

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL

Degree Programs Pre-Departure Handbook

2021-2022

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WELCOME LETTER

Welcome from the Director of TAU International

We congratulate you on your admission to Tel Aviv University International. Soon, you will become a part of the Tel Aviv University family, which boasts a highly acclaimed faculty, a top-tier student body, and international prestige.

Whether you are coming for a Short Term Program, a Study Abroad Semester or Year, an Exchange Program, a full International MA program or you are here conducting Independent Research, you will join other students from all over the world to embark on a unique personal and academic journey. Your experience will surely prove both challenging and rewarding.

Tel Aviv University International is here to help you get acclimated to your new environment and complement your academic experience with an array of services and activities. We invite you to take full advantage of the unique opportunity to live in Tel Aviv, the epicenter of Israeli culture. Being a part of the largest university in Israel allows you to enjoy the many state-of-the-art facilities and a variety of social and athletic clubs on campus.

Our dedicated staff in the USA, Canada, and on campus (us included), are here to accompany and support you on your journey. We want to make sure that you have a rewarding and enjoyable experience during your stay with us at Tel Aviv University and hope to create a life-long connection with you!

With warmest regards,



Mrs. Maureen Meyer Adiri

Director of Tel Aviv University International

GENERAL TAU BACKGROUND

Tel Aviv University

Tel Aviv University (TAU) is Israel's largest academic institution. Its faculty includes nationally and internationally renowned scholars and scientists, many of whom are leaders in their fields. TAU is a major center of teaching and research and is composed of 9 faculties, 125 schools and departments, and 90 research institutes. There are currently approximately 30,000 students studying at the University in various degree programs.

Today, TAU offers an extensive range of Degree programs in the arts and sciences, within its Faculties of Engineering, Exact Sciences, Life Sciences, Medicine, Humanities, Law, Social Sciences, Arts, and Management. A list of the MA Programs can be found [here](#). A list of BA programs can be found [here](#).

Tel Aviv University International

Tel Aviv University has consistently ranked as one of the top institutions of higher learning worldwide. As a world-class academic institution, many members of its distinguished faculty have won international recognition and are considered leaders in their fields of research.

Tel Aviv University through its International Schools, has enriched the lives of its international students, allowing them to reach new pinnacles of scholarly and personal success. Students who complete one of the programs not only receive a superior education but also gain newfound insight into globalization and learn to live as citizens of the world.

NOTE: the information contained in this handbook is for reference only and is not updated to reflect the current Covid-19 regulations in Israel. Please wait to arrive in Israel to receive updated and accurate information.

TAU Academic Calendar (2021-2022)

In the Israeli higher education system, students are expected to complete papers and assignments during the semester breaks. The schedule may vary according to each program. Please consult your respective program director for specific details regarding your program's schedule.

Calendar

- The Academic Calendar for Graduate and Undergraduate programs can be found [here](#)

ACADEMICS

Accreditation

For information on Accreditation and academic oversight, please see our [Academic Policies](#) web page.

Learning Accommodations

In accordance to University guidelines, students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests must submit official documentation from their home country / university (translated into English by notary) to TAU International in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs they have. Students must also bring a copy of this documentation with them on-site and give it to their faculty on the first day of class while introducing themselves so that the faculty know who they are and what sorts of needs they may have. TAU International and its faculty cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU but certainly does the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible that are needed. Note that if additional hired support is required such as tutoring or professional note-taking, this will be at the student's expense.

For more information on accessibility at Tel Aviv University International, please click [here](#).

Intensive Language Programs

Prior to the start of the academic year, our students can choose to study intensive language courses to enhance their academic experience. Tel Aviv University International offers intensive language classes in Hebrew, Yiddish, Arabic (beginners and intermediary), and English (for high intermediate to advanced level). Hebrew Ulpan is offered twice each year, in the summer and winter prior to the beginning of each semester.

For more information on all of these options, please contact intl@tauex.tau.ac.il

PAYMENT & FEES

Tuition fees include administration fees, health insurance (unless stated otherwise), access to university libraries (semester/year), and a number of cultural events and trips. Your TAU Student Portal online account profile serves as your bill and record of payment.

Please note that all tuition fees are due before the start of the program. Students may not enter the dormitories or begin classes until fees are paid in full or alternate arrangements with Tel Aviv University International are confirmed in writing.

Payment dates and deadlines are listed in the 'Payments Annex' which is sent individually to students.

All fees are payable via the payment methods listed below:

- A bank check or a personal check made out to 'Tel Aviv University'.
- A credit card: Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card and American Express are accepted through your online profile.
- A deferred payment plan: an easy plan of equal, interest-free payments can be designed for you. The cost of the payment plan is \$150. Not all programs are eligible for this.
 - For DPP with credit card (all countries besides Canada)- via the US office: finaid@telavivuniv.org
 - For DPP with checks (only from Israeli accounts)- via the Israeli office: etiaviv@tauex.tau.ac.il
 - For DPP with checks (only from American accounts)- via the US office: finaid@telavivuniv.org
- Government-sponsored student aid/loans.
- External scholarships disbursed directly to TAU.

Refund Policy (Conditional Fees / Late Payment)

All Fees policies are [found here](#).

Notifications of withdrawal must be made in writing. Refunds are determined by the date of our receipt of the notice.

Program Dismissal

Tel Aviv University reserves the right to dismiss any student whose conduct or academic standing warrants such action. In the event that a student is asked to leave the program, no refund of any fees will be granted. Please refer to the Letter of Agreement which all students must sign and submit before beginning their program.

Withholding Diplomas & Transcripts

It is Tel Aviv University official policy to withhold diplomas and transcripts if all financial obligations have not been met. In the event that a diploma or transcript is withheld due to an unpaid bill, a student will be required to make payment in order to release any of the aforementioned documents.

FUNDING & EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Federal Loans for American Citizens

If you are interested in obtaining loans for your tuition, please contact joanep@telavivuniv.org. You can find more information [here](#).

MASA

[MASA](#) (which means 'Journey' in Hebrew) is a partner of Tel Aviv University's international programs. Masa is an initiative of the government of Israel and the Jewish Agency for Israel to promote participation in long-term programs in Israel, including semester and/or year study abroad and also academic degree programs. For more information on Masa in general, please visit their web site. For information on applying to the Masa scholarship, please visit the [Masa link to apply](#).

Masa Requirements at TAU

The following are the current MASA requirements for students who receive a MASA grant or scholarship:

1. **Hebrew:** Participating in the intensive TAU Hebrew Ulpan at the beginning of the fall or spring semester study abroad program is a requirement to receive the Masa scholarship.
2. **Volunteer work:** Students must perform 3 hours of volunteer work a week (12 hours per month). Please note: Volunteering in political organizations, parties or movements as well as commercial organizations will not be considered volunteer work.
3. **Extra-curricular activities:** TAU International organizes several trips throughout the academic year (to the North, the South, and to Jerusalem). MASA recipients must participate in all.
4. **Minimum program length** to receive a scholarship is 5 months (including Ulpan).
5. **Please note** students MUST collect e-tickets and entry permits and upload them the MASA website. This is a requirement by Masa. No awards will be added to student's accounts unless we have documents on file.

