

Welcome kit

Postdocs and PhDs

Important information about Tel Aviv, the University, and the student's life

Contents

Welcome 🐼	•Welcome from the Madrichot	3
Contacts	• TAU Extensions • External Telephone Numbers	4
Health	Health servicesPsychological services	5
The Dorms	Regulations and RulesRecycleLaundry	6-11
Around campus	 Shopping & Food Post office Sports and Fitness Banks 	12-14
Off campus housing	 Legal consultant General Tips Websites 	15-20
Tel Aviv	 Cool things to do Shabbat & Holidays Transportation information 	21-25
Useful info	 Useful Websites Visa renewal A little bit of Hebrew 	26-27

Dear student,

The social staff (Madrichot) would like to welcome you to Israel, to Tel Aviv and to Tel Aviv University.

We are working in the TAU International office, and are in charge of the graduate students' **Social life**. Our goal is to create an **international community** that is comprised of students from 12 MA programs, PhDs, Post-Docs, and other international researchers.

During the year, we will have **a variety of activities** such as trips, parties, cultural events, and much more! We want to expose you to the wide and diverse culture Israel has to offer, as well as to create a fun social experience!

In order for us to build a strong international student community, which will serve best the students' needs, we will have a **Student Senate**. Each program will appoint talented representatives for the Senate.

Besides being able to find us in the office, we are available on our cell phones if you have any questions, problems, or if you just want to chat. Note that one of us is always available via cell phone.

Our office is located at the Carter building, room 108 and open between 9:00am-3:00pm, Sunday-Thursday.

For a meeting please coordinate in advance.

In short, we are here to help you find your way around, and to make your stay in Israel as enjoyable as possible.

We hope you are eager to get to know and understand Israel by taking advantage of everything in your academic program as well as in our social program.

In addition to what you received in the pre-departure handbook, we prepared for you some useful information that you can carry along with you when necessary.

We are here for you! Wishing you a wonderful, interesting and enjoyable year!

Danielle – 058-4800-989 Naomi - 052-437-5832

One of the counselors is always available on the phone.

Important Telephone Numbers

External Telephone Numbers:

•	Police	100
•	Ambulance (Magen David Adom)	101
•	Fire and Rescue	102
•	Electric Company	103
•	Tel Aviv Municipality	*10630
•	Information	144
•	"Leumit" clinics Helpline	*507 (4 for English)
•	House call (Doctor)	*9101
•	Health Insurance Helpline	*2000
•	Ichilov Hospital/Sourasky	03-6974444
	(Weizmann St. btw Arlozerov and David	l HaMelech)
•	The Assoc. of Rape Crisis Centers:	

-	Hotline for women	1202
-	Hotline for men	1203

TAU Extensions:

•	Graduate students social staff:	03-6408953
•	TAU International Office:	03-6408118
•	University Security:	03-6405555
	(for suspicious objects, fire on campus,	accidents)
•	TAU Psychology Center:	03-6408505

Health Insurance

Your welfare while you are studying at Tel Aviv University is of paramount concern to us. Any TAU student is bound to be covered by health insurance during the entire period of enrollment. This is also a legal condition set by the Ministry of Interior to receive a Visa. As an international student at TAU **not** enrolled in an International program, it is **your sole responsibility** to be covered by a medical insurance valid for the entire duration of your TAU program.

OFFERED HEALTH INSURANCE

As a student who is not enrolled to TAU International programs you must independently purchase health insurance.

We can suggest 2 companies who 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. This agency offers a diverse range of plans that you can choose from, you are welcome to find more information on their site: http://www.yedidim-health.co.il. Their "Prestige Plan" allows for continual coverage for the duration of your time in Israel and it is recommended if you will be staying longer than one year. Below is the Yedidim information.

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

For more details, please contact the Harel-Yedidim office:

- Sunday-Thursday: 08.00-15.30
- Telephone: 03-6386216 (from abroad: +972-3-6386216)
- Fax: 03-6874534
- E-mail: <u>y_health@yedidim.co.il</u>
- Website: <u>www.yedidim-health.co.il</u>

Important information:

- Please make sure always to carry your health card with you.
- Call *2700 for the Clalit Call-Center -Available 24/7
- For a doctor's home visit, call 1-800-262-660 and a doctor will arrive to your apartment within 3 hours
- For the full list of "Clalit" clinics, please go to: www.clalit-global.co.il/en
- TAU's "Clalit" Clinic (by the central library) open Sun-Thurs 8:00am-4:00pm.
- Phone number: 03-6415818
- Also close to TAU: Brodetzky Clinic. 19 Brodetsky St. Phone number: 03-7456500
- For general information about the Health Insurance: 1-800-414-422

2. "Menorah Mivtachim" Insurance company:

Their contact person is Sagit: <u>sagit@offek.org</u>. For more details, please make direct contact with the company. Please note that this company works with Kupat Holim Leumit, not Clalit. The nearest Leumit clinic is in Shuster center (it's also near the university, but by foot it's about 25 min walk). You can Google for more clinic locations.

Important information:

- Please make sure always to carry your health card with you.
- 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.
- Opening hours: Sun, Tue: 7:30am-7pm Mon, Thu: 7:30am-1pm Wed: 7:30am-1pm, 4pm-7pm Fri: 7:30am-12pm Saturday: Closed
- For Specialist doctors and medical consult: Call *507 (for English press 4) Available 24/7.
- In case you can't go to the clinic for a medical reason: Home Visit Service *9101 and a doctor will arrive to your apartment (or to the dorms) within 3 hours.
- For the full list of "Leumit" clinics, please go to: www.leumit.co.il
- For general info about the Insurance: *2000

Psychological Support

Please note the procedure and fees hereunder:

To register and pay please contact the Counseling Center, Ms. Lena Arbiv: 03-6408505; Mitchell Room 216, 8:30am- 2:30pm, clinic@post.tau.ac.il

After filling out a personal information form and paying, the counseling center will set you an appointment with a therapist.

