



Recanati
Business School
Tel Aviv University

Student Orientation Guide

**Produced By The Exchange Program Office
Recanati Business School**

Tel Aviv University, Israel

The Student Orientation Guide is designed to provide general information and in no way constitutes a legal obligation on the part of Tel Aviv University. The University reserves the right to change any information contained herein without prior notice.

Table of Contents

About Tel Aviv	4
About Tel Aviv University	5
About the Recanati Business School	5

Part I: Before you arrive

What to pack	6
Electrical outlets, cell phone rental, computer requirements, health suggestions, health services on campus	7
Health insurance, Visa for foreign students	8

Part II: General student information

	10
Academics	10
Getting to the University	11
Student services	12
Other important information	13-14
Security in Israel & identification	15

Part III: Survival guide for Tel Aviv

Upon your arrival in Tel Aviv	16
Housing	16-18
Banks, groceries, laundry	19
Post office, movie theaters, taxis, emergency care & important numbers, dialing internationally, driving in Israel	20
Staying active, volunteering, nightlife	21
Shopping, Shabbat, holidays in Israel	22-24
Useful websites, transportation websites	24-25

Dear Exchange Students,

On behalf of the administration, welcome to the Recanati 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, and hopefully 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!

Sharon Shaked & Hani Baumgarten

About Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv was founded during the Ottoman Empire in 1909. The name "Tel Aviv" 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 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 centre 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 of any city in the world. In recent years the city has been undergoing a massive reconstruction and preservation effort, which has earned it the status of a world heritage site by **UNESCO**. Take a tour of the buildings at the Bauhaus Center:

<http://www.bauhaus-center.com>

Tel Aviv was also chosen by the Lonely Planet as one of the Ten Top Cities in the World: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/usa/new-york-city/travel-tips-and->

About Tel Aviv University

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 29,000 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.

About Recanati Business School

The Recanati Business School 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, Recanati 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)
- Master of Science Specializing in Organizational Consulting (M.Sc.)
- MBA Specializing in Management of Technology, Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Recanati Executive MBA (EMBA)
- Kellogg-Recanati International Executive MBA (EMBA, conducted in English)

Part I: Before you arrive

What to pack?

For school

In general, Israel is a very casual place. Business attire is really just starting to become the norm for day-to-day time at the office and most Israelis still won't wear a tie to an important meeting (although this is also changing).

Combine this attitude with a very hot and humid summer climate and you get a relatively casual professional atmosphere.

At the same time, to quote the American Boy Scouts, "be prepared". During certain Professional Development Sessions, site visits, case competitions, conferences, and networking events, students will be asked to appear in formal business attire.

Some recommended items:

- Computer bag/backpack (we do not have lockers on campus)
- Professional bag for meetings or professional site visits (purse/briefcase)
- Business card holder
- Appropriate shoes (flip-flops are not business-casual or business attire!)

For play

Overall you should pack lots of light clothing for the summer (including your bathing suit!). Winter in Tel Aviv (if it's a good winter) is rainy, so make sure to pack an umbrella, a waterproof jacket and shoes in addition to your warm clothes. Since most houses are not insulated in Israel, it should be noted that December through February can be quite chilly outside as well as in.

We also recommend you bring a few nice "dress up" items for cocktails, parties, clubs etc... (you are in Tel Aviv after all).

Some recommended items:

- Camera
- Sunglasses (a must!)
- Sandals (flip-flops allowed here!)
- Your favorite sunblock (it exists in Israel, but your favorite brand may not)

For the outdoors

Israelis in general are a very outdoor oriented. Throughout Israel are thousands of trails to go hiking, hundreds of places to go camping, and many places to go swimming, horseback riding, ATViing, and (even) skiing! Although you can buy much of your outdoor equipment in Israel, it's recommended to bring your favorite equipment with you.

Some recommended items:

- Sleeping bag
- Hiking boots/shoes/sandals
- Hat

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.