Note that if a student withdraws from a TAU International Program; TAU will inform MASA and MASA may revoke the award granted.

Other Scholarships

Please review our [website](#) for other scholarship opportunities.

VISAS & TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Letter of Acceptance

Be sure to print out a copy of your acceptance letter from TAU International and carry it with you in your carry-on luggage while you are on route to Israel. You might be asked for this at the Ben Gurion Airport upon arrival.

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 one 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 must consult with the Israeli Embassy in their home country regarding visa and entry regulations.

All students must 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. You may refer to Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs [website](#) for more information.

The following is a checklist for this procedure:

- Completed and signed application for a visa to enter Israel (click here to download the Application for a Visa to Enter Israel)
 - Two passport pictures (5x5 cm)
 - Certification of acceptance for study at a recognized educational institution in Israel
 - Proof that the student has the financial means to pay for his studies and sustenance throughout his stay in Israel
 - A travel document that is valid for at least one year, provided that his country has a diplomatic mission in the State of Israel. If there is no such mission in Israel, the passport must be valid for the entire period of studies and another six months beyond that time
 - Payment of the fee (- 44 Euros / \$54)
- *Note: The Consul may request additional documents.

A minor will not be given a visa without the written consent of both parents or his legal guardian.

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

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 to Israel.

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" above for the checklist). Please contact TAU International. Email: visains@tauex.tau.ac.il

*****Make sure to visit TAU International before going to the Ministry of Interior*****

For further questions regarding visas, please contact your respective program director.

Israeli Born & Returning Israeli Citizens

If you are a returning Israeli citizen or are the child of a parent who holds Israeli citizenship, please contact the nearest Israeli Consulate to clarify your legal status before entering the country. Israeli citizens or children of Israeli citizens should apply for an exemption from military service through their nearest Israeli Consulate before arrival in Israel. It is also recommended to contact [Nefesh B'Nefesh](#) who are a great resource on topics relevant for olim (new immigrants), returning citizens, and children of Israeli born parents.

List of Israeli Consulates Worldwide

You can find a list of Israeli Consulates and Embassies worldwide [here](#).

PACKING ESSENTIALS

Clothing

Campus dress is casual. Most students attend classes and campus events in jeans and T-shirts. In the winter, warm clothing is necessary, as many buildings are neither centrally heated nor well insulated. From December until March, the weather can be rainy, damp, and cold. For program excursions as well as your own sightseeing, a pair of good walking shoes is a must.

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.

Medication

If you are taking a prescribed medication, you should bring a supply to last the duration of your time in Israel. It is also recommended that you bring a typewritten, generic prescription for your medication should you need to have it refilled. Since some medication might not be available in the same brand names in Israel, it is essential that a generic name be provided for reference by a local doctor or pharmacist. Also, in the event that you are sent an additional supply of medication by mail, you will be required to present a prescription to the Israeli Customs Office before the medication is released.

Electrical Appliances

The electrical current in Israel is 220 volts, 50 cycles. You may be able to bring a transformer for certain appliances, such as a hair dryer. Some appliances cannot be converted. Be sure to check with an authorized electronics dealer for detailed information. Most laptops do not need transformers, but require a small inexpensive adaptor.

Baggage Information

Please contact your airline operator regarding baggage regulations and costs for checked bags so that you don't have surprises upon check in. Keep in mind while packing that elevators are not as common in Israel and you may find yourself having to take stairs during travel. **The Einstein dormitories do not have an elevator and you may have to carry your luggage up several flights of stairs.**

ARRIVAL

Flight and Arrival

You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements. Please check with your specific program coordinator as to the latest date you may arrive before the program starts.

Late Arrivals

All students who are unable to arrive on time must inform us ahead of time by completing this [Late Arrivals Form](#). For students living in on-campus housing, if we are not informed ahead of time of a late arrival we may not be able to check you into the dorms upon arrival. In addition, there are limitations as to how late we can allow a student to arrive to a program. For these reasons, please [contact us](#). Please note that early check-ins are not permitted.

Landing at Ben Gurion Airport

Please note that passport control might take some time depending on how busy the airport is and how many questions the officers have for you. Come prepared with your acceptance letter to show the inspectors. Keep the details (address, etc.) of your accommodation to present to passport control.

Arriving at TAU on campus housing (Broshim/Einstein)

We HIGHLY recommend downloading and using the [Moovit app](#) as it will give you real time instructions on how to reach your destination. Upon your arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, there are two main ways to get to Tel Aviv:

A. Arriving by Train:

You can plan your train trip through the Israel Railways company website [here](#).

For Einstein and Broshim Dorms, the nearest train station is the 'Tel Aviv University Station'. The train ride is approximately 20-30 minutes from the airport.

Einstein Dorms: Chaim Levanon St 63. We recommend downloading [Gett Taxi](#) - or you can take the bus from the train station to the Einstein Dorms (bus number 7 or bus number 45; ask for help at the station for more details).

Broshim Dorms: George Wise St. 20. Broshim Dormitories are a short walk from the train station although be mindful that some of this walk is uphill and on stairs. We recommend consulting [Google Maps](#) for more information.

B. Arriving by Taxi:

The cost is about 250 ILS (by cash) from the airport to the Einstein or the Broshim Dorms. You should only get a taxi at the airport from the official Ben Gurion Airport Taxi Stand which is outside the doors of the airport (there will be signs pointing you to the stand when you walk through the airport). Do not accept a taxi ride from anyone offering inside the airport. These are not regulated taxis and the fare could be much higher. It is recommended that you have cash (ATM's are inside the airport) for the taxi. The addresses for the dorms are mentioned above.

Should you experience travel delays or problems with your arrival, please [contact us](#).

Orientation Days

Just before the start of the school year, an orientation is organized for the incoming international students by the TAUi team. General and Academic orientations will take place on October 5th - 6th, 2021. Orientation day focuses on various issues from insurance, to Student Life, to academic aspects of your time at TAU. Further details and orientation schedules are sent to accepted students prior to arrival. If your program starts before the above-mentioned date, please contact your program coordinator for further details regarding your orientation date.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Like all public institutions in Israel, Tel Aviv University employs security personnel covering all campus entrances and patrolling throughout the campus and dormitory complexes 24 hours a day. All students, faculty, staff and campus visitors are required to show student ID cards or another picture ID and submit bags for search upon entering campus. The University's Security Department maintains very frequent contact with government security agencies. The TAU International student population is updated as needed (by phone and/or email) regarding security matters and receives copies of all relevant official campus safety and security communications.

TAU International requires all students to carry a working mobile telephone with an Israeli number. This allows our staff to contact all program participants at any time via WhatsApp, SMS text messages, or other forms of group messaging.