<u>Costs</u>: Intake (first) meeting: 400 NIS **II** Psychotherapy session: 200 NIS **II** Psychiatric consultations: first consultation- NIS 275, further consultation – NIS 200)

There is no option to renew prescription with the psychiatric in the counseling center. For prescription renewal please go to a family doctor in the clinic.

Sexual assault

"You are not alone" - In any case of sexual harassment or sexual assault you can contact the Assoc. of Rape Crisis Centers:

- Hotline for women 1202
- Hotline for men 1203

Plan B

If you need the "Plan B" pill you can get it at any drugstore such as "Super Farm", "New Farm" etc. No prescription is needed, just please, read carefully the warnings before use.

In any case- we are here for you! To listen, to support and to help you receive any professional help in case of need. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

Information for dormitory residents

We welcome you to the Dormitories. Note that all regulations and rules are present on the Student Dormitory Regulations page; the following below is only a partial information. Please read this document in order to help you understand the facility rules and regulations.

Apartments

kitchen
stove,
s. Please
are
areas. It
ookcase,
g all
tact and

One may not change the apt. locks, or make any changes or add anything whether internal or external, to the apt, one must not paint, nails, or thumbtacks, or glue or in any other way. The residents will be charged for the full cost of dismantling and/or removing any items and for any restorative work that needs to be made.

Room Assignments

Rooms will be assigned by the International office and the dorms. Living arrangements in the dormitories can change from time to time, by dorms management and International office discretion, and to order a resident to vacate a room and/or the apartment that he/she is residing in and to relocate to another room/apartment in the dormitories. Such notice will be delivered at least 48 hours in advance and the resident must comply with this notice.

Maintenance

Einstein Dorms	Broshim Dorms
For any maintenance issues you can use one of	For any maintenance issues you can use one of
these options:	these options:
1. Dorms office- located in building E.	1. Dorms office- located in building B.
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 8am-4pm, 03- 6408333.	Opening hours: Sun-Thu 8am-4pm, 03- 7715999.
 Apply directly to the maintenance team in building F. Office hours: Sun-Thu 7pm- 5pm, Fri 8am-12pm. 	 Report the problem through the dorms website: https://meonot.shikunbinui.com/en.aspx
 Report the problem through the dorms website: https://meonot.shikunbinui.com/en.aspx 	3. In urgent cases, call the social staff.
4. In urgent cases, call the social staff.	

Inspection and Renovations

Employees of the dorms operator and/or their agents may enter any room/apartment, subsequent to giving prior notice to the residents of the flat, in order to make repairs and/or renovations and/or other necessary maintenance tasks. In the event of an emergency the aforementioned persons may enter a room/apartment without prior notice in order to save a life or property.

Security

- Security guards are present during all day long at the main gate. Each evening a security patrol is active from 7pm until the next morning. Security cameras are present in all public areas.
- Entering the dormitories: Only with a coded chip.
 To produce the chip, please make sure you have the form from TAU International office and bring it to the dormitory management office. They will take you photo and issue the chip for you.
- The resident must protect all of his/her personal property including valuable items. Resident must lock the door to the apartment and room when they leave. Neither the dorms nor the University will be held responsible for lost or stolen property.

Visits and Guests

Einstein Dorms	Broshim Dorms
 Guests: Can only stay until 11pm. 	 Guests: Can only stay until 11pm.
 Hosting guests overnight or after 	 Hosting guests overnight or after
11pm is not allowed without a	11pm is not allowed without a formal
formal approval from the dorm	approval from the dorm guard. A
management. A resident is held	resident is held personally responsible
personally responsible for the	for the actions of his guests in the
actions of his guests in the dormitory.	dormitory.
 A resident can host overnight twice a 	A resident can host overnight twice a
week, and a formal request has to	week, and a formal request has to be
be approved by the management	hand to the dorms guard. There's no
office.	need to complete the request in
 Please arrive to the dorms office to 	advance.
fill a hosting form <u>during office</u>	 Please provide all information
<u>opening hours (Sun — Thu 8am —</u>	needed about your guest: The guest
<u>4pm)</u> , and provide all information	will have to carry a formal
needed about your guest: The guest	identification card that includes full
will have to carry a formal	name, ID number and a picture that
identification card that includes full	must be presented at the entrance of
name, ID number and a picture that	the dorms.
must be presented at the entrance of	
the dorms.	
the dorms.	

Noise: No parties allowed. Please keep it quiet for people to sleep and study, especially between 2pm-4pm (resting hours) and after 11pm.

Garbage: All Garbage must be put in designated dumpsters and recycling cans downstairs; it must never be left outside your door.

Breaking the rules leads to penalties and might lead to your expulsion from the dorms. We ask you to ensure a pleasant environment for living and studying.

Accommodation

Einstein Dorms	Broshim Dorms
Dorms Office Management is at the ground	Dorms Office Management is at the ground
floor of Building E .	floor of Building B .
They're available for maintenance problems,	They're available for maintenance problems,
lost keys, hosting guests, etc.	lost keys, hosting guests, etc.
Open Sunday-Thursday, 8:00am-4:00pm.	Open Sunday-Thursday, 8:00am-4:00pm.
Phone Number: 03-6408333	Phone Number: 03-7715999

Recycle!

Einstein Dorms	Broshim Dorms	
In the dorms there are recycling garbage cans.	There's a recycling garbage cans on the ground floor of each building.	
 On the left side of building E Between buildings F and D Between Buildings A and C in the dorms 		

Laundry

Einstein Dorms	Broshim Dorms
Self-service in Einstein dorms, building E,	Self-service in Broshim dorms, building F,
ground floor. 10NIS for wash (30min) and	ground floor. 10 NIS for wash (30min) and
10 Nis for 40 min of drying. Opens $24/7$.	10 Nis for 40 min of drying. Opens $24/7$.

Shelters

**In any emergency case we will instruct the students a head according to the formal instruction of the home front command.

Einstein Dorms	Broshim Dorms
Building B – There are 2 shelters between	Each floor has one apartment which is also a
buildings B and A. Building E + G –there are	shelter.
shelters in the underground floor of each	
entrance.	