Cell phone rental

The Student Exchange Program and the Sofaer iMBA Program have a special rate with Israel-Phones for cell phone rentals. Other options for cell phone use in Israel is to purchase a SIM card for your phone and either use "payasyou-go" or sign up for a contract with a local provider (Cellcom, Orange, and Pelephone are the largest providers; Rami Levy, Hot Mobile and Golan Telecom are new providers).

Computer requirement

All students in the program are required to have a laptop with up to date Microsoft software. Use of Excel 2007 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. Newcomers to Israel may suffer from an initial sensitivity to tap water, and at the same time they should also be acutely aware of the high risk of dehydration, especially during the summer months. Bottled water is recommended for those with sensitive stomachs, especially at the beginning of your stay in Israel.

The sun in Israel is extremely strong – much stronger than in many other countries. If you plan on being outside for even 20 minutes, you should wear some form of sun protection. If you plan on being at the beach all day, you will need to reapply regularly.

You should also consult with your family doctor regarding any additional medical recommendations, such as vaccinations or equivalents of prescription drugs. You may even want to consider bringing a year's supply of medication. Please keep in mind that while many drugs can be over the counter in your home country, it will not necessarily be the case here.

Health services on campus

A clinic of the Clalit health management organization is located on campus in the Sourasky Central Library building (opposite the Diaspora Museum – Beit Hatefutzot), Tel: 03-6415818/ 03-6415780.

Health insurance

You have to get health insurance for your stay in Israel, either by an Israeli company or one of your homeland companies. You will receive by email an offer, made by CMC (Clal Medi Care), one of the insurance companies on campus. Please note that we don't prefer this company over others, we just have their contact details and their offer is in English. Those of you, who are interested in it or have more questions, please contact the agency: + 1-800-351835.

Visas for foreign students

Passports

All visitors to Israel must hold a passport that is valid for at least six months from the date they enter the country. In order to enter Israel as a student, you must have a passport that is valid for at least 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, meaning that you may enter Israel an unlimited number of times for a period of one year without securing a new visa. Student visas are renewable after one year both in Israel and abroad. You must apply for an A-2 visa in person at your nearest Israeli consulate. Please note: It is illegal to study in Israel on a tourist visa.

The following is a checklist for this procedure:

- Valid passport
 - Passport-sized pictures
 - Acceptance letter to the program
 - Proof of sufficient funds (a bank statement is acceptable)
 - Scholarship statements, if relevant.
 - Fee of 350 NIS
- 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 (See "A" for checklist).

- 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.

Ministry of Interior details: Go directly to Vicki Kababgiyan, who will deal with your student visa:

125 Begin Road, Tel Aviv

Office hours: Monday and Thursday, 08:00 AM - 12:00 noon

For issues regarding visas, please contact Avi Zarakhovsky 03-6409989/5119 or aviz@tauex.tau.ac.il.

Part II: General student information

Academics

The difference between Recanati Part-time MBA courses and Sofaer iMBA full-time MBA courses

Time of courses: the iMBA courses usually take place during the morning, whereas the part-time MBA courses usually take place during the afternoon and evening.

Participating students: the majority of the iMBA students are international students, and their age average is 27. The majority of the part-time MBA students are Israeli and their age average is 32. The part-time MBA students also usually combine work with their studies and have a considerable amount of work experience.

General Course Offering

- ❖ **The Recanati Business School** has two programs from which you can take your courses: the **part-time MBA program** and the **full-time Sofaer iMBA program**. **The part-time MBA program**, which is generally conducted in Hebrew, offers courses for exchange students in English and the **full-time Sofaer iMBA program** is conducted entirely in English.
- ❖ **OSP – the School for Overseas** offers courses about Israeli culture, history, politics, economy, Zionism and more. Please note that the courses there are at the **undergraduate** level and it's up to your home university to decide if to accredit them. Registration for OSP courses is held during orientation week.
- ❖ **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

The TAU International Program offers Hebrew language courses for Tel Aviv University students interested in learning the Hebrew language or improving their proficiency. For further information please contact the OSP office: osptau@post.tau.ac.il, Phone +972 (0) 3 640 8639.