Additionally, US citizens are advised to register for the U.S. Embassy's STEP program. This can be done online [here](#).

Tel Aviv University has well-marked signage in Hebrew and English directing people on campus and in the dormitories to the closest shelters ("miklat or mamad") should there be a need to take shelter. All shelter locations for campus and the dormitories are posted on the TAU web site; please click [here](#) to read more information about how to react in case of a siren. Additionally, Tel Aviv University has outstanding evacuation arrangements with other institutions throughout Israel. Specific information on such arrangements can be obtained from the TAU International Office.

Suspicious Objects and/or People

Students are encouraged to keep an eye on their surroundings at all times and be aware of people, objects, etc. in their vicinity. Report any suspicious or abandoned objects or suspicious people immediately to the nearest security personnel.

Fire Safety

All TAU facilities, including dormitories, are regularly inspected for Fire Safety and Compliance in accordance with Israeli law. Students should make note of the location of the fire extinguishers in the dormitories or in the place of residence (for those living off-campus) and make note of how to use them in case of fire emergency. Students are also encouraged to make note of all sprinklers and fire evacuation routes. In case of fire, elevators should never be used. Students should not take any personal belongings with them if evacuation is necessary; students should evacuate the building calmly and once outside proceed to a safe area while taking care not to cross any streets without thoroughly checking to be sure it is safe to cross.

Electrical Safety in the Dormitories

Should students notice wires are exposed, outlets or switches are broken or damaged, appliances are broken etc. they need to notify the dorms maintenance immediately upon the discovery of a safety hazard. It is stated emphatically that the resident may not make any changes and/or additions to the electrical systems, on his own or through a licensed technician.

Danger of Falling

It is absolutely forbidden to go on the rooftops of any of the buildings including the dormitories for any reason, to climb or sit on the window sills or in high places that do not have railings. Windows, screens or any part of them may not be dismantled. Planters, flower pots or any other item may not be placed on the outside sills of the windows or on the outer building walls.

Drugs and Alcohol

The legal drinking age in Israel is 18. Students are advised to watch their drinks at all times. Never accept a drink from a stranger or drink from something that has been left unattended. It should be noted that the majority of Israelis do not drink heavily. Thus, from a cultural standpoint, heavy drinking and public drunkenness will stand out in Israel and therefore is not advised.

Drugs – including marijuana – are illegal in Israel. Drug use can result in arrest, fines, deportation, and more. TAU (and your home country Embassy) is unable to intervene on your behalf in any matter of the law including suspected drug use.

Should students need assistance in managing drug and alcohol use, there are resources available. TAU information on drug and alcohol use can be found [here](#).

Additional Information

If students, parents or home institutions would like additional information regarding any matters of safety, security, health and wellness at TAU International, please do not hesitate to contact the TAU International Office at any time.

Important Contact Information

External Telephone Numbers in Tel Aviv

Phone Information Center	144
Police	100
Ambulance (and First Responders)	101
Fire Department	102
Electric Company	103
City Municipality (Tel Aviv)	106
Health Insurance Helpline	*2000
Leumit Helpline (clinics for medical services)	*507
House Call (to order a doctor to your home/dorm)	*9101
Ichilov Hospital/Sourasky Medical Center (Weizman St. between Arlozorov and David Hamelech)	03-697-4444
Association of Rape Crisis Center	Women: 1202 / Men: 1203

Tel Aviv University Contacts

TAU International Office	03-640-8118
University Security (for suspicious objects, fire on campus, accidents, elevator issues, etc.)	03-640-5555 / 03-640-8484 / 03-640-9595
Psychologist on Campus	052-671-0409
Evening Crisis Hotline (for any matter of wellness)	03-640-5352

TAU International 24/7 Emergency Contact Information

In case of emergency, contact a TAU International staff member in Tel Aviv, on the following emergency phone numbers. Please use office phone numbers during work hours.

- In Case of Emergency in Israel during Office Hours -

TAU International Office, Carter Building 108

Open Sunday through Thursday, 9:00am-3:00pm

Office Number: +972-(0)3-640-8118 (Ask for the Student Life Counselor on duty)

*Students will be notified of office closure for holidays in advance. In case of office closure, students should use the 24/7 Student Life contact information below in case of emergency.

- In Case of Emergency in Israel outside Office Hours -

Contact the TAU International Student Life Team - 24/7 Mobile: 052-5346188

TAU International New York Office Emergency Contact Information -

Students, Partners and Parents of U.S. University Students can use this information as needed. Please be aware that due to educational privacy laws, if you are calling on behalf of a student currently enrolled with TAU International we are restricted in what information can be shared regarding our students' individual circumstances when it comes to health and safety.

Environmental Safety Concerns

From the standpoint of natural hazards, there are a few in which we are most mindful in Israel: Earthquakes, Swimming/Water Safety, and Heat.

Earthquakes

To best prepare for the event of an earthquake, please consult the [Israeli Home Front Command](http://www.israelihomefront.com) website. This is a national web site that monitors public safety in Israel and contains the safety guidelines to follow in case of an earthquake.

Swimming/Water Safety

While enjoying Israeli beaches, it is important to review the Tel Aviv Municipality guidelines for beach safety:

- Swimming at the Tel Aviv beaches is prohibited when there is no lifeguard on duty. Outside of Tel Aviv, we strongly recommend that you never enter the water if not in an area where there is a designated lifeguard on duty.
- Bathers must comply with the lifeguard and rescue guards at all times.
- Swimming/entering the sea is prohibited when the black flag(s) is raised. Even if the sea looks calm, a black flag indicates dangerous currents. Do not enter the sea in this case.
- Building a fire is prohibited on beaches.

- Rescue services at the Tel Aviv beaches are available during set hours during the summer season which are typically 07:15am- 16:45pm (consult web site to verify). Do not swim outside of these hours.
- Never swim while intoxicated.

Heat/Dehydration

Some tips to stay cool and safe from the heat:

- Avoid prolonged exposure to the sun between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Use a sunscreen of at least 15 SPF
- Avoid clothing that exposes sensitive skin to the sun.
- Wear a hat and drink plenty of water!

Sexual Assault or Harassment

While Tel Aviv has a vibrant and exciting scene, students are encouraged to remain with at least one friend at all times. We encourage students to not engage in any displays of public intoxication, as unfortunately this is often the state in which unwanted advances may be made. Student should ALWAYS keep a close eye on their drinks. Never leave a drink unattended. Students are encouraged to use [Gett taxi app](#) or an authorized taxi service; do not get in an unmarked or unrecognizable taxi at any time. Avoid walking alone late at night especially in remote areas, areas that are not well-lit, or in areas which you are not familiar with.

