

Study Abroad in Israel: University Policies

A Report Compiled by the Israel on Campus Coalition
April, 2008



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Since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in October, 2000, too many schools across the nation have been limiting their study abroad opportunities to Israel. Most of these schools cite the State Department travel warning as the reason for suspending these programs. From its inception, the ICC and its member organizations have made it a priority to reduce these barriers and created a task force to deal with the issue of studying abroad in Israel.

One of the major issues facing the task force upon its formation was the lack of reliable data on the number of schools with official study abroad programs in Israel. There was also little information as to which schools without formal programs allowed their students to study abroad and which ones made it exceedingly difficult or impossible. For these reasons, it was imperative to undertake research to fully understand the scope of the problem.

The information in the current (and growing) list of over 100 schools and their study abroad in Israel policies was gathered through conversations with each school's study abroad office. During these conversations, we first asked whether a formal program exists (after checking the study abroad website to see if there was an online link). In the attached spreadsheet, a "yes" school is one that either has an official program or allows students to study through another institution without sacrificing financial aid or taking a leave of absence.

If a school has no program, we asked the following questions to discover how difficult that school makes studying abroad in Israel:

1. Do students have to withdraw from their home school in order to study in Israel, or can they take a leave of absence?
2. Can credits be pre-approved (allowing students to study abroad knowing that their home school will accept the credits upon their return)?
3. Will school-based financial aid remain available to students while they study abroad?

Based on the answers to these questions, we designated schools as either "conditional yes" or "no" schools. A "conditional yes" school is one that allows students to have their credit pre-approved or some other method that allows students to study abroad knowing that their credit will count upon their return. "No" schools are those who either make it impossible to study abroad without withdrawing from the school or do not guarantee that students will receive credit for classes taken in Israel upon their return.

The schools chosen for the study represent a diverse range of geographic locations, Jewish population sizes and levels of national visibility. The majority of the schools are well known and respected nationally, and a change in study abroad policy at these institutions could influence policies at other colleges and universities.

Though research into other schools continues, the findings from the first 100 schools suggests that the problem of study abroad may not be as acute as once imagined. In fact,

of the first 100 schools researched, 50 were “yes” schools. However, there remain schools that make it very difficult to study abroad.

In the struggle to bring back the option of studying abroad in Israel, we hope that this new resource will be of great use. If you have questions or wish to add additional information, please contact Andrea Sorin, Israel Education Initiatives Associate, at 202-449-6583 or asorin@israelcc.org.

The Israel on Campus Coalition (ICC) is a partnership of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, in cooperation with a network of national organizations committed to promoting Israel education and advocacy on campus. The ICC's 33 member organizations are dedicated to working collaboratively to assist students in fostering support for Israel on the college campus. Today, the ICC serves as the central coordinating and strategic body to address campus issues and intelligently impact a pro-active, pro-Israel agenda on campus.

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Institution	Study Abroad?*	Study Abroad Website (Israel Link)	Hebrew U	Tel-Aviv U	Haifa U	Ben Gurion U	Technion	Arava Institute for Environmental Studies at Kibbutz Ketura	Notes**	Date updated
Allegheny College	yes				X			X	The Haifa U program is in the approval stages and will be starting shortly.	11/30/2007
American University	yes	http://www.auabroad.american.edu/results.cfm	X			X			Program suspended from 2000-2004	11/30/2007
Arizona State University	yes	http://ipo.asu.edu/asu/searchResults.php	X	X	X	X				1/7/2008
Assumption College	no									11/30/2007
Barnard College	yes	http://tinyurl.com/37gocr	X	X	X	X				11/30/2007
Boston College	conditional yes								While the university has no official program, it is not hard to study abroad in Israel. Students would have to get their credit pre-approved before traveling (although some major/minor credit could only be given after the semester abroad). Also, financial aid will carry over.	1/7/2008
Boston University	yes	http://www.bu.edu/abroad/programs/israel/		X	X					11/30/2007
Bowdoin College	yes	http://www.bowdoin.edu/ocs/choosing/options-list.shtml	X						Students can also petition to study at other Israeli universities.	1/29/2008
Brandeis University	yes	http://www.brandeis.edu/abroad/programs/middleeast.html#israel	X	X	X	X	X	X		11/30/2007
Brown University	yes	http://tinyurl.com/36ntsm	X	X	X	X	X	X		12/4/2007
Clark University	conditional yes								Students must take a leave of absence, get their credit pre-approved (students won't receive a letter grade), and financial aid doesn't carry over.	1/7/2008
Colgate University	conditional yes								Students must take a leave of absence and get their credits pre-approved. Colgate financial aid may not carry over.	1/29/2008