Additional languages are offered by Tel Aviv University's Division of Foreign Languages (<http://www5.tau.ac.il/foreign-languages/>).

Academic advising

Academic advising for the Exchange Students will be provided by Prof. Simon Benninga. Contact Information: Email: benninga@post.tau.ac.il, Tel: +972 3-6406317.

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 via email, and two hard copies are sent via regular mail to the student's home university. The entire process can take up to one month.

OSP transcripts

Towards the end of the semester you will need to fill out a form at the OSP office in order to receive a transcript.

Getting to the university

By bus

The Dan bus company runs a number of buses to the university from Tel Aviv. Buses 7, 24, 25, 33, 126, and 289 are the most convenient bus lines for students coming from central Tel Aviv

During the first week of each semester, the Dan bus company maintains 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 Central Bus Station and at the Arlozorov (Merkaz) railway station. The Rav Kav looks like this:



Once the official school year begins, You will have the chance to purchase a Dan buss card with a significant student discount. To purchase you must have your student card.

Further details will be provided at the orientation.

By train

The university train station (called *Tel Aviv University*) is located approximately 15 minutes by foot from the Recanati Business School. 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.

By car

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.

For more information you can contact the Student Union service center (the Mitchell building): 03-6407662/9200.

**You can purchase an electronic smartcard to park in Smolarz. The card itself costs 7 NIS. The card can be filled to an unlimited amount. Parking is 2.50 NIS/hour or 10 NIS/day. Additionally, also for purchase are passes for blue white parking that are valid for use in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem. The charge is 4.70 NIS per card for non-Tel Aviv residents and 2.50 NIS for Tel Aviv residents. Parking at blue/white is free until 3 pm on the west side of Levanon St. Parking is difficult to find after 8 am.

Student services

Student services from the Student Union

As a student in the Exchange Program, you can become a member of the Student Union. In turn, this automatically gives you a number of discounts and services as outlined in this section. Website: www.student.co.il/. Student Union service center (the Mitchell building): 03-6407662.

1. 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
- "Rav Tav", "Tav Hazahav" and other discount coupons for purchases at various chain stores
- Vouchers for vacation and spa centers
- Discounted cards for photocopying machines
- Receiving and sending faxes (also abroad)
- Student discount on tickets to concerts, plays, white nights and other special events
- Coupons for discounts at select cafes and restaurants

2. 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 to the Student Counter to fill out a request form. The coordination between the proofreader and student is provided by the division. This service is provided for a subsidized service fee by the Student Authority.

3. Accessibility on campus for the physically disabled

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

4. Financial consulting

For advice on financial, taxation, labor law and economic issues, please contact the Student Union.

5. Legal consulting

General legal consulting is provided by Adv. Ran Shoval (+972-3-640-7654) on a variety of issues from workplace issues, work contracts, worker rights, compensation, personal status, and rental leases, including 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.

Other important information

Communication

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

1. Tel Aviv University email address (will be given to you in the orientation week)
2. Facebook – Recommended for students to open a Facebook account
3. Telephone
4. Moodle (online course site)*

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

And in return, we also need you to be in communication with us. If you have a question, comment, or suggestion, please feel free to connect with us through one of the above mentioned channels.

Important websites

Tel Aviv University's website

Tel Aviv University's main page in English includes many important links for you. You can access the site using this address: <http://www.tau.ac.il/index-eng.html>

The menu on the left hand side of the page includes: About TAU (<http://www.tau.ac.il/about-eng.html>), Academic Units, Research, Admission, Libraries, Computing, Community, Friends and Alumni, Administration, and Student Services: <http://www.tau.ac.il/services-eng.html> (includes how to check your grades online).

The bottom of the page includes the latest events at Tel Aviv University and a link to "All news from TAU": <http://www.tau.ac.il/events-eng.html> The menu next to the news items includes some other relevant links: MyTAU, Press Releases, TAU Review, Annual Report, Calendar, Campus Map, and Directory.