Should a student experience sexual assault or harassment, there are several resources available:

- Student Life Team 24/7;
- Police – dial 100
- Association of Rape Crisis Centers (English speaking) – Women call 1202; Men call 1203
- Should you need medical assistance as a result of harassment or assault, please contact the Student Life Team for assistance making an appointment. If you don't feel comfortable doing that, please consult the information in your Welcome Kit on making a doctor's appointment or seeking urgent healthcare in Israel

Anti-Discrimination Policy

TAU International strives to create a safe, equal and fair environment for all students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, citizenship, religion, disability, veteran status, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. If students wish to report any perceived cases of discrimination which occur within or outside of the university, they should contact the Head of the TAU International Student Life Team.

TAU International Excursions and Activities

In the planning and execution of all excursions and activities, TAU international strictly obeys the security policies established by Israel's Ministry of Education, the Israeli National Security Center (Moked Teva), TAU'S Security Department and the Ministry of Health.

Independent Student Travel

TAU International students often enjoy traveling throughout Israel during their time at TAU, and in addition many take advantage of the close proximity to Europe and other nearby destinations such as Cyprus. Students are not excused

from class for purposes of traveling, but each semester there are designated holiday breaks in which students can travel independently as well as, of course, weekends.

Students traveling independently should ensure that proper health insurance coverage is secured prior to travel, if traveling outside Israel.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

On Campus Psychological Services

Psychological counseling in English is provided through TAU Psychological Services. Students who wish to use these services are requested to download and complete [this form](#) prior to their appointment and email it to clinic@tauex.tau.ac.il prior to the initial intake (students may also physically bring in the form; whatever is preferred). To make an appointment, students can either ask a member of our Student Life Team for help directly contact the University's Psychological Services by phone: 03-6408505, or email: clinic@tauex.tau.ac.il

Any questions regarding this form or the services of the University Psychological Services should be directed to the University Psychological Services at 03-6408505 or clinic@tauex.tau.ac.il.

The offices are located in the Mitchell Building, Room 216. The sessions take place either at Mitchell Student Center or at Carter Building.

Office hours are Sundays-Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. After hours, a student services hotline has been established to handle psychological counseling and crises. This hotline runs from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. nightly and the number is 03-640-5352.

Initial intake cost is ILS 400-500, and it includes two intake sessions. This cost is subject to change and is not covered by the insurance offered by TAU (but if you have any another form of insurance, you are encouraged to check with the insurance provider regarding coverage). Students should be aware that it is not possible to see a psychiatrist without first doing the intake process and beginning therapy services.

The psychological consultation and counseling services are:

- Initial two consultation sessions*
- Second and further therapy sessions*
- First psychiatric consultation*
- Further psychiatric consultations*

*Fees are subject to change each school year.

The content of psychological and psychiatric appointments is absolutely confidential.

When **cancelling an appointment**, students must call or e-mail their psychologist directly 24 hours in advance. Otherwise, they will be charged.

Health Insurance & Services

Regardless of other existing coverage, international students are required to have a health insurance plan which covers them in Israel. Some TAU International programs have health insurance included in their tuition. It is the student's responsibility to check in advance whether their program tuition includes insurance or not – it should be specified on our website and/or in the acceptance letter you received.

For students who are Israeli citizens / residents with an active Israeli health insurance (Kupat Holim provided by the state), occasionally they can be exempt from insurance which is included within the tuition. This is pending prior approval – you must speak with the TAU International Office about these circumstances and send your Hebrew Kupat Holim card prior to the beginning of the program. No other exceptions are granted.

Leumit Insurance Card

Students who are in programs that include insurance, should receive their **insurance card** during the mandatory Student Life **Orientation** or will be informed to come and collect it from the TAU Intl. Office. You will also be given information for how to make an appointment, receive health services, and receive emergency treatment in Israel. Students are advised to carry the insurance card with them at all times. It is also recommended to keep a photo of the insurance card on your phone in case the card gets lost.

Leumit Clinics and Family Physicians

We recommend that you locate a clinic close to where you live. When you first visit the clinic, please go to the office and register with a family physician.

Specialty Physicians

To make an appointment with a specialty physician, please call the Leumit Call Center at ***507 (for English press 4)**. Please note: some specialty physicians require a referral ("Hafnaya") from your family physician. Please make sure to consult with your family physician prior to setting an appointment. Some of the examinations/ services outside your "base/home" clinic also require a monetary commitment form (called "Tofes 17"), please make sure to inquire with the secretary at your home clinic prior to making the appointment, so you can come prepared.

Please note: any treatment/ consultation/ examination/ procedure which is done outside the Leumit clinics, without a referral from a Leumit doctor and a monetary commitment form received in advance, might not be reimbursed. If you are unsure, please make check with the clinic or ask a Student Life team member for assistance **prior** to going to attending the appointment/ procedure outside of Leumit. Anything that you pay out of pocket for, might not be reimbursed by the insurance company.

Emergency Dental Care

Please call the **Leumit** Call Center at ***507**. Kindly note that dental care is not covered by the policy. Emergency treatment / first aid only will be provided in Leumit clinics.

Medication

Medications included in the "Health Service Package" and prescribed by a physician may be received **only** at Leumit clinic pharmacies or at "Super-Pharm" chain – please notice that the "Super-Pharm" chain do not accept digital prescriptions, only printed on paper and signed by a physician.

Note: any treatment or medication for existing medical conditions will not be covered by the insurance. If this applies to you, please bring a supply of your medication and schedule a private doctor's appointment (out of pocket) if you need to be in touch with a medical professional regarding your existing condition.

Home Visit Doctor

You may request that a physician come to your home, with no deductible, from 7pm through 7am the next morning, or when the clinic is otherwise closed (Shabbat, holidays, etc.). Home Visit Call Center: **1700-505066 or *9101**.

You can also call the Call Center at ***507** to consult with the on-duty nurse.

Emergency Room Visit

- Emergency room visits are only covered if you have **referral from a physician**. Therefore, unless it is an immediate life-threatening emergency, it is recommended to go to the emergency room after obtaining a referral from a physician or from an on-duty nurse at the ***507** Leumit Call Center.
- Emergency room visit without a referral costs approximately ILS 970, which cannot be reimbursed retroactively.
- In case of emergency outside of clinic working hours, if you do not have a referral for the ER, you may also use an emergency clinic service at a reduced cost of approximately ILS 90, at the **"Bikur Rofe"** clinic located on 90 Yigal Alon St., Tel Aviv – please be sure to show your Leumit insurance card in order to get the reduced price.

For general information about the Insurance policy and other information, you are welcome to visit [our site](#), and if you have any further questions the **"Menora" Call Center is at your disposal 24/7 at *2000**. Please note you will need your Leumit insurance number as identification when calling the Menora Call Center.

Also, for any medical emergency it is recommended to reach out to the Madrichim, there is a Student Life Team member on-call 24/7, at 052-534-6188 (call or WhatsApp).

Health-Related Contacts

Please note that we recommend students to ask for assistance from TAU's Student Life Teams in making health related appointments. We are here to assist you and can provide support and translation if needed.