There is a different Wi-Fi user name in every floor, there is no Password:

BuildingEntranceFloorWi-Fi User NameB11Dorms_BuildB_E1-FB13Dorms_BuildB_E1-FB21Dorms_BuildB_E2-F	3 1
B 1 3 Dorms_BuildB_E1-F	3 1
	1
B 2 3 Dorms_BuildB_E2-F	5
B 3 1 Dorms_BuildB_E3-F	1
B 3 3 Dorms_BuildB_E3-F	
E 1 1 Dorms_BuildE_E1-	
E 1 3 Dorms_BuildE_E1-	
E 1 3 Dorms_BuildE_E1-	
E 2 1 Dorms_BuildE_E2-	
E 2 3` Dorms_BuildE_E2-	
E 2 3 Dorms_ BuildE _E3-	F1
E 3 1 Dorms_BuildE_E3-	F1
E 3 3 Dorms_BuildE_E3-	F3R
E 3 3 Dorms_BuildE_E3-	F3L
E 4 1 Dorms_BuildE_E4-	F1
E 4 3 Dorms_BuildE_E4-	F3R
E 4 3 Dorms_BuildE_E4-	F3L
D 1 1 Dorms_BuildD_E1	-F1
D 1 3 Dorms_BuildD_E1-	F3R
D 1 3 Dorms_BuildD_E1-	F3L
D 2 1 Dorms_BuildD_E2-	
D 2 3 Dorms_BuildD_E2-	F3R
D 2 3 Dorms_BuildD_E2-	
D 3 1 Dorms_BuildD_E3-	
D 3 3 Dorms_ BuildD_E3-	F3R
D 3 3 Dorms_BuildD_E3-	
D 4 1 Dorms_ BuildD_E4-	
D 4 3 Dorms_ BuildD_E4-	
D 4 3 Dorms_BuildD_E4-	

Internet – Broshim

In Broshim dorms there is free Wi-Fi.

Please follow this procedure in case of internet problems: (Einstein & Broshim)

- Bezeq Bein-Leumi (connection problems)
 Call Customer Service at *1700-555-222, our customer number is 101245310.
- If the problem is not being solved please send an email with: your name, phone number, building and flat. Describe your problem and send it to: iski@014.net.il, cc to intlgrad@mail.tau.ac.il Please write the hours that you'll be available on the phone and present in your dorm room, and the representative of the internet company will call you back.

Cable T.V

*If the remote is not working, please try to replace batteries first. * Service requests regarding Cables: When having a technical support with the YES services do the following

- 1. call 09-7618503 or *2088
- 2. press 1 for the right extension
- 3. press 1936#
- 4. you reach a customer service representative.

Other important details to be a ware of:

- The dorms subscription number with the YES company: 520021171
- YES business customer support opening hours: Sun Thu 8:30-17:30, Fri 8:00-13:00
- Get ready your YES box serial number (marked on the box 10 digits)

Dorms Gym: The dorms gym is in Einstein, ground floor of Building F. Broshin & Einstein residents have a free access to the gym. Gym hours: Sunday through Thursday 5pm-9pm, Friday 3pm-7pm. Please present your dorms' entrance chip to the Gym instructor. Entry to the gym is only permitted to the dorms' residents and with appropriate sports' clothing and towel.



Food on campus

On each building there is a nice Cafeteria- go and explore your culinary choices! Here are some options:

- Aroma- Coffee shop in the Diaspora museum (it's near the TAU International office)
- Restaurants area- In Sharet building (McDonalds, Salad bar, Italian food..)
- Kakao- Coffee shop, Hummus, sushi and snacks. In front of the food court, across the Sharet building in the Law building.
- Japanika: Sushi restaurant right outside the main gate of the campus
- <u>HaHug HaTzfoni Bar</u>: Also right to the campus main entrance. Cheap prices of Alcohol & Food
- Note! In every building there is at least a small cafeteria. Also in most buildings there are microwaves and refrigerator to store food. You can bring your own lunch from home[©]



Shopping

- Supermarkets around Campus:
 - <u>"Mahsanei Lahav" Store</u>: Einstein st. Open Sun-Thurs: 7:00am-11:00pm and Fri: 7:00am-3pm.
 - <u>"Shufersal"</u>: On Brodetzky St, near Ramat Aviv mall and on the ground floor of the mall. Sun-Thurs: 7:00am-11:00pm, Fri: 8:00am-2:00pm. Brodetzky is also open an hour after Shabbat (Saturday) ends.
 - <u>"Victory"</u>: Broshim dorms shopping center. Open Sun-Tue: 7:30am-9:00pm, Wed-Thu: 7:30am-10:00pm, Fri: 7:00am-two hours before Shabbat enters.
- <u>Super-Pharm (Pharmacy)</u>: Toiletries, Perfumery, Medicine, and more. In Ramat Aviv Shopping mall, Tel: 0778880080, Sun-Thurs: 8:00am-Midnight, Fri: 8:00am-4:30pm, Sat: 8:00pm- 12:30am
- Diyoonon "Bug"- Stationary store: Office supplies, books, etc. At corner of Lebanon and Einstein St., near TAU main gate. 037292345, Sun-Thurs: 8:30am-8:00pm, Fri: 8:30am-2:00pm. **Note it is cheaper to buy office supplies in the Carmel Market.

Laundry around campus:

- "Keshet" laundry, Tagor st. 30, Tel: 03-642-1477. Sun-Thurs, 8:00am-7:00pm, Fri: 8:00am-2:00pm
- "Mahbesat HaMal'ahim", Brodetzky 15, 1700-700-372. Sun- Thurs: 8am-09:00pm, Fri: 8am- 2pm

Sports and Fitness

Elite Sports Center: Includes Swimming pool, Gym, fitness and recreational facilities. The center located only 5 minutes walk from the dorms. Please bring page 5 from your medical form with a signature from a doctor (Sports & activities health confirmation) to register. The doctor signature is needed only for the Gym (not for the pool or classes) 03-6407291 or http://www.sports-center.co.il/?CategoryID=1029

HaYarkon Park:

For outdoor sports - run, bike, wall-climb, ball games, or just a nice walk (<u>down Lebanon St. to</u> <u>the South</u>).