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Columbia University	yes	http://www.ogp.columbia.edu/programs/all.html	X	X	X	X			The program is running but students and their parents must sign a waiver before being allowed to travel. Courses must be taken in Hebrew to be accepted for credit (Columbia requires students to take classes in the language of the country they choose to study in for all countries in which Columbia has an advanced language program on campus).	3/28/2008
Cornell University	yes	http://tinyurl.com/2kjujl	X	X	X	X		X	The school also affiliates with the Boston University engineering program at TAU and has a Partnership for Service Learning through BGU	12/4/2007
Dartmouth College	yes	http://www.dartmouth.edu/apply/generalinfo/overview/abroad.html	X	X						1/29/2008
DePaul University	yes								While the school has no formal Israel program, students may study abroad in Israel through any other program offered by a university in the US. Some financial aid may not transfer.	1/7/2008
Drew University	conditional yes	http://www.drew.edu/depts/depts.aspx?id=23363							Students must sign a waiver and meet with the study abroad director. Credit is pre-approved and students receive their financial aid.	3/18/2008

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Drexel University	no	http://tinyurl.com/2udkht							Students must take a semester/year off of school. They would also have to have their classes pre-approved (though this does not guarantee credit will be given upon return). Drexel financial aid would not be available while the student was abroad.	1/7/2008
Duke University	yes	http://studyabroad.duke.edu/approvedlist/africamideast.html	X							11/30/2007
Emory University	yes	http://www.cipa.emory.edu/search_programs/searchPrograms.cfm	X	X					Students also have the option of doing summer programs through the university	12/4/2007
Fordham University	yes	http://tinyurl.com/2t2s7b			X				Students travel through the Boston University program	12/4/2007
George Mason University	conditional yes	http://globaled.gmu.edu/nongmu.htm							Students must get all credit pre-approved. Some financial aid may not transfer.	1/7/2008
George Washington University	conditional yes	http://tinyurl.com/37qfcg							Students must petition the school due to the lack of an official Israel program. The GW Hillel reported that, though difficult, students who wanted to could study in Israel without a serious problem. They also reported that the school is in the planning stages of creating an official Israel program.	2/19/2008
Georgetown University	conditional yes								For a student to study abroad in Israel, a petition would have to be approved by a selection committee.	1/7/2008
Goucher College	yes	http://www.goucher.edu/x4755.xml#programsIsrael				X			The Goucher program, like most of their study abroad options, runs three weeks	12/4/2007
Hampshire College	no									12/4/2007

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Harvard University	yes	http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~oip/approved_programs/middle_east.html	X	X	X		X			1/7/2008
Indiana University	yes	http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/flyers/jerusale.html	X							11/30/2007
Iowa State University	no								The school highly discourages travel to Israel due to the State Department warning. Financial aid will not carry over, a leave of absence is required, and credit can't be pre-approved or guaranteed upon return.	1/7/2008
Ithaca College	conditional yes								Students must un-enroll and get pre-approved for another program but the credits would transfer	12/4/2007
Johns Hopkins University	yes	http://www.jhu.edu/~advising/Programs.htm#I	X	X	X	X	X			
Kent State University	yes				X				Students can also travel to Israel through Ohio State's program.	1/7/2008
Lafayette College	yes	http://ww2.lafayette.edu/~studyabroad/approved.php			X				Students travel through the Boston University program	12/4/2007
Lehigh University	conditional yes	http://www.lehigh.edu/~incis/programs_africa.html	X	X					Students must petition school due to the travel warning	12/4/2007
Lewis and Clark College	conditional yes								The school says that the lack of an Israel (or any other Middle Eastern) program is due to their not having a Middle East Studies Dept. However, study abroad in Israel is possible. Students must get their travel approved by their department chair and the registrar must sign off on the classes before the student leaves. Institutional financial aid won't carry over.	2/5/2008

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Loyola University (Chicago)	conditional yes								The school doesn't have an Israel program and students must petition to attend any Israeli university except Hebrew University where the school has contacts. It is suggested that courses be pre-approved and Loyola aid wouldn't carry over.	1/29/2008
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	yes	http://web.mit.edu/studyabroad/before/programs.html					X			12/4/2007
Michigan State University	yes	http://ntweb11.ais.msu.edu/osa_db/search.asp	X (coming spring, 2009)	X (coming soon)		X			In addition, the school offers several summer program options.	12/4/2007
Muhlenberg College	yes	http://www.muhlenberg.edu/depts/educabroad/AppPrograms.pdf	X	X	X	X				12/4/2007
New York University	conditional yes								Students must receive approval from their advisor and department. Students may also have to take a leave of absence depending upon their program. University financial aid may not carry over. NYU is currently developing a full program with Tel Aviv University: http://www.nyu.edu/public_affairs/releases/detail/1641	1/30/2008
Northeastern University	conditional yes								Students can go on a faculty led program in the summer. Otherwise, students must get an independent study abroad program preapproved if they want to study in Israel. They must then un-enroll from Northeastern but can receive the transfer credit	12/4/2007