Please make sure to always carry your health card with you or have your insurance number at hand (you are able to receive health services using your Leumit number along with a passport ID).

- For Leumit call center, Call *507 (available 24/7)
- For a doctor home visit Call *9101 (available 24/7 within 3 hours)
- The nearest 'Leumit' Clinic is located on Aba Akhime'ir St 26, Tel Aviv-Yafo
- Bus lines from TAU: 126, 171 to "Schuster Centre". Phone: 03-7450400
- For general information about the Insurance policy and other information, call 03-7107460

* To learn if your program's tuition includes medical insurance, please visit the fees and expenses webpage.

** Students who plan to extend their stay after their program ends and/or who plan to arrive prior to their programs start date may purchase additional coverage days at an additional cost. For information, please contact TAU International's Housing & Health Insurance Coordinator.

*** Optional health insurance coverage is offered for travel outside Israel for an additional fee. You may purchase the additional coverage by contacting: sagit@offek.org

The Insurance Company will provide students with professional and efficient health services while in Israel. Following is the outline of TAU's health insurance policy, the full policy can be found here

- Comprehensive Medical Providers Network covering all of Israel. This includes physicians, practitioners and specialists, pharmacies, laboratories, and x-ray facilities.
- 24-hour assistance center for immediate treatment and referral.
- Services provided within close proximity to the university (Ramat Aviv and North Tel Aviv).

- House calls when the student is unable to visit a physician.
 - Hospitalization in any hospital within the State of Israel.
 - Refund for ambulance transportation in cases of emergency.
 - Administration of injections, excluding daily injections (such as insulin). Medicine to be provided by the student.
 - Every student receives a personal medical service ID card and an index of participating network physicians and pharmacies. Upon presenting the card, the student is eligible to receive all services at no charge. Medicines, laboratory tests, or x-rays prescribed by the physician are provided or administered by Network providers at no charge.
 - Students may visit any participating general practitioner or specialist listed in the index without referral.
 - Coverage includes emergency dental treatment.
 - The 24-Hour Assistance Center can be contacted regarding any medical problem that arises outside of business hours, or that does not have a solution within the framework of the Network.
 - Referral for hospitalization may be made by any participating physician or the 24-Hour Assistance Center. This referral is required prior to going to the hospital in order to receive coverage for the visit. In life threatening emergencies, the student may go to the nearest hospital without prior notice to the Insurance provider. The Insurance provider should be advised as soon as possible after admittance.
 - Students may use the Network anywhere within the State of Israel. The 24-hour Assistance Center will provide referrals to the nearest physician.
- Exclusions and limitations:
- Pre-existing conditions to the commencement date of the insurance.
 - Any medicine or treatment not prescribed by The Insurance Company's physicians.
 - Psychiatric treatment.
 - Preventive drug treatment for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or HIV carriers, Aesthetic treatments and/or surgeries.
 - Pregnancy and delivery.
 - Work - related accidents.
 - Dental treatment which is not considered an emergency designed to relieve immediate pain.
 - Injuries incurred while intoxicated or under the influence of illegal substances.
 - Injuries incurred while participating in extreme sport activities (e.g. bungee jumping, mountain climbing, etc.).
- Traffic accidents are not covered by medical insurance provider. In such cases, coverage is through the responsible party's insurance or through a government fund, Karnit.

Private Health Insurance

While some TAU International programs have health insurance included in the tuition payment, please note that this is not the case for all programs. If you're not sure, please make sure to check on the "Fees and Expenses" page, or check with your program coordinator if your tuition includes insurance or not.

Note that research students (i.e. MSc/ PhD/ Postdoctoral fellows) and visiting researchers are not covered by health insurance by TAU, and are encouraged to **independently** purchase health insurance. Please also note that a valid medical insurance is a mandatory part of receiving a student visa.

While there are many health insurance providers in Israel, and we encourage you to do your own market research, we can suggest 2 companies which we know to have service in English:

1. “Harel Yedidim” Insurance Agency

This agency works directly with Harel Insurance Company and the healthcare provider is **Kupat Holim “Clalit”**. You are welcome to find more information on their site or here.

Their “Prestige Plan” allows for continual coverage for the duration of your time in Israel and it is recommended for those staying longer than one year.

For your information, there is a Clalit clinic right on TAU campus (near the Sourasky Library).

Contact information for Yedidim:

- E-mail: y_health@yedidim.co.il
- Website: www.yedidim-health.co.il

2. “Menora Mivtahim” insurance company

This insurance company works with healthcare provider **Kupat Holim “Leumit”**, the cost is \$2 per day. The policy can be found here.

The contact agent is Sagit: sagit@offek.org, please contact her for further assistance.

For your information, the closest Leumit clinic is about 25 min walking distance / 15 min by bus from the TAU campus.

Please note that insurance companies do **not** cover pre-existing conditions, however, the policies of the two above-mentioned companies do cover COVID-19 treatment, if it was not pre-existing.

There are of course many more options in the market with English service – these are simply two that we know students have worked with before. You are welcome to do your own research and choose the option most suitable for you.

Additional Coverage:

If you wish to expand the basic coverage at an additional fee, you are welcome to contact **Ofek Operating Solutions** – they can offer coverage for pre-existing conditions, pregnancy, accidents and more.

You are welcome to see below their brochures:

- MediCare health and premium brochure
- MediCare accidents brochure
- MediCare pricing table

Contact information for “Ofek”:

- E-mail: sagit@offek.org
- Telephone: +972 (0)73-3678418/ 9 or +972-(0)52-801-0884

HOUSING

On-Campus Housing

Students who are living in the dorms are expected to sign a contract and pay in advance.

There are two TAU dormitory complexes adjacent to campus: Broshim and Einstein. Please note that the following items are not supplied by the dorm: blankets, pillows, towels, kitchen utensils, and household goods.

For more comprehensive information on housing, please click [here](#)

For any inquiries regarding housing please email housing@tauex.tau.ac.il.

The official check in day to the dorms for the academic year 2020/21 is October 12, 2020, from 8AM to 2PM (8:00-14:00). Early check in to the dorms is not available. In case you plan to arrive late, you are requested to fill out this **late arrival request form**.

Einstein Dormitories

The Einstein Dormitories are located on 63 Haim Levanon St., Tel Aviv – right across the street from the Tel Aviv University main entrance (to the west). Shared rooms are available there for our international undergraduate students. Each dormitory suite is divided into two bedrooms, with two students sharing each bedroom, and all four suite-mates sharing the washroom and kitchen.

Each suite is fully furnished and includes a kitchen and bathroom, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, and cable TV. The dorm rooms are inspected upon check-in and check-out; any damage done during a student's stay will be covered by the student. A self-service laundry is located within the dormitory complex. Additional laundry and cleaning facilities are available in nearby shopping centers. Prior to arrival, students will receive a "Welcome Kit" which is a handbook with more information on the dorm facilities, the surrounding area, and the rules and regulations of living in the dormitories.

