites.co.il">info@dizengoffsuites.co.il</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rothschild Residence</td>
<td>71 Rothschild</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Info@the-rothschild.com">Info@the-rothschild.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Rentals</td>
<td>37 Reines</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Office@Holiday-Rentals.co.il">Office@Holiday-Rentals.co.il</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Hotel Tel Aviv</td>
<td>76 Herbert Samuel St.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:reservation@sea-hotel.co.il">reservation@sea-hotel.co.il</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Land Apt</td>
<td>84 Bnei Dan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@sea-land.co.il">info@sea-land.co.il</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Airbnb is also very popular in Tel Aviv and you might find great solutions for short term housing.

The following sites can also help you in your search:

- **Facebook Groups: (English)**
  - Secret Tel Aviv
  - Tel Aviv Apartments Buy/Rent/Sell/Trade
  - Apartments/roommates in Tel Aviv
  - Tel Aviv Apartments
  - Batim Le’Olim - Rentals in Tel Aviv

- **Websites**
  - Yad2 (Hebrew)
  - Jaangle (English)
  - Craigslist (English)
  - Tel Aviv Housing for Students (Realtor)

**Secret Tel Aviv’s apartment guide** has more tips and Facebook pages in both Hebrew and English.

**Tellavista** – Tel Aviv based website that offers a few big apartments in TLV with many bedrooms that can accommodate a large number of guests for great value. Apartments are fully equipped with furniture, kitchenware, and all amenities, including linens and towels. All expenses for the apartments are bundled in to a single price, saving the need for complicated contracts with landlords or working with local Israeli companies (electric, internet, gas etc).

- Facebook page
  - Website: Tellavista.com
  - Email: Info@tellavista.com

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. Our Facebook group is a great place to ask alumni for tips or even find apartments to take over.

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

1. Apartment Details
   - Location – What is the area like? Is there a nearby bus route to the university?
   - Size (in square meters)?
   - What floor is it on? If on the ground floor, are there bars on the windows?
   - What appliances are included? What furniture is included?
   - *Many apartments do not include major appliances like an oven, stove or fridge.
   - Is there air conditioning? Heating?
   - Is there a roommate? What is he or she like?

2. Bills
   - Arnona (municipality tax) - every two months
   - "Va’ad Bayit" (maintenance fees) - every month
   - Gas
   - Water: Electric water heater ("dood chashmal") or solar-powered ("dood shemesh")?
   - Electricity on average
     * Consider electricity spent on heating, air conditioning, electric water heater

3. Rent
   - A rental agreement may be all inclusive (water, gas, electricity, maintenance fees, cable, internet, phone, tax), include just rent or include some utilities.
   - Payment may be requested through 12 cheques, 6 cheques or 1 lump sum.
     * Never pay cash unless you receive a receipt.

4. Signing the Lease
   - Can it be written in English?
   - Does there need to be a guarantor?
   - Is a security deposit required?
   - Do they require a lawyer to review the lease? If so, who covers that cost?

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, click here.
General Course Offering

The Coller School of Management courses from the Part-Time MBA Program
- Courses usually take place during the afternoon and evening.
- The majority of the part-time MBA students are Israeli and their average age is 32. The part-time MBA students also usually combine work with their studies and have a considerable amount of work experience.
- The program, which is generally conducted in Hebrew, offers courses for exchange students in English.

Other
- TAU International (TAUi) Offers courses about Israeli culture, history, politics, economy, Zionism and more. Please note that the courses are at the undergraduate level and it's up to your home university to decide if to accredit them. Registration is done through your exchange program coordinator. Please bear in mind the program dates differ to Coller courses. The dates can be found at [https://international.tau.ac.il/Semester_Year_Abroad/?id=term-intro](https://international.tau.ac.il/Semester_Year_Abroad/?id=term-intro).
- The Eitan Berglas School of Economics Offers a mini-program of courses. Please bear in mind that you will need a sufficient knowledge of economics in order to participate in their courses. It's your responsibility to check the course requirements and to decide if you meet them.
- The Buchman Faculty of Law offers courses in the framework of their exchange program. The courses are at the graduate level.