Tel Aviv Promenade:

<u>The promenade</u> begins in Tel Baruch beach (in Ramat Aviv) and goes all the way, along Tel Aviv beaches to Jaffa and Bat Yam city to the south.

Banks and Change

It is recommended to go to the bank rather than call.

Opening an Israeli bank account

The main banks in Israel are Discount, Leumi and Hapoalim (all have branches conveniently close to campus). Some international students choose to open an Israeli bank account. Certain services, such as depositing checks, can only be done at the same branch at which you opened your account, but withdrawing money from an ATM can be done from any bank. American citizens must report their Israeli bank account in their annual income tax filing, regardless of its duration and total sum. As a post-doc or PhD student, you are entitled to open a student account, which may save you some fees.

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

From the information we were able to gather, we found that the **"Hapoalim"** bank **branch** at Aba Akhime'ir St 33, Tel Aviv, is the friendliest to international students.

Here are the opening nours:		
Sunday	8:30am–1:30pm	
Monday	8:30am–1pm, 4pm–6:30am	
Tuesday	8:30am–1:30pm	
Wednesday	8:30am–1pm, 4pm–6:30am	
Thursday	8:30am–1:30pm	
Friday + Saturday	Closed	

Phone: 03-653-2407

When you get to the branch, ask to speak to Galina Dubrinski to open a bank account.

Mandatory to have while going to open a bank account:

- Passport
- Additional ID (could be the ID from your home country or a driver's license)
- TAU Student I.D or a study approval letter from the university (a formal form that states you are studying in the university this year, the same one used for the Rav Kav)

Other bank branches around campus you could go to include:

- "Discount" bank branch on Yehuda Ha-Nasi st. 34
- "Leumi" bank branch on Brodetski st. 43
- Israel post office, Chaim Levanon st 67
- "Leumi" bank branch on Aba Akhime'ir st. 15
- "Leumi" bank branch on Rav Ashi st. 18
- Money Change: 17 Brazil st., by the Mall. (You can also change money at the post office (any post office, see in the following passage)

For each of the three main banks in Israel mentioned above, there are a lot of branches around Tel Aviv. If needed, we recommend opening an account in the closest branch to your apartment. Also check the rates and the special offers each bank has for students.

TAU credit card club

A credit card that gives some discounts on campus and in Tel Aviv. No fee or commission to issue the card. Website in only Hebrew at moment

In order to join go to the service desk at the student union building(Sun-Thu 9am-5pm), the Mitchel building.

The service desk phone number if you don't find it is 03-6407662, You need to bring with you:

- Details of Israeli bank account
- two I.Ds that have your photo (passport & student ID for example)
- Records of the transactions in the checking account ('over vashav' pages) for the last 3 months.

The TAU credit card club contact details: service@tau-club.co.il, 03-7507506

Post office

Post Office: 67, Lebanon st. - recommended for phone cards, change (good rates). Packages from abroad should be sent to the OSP office (International Office):

> - Your name -The School for Overseas Students **Tel Aviv University International**

> > E-MAIL - osptau@post.tau.ac.il



Carter building - Room 108 6997801 Ramat Aviv, Israel

Off Campus Housing

Websites for searching an apartment: (Most of them are in Hebrew so we recommend using "Google translate"):

Yad 2: http://www.yad2.co.il/Nadlan/rent.php Homeless: http://www.homeless.co.il/rent/ WinWin: http://www.winwin.co.il/RealEstate/ForRent/RealEstatePage.aspx Lagur: http://www.lagur.com/english/apartments_rent_telaviv

More General Information:

https://www.secrettelaviv.com/magazine/blog/renting-an-apartment-in-tel-aviv/ http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/124854

Facebook Pages for apartments:

Pages in English:

Apartments/roommates in Tel Aviv:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/telavivrealestate/

 Tel Aviv Apartments - Buy/Sell/Rent/Trade: https://www.facebook.com/groups/188430365379

ups.//www.iacebook.com/groups/100450505575

Apartments for singles or couples in Tel Aviv:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/684686771562272/

Tel Aviv Apartments:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/TLVAPT/

 TEL AVIV APARTMENT RENTALS ENGLISH NO REALESTATE AGENTS: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1432828703704444/

RAMAT AVIV, 69978 TEL AVIV, ISRAEL. TEL. 03-6408639 **טל'** 69978, **טל'** 69978 FAX: 03-6409582 דוו ברסיטה, רמת-אביב, תל-אביב THE CARTER BUILDING ROOM 108 בניין קרטר, חדר E-MAIL - osptau@post.tau.ac.il

- Tel Aviv Area apartments, rooms, & apartment stuff:
- https://www.facebook.com/groups/314227591934262/
 - Internationals in Tel Aviv:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/94000344685/

Looking for an Apartment in Tel Aviv:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/TelAvivApartments/

Batim LeOlim - Rentals in Tel Aviv:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/189220514572424/

Also in Secret Tel Aviv they have apt posts: https://www.facebook.com/groups/secrettelaviv/

Pages in Hebrew:

 The Student Union at TAU has opened a page for university students to exchange apartments:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1853548351342313/

דירות מפה לאוזן בת"א :

https://www.facebook.com/groups/35819517694/

Apartments in TLV Old North and Downtown:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/RealEstateTelAviv/

דירות להשכרה והחלפה בין חברים בתל אביב:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/391306014262850/

דירות ריקות בין חברים בתל אביב, לפני שמתפרסמות בהומלס

https://www.facebook.com/groups/dirotTA/

- מחפשים דירה להשכיר / לשכור בתל אביב
- https://www.facebook.com/groups/247322211969950/

דירות להשכרה במרכז תל אביב והסביבה :

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1427929940815001/

רק דירות תל אביב (בלי תיווך, בלי שותפים ובלי סאבלט) (Flat mates in Tel Aviv)
 https://www.facebook.com/groups/1648274912081018/

Legal consultant

We recommend getting legal advice from the student union's lawyer before signing an apartment contract.