Exchange Program website: Throughout the semester you will be expected to use the Exchange Program website to stay up-to-date on classes, events, etc. <http://en-recanati.tau.ac.il/Student-Exchange>

Recanati Alumni website:

<http://recanati.tau.ac.il/Eng/?CategoryID=284&ArticleID=1578>

Campus Map: <http://www2.tau.ac.il/map/unimapple1.asp>

Student Union: <http://www.student.co.il/?CategoryID=643>

Psychological services

Psychological services are available from the office of Dean of Students, in 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.

Students can make direct contact with the office by :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.

Where to eat on campus

There are a number of places to eat on campus. Below are the more popular spots for Exchange students:

- 1) Sharett – the food court in the building directly across from Recanati
- 2) Gilman – standard cafeteria food with lots of options and pretty good coffee!
- 3) Seshek Cafeteria – in the Naftali building (Social Sciences) – great salads!
- 4) Kakao – In the Trubowicz building (Law Faculty) – great hummus and lots of other options.
- 5) King George – In the square outside of the main gate (no.7). A wide selection of food, including pastas, meat and fish at a variety of prices.
- 6) Webb Building – a short walk away from the Diaspora Museum building – Sbarro, traditional Israeli food.
- 7) Aroma – in the Diaspora Museum building – great patio in the summer.

Using the facilities of the university sports center

Students receive a discount. Please note that before using the facilities, you will be required to show a proof of good health signed by your physician. It's recommended to take it with you to Israel ahead, if you're planning on using the facilities. For more information: www.sports-center.co.il

Culture on campus

Tel Aviv University is mostly a commuter campus. This means that there really isn't a strong culture on campus. There are a number of really great events that happen throughout the year though. Every Wednesday, there's a concert on campus and vendors set up food and clothing stalls.

Also, Tel Aviv University invites you to an exciting variety of academic, cultural and artistic events **every Thursday evening** on campus, including:

- fascinating lectures
- travelling exhibitions
- film screenings
- live performances

- food booths, a farmers' market, coffee shops, bars, and much more.

Entrance is free of charge!

Hillel

Hillel aims to trigger a Jewish awakening among young people in Israel by offering a unique range of opportunities for young adults to connect with their Jewish identity and culture. These meaningful experiences help inspire individuals to explore, strengthen and celebrate their own distinctive Jewishness. Tel Aviv University is a large campus, where students may find it difficult to connect to the Jewish identity. Today many Jewish young adults choose not to associate with their culture. Hillel offers the opportunity for young adults to find unique ways to identify with Judaism and discover the meaning of life as a Jew in Israel.

Hillel offers English-speaking students at Tel Aviv University a variety of programs such as Shabbat dinners, holiday events, meetings with Israeli students, cultural events, and more! Contact OSPevent@hillelnet.org.il for more information.

<http://www.hillelisrael.org.il/>

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.

Part III: Survival guide for Tel Aviv

Upon your arrival in Tel Aviv

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 very foreign language! 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 and cost 15 NIS one way .

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: <http://www.rail.co.il/EN/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

2. Taxi: Just outside the arrivals hall is the taxi queue. There is a flat fare for Tel Aviv of approximately 120 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) – after sundown on Friday or on Saturday before sunset – 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.

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.

Apartment hunting in Tel Aviv can be quite time consuming and the process can be lengthy. This can be partially explained by the extremely fast-moving market. Students are advised to set time aside specifically for apartment hunting prior to the start of the program (2-3 weeks is recommended).