Students living in the dorms are required to sign a contract, follow dorms regulations and pay in advance. Residents of all dorms must keep their room and suite clean and organized. Students who wish to room with a friend, may indicate this on their Confirmation Form; please note that while we do our best to match roommate requests, we cannot guarantee it. In addition, we only consider mutual requests (for example, your preferred roommate must also list you as being their preferred roommate). Each suite is comprised of students of the same gender.

More info can be found [here](#)

Click [here](#) to watch a video tour inside an apartment at the Einstein dorms.



Broshim Dormitories

The new “Student City” Broshim Student Dormitories are located on 20 George Wise St., Tel Aviv – a few minutes south (walking distance) of the Tel Aviv University campus. Various types of suites are available there for international students, and single rooms and larger couple/ family apartments are primarily reserved for graduate and post-graduate students, pending availability.

Each suite is fully furnished and includes a kitchen and bathroom, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, and cable TV. The dorm rooms are inspected upon check-in and check-out; any damage done during a student’s stay will be covered by the student. A self-service laundry is located within the dormitory complex. Additional laundry and cleaning facilities are available in nearby shopping centers.

Students who are living in the dorms are required to sign a contract, follow dorms regulations and pay in advance. Residents of all dorms must keep their room and suite clean and organized.

Suite types:

- **Single studio:** comprised of a single bedroom, designated for one student – click here for a video tour of an example apartment.
- **Couple studio:** comprised of a single bedroom (a bit larger and with a double bed), designated for a couple – click here for a video tour of an example “Enlarged Couple studio apartment” and click here for an example “Couple studio with balcony” apartment.
- **Two-room couple apartment:** comprised of a bedroom and a living room, designated for a couple – click here for a video tour of an example “2 Room Suite” apartment; click here for an example “2 Room Suite with Balcony” apartment.
- **Three-room family apartment:** comprised of 3 rooms – a bedroom for a couple, a living room, and another smaller bedroom for a child, designated for families – click here for an example “Family 3 Room Suite (which is also the floor secured space)” apartment.

Please note: the above apartments are only an example, in real life the apartments might vary. Also note that apartments are limited and pending availability.



Guest Apartments

Guest apartments might be a suitable solution **for limited time**. The Einstein Complex guest apartments include 8 residential units and the Broshim Complex includes 46 additional units. The guest apartments are suitable for single, couples and family occupancy.

The guest apartments are operated directly by the dorm management. In order to book a guest apartment, find out pricing and/ or availability, and for any further inquiries – you should contact their office directly via [their website](#). TAU International housing department cannot assist in booking these apartments.

The apartments are furnished with LCD cable television, Wi Fi, air conditioning, complete shower and toilet, fully equipped kitchen, microwave oven, electric stove, electric kettle, coffee set, linen replacement and housekeeping of the apartment. In addition, the guest may use other complex services: self-service laundry (fees apply) and computer room 24/7.

Please note, the **pricing** is per night, like a hotel, and availability is not guaranteed. Prices range between ILS 185-340 per night, depending on apartment type and amount of nights.

For more information, you are welcome to [visit their website](#) and contact them directly at sharon_de@shikunbinui.com with inquiries

Off-Campus Housing

Off Campus Living (Non-TAU Housing)

Many international students choose to live in nearby off-campus apartments. Apartment hunting in Tel Aviv can be quite time consuming, and the process might 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. Two to six weeks are recommended for apartment searching. 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. Students may want to consider finding a short-term rental for the first couple of weeks while looking for a permanent apartment. [Airbnb](#) is very popular in Tel Aviv and you might find great solutions for short-term housing. In addition, Hostels could be a great option for short term solutions- Please find a list of providers here:

Name	Street/ Tel Aviv	Tel	Email
Abraham Hostel	21 Levontine street	(972) 3-6249200	infotlv@abrahamhostels.com
Arbel Hotel Apt	11 Hulda	(972) 3-5225450	sales@arbelhotel.com
Bnei Dan Hostel	36 Bnei Dan	(972) 2-5945655	telaviv@iyha.org.il
Dinami Apt	7 Shaul Avigdor	(972) 3-7414795	dinami@internet-zahav.net
Dizengoff Square Apt	89 Dizengoff	(972) 3-5241151	neeamam@netvision.net.il
Dizengoff Suite Apt	39 Gordon	(972) 3-5234363	info@dizengoffsuites.co.il
Holiday 2002 Apt	113 Dizengoff	(972) 3-5271438	dyszgel@netvision.net.il
Holiday Rentals	37 Reines Street	(972) 3 951 3964	Office@Holiday-Rentals.co.il
Madness Apt	119-121 Ben Yehuda st.	(972) 3-5229393	officeteam@tel-aviv-rental.co.il
Rothschild Residence	71 Rothschild	(972) 3-6290555	contact@rothschild-residence.co.il
Sea Hotel Tel Aviv	76 Herbert Samuel St.	(972) 3-7952465	sea@sea-hotel.co.il
Sea Land Apt	84 Bnei Dan	(972) 3-5225450	info@sea-land.co.il

Depending on a variety of factors, you should be prepared to pay anywhere from NIS 3000 (living with 1/2 roommates) to NIS 5500 (living alone) per month for a partially furnished apartment.

The following websites may help you in your search:

- [Yad2: \(Hebrew\)](#)
- [Jaanglo: \(English\)](#)
- [Tanglo–Yahoo group](#)
- [WinWin: \(Hebrew\)](#)
- [Homeless: \(Hebrew\)](#)

- [Craigslist \(English\)](#)

Facebook groups (Note: Some of the groups may be closed groups, meaning you should ask to join and the administrator needs to approve the request):

- [Secret Tel Aviv Facebook Group](#)
- [Tel Aviv Apartments Buy Rent Sell Trade!!!!](#)
- [דירות מפה לאוזן בתל אביב העמוד החדש](#)
- [Internationals in Tel Aviv](#)
- [Apartments for singles or couples in Tel Aviv](#)
- [Apartments in TLV Old North and Downtown](#)
- [Apartments/roommates in Tel Aviv](#)

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. We are happy to help, even if it is just to brainstorm ideas about finding what is right for you.

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

Apartment Details

- Where is the apartment located?
- How big is the apartment in square meters?
- On what floor is the apartment? If it is on the ground floor, are there security bars on the windows?
- What appliances are included in the apartment (many apartments do not include major appliances such as an oven, stove, or fridge)?
- What furniture is included?
- Is there air conditioning? Heating?
- What else is included in the apartment?
- Is there a roommate? What are your impressions of him/her?

Rent

- What does your rental payment include (va'ad bayit - building maintenance fees? all inclusive - water, gas, electricity, maintenance fees, cable Internet, phone, etc.)?
- How often is payment due and in what form (12 checks in advance? 6 checks in advance? 1 lump sum? Cash - never pay cash unless you receive a receipt)?