Legal consultant is a free service given by the Tel Aviv University student union. To schedule a meeting with **Adv. Ran Shoval** in the student union call: 03-6407654. Their working days & hours: Sunday – Thursday, 9:00am – 5:00pm.

Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality's Center for Young Adults- <u>MAZEH 9</u>- Also provides legal consulting for apartment rental: <u>http://www.mazeh9.org.il/#!about/c1ucv</u>

Off-Campus Housing Information Students – Robert Fuller

One of our former students made a huge effort for us and prepared this document with important information new students can use. The information is a summary of alumni recommendation:

** Disclaimer: The following are recommendations from former students and should not be read or understood as legal advice. For legal advice, Tel Aviv University offers legal services through the Student Union**

About this Handout: Finding a suitable place to live is an issue that often weighs on the minds of new students in Israel. Locating an apartment, signing leases and dealing with problems as a tenant can often be a distraction for students, while they cope with their studies. However, with careful preparation and foresight, along with the resources provided at the university, finding a comfortable place to live can be a relatively straightforward procedure. While not every aspect of your apartment and tenancy will be perfect, this information, comprised of the opinions of former students, hopes to make the process easier.

Resources: On average, students often find it takes roughly two to four weeks to find an apartment in the Tel Aviv area. Many have often found valuable resources online that are useful in locating places. Facebook groups such as Secret Tel Aviv, Looking for an apartment in Tel Aviv, Apartments/roommates in Tel Aviv, Tel Aviv Apartments available and Tel Aviv Apartment – Buy/ Sell/Rent/Trade!!! have proven useful. Other websites students have had success with are yad2g.co.il and zvz.co.il. Additionally, you can post requests yourself on these Facebook groups indicating that you are looking for an apartment or room rental. Additionally, offline resources, such as friends who are looking for roommates or agents that have been recommended by people you trust may also be beneficial, although agents will charge a fee. When searching for apartments or analyzing contracts, the student lawyer may be helpful, particularly if the contract is in Hebrew. Additionally, a trustworthy Hebrew-

speaking friend or an Israeli roommate can also be useful in dealing with these language barrier issues.

Before you find a Place: Hostels often used by students in the few weeks before they arrive in the country. Former students have suggested that befriending the people who work at the hostel may prove beneficial when finding a room opening in an apartment. Additionally, Airbnb is a commonly utilized resource that many students have used for short-term rentals. Vacation rentals, short-term sublets or friendly contacts in Israel are also an option for housing while looking for more suitable long-term dwellings.

When You Find a Place/Signing Leases: As stated before, it usually takes roughly two to four weeks between beginning your apartment search and signing a lease committing to an apartment or room rental. Students have often found that they will have to visit many apartments before finding one that suits them. Oftentimes, there is a degree of pressure to sign quickly because of the demand for new apartments. However, one should make sure they understand the terms of the contract before they commit to a lease and utilize the resources listed above if necessary. When examining the lease, ensure that you understand all the fees and what you will pay for and what the landlord will cover. These include the water bills, electricity bills, the internet bills and the municipal tax (known as an Arnona). You may be expected to cover some or all of these bills depending on the landlord.

One should also ensure that they understand the possible financial penalties that the landlord may have entered into the lease. These may include fees for damages, late rent payments, leaving the lease early or the cost of any repairs, as well as to repaint the walls after you leave. If renting a furnished room, also ensure in the lease that the contents of the room listed in the contract are accurate so that landlord does not claim that items are missing when you leave. Before signing a lease, determine what the landlord's responsibility is when it comes to repairs in the apartment for issues such as plumbing and electricity. As stated earlier, language barriers may be an issue when signing a lease, so utilize the resources listed above, such as Israeli friends or the student lawyer who will do consultations free of charge.

Security Deposit - Many places require a security deposit, which may be the equivalent of one to several months' rent. One should understand the terms of the security deposit before signing the lease, including the extent of the landlord's access to the deposit. Ensure that no damages occur before you leave the apartment and check thoroughly before you depart so you can recover the whole of the security deposit. If you feel that the damages existed before or were not your responsibility under the terms of the lease, you are within your right to dispute said charges through a discussion with your landlord. Often, a tenant will be expected to produce their rent cheques and a guarantor in advance and this may require that one has access to a chequing account in Israel. Banks such as Discount allow foreigners to open bank to month payments, often by bank transfer. Additionally, one can find an apartment where the lease is under one of the roommates' names and then pay the rent and bills to said roommate, thereby avoiding these responsibilities altogether.

Landlord - Before signing any lease, a potential tenant should meet with their landlord to determine the landlord's character. If he or she seems impatient, racially or religiously intolerant or unnecessarily aggressive, it would probably be advisable to pursue another place, regardless of the benefits of the apartment. Additionally, even kind landlords may have other distractions that will prevent them from dealing with problems that may arise. A common issue is landlords who are out of the country and thereby inaccessible when problems in the apartment occur. If possible, it may be best to avoid renting from landlords who are abroad for extensive periods of time. When problems arise in the apartment, some students have found that getting repairs done may require a degree of tenacity. If your lease indicates that it is your landlord's responsibility to cover these repairs, it is often advisable to keep

calling them if they seem like they are dithering on maintenance issues. This is often not because the landlords are mean-spirited, but because the apartment rental is a side-business and they are distracted by other career responsibilities. Hence why repeated calls may be necessary.

Bills - One should also note that bills may not be received every month at a specific time, particularly if the landlord controls the dispersion. Some students have found that every two months may be the norm and you may or may not be given access to the bills directly. Oftentimes, you can request that you pay the bills yourself and have them placed under your name, but this may require the use of a translator to understand the charges.

When Leaving the Apartment: It is advisable to start inquiring about the return of your security deposit well in advance of leaving, maybe even one month or so, in case the landlord is slow to respond or out of the country. If you require to leave the apartment early and break your lease, you can often discuss this with your landlord and work out an arrangement. Usually this entails finding a replacement to takeover your apartment or room for at least the duration of your lease. There will also usually be some financial penalty for breaking the lease, which may vary depending on the contract you have signed. Again, check your contract and ask your landlord questions before you sign. Additionally, it is recommended that you have a lawyer examine your contract in advance to ensure that you have the ability to break the lease if necessary.