Students may also want to consider finding a short-term rental for the first couple of weeks before finding an apartment. Hostels are another temporary option. For more

about hostels, see <http://www.hostelsweb.com/cities/telaviv.html> and the following list of short-term providers:

Name	Street	Tel	Email
Arbel-Hotel Apt	Hulda Street 11	(972)3-5226721	sales@israelapartment.com
Bnei-Dan Hostel	Bnei Dan 36	(972)2-5945655	telaviv@iyha.org.il
Dizengoff Square Apt	89 Dizengoff	(972)3-5241151	neeamam@netvision.net.il
Dizengoff SuiteApt	Gordon 39	(972)3-5234363	info@dizengoffsuites.co.il
Madness Apt	Ben-Yehuda 121,119	(972)3-5229393	officeteam@tel-aviv-rental.co.il
Rothschild Residence	71 Rothschild	(972)3-6290555	contact@rothschild-residence.co.il
Holiday Rentals	37 Reines Street	(972)3-9513964	Office@Holiday-Rentals.co.il

Depending on a variety of factors, you should be prepared to pay anywhere from 2500 NIS (living with 1 or 2 roommates) to 4000 NIS (living alone) per month for a partially furnished apartment. The following websites will help you in your search:

Websites

<http://housingcentertlv.wix.com/livingintelavivyafo>

<http://telaviv.craigslist.org/> (English)

www.janglo.net/ (English-click on the Tel Aviv section for Real Estate)

Taanglo - Facebook

Tanglo -Yahoo group

<http://flat-club.com/> (English)

www.homeless.co.il (Hebrew)

www.yad2.co.il (Hebrew)

www.telalivit.com

www.winwin.co.il (Hebrew)

Hila, the exchange coordinator is available to help students navigate the various housing websites and find housing (The websites are almost exclusively in Hebrew).

To make things a little bit easier for you, we have opened a **Facebook group for house searching**; the goal of this group is to serve as a platform for outgoing & incoming exchange students. For example, when leaving from home, outgoing students usually search for someone to take over the lease in their apartment. At the same time, incoming students are searching for short-term apartments to rent. The aim is to help out both groups of students with their living arrangements in Israel and other similar needs. You are all welcome to post information about the apartment you are leaving, or apartments you are seeking.

When looking for an apartment, we highly recommend clarifying the following issues, and suggest reviewing the questions listed below:

1. Apartment Details

- a. Where is the apartment located?
- b. How big is the apartment in square meters ?
- c. What floor is the apartment on? If on the ground floor, are there bars on the windows?
- d. What appliances are included in the apartment? (Many apartments do not include major appliances like an oven, or stove and sometimes a fridge.)
- e. What furniture is included in the apartment?
- f. Is there air conditioning (very important!)? Heating?
- g. What else is included in the apartment?
- h. Is there a roommate? What is he or she like?

2. Rent

- a. What is included in the rental payment?
 - i. Just rent
 - ii. Va'ad Bayit (building maintenance fees)
 - iii. All inclusive (water, gas, electricity, maintenance fees, cable, internet, phone etc...)
- b. How often is payment due and in what form ?
 - i. 12 Cheques
 - ii. 6 Cheques
 - iii. 1 lump sum?
 - iv. Cash? (Never pay cash unless you receive a receipt.)

3. Bills

- a. How much is Arnona (municipality tax) and water every month? (water is included every other month on the Arnona bill)
- b. Is there an electric heater for water (dood chashmal) or is the heater solar powered (dood shemesh)?
- c. How much is electricity on average every month?
 - i. Things to consider: electricity spent on a heater, air conditioner, electric water heater (dood chashmal)
- d. How much is the Va'ad Bayit (maintenance fees) every month?

4. Signing the lease

- a. Can the lease be written in English?
- b. Does there need to be a guarantor? (We can help you with this.)
- c. Is a security deposit required?
- d. Do they require a lawyer to review the lease? If so, who covers that cost?

5. What is the area like?

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

Banks

To open a bank account in Israel, you will need the following:

- 1) Passport
- 2) Student Visa or Work Visa
- 3) Another ID
- 4) Residential lease

5) Letter of acceptance to program

The most convenient banks in the Ramat Aviv area are:

- Bank Discount: Located in Entin Square (near the main entrance, Gate 7)
- Bank Hapoalim: 6 Barth Street
- Bank Leumi: Next to the Mega grocery store

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 particularly good prices. It's worth checking it out on the way to the bus stop.