Language Courses

TAUi offers Hebrew language courses for students interested in learning the Hebrew language or improving their proficiency. For further information please contact the OSP office: study@tau.ac.il

Transcripts

Once all of the grades have been submitted to the system, the exchange office orders the transcript. When the transcript arrives, a scanned version is sent to the student and student’s school via email, and a hard copy can be mailed upon request. The entire process can take up to one month. For more information and inquiries, please contact the Exchange Program Coordinator: Sharon Rochwerg – collerex@tauex.tau.ac.il

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.

Student Services

Internet Access

The following WIFI networks are available on campus:

- Free-TAU Password: free-tau
- Public-TAU Password: publictau (login information is your student login info)

Communication and Moodle

Communication is key for your success in this program and later in your professional careers. We will be using a number of different channels throughout the semester:

- Tel Aviv University email address (will be given to you in the orientation week)
- Facebook – Recommended for students to have an account
Moodle is an online course management system where students 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 the orientation week.

Student Services from the Student Union

As a student in the Exchange Program, you are a member of the Student Union. This automatically gives you a number of discounts and services as outlined in this section. The Student Union service center is located in the Mitchell building and can be reached at 03-6407662.

Sales and Discounts at the Student Union

- Parking passes to parking lots around campus and blue and white areas
- Discounted vouchers and cards for campus cafeterias
- Student discount coupons: Various chain stores, cafes and restaurants, vacation and spa centers, concerts, plays, white nights and other special events
- Discounted cards for photocopying machines
- Receiving and sending faxes (also abroad)

Proofreading services

The Division for Academic Issues offers proofreading services provided by second year and above students at the university. Students who are interested in this service should apply at the Student Counter by filling out a request form. The coordination between the proofreader and student is provided for a subsidized service fee by the Student Authority.

Accessibility on Campus

Please report any difficulties in accessibility on campus to the Student Union. Students who would like to help promote accessibility on campus are welcome to contact the Student Authority.

Financial and Legal Consulting

Advice on financial, taxation, labor law and economic issues. General legal consulting is provided by Adv. Ran Shoval (+972-3-640-7654) on a variety of issues including: workplace issues, work contracts, worker rights, compensation, personal status, rental leases, help in preparing law suits and personal guidance.

Defense counsel in university disciplinary trials: Advanced law students will provide help on a variety of issues concerning disciplinary procedures such as academic committees. The defense counsel also represents students facing a disciplinary trial within the university.

Libraries

As a Tel Aviv University student, you will have access to all the university’s general and professional libraries. A tour of the Bender-Moss Social Science and Business Library 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
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 transcript until all books are returned.

**Buddy System**

The Buddy System is a project created in collaboration with the Student Union especially for international students. The project is led by four student volunteers and a team of passionate students who want to meet you and make your TAU experience. 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 and hosting activities such as trips, lectures, volunteering, parties, and more. 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

**Psychological Services**

Psychological services are available from the office of Dean of Students; room 216 on the second floor of the Student Union center (the Mitchell building). Exchange students receive a special rate to use these services. All treatments are strictly confidential according to law.

- Office Hours: 9:30-15:00 from Sunday to Thursday.
- Phone: 03-640-8505. Email: psycho@post.tau.ac.il

Students should call during office hours to book an appointment and are advised to leave messages on the answering machine if the office is closed.

**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.

**Parking**

Parking can be difficult to find and/or costly during peak periods. Every year there is a lottery for parking passes on campus. You can sign up for the lottery at the Student Union tent during the first week of school. If you don't win a permit, you can park in lots surrounding the campus (the closest is outside Gate 5 on George Weiss St.). There is also a 50% discount for students/residents of Tel Aviv in these lots.
Welcome to Israel! You have just landed at Ben Gurion International Airport in Israel. You might immediately notice the humidity, the noisy and busy airport, and the sound of people speaking a variety of foreign languages! The national languages in Israel are Hebrew and Arabic, but don’t worry, there are people here from all over the world. More often than not people will speak English and will be happy to help you if you have any questions.