In Summary: Hopefully, this guide will prove useful in your apartment search. The resources and advice in this handout is a compilation of information from former students based upon information that they wish they had had before moving to Israel. It is important to use your best judgement when looking for an apartment, along with trusted resources that can provide you with assistance and legal expertise. Finding an apartment that you are comfortable living in can have an impact on your time here in Israel, so strong preparation is essential. For opinions on housing issues, feel free to speak to the counselors at the International Grad Office (Tomer and Jenia).

Here you can find short description of the different neighborhoods in Tel Aviv:

Ramat Aviv - Ramat Aviv is a largely residential suburb of Tel Aviv, but is where the University is located. Ramat Aviv mall is an upscale shopping centre that offers a variety different store. Yarkon Park is also close by. It should be noted that bus service into the city and from the city into Ramat Aviv does not run from Friday night until Saturday night. Average Bus Time to University: 5-15 mins

Bus Routes: Not necessary, but buses 6,7,171 transit through Ramat Aviv

Hatsafon Hayashon (The Old North) - Hatsafon Hayashon, or The Old North, is quiet neighborhood in Tel Aviv that largely caters to young families. The shopping, bars and dining are generally more upscale, and the neighborhood is not usually considered a nightlife destination. The prices to rent a room in this neighborhood are fairly high. Average Bus Time to University: 25-30 minutes Bus Routes: 25, 289, 13, 24, 22>274

Lev Ha'Ir - Lev Ha'Ir is a large neighborhood with a variety of differing characteristics located centrally within the city. It contains a large number of bars, cafés and shops, particularly along Rothschild and Sheinkin streets.

Average Bus Time to University: 25-30 minutes Bus Routes: 25, 289, 13, 24, 22>274 **Merkaz Ha'lr** - Merkaz Ha'lr is the central area of Tel Aviv and encompasses a wide variety of smaller neighborhoods. It includes an expanse of Tel Aviv's beaches, as well as Dizengoff Centre, Tel Aviv's most centrally located shopping mall. It also includes many restaurants, bars and boutique stores.

Average Bus Time to University (From Dizengoff Square): 25-30 minutes Bus Routes (From Dizengoff Square): 24, 13

Montefiore - Montefiore is a neighborhood with a variety of contrasting dwellings, from highrise apartments to older buildings. It is a relatively quiet neighborhood, but is next to the Sarona Market. It is also in close proximity to the Azrieli Center, a large shopping mall with a large variety of stores.

Average Bus Time to University: 25-35 minutes Bus Routes: 274, 271, 501>274

Neve Tzedek - Neve Tzedek is a historic neighborhood known for its antique architecture and leafy cobblestone streets and is the first neighborhood of modern Tel Aviv, outside of the ancient city of Jaffa. It is characterized by trendy boutiques, galleries, cafés and restaurants. It should be noted that although highly fashionable, the neighborhood is known to be quite expensive and public transit access is often lacking.

Average Bus Time to University: 35-45 minutes Bus Routes: 24, 25, 40/240>274, 40>127/279

Kerem HaTeimanim - Kerem HaTeimanim, or the Yemenite Vineyard, is known for having a village like atmosphere with narrow alleyways and historic row buildings. Kerem HaTeimanim is famous for Shuk HaCarmel, which can offer a variety of deals on everything from food, clothing, household products and souvenirs. It is also known for its cuisine and quaint restaurants. Away from the shuk, the neighborhood is quiet, although Allenby Street is not far, offering restaurants, bars, cafés and 24 hour stores. However, the neighborhood can be somewhat expensive.

Average Bus Time to University: 30-35 minutes Bus Routes: 13, 24, 25

Florentin - Florentin is characterized by its live music venues, bars and nightlife. While the buildings may appear rather neglected, this gentrified, yet affordable neighborhood is considered rather fashionable because of its bar culture and designer boutiques. Levinski Market is also located near Florentin, providing a variety of culinary options. Average Bus Time to University: 35-45 Minutes depending on route Bus Routes: 25, 125>274, 172>24, 127

Jaffa - Jaffa is known for its ancient, biblical character and Old Jaffa, one of the oldest ports in the world, is famous for its archeological significance. Characterized by its art galleries, museums, flea markets, designer boutiques and proximity to the beach, Jaffa has a great deal of amenities for those looking to rent. However, it should be noted that Jaffa is far from the city center and northern areas of Tel Aviv, as well as the Ramat Aviv, where the university is located. It should also be noted that the southern area of Jaffa tends to be more conservative with less nightlife.

Average Bus Time to University: 45-50 minutes Bus Routes: 25, 83>127, 18>24

Shapira - Shapira is a neighborhood that can offer cheap prices for room rentals, but the neighborhood is largely characterized by social problems, such as drug use and theft. It is,

however, slowly gentrifying because of the cheap prices. It also offers proximity to the central bus station.

Average Bus Time to University: 40-45 minutes Bus Routes: 289, 25, 17>24

Givatayim City - Givatayim is a city of contrasts, alternating between modern skyscrapers and more traditional apartments like one would find in central Tel Aviv. Givatayim may be attractive to those seeking to rent because of its relatively affordable prices and proximity to the city. One note is that suburbs of Tel Aviv may have a lesser concentration of English speakers than the city center.

Average Bus Time to University: 35-40 mins Bus Routes: 45, 57>40>289, 61>45, 33

Ramat Gan City - Ramat Gan is a suburb of Tel Aviv and also the center of Israel's diamond exchange and much of Israel's high tech industry. Ramat Gan is characterized by modern corporate skyscrapers in its central area, but is also a large region with a diverse range of housing options. Due to being outside Tel Aviv city proper, Ramat Gan offers attractive rents and is fairly accessible by public transit.