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Northwestern University	conditional yes								Students must un-enroll, sign a waiver, and have a parent sign an additional waiver	12/4/2007
Ohio State University	conditional yes	http://tinyurl.com/3yywdt	X	X		X			Only available via special petition	12/4/2007
Pennsylvania State University	no									12/4/2007
Princeton University	yes	http://www.princeton.edu/~sap/programs/middle-east.shtml	X	X	X					12/4/2007
Purdue University	no								Students would have to petition for credit and it is not guaranteed	12/4/2007
Queens College (CUNY)	yes								While Queens does not have its own program to Israel, programs are available through any of the CUNY schools.	1/29/2008
Roger Williams University	no								Students would have to set up an Israel program themselves and take a leave of absence. However, the credit might not be approved. The study abroad advisor didn't suggest doing a program outside of what they offered	12/4/2007
Rutgers University	yes	http://studyabroad.rutgers.edu/program_israel.html	X		X	X				1/29/2008
Skidmore College	no									12/4/2007
Stonehill College	no									12/4/2007
SUNY at Binghamton	yes								The program is not specifically through them but students are allowed to study in any SUNY study abroad program and other SUNY's have Israel programs	12/4/2007
Syracuse University	yes	http://suabroad.syr.edu/programs/location/	X	X		X				12/4/2007

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Temple University	conditional yes								The school has no official program but students can study in Israeli institutions if they get the classes and credit pre-approved before they leave. Students must also sign a waiver because of the State Department warning.	12/4/2007
Texas A&M University	no								School highly discourages travel to Israel due to the State Department warning. Any credit completed at an Israeli university would not be accepted.	1/7/2008
Towson University	conditional yes								Students can study abroad through another university's program. They must have their credit pre-approved and sign a waiver.	2/19/2008
Tufts University	conditional yes		X	X	X	X			The school has no official programs. However, students can do an independent program and take a leave of absence. Financial aid does not carry over (this is the case with all places that Tufts advises its students to go to that it doesn't have a program for, not just Israel). The school encourages study to Israel.	12/4/2007

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University of Arizona	conditional yes								It is possible for students who want to study abroad in Israel to do so through another university's program. Classes must be pre-approved for credit. In addition, it is possible for a student to keep their UA financial aid if they go through another school that has signed a consortium agreement with the financial aid center.	1/29/2008
University of California	no	http://eap.ucop.edu/eap/country/israel/							The program was suspended in September, 2002. Students who travel to Israel are not guaranteed credit when they return though the university is looking make the process easier.	4/1/2008
University of Central Florida	conditional yes								Students can study abroad but must get their classes pre-approved by the department of their major.	4/9/2008
University of Chicago	yes	http://study-abroad.uchicago.edu/programs/masterlist.html	X						The program starts in spring, 2009, and will continue every spring thereafter	1/7/2008
University of Colorado-Boulder	yes	http://tinyurl.com/3xd38k	X							12/6/2007
University of Connecticut	yes	http://tinyurl.com/3xrmn4	X	X	X				The school also offers a summer program through the University of Haifa.	12/4/2007

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University of Delaware	conditional yes	http://international.udel.edu/studyabroad/programs/nonud.html http://tinyurl.com/3cgfmb							Students must take a leave of absence from the school and get all credit pre-approved. The website suggests that students will have an easier time if they enroll through another university's study abroad program. Some financial aid may not transfer.	1/7/2008
University of Florida	yes		X	X	X	X				11/30/2007
University of Georgia	conditional yes								Although there is no formal program, the study abroad office said that it is not hard to study abroad in Israel. Before leaving, students must meet with the study abroad director and get their credit pre-approved.	1/7/2008
University of Hartford	yes	http://uhaweb.hartford.edu/intcenter/studyabroad/middleeast.htm	X						The program at Hebrew U is through American University. There is also an exchange program through Emek Yezreel College.	1/7/2008
University of Hawaii	conditional yes								Students must put together a proposal and get faculty approval. They must also get their credit pre-approved.	1/7/2008
University of Illinois	yes	http://tinyurl.com/34wf6j	X	X		X				1/7/2008
University of Iowa	yes								The school does not have a program but allows students to study abroad through another university without having to un-enroll.	12/4/2007