Getting to Tel Aviv from the Airport

Upon your arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport there are two different ways you can get to Tel Aviv:

1. Train: From the arrival hall follow the signs to the train station which is located in the airport on Level S of the Landside Building. Train tickets can be purchased through automated ticket dispensers.
   For information on schedules and fares call Israel Railways Information Service, 077-2324000 or *5770 from any phone. You can also look up schedules on the Israel Railways website.
2. Taxi: Just outside the arrivals hall is the taxi queue. There is a flat rate for Tel Aviv of approximately 150 NIS (this price will be higher on Friday night or Saturday).

Take into account that if you arrive on Shabbat (Sabbath, which is nationally observed) – from sundown on Friday to sunset on Saturday – there is almost no public transportation. In general, trains run up to an hour before sundown on Friday, and begin again on Saturday night approximately an hour after sunset. If you plan on arriving during Shabbat, your only option is to take a taxi or have a friend/family member pick you up.

Security in Israel & Identification

Security is a part of everyday life in Israel and an ongoing concern. Although it has been relatively calm lately, precautionary measures are still maintained in some public areas including malls, bus stations, and the university. For example, Tel Aviv University security will ask you to open your bags every time you enter the campus. Please understand that this is an important precautionary measure.

You are advised to carry some form of photo identification on you at all times. You may also want to carry a photocopy of the first page of your passport.
Public Transportation

Bus

Dan and Egged run a number of buses to the university from Tel Aviv. Buses 7, 13, 24, 25, 126, and 289 are the most convenient bus lines for students coming from central Tel Aviv. Be sure to check apps or online schedules to see when the last bus runs every day and on weekends. During the first week of each semester, the Dan bus company hosts an on-campus stand, where you can purchase a special "Rav Kav" student card that will entitle you to unlimited bus rides during the entire semester. You can also purchase this card at the Tel Aviv University Train Station, Central Bus Station and at the Arlozorov (Merkaz) railway station. The Rav Kav looks like this:

Train

The university train station (called - Tel Aviv University) is located approximately 15 minutes by foot from the Coller School of Management. During the academic school year there is a shuttle (7, 289, 49 and 45) that runs between the station and the university. You can catch it just outside the main gates and just show your student card to the driver.

Night Buses, Sherut Taxis – Weekends & Holidays

Night buses (Kavei Layla) are available on Thursday and Saturday night. For more information please dial "Call Kav" hotline at *8787, http://www.kav-layla.co.il/.

Sherut Taxis run 24/7 along pre-set routes that can be found here (in Hebrew). They are shared taxis that you can flag down and cost between 6.90 – 14 depending on time and date. Inform the driver when you would like to get off, and remind him close to the destination. The 4X runs between Allenby, Ben Yehuda and the university.

Taxis

Important Information
a. If you ask, your driver has to put the meter (Moneh), as opposed to a fixed rate
b. From the campus to Tel Aviv's center should cost NIS 40-60 during the week and NIS 80-100 at night on weekends.
c. It is highly recommended to use a taxi application. One can be found below.
Bicycling

Bicycling is a very popular mode of transportation among local residents, with designated bike lanes along major roads. The Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality has begun a new project called Tel-O-Fun, which includes a number of bike rental stations located throughout the city, similar to programs in major cities in North America and in Europe. For more information, visit https://www.tel-o-fun.co.il/en/.

Recommended Apps

Moovit is a public transit app and mapping service which features trip planning, live arrival and departure times, up-to-date line schedules, local station maps, service alerts, and advisories that may be relevant to one's current trip. It currently supports mobile Android, Windows devices, and has a web version.

Gett - previously known as GetTaxi, is an Israeli-based startup that connects customers with taxi drivers. Customers can order a cab either through the company's website, or by using the company's GPS-based smartphone app. The app is compatible with iPhone and Android platforms.

Living in Tel Aviv

Working Hours in Israel

The Israeli workweek 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.

Groceries

Just a five-minute walk outside the university’s main entrance on Einstein St. (Gate 7, next to the dorms), is the Super Bonus grocery store that caters to students and has a good assortment of products.