The 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 there is usually no meat or cheese counter. As the name suggests, AM:PMs are always open.

Health Food Stores: The two main health food stores are Teva Kastel (many locations throughout the city) and Eden (one is located in Gan Ha'ir – Ibn Gvirol corner Hadassa and one at 10 Nissim Aloni Street). Also available at these stores are lots of more rare products from around the world. If you're looking for marmite, sushi rice, curry, or root beer, this is your store!

Another great way to shop is by visiting the markets. The Carmel Market located at the intersection of King George, Allenby, and Sheinkin is a great place to get ANYTHING you might ever need. Beyond food, the market also has stores that sell flowers, hardware, clothes, etc.

Laundry

There are many laundromats throughout the city. In general, self-serve laundry should cost around 15 NIS per load. Dryers will cost less-- around 10 NIS. Before you lug all your laundry, 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. The dryers will take less time than a standard North American dryer. Be careful to watch your laundry as it dries. 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 Lebanon St. across from Gate 8. There are many services and products that are offered such as: 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!

Movie theatres

Ayalon Mall – YES Movie Theater
Rav Chen (Dizengoff Square)
Lev Dizengoff Center – on the top and bottom floors of the Dizengoff Center
Cinema City – off the highway near Herzliya
Cinematheque (Carlebach and Ha'Arbaah)
Gat – across from Rabin Square

Local taxi service

Castel Taxi: 03-694242/ 03-6993322. **We recommend always using the meter as opposed to a fixed rate. Tipping is not customary.**

Emergency care & important numbers

Police: 100
Ambulance (Magen David Adom): 101
Fire: 102
Electricity Company: 103
Phone & Address Information Services: 144
Municipality Information: 106 (to pay water and municipality tax)

Hospital in Tel Aviv: Ichilov (Weitzman between Arlosorov and David Hamelech)

Dialing internationally

Since the international telecommunications market in Israel was opened to competition, rates on international calls dialed directly from Israel are often cheaper than in the opposite direction .

To make an overseas call, dial one of the following 3-number codes before your country code and area code:

012 Smile: 012
013 Netvision-Barak: 013
Bezeq International: 014

If you are coming to Israel from the United States or Canada, you may want to purchase a Magic Jack to make long-distance calls.

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. Students may also want to consider signing up for a car sharing service like Car to go: www.cartogo.co.il

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 hire, a small children's zoo, and more.

To reach the park, walk towards the University Railway Station on the campus's southeastern side. Cross Rokach Boulevard, then turn left, and enter the grounds beyond the parking lot.

In the park or close-by 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.

Other Local Attractions

- Bowling Tel Aviv, 124 Ibn Gvirol St., Floor 3, Tel Aviv, tel. 5231222, 5237004/5.
- The Safari Park – spacious safari park with zoo and petting corner, Ramat-Gan, tel. 6312181.
- Israel Tennis Center, Ramat Hasharon, tel. 6456666.

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

Volunteering

We encourage you to volunteer and get involved in the community in Israel. If you have a specific cause that you are particularly interested in, we will help connect you to a relevant organization.

Nightlife

Tel Aviv is a non-stop city. You will find your favorite pub/coffee shop/bar/club/restaurant/beach in no time. However, to get started, here are a few helpful websites.

- Tel-Aviv-Jaffa Tourism Site: <http://www.visit-tlv.com>
- Tel-Aviv Guide: http://www.telavivguide.net/Tel_Aviv_Nightlife/
- Tel-Aviv City: <http://www.telavivcity.com>
- TimeOut Tel-Aviv: <http://www.timeout.com/>
- Achbar Ha'ir: www.mouse.co.il

Shopping

There is definitely no shortage of shopping in Tel Aviv. In the downtown area the major shopping streets include Sheinkin, King George St, Bograshov, and Dizengoff. Shopping on these streets can range from very affordable to very expensive!