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University of Kansas	no								Students wanting to study in Israel can't be processed through the study abroad office due to the State Department warning. Students must take a leave of absence and can only get credit approved for what KU has approved in the past. Financial aid does not carry over. The Hillel, however, says that the university is generally good about accepting credit from Israeli universities and that there have been no complaints this year.	1/7/2008
University of Maryland	conditional yes								While the university has no Israel program, students can apply through other selected school's programs. Only federal aid will carry over.	1/7/2008
University of Massachusetts-Amherst	yes	http://www.umass.edu/ipo/israel/	X	X	X	X				12/4/2007
University of Miami	conditional yes								Students must take a leave of absence but can study through an outside school's Israel program. They would also have to have their classes pre-approved. Financial aid would not be available while the student was abroad.	1/29/2008

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University of Michigan	no								Students must un-enroll and petition for credit when they return. The Hillel and study abroad office, however, say that the university is generally good about accepting credit from Israeli universities and that there have been no complaints this year.	12/4/2007
University of Minnesota	conditional yes								Students must petition the school due to the travel warning	12/4/2007
University of Missouri	no								Students can not have their credit pre-approved and there is no guarantee that credit from an Israeli university will be accepted.	3/17/2008
University of Nebraska	conditional yes								Students must have their credit pre-approved by each department (depending on the subject of the class being taken).	2/5/2008
University of Nevada	yes	http://internationalprograms.unlv.edu/subdocs/USACPrograms2.html				X				1/7/2008
University of New Hampshire	yes								The school does not have an official program but approves programs through Boston University to Israel.	12/4/2007
University of North Carolina	yes	http://tinyurl.com/3av2qh	X			X				1/29/2008
University of Oklahoma	yes	http://www.ou.edu/intprog/ea/africa.htm		X			X			1/7/2008
University of Pennsylvania	conditional yes	http://tinyurl.com/3dutbp	X	X	X	X	X		Students must petition the school due to the travel warning in order to study in Israel. Students may also study at IDC in Herzliya.	12/4/2007
University of Pittsburgh	yes	http://www.abroad.pitt.edu/programs/mideast.html#israel	X	X	X					12/4/2007

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University of Rhode Island	conditional yes								No official program but students can study in Israel through another university or outside programs. The program, however, might not be approved and the study abroad officials said that the university is tightening up its policy and making it harder for students to get approved to study in Israel.	
University of San Diego	no	http://www.sandiego.edu/internationalstudies/nonaffprogs.php							Students must take a leave of absence, have declared a major, and get all classes pre-approved (although this does not guarantee credit and the classes that are accepted will not be given a letter grade). Some financial aid may not transfer.	1/7/2008
University of San Francisco	conditional yes	http://tinyurl.com/2w454x							Students must take a leave of absence and get all classes pre-approved (although classes that are accepted will not be given a letter grade). Financial aid will not transfer.	
University of Texas	conditional yes	http://tinyurl.com/2qdshp	X	X	X	X			An appeal is required in order to attend the program (likely due to the State Department warning).	1/7/2008
University of Vermont	no									12/4/2007

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University of Virginia	no								Due to the State Department travel warning, students would have to un-enroll and could only petition for credit after returning. However, there is no guarantee that it would be granted. In addition, scholarships and financial aid would not carry over.	12/6/2007
University of Washington	yes	http://tinyurl.com/32uhgb	X							12/4/2007
University of Wisconsin	yes	http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/mideast/israel_jeru.asp	X							12/4/2007
Vanderbilt University	yes	http://tinyurl.com/68tjil	X						Students must sign an additional waiver.	5/16/2008
Vassar College	yes	http://tinyurl.com/2jxgdt	X	X	X	X				1/29/2008
Villanova University	no								The school does not allow study abroad in Israel due to the State Department warning and their insurance company.	12/4/2007
Virginia Commonwealth University	conditional yes								Students may study with another university or organization, or directly enroll in the host institution. However, prior approval is required. Students must complete the VCU Approval Form.	1/24/2008
Virginia Tech	yes	http://tinyurl.com/2mwqch					X			1/24/2008
Washington University	yes	http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~overseas/programs/index.html	X		X					1/29/2008
Wesleyan University	yes	http://www.wesleyan.edu/ois/lsmiddl.html	X	X	X	X				1/7/2008
Wheaton College	no								Travel is prohibited to countries on the State Department warning list.	12/4/2007
Yale University	yes	http://tinyurl.com/2qa75t	X	X	X					1/7/2008

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