Larger grocery chains in Israel are: Shufersal, Mega, and Tiv Ta’am. Shufersal and Mega are closed on Shabbat; everything in the store is Kosher. Tiv Ta’am, on the other hand, also sells non-kosher products and is open on Shabbat.

Also open on Shabbat are the AM:PM stores, which sell fresh produce and most staple groceries, though usually no meat or cheese counter. As the name suggests, AM:PMs are always open (only in Tel Aviv).

Health Food Stores: The two main health food stores are Teva Kastel (many locations throughout the city) and Eden Teva Market. Also available at these stores are lots of rarer products from around the world. If you’re looking for marmite, sushi rice, curry, or root beer, this is your store!
Markets: The Carmel Market is located at the intersection of King George, Allenby, and Sheinkin. It is a great place to get fresh produce, baked goods, prepared food and snacks. International food and spices can be found along the market's main road and on side streets. Beyond food, the market also sells flowers, hardware, clothes, etc.

Foreign Products: Mizrach Maarav, found in the Carmel Market imports international food that cannot be found in other locations.

Laundry

There are many laundromats throughout the city. Usually self-serve, laundry should cost around 15 NIS per load. Dryers will cost less-- around 10 NIS. Be sure to check out what coins the machines require. Many require three 5 shekel coins exactly. Dryers usually use 5 shekel and 1 shekel coins. The washing machines usually take around half an hour. Be careful to watch your laundry and shrinking is not unusual. A laundry service is available at many dry cleaners. Cost is determined based on kilograms of laundry. Some locations offer a pick-up and/or drop-off service.

Post office

There is a post office located just outside the university, on Levanon St. across from Gate 8. They offer many services and products including: stamps, phone cards, fax services, money changing (better rates than at the bank). You can even buy a credit card and pay most of your bills! We recommend you check conversion rates before changing any money. A slight difference to posted rates can be expected.

Banks

The most convenient banks in the Ramat Aviv area are:
- Bank Discount: 19 Brodetsky St.
- Bank Hapoalim: 43 Brodetsky St.
- Bank Leumi: 43 Brodetsky St.

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 st. near Frishman St. Students may also want to consider signing up for a car sharing service like "Car to Go" or AutoTel (which also has designated parking spots around the city).

Beaches

Tel Aviv has great 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: https://tel-aviv.gov.il/en/Visit/beaches/Pages/default.aspx

Nightlife

Tel Aviv is a non-stop city. You will find your favorite places in no time. To get started, here are a few helpful websites:
Shopping

There is definitely no shortage of shopping in Tel Aviv.

Downtown: Tons of stores can be found along Sheinkin St., King George St, Bograshov St., and Dizengoff St. Shopping on these streets can range from very affordable to very expensive!

Malls in Tel Aviv: Dizengoff Center, Azrieli Mall, Ramat Aviv Mall (near the university), and if you’re willing to go a little further, Ayalon Mall is generally very affordable with lots of good stores.

Outdoor Markets: Nachalat Binyamin – an artist's market, located parallel to Shuk Hacarmel, open on Tuesdays and Fridays with live music and entertainment. Shuk Hapishpeshim is a flea market in Jaffa with second-hand clothes, furniture and general household items.

Staying Active

Tel Aviv has its own version of Central Park-- Park Hayarkon. It is Tel Aviv’s largest public park and is within walking distance of the university. Features include extensive picnicking areas, gardens, a man-made lake, a bicycle path along the Yarkon River, boats for rental, a small children’s zoo, and more. In the park or nearby you will also find the following:

- Sportek – the Park Hayarkon sports center, tel: 03-642-2828, 03-6990307.
- Meimadion – the Water Park in Park Hayarkon (summer only), tel. 03-6422777.
- Tsapari Park in Park Hayarkon – houses several species of exotic birds in a beautiful tropical garden setting, tel. 03-6422888.
- Minigolf – 56 Rokach Boulevard at the corner of Haifa Road, Ramat Aviv, tel. 03-6990229.