Average Bus Time to University: 25-35 minutes Bus Routes: 7, 82>24, 45, 61>171

Tel Aviv

Cool Things to do

Tel Aviv is a dynamic city with lots of cool things to do. Ask us about more ideas or check out these links:

http://www.tel-aviv.gov.il/eng/GlobalCity/Pages/GlobalCityLoby.aspx?tm=24 http://www.telavivcity.com/eng/ https://www.secrettelaviv.com/ http://www.visit-tel-aviv.com/

- <u>Carmel Market</u> (Shuk-HaCarmel). Open daily except Saturday: for fruit, veggies, clothing...
- Nachalat Binyamin: Arts & crafts open Tuesdays and Fridays

For both, take bus 25 or 24 from the dorms station and get off at the first stop of Allenbi St.

Old City of Jaffa: Jaffa Port, galleries, restaurants, and more. Take bus 25 to first stop on Sderot Yerushalaym (Jerusalem blvd.) and walk west.

BARS (Madrichots' recommendations⁽²⁾)

- <u>Biggy Z-</u> A nice local hip bar at 18 Bograshov St.
- <u>HaHoog HaTsfoni-</u> Cool bar right outside of the main gate of TAU.
- Evita Bar- The best gay bar in Tel Aviv includes drag nights, Pop nights and many more surprises! Yavne St. next to Rothschild Blvd.
- Kuli Alma- You just need to see this cool bar with your own eyes :) 10 Mikve Israel st.
- <u>Teder Bar</u> This bar located at the Romano house, and have a lot of alternative music live shows, hosting bands and DJ's from all over the world. Romano House, 9 Jaffa st.

RAMAT AVIV, 69978 TEL AVIV, ISRAEL. TEL. 03-6408639, טל' 69978, סאריביב מרפיטה, רמת-אביב, תל-אביב 69978, טל' פריית האוניברסיטה, רמת-אביב, תל-אביב FAX: 03-6409582 בניין קרטר, חדר THE CARTER BUILDING ROOM 108 בניין קרטר, חדר E-MAIL - osptau@post.tau.ac.il







Shabbat Dinners and Jewish Holidays

There are few organizations and NGO's in Israel who are organizing Shabbat Dinners and Jewish Holidays for internationals in Tel Aviv.

All of them are open to all students from all backgrounds and religions:

- White City Shabbat An independent organization which organizing events for internationals in Tel Aviv. It's a non-profit and the payments for the dinners/events are to cover the expenses: https://www.facebook.com/WhiteCityShabbat/
- **Chabbad House in Ramat Aviv** Rabbi Shaya is the Rabbi of the community in Ramat Aviv neighborhood and hosts students for Shabbat and Holidays. He's e-mail is: chabadtau@gmail.com. He's really nice don't hesitate to write to him!
- "Muzmanim" (Guests for Shabbat) This NGO was established to connect between internationals and Israeli families who wish to host them for Shabbat and Holidays: https://www.facebook.com/orchimleshabat/ If you wish to be hosted with an Israeli family you can fill out this form and they will contact you: http://shabbatguests.com/index.html
- **Beit Tfila Israeli** This is the house of the reform community in Tel Aviv which are organizing different events. In the Summer time during July and August they have public Shabbat gatherings (Kabalat Shabbat) at the Tel Aviv port with music and singalong: http://btfila.org/en/
- Abraham Hostel Tel Aviv This hostel holding Shabbat dinners each week, basically it is for the hostel guests but if they have free pots they will love to host our students.

Please check a head if you wish to join them: https://abrahamhostels.com/tel-aviv/ They also have a hostel in Jerusalem[©]



Transportation information

Please note that most public transportation in Israel doesn't work on Shabbat (Friday evening Until Saturday night). Intercity Sherut taxis continue to operate. Public transportation usually runs until midnight.

'Rav-Kav' is a rechargeable electronic bus and train card at reduced student prices. Please check which 'Rav-Kav' student profile suits you best. 'Studan' is a semester/ year program that can be worthwhile if you use it daily. You can also get a regular Rav Kav with 30% student discount.

To issue the card, please bring your student card and an approval from TAU (get it in the OSP office), to the Arlozorov Bus Station or the Central Bus Station (7th floor), Sunday -Thursday 8am-6pm, Friday 8am-1pm. During the first week of the semester Rav kav representatives will be on campus as part of the Opening Year Fair of the student union so you'll be able to issue the card right here on campus.

Here you can find additional Information: http://www.dan.co.il/Eng/pages/301.aspx

BUSES

- We recommend the free app 'Moovit' for planning public transportation trips.
- <u>Dan Buses</u>: Tel: 03-6394444 <u>www.dan.co.il/english/</u> Sun-Thurs: 5:30am-midnight, Fri: 6:00am-3:00pm (for exact schedule check each line)
- Egged Buses: 03-6948888 (Dial 3) www.egged.co.il/eng Sun: 6:30am-11:00pm, Mon-Thurs: 7:00am-11:00pm

Fri: 8:00am-3:00pm, Sat: End of Shabbat-midnight

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

Bus line	General Route	Company
24, 25	University- The city, the market, Allenby st. Rothschild st.	Dan
	Dizengoff center	
171	University - Azrieli center, Central bus station	Egged
7	University- TAU train station, Arlozerov Train/Bus station	Dan
274	University- Azrieli center – Rehovot City	Egged
289	University - Iben Gvirol, Rabin Square, South Tel Aviv	Dan
90	Tel Aviv- Herzeliya: Arena Mall/Marina, Herzeliya Pituah	Metropoline
	(restaurants, bars and clubs).	
480	Arlozorov bus station (near the train station) - Jerusalem	Egged
	Central Bus station.	
45	University - Arlozorov bus terminal, Savidor train station,	Dan
	Ramat Gan	
5	Arlozorov train station- Dizengof – South Tel Aviv -	Dan
	Central bus station	
18	Arloz o rov train station - King George – Jaffa - Bat Yam	Dan
	City	



TRAINS

Israel Trains: 03-5774000 or *5770, <u>www.rail.co.il/en</u>. Sunday-Thursday: 6:00am-11:00pm, Friday: 6:00am-3:00pm, Sat: End of Shabbat –11pm. The train station is about 10 minute walking from Broshim dorms and 15 minute walking from Einstein dorms.