Bills

- How much is Arnona (municipality tax) and water every month?
- Is there an electric heater for water ("dood chashmal") or is it solar powered ("dood shemesh")?
- How much is electricity, on average, per month?
- How much are the va'ad bayit maintenance fees each month?

Signing the Lease

- Can the lease be written in English?
- Is a guarantor required?
- Do they require a lawyer to review the lease? If so, who covers the 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.

For more tips and recommendations on apartment hunting, you are welcome to contact the IntlGrad student life team Intlgrad@mail.tau.ac.il

Banking

We advise our students to avoid traveling to Israel with large sums of money, but you may want to have a small amount of cash for your first days. Do not open a bank account in a U.S. branch of an Israeli bank since Israeli branches do not have information about accounts opened abroad.

Opening an Israeli bank account

From the information we were able to gather, we recommend these two “**Hapoalim**” Bank branches which are near campus:

Ramat Aviv Gimel branch -Address: Aba Akhime’ir Street No. 33.

1. Avivim Branch - Address: Brodetski Street No. 43.

Documentation required to open a bank account:

- Passport
- TIN number/social security number/ID card from home country
- Additional ID (could be the ID/driver’s license from your home country)
- Blue ticket you received at the airport upon entering Israel or an additional ID/driver’s license from your home country
- TAU Student ID or a study approval letter from the university (a formal letter which states that you are a student at TAU during this academic year. Public Transportation letter – “Rav Kav” form - can also be used)

Other bank branches around campus you could try include:

- "Discount" bank branch on Yehuda Ha-Nasi st. 34
- "Leumi" bank branch on Aba Akhime'ir st. 15

If you do not have Israeli ID, the bank clerk, when opening an account, will randomly assign you a fictional ID number. Please make sure you write down this number. You will need it for future services provided by the bank.

ATM cards

The easiest way to have immediate access to your money from your account in the United States is with an ATM card. We strongly suggest that you arrange for an ATM card from your local bank along with a 4-digit pin number (personal identification number), and that you make sure it can be used in Israel. Please be aware that you will not be able to use a debit card that does not have a credit card logo. Therefore, you should make sure that your bank card is

both a debit card and a credit card even if you will not use it as such. ATMs charge high transaction fees per withdrawal.

Credit cards

Visa, MasterCard and American Express are widely accepted.

Post Office

There is a post office located just outside the main gate of the University on Haim Levanon Street, across from the main entrance to the University. There are many services and products offered, including postage stamps, phone cards, fax services, money exchange (with better rates than at the bank), and money orders via Western Union. You can even buy a credit card and pay most of your bills there. For more information about Israel's Postal Services visit their [website](#).

For students living in the dormitories, mail that is sent to the university is delivered to a mailbox in the Tel Aviv University International Office. You must check this box daily for your mail and messages. All TAU international students are welcome to direct their mail to the international office if they prefer to do so:

Your Name
c/o Tel Aviv University International
Tel Aviv University
Carter Building, Room 108
Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv 69978 ISRAEL

Mobile Phones

If you choose to pre-arrange a SIM card and mail it to our office, the address is:
TAU International, Tel Aviv University, Carter Building Room 108, 6997801 Ramat Aviv Israel

Alternatively, you can purchase a mobile phone or SIM card once you arrive on-site. Our Student Life Team can help guide you in the process. There is free Wi-Fi on campus and in TAU Housing.

Disclaimer: *We do not officially partner with any companies and have no financial agreements with them. This list is provided as a service to students; you are free to choose from the many companies that exist in Israel.*

Providers for Local Customers

These companies usually have lower prices, and physical locations for you to pick up SIM cards. They might not have English-speaking customer service or experience working with visitors to Israel.

Golan Telecom

- Monthly plans range from NIS 24 – 99.
- Order SIM cards [online](#) or [at a store](#).

HOT Mobile

- Monthly plans range from NIS 35–45.
- Order SIM cards [online](#) or [at a store](#).

012 MOBILE – Monthly plans range from 29.9-49.9 NIS

Tips

- Incoming calls are free of charge; you pay only for outgoing calls.
- If you bring an unlocked smartphone, you can purchase a SIM card for it.

Upon arrival, students are sent a Google form on which they are required to give their Israeli mobile phone number to the TAU International Student Life Team so that they will be included in the program's emergency contact services. In this form, students are also asked to provide updated Emergency Contact Information in case of emergency. Should any contact information change during the course of the program, it is the student's responsibility to inform TAU International Student Life Team of this.

School and Office Supplies

For Office supplies, electronics, books, Stationery items, etc., you can go to “Bug”, on 40, Einstein St. 036437012, Sun-Thurs: 10:00am-8:00pm, Fri: 10:00am-2:00pm.

LIFE IN TEL AVIV

Find more information and recommendations here:

- [City of Tel Aviv](#)
- [Tel Aviv Entertainment Guide](#)
- [Ministry of Tourism](#)
- [Secret Tel Aviv](#)
- [Tourist Israel](#)

Beaches

Tel Aviv has excellent public beaches with changing rooms, restrooms, and cafes right on the sand. Beach chairs and umbrellas are available for a small fee. For more information, including directions, please visit the following links:

We're sure you will enjoy the beaches – it's a highlight of the city for sure! That said, we want to remind you of the very important Tel Aviv Municipality [guidelines](#) for beach safety:

- Swimming at the Tel Aviv beaches is prohibited when there is no lifeguard on duty.
- Outside of Tel Aviv, we strongly recommend that you never enter the water if not in an area where there is a designated lifeguard on duty.

- Bathers must comply with the lifeguard and rescue guards at all times.
- Swimming/entering the sea is prohibited when the black flag(s) is raised. Even if the sea looks calm, a black flag indicates dangerous currents. Do not enter the sea in this case.
- Building a fire is prohibited on beaches.
- Rescue services at the Tel Aviv beaches are available during the following hours: July 1- October 8: 07:15am- 16:45pm – do not swim outside of these hours.
- Never swim while intoxicated.

Shopping Centers

The closest shopping center to the campus is the [Ramat Aviv Mall](#), which is a five-minute walk from the University's main gate, at 40 Einstein Street. The mall has a large supermarket and two levels of shops, restaurants, cafes.

Other Shopping centers in Tel Aviv are:

- [TLV Fashion Mall](#)
- [Sarona Shopping Complex](#)
- [Dizengoff Center](#)
- [Azrieli Center](#)
- [Sarona Market](#)
- [Gan Ha'ir](#)

Tel Aviv has a number of open-air markets, which are open from early morning to early evening, Sundays through Fridays. The word in Hebrew for market is 'Shuk'.

Open-air markets in Tel Aviv:

- [Shuk Hacarmel](#) - The largest and best market for fresh fruit and vegetables, cheese, meat, Asian and other specialty foods, cleaning supplies, inexpensive clothes, and every other consumer item under the sun. Begins at the corner of Allenby and King George Streets.
- [Nahalat Binyamin Market](#) - An arts and crafts market held every Tuesday and Friday with live music and entertainment. On the Nahalat Binyamin pedestrian-only street, right off Allenby Street and parallel to Shuk Hacarmel.
- [Levinsky Market](#) - A wonderful street market for spices, nuts, dried fruit, etc.
- [Jaffa Flea Market](#) (Shuk Hapishpeshim) - Second-hand clothes, furniture, and general household items. In Jaffa.