Religious Life in Tel Aviv

Shabbat (Sabbath) in Israel

Besides the holidays which are outlined in the section below, in a sense, there's a Jewish holiday every week – Shabbat. Shabbat begins at sundown on Friday and ends on Saturday at sunset. All government offices and related businesses are closed. Approximately an hour before sundown on Friday almost all businesses, retail stores, and restaurants also close and public transportation stops. In Tel Aviv, there are a growing number of restaurants and cafes that are open on Shabbat.

At Tel Aviv University

Tel Aviv University is host to a diversity of students from various ethnic and religious backgrounds. It is university policy the 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.
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.

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

**Judaism:** (click [here](#) for more information)
- Conservative/Masorti - Kehilat Sinai, Tel Aviv. The New Kehila, Ramat Aviv,
- Orthodox - [http://www.rabanut.co.il/show_item.asp?levelId=60315](http://www.rabanut.co.il/show_item.asp?levelId=60315) (Hebrew only)
- Progressive/Reform - Beit Daniel, Tel Aviv.

**Christianity:**
- Lutheran - Immanuel Church, Jaffa (English services)
- 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](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

**Useful Tools**

**Emergency Care & Important Numbers**

- Police 100
- Ambulance (Magen David Adom) 101
- Fire Department 102
- Electric Company 103
- Information 144
- Municipality Information 106 (to pay water and municipality tax)
- Health Insurance Helpline 1-800-260-660
- Ichilov Hospital/Sourasky Medical Center 03-697-4444

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

- Hotline for women – 1202
- Hotline for men – 1203

**Maps & Guides**

- Map of Tel Aviv: [http://www.tel-aviv.gov.il/eng/Pages/mapsnew.aspx](http://www.tel-aviv.gov.il/eng/Pages/mapsnew.aspx)
- Interactive map of Israel: [http://www.eyeonisrael.com](http://www.eyeonisrael.com)
• Tel Aviv Global City Guide: [http://issuu.com/gagnshalom/docs/tlv_globalcity](http://issuu.com/gagnshalom/docs/tlv_globalcity)
• Time Out Tel Aviv: [http://digital.timeout.co.il/activemagazine/welcome/TO_globalcity2.asp](http://digital.timeout.co.il/activemagazine/welcome/TO_globalcity2.asp)

**Online Resources/Newspapers**

• Jerusalem Post: [http://www.jpost.com/](http://www.jpost.com/)
• Ynet (affiliated with Yediot Achronot): [http://ynetnews.com](http://ynetnews.com)
• Times of Israel: [http://www.timesofisrael.com/](http://www.timesofisrael.com/)
• Secret Tel Aviv: [https://www.secrettelaviv.com/](https://www.secrettelaviv.com/)

**Introduction to Hebrew**

Want to speak with the Israelis? Here are some basic words to help you start:
More words can be found here: [http://www.teachmehebrew.com/100-basic-hebrew-phrases.html](http://www.teachmehebrew.com/100-basic-hebrew-phrases.html)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Lo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello</td>
<td>Shalom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What's up?</td>
<td>Ma-nish Ma?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What's going on?</td>
<td>Ma ko-re?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everything is great</td>
<td>Sababa/Achla (Arabic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Come on, let's go</td>
<td>Yalla (Arabic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodbye/see you</td>
<td>Lehitra-ot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How are you?</td>
<td>Ma shlom-kha? (speaking to a woman) / Ma shlom-mekh? (speaking to a man)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good morning</td>
<td>Bo-ker tov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good night</td>
<td>Lai-la tov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you</td>
<td>Toda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tel Aviv was founded during the Ottoman Empire in 1909. The name is derived from the Hebrew word "Tel", an archaeological term for an area where you can see the strata of old cities built upon one another, and the word "Aviv" which means spring. The name is meant to represent “a rebirth.”

Just south of Tel Aviv is the city of Jaffa – a city whose history dates farther back than Jerusalem and which hosts the oldest operating port in the world. In 1909, a group of Jewish Jaffa residents chose to leave the city of Jaffa in order to establish a new residential neighborhood just outside the city’s border. This area turned out to be the first neighborhood of Tel Aviv.