SHERUT

Minibus services, costs more or less like a bus (8-10 NIS per ride). Raise your hand to stop it© **4'**× – From North Tel Aviv – Central Bus Station. Passing on Einstein Street – Ben Yehuda street

- Alenbi Street A good way to go to the beach from the university.
- 4- Reading (Tel Aviv Port) Ben Yehuda st Alenbi st Central Bus Station
- 5- Bavli Neighborhood Weizman st– Pinkas st Nordau st Dizengof st Rothschild st Begin st – Central Bus Station

Website with routes (in Hebrew): http://www.kavim4-5.co.il/%D7%90%D7%95%D7%93%D7%95%D7%AA%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%95

TAXIS

 GetTaxi - you insert you credit card details and then you can get a taxi wherever you are and you don't even need to care about having cash with you. We recommend our student to use only the app since you have the driver's details in case you forget something.

Taxi Stations:

Castel Taxi: 03-6994242 /*3242 (from cell phones) Aviv Taxi: 1700-503300 Palatin Taxi: 03-5171444

MAKE SURE YOU KNOW:

- If you ask, your driver has to put the meter on (Moneh in Hebrew) It's the law in Israel! They can't just set a price...
- University to Tel Aviv center should cost NIS 40-60, not more!
- Inside the city between 30-60 NIS.
- In Israel we DO NOT TIP taxi drivers.

Bikes & Scooters

- <u>Tel-O-Fun</u> Bike Sharing Rental System
- Mobike Bike Sharing Rental System
- You can purchase second hand bike in good prices in the south of Tel Aviv. Note that they are not always consensually second hand..
- Bird Scooters scooter Sharing Rental System
- Lime Scooters scooter Sharing Rental System
- Wind scooters scooter Sharing Rental System

Public transportation- FREE APPS

- Moovit- Moovit is a free, local public transit planner, featuring live arrival & departure times, updated line schedules, local station maps, service alerts and advisories that affect current trip. Moovit offers real-time public transit information and GPS navigation across transit modes, including buses, trolleybuses and trains. Users can access a live map and view nearby stops and stations based on their current GPS location, as well as plan trips across transportation modes based on real-time data. NOTE Some streets are being recognized only by their Hebrew name, so you can use Google Maps to find the right place first.
- We also recommend using Google Maps in order to check which buses goes from place to place.
- HopOn app for charging the RavKav (public transportation card), and ticket purchase on bus.

Car rental

- Rental for full days, here are some main rental companies: Hertz: https://www.hertz.co.il/en/HomePage/.aspx
 Eldan: https://rent.eldan.co.il/en
 Avis: http://rent.avis.co.il/en/car_rental_israel?reservationKey=636403158914218750
- Rental by the hour: Car2go: http://rent.avis.co.il/en/car_rental_israel?reservationKey=636403158914218750

Traveling abroad

 ISSTA travel agency: On campus, "De Botton" Building. Tel: 03-6430000, Sun-Thurs: 9am-6pm, Fri: 9am-1pm

- Ofir Tours: 32 Ben Yehuda st. Tel: 03-6906378, Sun-Thurs: 8am-7pm, Fri: 8am-1pm
- Ben Gurion Airport: Arrival and Departure info: 03-9723344

Useful Websites

Many websites have an English version, some are only in Hebrew. If you don't read Hebrew (yet[©]) use Google translates!

News:

- Ha'aretz: <u>www.haaretzdaily.com</u>
- Jerusalem Post: <u>www.jpost.com</u>
- Yedi'ot Aharonot: <u>http://www.ynetnews.com</u>
- Times of Israel: <u>http://www.timesofisrael.com/</u>

Culture & Tourism:

- Tel Aviv Municipality: http://www.tel-aviv.gov.il/eng.
- Ministry of Tourism: www.tourism.gov.il
- Cinemateque (Hebrew): <u>www.cinema.co.il</u>
- Tel-Aviv Museum of art: <u>www.tamuseum.com</u>
- Time Out: www.digital.timeout.co.il/english
- General Info: <u>www.telavivcity.com</u>
- Young Internationals in Tel Aviv: www.TLVInternationals.org
- Secret Tel Aviv: https://www.facebook.com/e.telaviv.dailysecret

Nightlife: (Hebrew websites, please use Google translate until you finish Ulpan and can read those⁽ⁱ⁾)

- Atraf: <u>www.atraf.co.il</u>
- Layla: <u>www.layla.co.il</u>
- Resident: <u>www.resident.co.il</u>

Visa renewal

Ministry of Interior: 53 Shalma st, 03-7632530, *3450. Sun & Thurs: 8am-12pm. Please pick up a letter and your transcript from us before going.

AACI (Assoc. of Americans and Canadians in Israel):

94/a Allenby Street, Tel Aviv, Tel: 03-6960389. For issues of Aliyah, employment, counseling services.

A little bit of Hebrew (קצת עברית!)

Hello / Peace	Shalom
Good morning	Boker Tov
Good Day	Yom Tov
Good Night	Layla Tov
Sorry / Excuse me	Slicha
Thanks	Toda
Please / you're welcome	Bevakasha
Bus	Ottoboos
University	Ooniversita
Book	Sefer
Class room	Kita
Class	Shi'oor
Teacher	Moreh (male) Morah (female)
Counselor	Madrich (male) Madricha (female) Madrichim (plural)
Exam / test	Bchina / Mivchan
How much it costs?	Kama ze ole?
Cool / OK	Sababa
What is your name?	Eich Kor'im Lecha? (Male)
	Eich Kor'im Lach? (Female)
Nice to meet you	Na'im me'od
My name is Moses	Kor'im li Moshe
How are you?	Ma Shlomcha? (Male)
	Ma Shlomech? (Female)
Food	Ochel
Enjoy your meal	Bete'avon
l love turtles	Ani ohev tzabim
Let's go / hurry up!	Yalla
Lol (texting)	חחחחחחחחחחחחחח
Cool / Nice	Magniv
Cutie	Mami
Mess	Balagan
l love my Madrichim	Ani Ohev/Ohevet et ha Madrichim sheli