There are a number of malls in Tel Aviv: Dizengoff Center (Dizengoff and King George), Azrieli (Kaplan and Begin St.), Ramat Aviv Mall (Einstein and Brodetsky), and if you're willing to go a little further, Ayalon Mall is generally very affordable with lots of good stores.

There are also outdoor markets such as Nachalat Binyamin – an artist's market open on Tuesdays and Fridays. On the weekend there are also markets open in the Tel Aviv Port and Jaffa Port.

Shabbat (Sabbath) in Israel

Besides the holidays which are outlined 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. In Tel Aviv, however, there are a growing number of restaurants and cafes that are open on Shabbat. Also open on Shabbat in Tel Aviv are AM:PMs (like 7/11) and Tiv Ta'ams (grocery store).

Holidays in Israel

All holidays in Israel begin at sundown, as Judaism follows the lunar calendar. The high holidays (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur) take place around early September. Sukkot follows in late September. Other main Jewish holidays include: Chanukah, Purim, Passover, Shavuot, and Tisha B'av. There are also a number secular holidays celebrated in Israel including: Tu B'shevat, Holocaust Memorial Day, Israel Memorial Day, and Israel Independence Day.

If you would like to experience one of these holidays while you are here, we will be more than happy to help coordinate accommodations.

Rosh Hashanah (September 4-6) – The holiday represents the beginning of the Jewish year, with the name translating as "head of the year". It is a time when people look back at the occurrences of the past year and how they plan to make changes in the upcoming year .

Yom Kippur (September 13-14) -- Probably the most important holiday, Yom Kippur (the "Day of Atonement") occurs 10 days after Rosh Hashanah. It is a fast day, and is usually observed by attending synagogue to repent and ask forgiveness. It is said that on Rosh Hashanah, God writes every person's name in the "book of life" or the "book of death". On Yom Kippur, the book is signed and sealed. The ten days between the two holidays is a time to ask forgiveness from others.

Sukkot (September 18-27) – Translated as "The Feast of the Tabernacles," Sukkot is both a historical and agricultural holiday. It commemorates the forty years when the children of Israel wandered the desert looking for shelter. The holiday is also a celebration of the harvest season. Open-air booths in which you can see the stars in the sky are erected all over the country and people eat meals in them.

Chanukah (November 27-December 5) – Known as "The Festival of Lights", Chanukah tells the story of assimilation, suppression and the fight to maintain the Jewish faith against Hellenism. During the holiday Jewish people light eight-pronged candelabra to symbolize the eight days that the oil burned in the temple when it was restored from the Hellenists. The connection with oil extends also to food that is customary to eat during the holiday – jelly-filled donuts and latkes (potato pancakes)

Tu B'Shevat (January 16) – The "New Year for the Trees" is celebrated by planting trees in Israel and eating different kinds of fruit and nuts. The holiday is another agricultural holiday that has its roots in the Mishna.

Purim (March 16-17) – Purim or "Lots" commemorates the time in which Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination at the hands of Haman, the King's advisor. On this holiday, the Book of Esther is read twice, small packages are sent to friends, and people dress masquerade and celebrate. This might be the most fun holiday!

Passover (April 14–22) – Commemorating the exodus from Egypt, this holiday is observed in a number of ways. During the first night (or two depending on location) the story of the exodus is recited and there is a very rigid dietary requirement of not eating any items relating to bread for the 7-day holiday. It is also another agricultural holiday since it occurs during spring time and the first harvest season.

Holocaust Memorial Day (April 28) – Every year on the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Holocaust Memorial Day is observed. Starting in the evening, TV broadcasts and radio programs are dedicated to the subject of Holocaust Memorial. A two-minute air siren goes off at 10:00 next morning. During the siren people will stop what they do and stand still. Memorial ceremonies are held at the university, and main squares (Rabin Square in Tel Aviv).