With the influx of Jewish immigrants from Europe between the years 1924-1939, Tel Aviv became Israel's major center of commerce, culture and arts. In 1950, Tel Aviv and Jaffa merged into one municipality – today known as Tel Aviv – Jaffa.

The Tel Aviv of today has maintained its distinction as the cultural and economic hub of the country. In addition, the city boasts a plethora of restaurants, beaches, museums, movie theaters, outdoor cafes, fruit-juice stands, boutique shops, bars and clubs. This combination has attracted the nation’s youth and young professional crowd in droves. It has also earned the city the reputation of Israel's non-stop city and one of the party highlights of the Mediterranean.

Approximately 2.5 million people live in the greater Tel Aviv area (known as Gush Dan), which is about one third of Israel's population. While the actual population within the city’s limits is around 350,000, over one million people converge on Tel Aviv daily.

We hope you will like living in this exciting city for your semester of study and encourage you to get out of the classroom and campus as much as possible to discover and enjoy it (while keeping a focus on your studies of course!).

---

**Tel Aviv – "The White City" – A UNESCO World Heritage Site**

Tel Aviv is home to over 5000 Bauhaus buildings – the largest concentration in any city in the world. 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

Tel Aviv was also chosen by the Lonely Planet as one of the Ten Top Cities in the World in 2011.
Sites in Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv is one of the most vibrant cities in the world. Titled the Mediterranean Capital of Cool by The New York Times, this is a 24-hour city with a unique pulse, combining sandy Mediterranean beaches with world-class nightlife, a buzzing cultural scene, incredible food, UNESCO recognized architecture, and an international ambience.

**Sarona**
Sarona is a newly renovated, beautifully landscaped complex at the heart of Tel Aviv’s new central business district. The 33 buildings of the original German Templar Colony, dating back more than 140 years, have been painstakingly restored and today house boutique stores, artists’ galleries, quaint cafes, and some of the city’s most popular restaurants and bars.

**Neve Tzedek**
Neve Tzedek, built in 1887, was the first Jewish neighborhood established as a northern suburb of the old port city of Jaffa. Its Oriental architectural style, combined with its quaint, narrow streets lined with renovated pasted houses, boutiques and cafes, make Neve Tzedek, which means Oasis of Justice, quite literally an oasis in the modern city.

**HaTachana**
Hatachana, the Hebrew name for the old Jaffa railway station, has recently been transformed into one of Tel Aviv’s smartest public spaces. Starting at the end of Neve Tzedek’s Shabazi St. in the south, it houses a selection of cafes, restaurants, and boutiques ranging from fashion, to wooden games, all in an enviably realistic historic setting.

**Tel Aviv Museum of Art**
Located on Shaul Hamelech Boulevard, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art is one of Israel’s leading artistic and cultural institutions. It includes local art and international works from the 16th century to the present, hosting collections from the Department of Israeli Art; the Department of Modern and Contemporary Art; the Department of Prints and Drawings; the Department of Photography; the Department of Architecture and Design; and the Old Masters Department. In addition to its extensive program of permanent and changing exhibitions, the museum offers a vibrant selection of programs, concerts, classes, lectures, guided tours, workshops, and more.

**The Helena Rubinstein Pavilion for Contemporary Art**
The Helena Rubinstein Pavilion for Contemporary Art showcases changing exhibitions, reflecting diverse fields and practices in contemporary Israeli and International art. The pavilion is part of Tel Aviv’s Culture Square, which also includes the Habimah Theater and the Bronfman Auditorium.

For more sites and attractions visit [www.visit-tel-aviv.com/](http://www.visit-tel-aviv.com/) or [www.secrettelaviv.com/attractions](http://www.secrettelaviv.com/attractions)
A tiny country on the Eastern shores of the Mediterranean with a stunningly diverse landscape, vibrant modern cities, and loads of cool stuff to do.