Transportation

Bikes & Scooters

Biking and scooting around Tel Aviv are very popular forms of transportation.

For scooter rentals, we can recommend downloading these apps:

- [BIRD](#)
- [Lime](#)

For bike rentals you can try these apps:

- [Tel-O-Fun](#); a municipality-run bike rental system
- [Mobike](#).

It is important to remember that riding bikes and scooters in Israel is allowed on bike lanes only, or – in case there is no bike lane – on the road, not on sidewalks. Wearing a helmet is also mandatory while riding a bike or scooter.

Be aware that the TAU International insurance plan does not cover injuries relating to extreme sports.

Public Transportation

Useful Apps to download before arriving:

- [Moovit](#)
- [Gett Taxi](#)
- [Waze](#)
- [Bubblidan](#)
- [Google Maps](#)
- [Bus Nearby](#)

Shabbat buses

Recently Tel Aviv has started operating a Saturday (Shabbat) bus system service. Find more info [here](#).

Trains

[Israel Railways](#)

Click [here](#) to plan your train trip.

Sherut Service

These min-bus taxis run on designated routes the same as busses do. Some will accept the Rav Kav as a form of payment though some will accept only cash.

Taxi

- “Gett” App – Allows to both order a taxi easily by pressing a button, and to pay with your credit card by inserting its details and information. Possibly the best way to order taxis in Israel. Can also be used in English.
- Your driver has to turn on the meter. We call it “MONEH”.
- A taxi from the university to the city center should cost NIS 40-60, not more!
- A ride out of the city (between cities) has a fixed price. Ask the driver to show you the printed price list.
- There is a day rate and a night rate and a rate for weekdays and Shabbat uses only night rates.

- There are many taxi operators in Tel Aviv, the closest to university is a cab station in front of the Ramat Aviv mall.

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 Street, near Frishman Street. Students may also consider signing up for a car sharing service such as Car to Go or [AutoTel](#). Tell them you're a student at TAU - they may give you a discount.

recently Shlomo Sixt opened a new option of Shlomo Sixt [Share](#)– they have cars in different locations around Israel and the Tel Aviv area which can be rented for 159.9NIS/ 24 hours.

Religious Life in Tel Aviv

Religious Accommodations

It is Tel Aviv University policy to respect all religious beliefs. No student will be penalized for absence due to religious observance, and alternative arrangements will be sought to meet the academic requirements. Please consult TAU International regarding any questions or issues you might have. For national and religious observance holidays, please refer to our [academic calendar](#). Please see the section on Life in Tel Aviv for explanations about the major holidays celebrated in Israel.

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

Judaism

- [Conservative/Masorti- Kehilat Sinai](#)
- [The New Kehila](#), Ramat Aviv
- [Chabad](#)
- [Progressive/Reform- Beit Daniel](#)

Christianity

The Fellowship of Christian Students in Israel (FCSI)

This is a sister organization of InterVarsity USA and IFES Europe, and seeks to equip Christian students on campus with bible studies, prayer meetings, pastoral care, trainings and conferences. This organization can also help by connecting students with local churches and congregations. For more information, please contact Kevin (050-301-4332 kevin@fcsi.ws) and Lavinia Nalty (058-683-8653 lavinia@fcsi.ws)

Other options for services:

- [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)
- [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

Jewish and National Holidays

All Jewish Holidays (and Shabbat) begin and end at sunset. That means that the holiday begins at the sunset of the holiday eve, and ends at the sunset of the holiday day (24 hours in total). Their precise dates on the Gregorian calendar change from year to year. The High Holidays (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur) will take place in mid to late September. Sukkot follows in the beginning of October. Other main Jewish holidays include Hanukkah, Purim, Passover, and Shavuot. There are also a number of national civil holidays celebrated in Israel including Holocaust Memorial Day, Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terror, and Independence Day.

Rosh Hashanah - The holiday represents the beginning of the Jewish year and civil calendar; its name in Hebrew means "The Head (beginning) of the Year." The holiday is a time when people look back at the occurrences of the past year and think about how they plan to make changes in the upcoming year. Families gather to share a large festive holiday meal.

Yom Kippur - The most solemn day of the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur occurs 10 days after Rosh Hashanah. This "Day of Atonement" 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 the judgment of every person in the "Book of Life" and on Yom Kippur, the book is signed and sealed. Thus, 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. In order for a booth to be 'kosher', its occupants must be able to see stars through the roof of the structure.

Hanukkah - Known as "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 Jewish people light an eight-pronged candelabrum to symbolize the eight days that the oil burned in the Temple after it was reclaimed from the Hellenists. The connection with oil extends also to the food that is customary to eat during the holiday - 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. The holiday is another agricultural holiday that has its roots in the "Mishnah" (rabbinical commentary on Jewish law).

Purim - Purim 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 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.

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. Local radio and television channels will also broadcast programs commemorating the fallen, as well as events leading to the creation of Israel and its subsequent wars. Ceremonies are held both on campus and at Rabin Square. Immediately at the conclusion of Memorial Day (*Yom Hazikaron*), Israel's Independence Day begins.

Israel Independence Day - At the precise moment that Memorial Day ends, Independence Day (*Yom Haatzmaut*) begins - drawing an inseparable link between fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism and the country's 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 for a barbeque (*mangal* or *al ha'esh*).

Shavuot - This holiday is otherwise known as *Chag Matan Torah*, the holiday to commemorate when the Jewish people received the *Torah* (first five books of the Bible) at Mount Sinai. Shavuot comes 49 days after Passover, and illustrates that while the children of Israel were physically released from bondage on Passover, they were redeemed from idolatry and immorality by receiving the *Torah* on Shavuot. On this holiday, 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.

If you would like to find out more about the Jewish holidays, a great resource is the [Jewish Virtual Library](#).

For the full calendar of Jewish holidays and Observances visit [this website](#).

Additional Holidays

For a list of Muslim, Christian, Druze, Bahai, and other holidays which may be observed in Israel please visit [this webpage](#).

Working Weeks and Hours in Israel

The Israeli work week is from Sunday through Thursday, with a few offices also open on Friday mornings. 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.

Usual working hours in Israel are from 8 or 9 AM to 5 or 6 PM.

Saturday (Shabbat)

Saturday is the rest day, on which shops and public offices are normally closed. Some shops and restaurants in Tel Aviv are open on Saturday. Public transportation does not run on Saturday in Israel, however Tel Aviv has a special bus service that runs on Saturday. For more information on public transportation see the section on public transportation above.

We will see you soon in the beautiful city of Tel Aviv!!!