Israel Memorial Day (May 5) – One week after Holocaust Memorial Day, Israel commemorates its soldiers who have fallen in battle. A siren is sounded at 20:00 and again at 11:00 the next morning. It is customary to stop and stand still. Radio and TV will also broadcast programs commemorating the events leading to the creation of Israel, and its subsequent wars. Ceremonies are held both on campus and at Rabin Square. Memorial Day ends as Independence Day begins.

Israel Independence Day (May 6) – As Memorial Day ends, Independence Day begins, drawing a distinct link between fallen soldiers and Independence. The mood instantly changes as people celebrate Israel's independence. Ceremonies are held at night in Rabin Square, and the next day many people celebrate by getting together with friends and family and barbecuing (Mangal).

Shavuot (June 3-4) – This holiday is otherwise known as "Chag Matan Torah", the holiday in which the Jewish people received the Torah (Bible) at Mount Sinai. Shavuot is 49 days after Passover, and illustrates that while physically the children of Israel were released from bondage on Passover, on Shavuot, they are redeemed from idolatry and immorality by receiving the Torah. It's customary on this holiday to eat dairy products and study Torah through the night.

Tisha B'Av (August 5) – Occurring on the 9th of the Hebrew month Av, this is a day of fasting and mourning in commemoration of tragedies which have befallen the Jewish people. According to traditions both the first and second temple were destroyed on this day.

To find more information about the Jewish holidays a great resource is the

"Jewish Virtual Library":

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/holiday2.html>

Useful Websites

Yellow Pages: www.d.co.il

Israeli News in English Online

- Haaretz: www.haaretz.com
- Yediot Aharonot: www.ynetnews.co.il
- Jerusalem Post: www.jpost.com

News in Hebrew Online

- Haaretz: www.haaretz.co.il
- Yediot Aharonot: www.ynet.co.il
- Maariv: www.nrg.co.il

Business News in Hebrew Online

- The Marker: www.themarker.com
- Globes: www.globes.co.il
- Calcalist: www.calcalist.co.il

Culture and Tourism

- City of Tel Aviv Website: www.tel-aviv.gov.il/english/home/asp
- www.telavivcity.com
- Ministry of Tourism: www.tourism.gov.il
- Cinematheque: www.cinema.co.il
- Tel Aviv Museum of Art: www.tamuseum.com

Transportation Websites

Airlines

Arkia:

<http://www.arkia.co.il/> (Hebrew)

<http://www.arkia.com/> (English)

<http://www.arkia.ru/> (Russian)

El Al:

<http://www.elal.co.il/ELAL/Hebrew/States/General/> (Hebrew)

<http://www.elal.co.il/ELAL/English/States/General/> (English)

<http://www.elal.co.il/ELAL/russian/States/General/> (Russian)

Israir:

<http://www.israir.co.il/> (Hebrew)

<http://www.israirairlines.com/> (English)

Buses

Dan :

<http://www.dan.co.il/> (Hebrew)

<http://www.dan.co.il/english/> (English)

<http://www.dan.co.il/russian/> (Russian)

Egged:

<http://www.egged.co.il/> (Hebrew)

<http://www.egged.co.il/Eng/> (English)

<http://www.egged.co.il/RU/> (Russian)

Metropoline:

<http://www.metropoline.com/> (Hebrew Only)

Kavim:

<http://www.kavim-t.co.il/home/> (Hebrew Only)

Trains

Israel Railways:

<http://www.rail.co.il/HE/Pages/homepage.aspx> (Hebrew)

<http://www.rail.co.il/EN/Pages/HomePage.aspx> (English)

<http://www.rail.co.il/AR/Pages/HomePage.aspx> (Arabic)

<http://www.rail.co.il/RU/Pages/HomePage.aspx> (Russian)

For further information please contact us at:

Ms. Sharon Shaked Merkado

Exchange Programs Director

Tel: +972-3-6408069

Fax: +972-3-6405095

E-mail: shaked@tauex.tau.ac.il

Ms. Hani Baumgarten

Exchange Program Coordinator

Tel: +972-3-6408493

Fax: +972-3-6406328

E-mail: hanib@tauex.tau.ac.il