Caesarea
Originally an ancient Herodian port city, Caesarea is a magnificent national park where ancient harbor ruins, beautiful beaches, and impressive modern residences sit side by side. The port area is one of Israel’s most attractive and fascinating archaeological sites. The restored Caesarea amphitheater hosts concerts during the summer, whilst the Old City has a range of boutiques and restaurants. The Caesarea Aqueduct Beach is one of the best beaches in Israel.

The Sea of Galilee (the Kinneret)
A magnificent geographical marvel, famous because of its prominence in New Testament writings, as a place where Jesus lived. The Sea of Galilee is one of the earliest settled areas in the Land of Israel. It boasts archaeological ruins, some of the first pioneering settlements in Israel, religious sites, modern cities, and endless outdoor pursuits.

Golan Heights
The Golan Heights are home to some of Israel’s most spectacular landscapes and fun adventures. Eagles nest at Gamla and deer roam at Odem. Natural hot springs can be found at Hamat Gader and Mount Hermon serves as Israel’s only ski resort. Explore by off-road ATVing, with a guide in a jeep, by foot on the hiking trails, biking along the tracks, canoeing or rafting.

Jerusalem
Jerusalem is totally unique – there is no other place like it. A city of tradition, religion, and history, but also, increasingly, of modern culture and heritage, it is a place with so much to offer that you could spend years there and still not see everything.

Jaffa (also known as Yafo)
The ancient port city out of which Tel Aviv grew, Jaffa has, in recent years, been regenerated, and with its old narrow streets, courtyards and buildings it has become a highly desirable part of Tel Aviv’s urban tapestry. In its Flea Market vendors sell a diverse range of interesting and unique products.

The Dead Sea
The lowest place on earth, the Dead Sea is a place of beauty, and a unique magical work of nature. A selection of tours to the Dead Sea depart daily from across Israel, and products can be found in many stores.

The Negev Desert
Covering over half of the total land area of Israel, the beautiful landscape of the Negev desert is full of historic and archaeological sites such as Masada, and wonders of nature such as the Ramon Crater.
Zichron Yaakov
Located upon Mount Carmel, with magnificent views across the Coastal Plain to the Mediterranean, Zichron Yaakov was founded in 1882 by 100 Jewish pioneers, returning to their Biblical homeland from Romania. Today, its quaint main shopping street is lined with cafes, sitting alongside historic buildings. It is also home to the Carmel Winery, one of Israel’s top vineyards.

Nazareth
Nazareth, located in Israel’s Galilee region, has over a dozen important Christian sites, and some fascinating cultural sites and experiences to savor. With its importance as the childhood home of Jesus, the largest Arab city in Israel, and its stunning location right in the middle of the Lower Galilee (about 15 miles west of the Sea of Galilee), it's a fascinating place.

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. See the Academic Calendar for this year's dates.

Rosh Hashanah - The beginning of the Jewish year and civil calendar; its name means “The head (beginning) of the Year.” The holiday is secularly celebrated similar to New Years and religiously celebrated with rituals and prayer. Families usually gather to share a large festive holiday meal.

Yom Kippur - The "Day of Atonement" occurs 10 days after Rosh Hashanah and is a fast day, religiously observed by attending synagogue to repent and ask forgiveness. 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.

Hanukkah - “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 an eight-pronged candelabrum is lit to symbolize the eight days that the oil burned in the Temple after it was reclaimed from the Hellenists. Is is customary to eat oily foods including 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.
Purim - Purim commemorates a time in which Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination. 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. Costumed parties can be found all around the country, with lots of music and fun.

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. 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-Atzma’ut) begins. 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 commemorates when the Jewish people received the Torah (first five books of the Bible) at Mount Sinai. Shavuot comes 49 days after Passover and 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.

For more information visit: [http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/holidays.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/holidays.html)
Contact Information

Prof. Shai Danziger
Assistant Dean of International Affairs
Tel: +972-3-6406311
Email: shaid@tau.ac.il

Ms. Hila Rachmani
Student Exchange & International Cooperation Manager
Tel: +972-3-6408069
Email: hilara@tauex.tau.ac.il

Sharon Rochwerg
Exchange Program Coordinator
Tel: +972-3-6408493
Email: collerex@tauex.ac.il