SIS Summer Abroad 2014:

Israel: The Prospects for Peace

May 28 - June 14

Jerusalem, Israel

SIS Study Abroad: Discover More. Enrich your Experience.
SIS Summer Abroad 2014:

Israel

Israel: The Prospects for Peace
May 28—June 14

Seminar & Internship Guide

School of International Service
American University

Apply Now!
Applications must be received by
February 24, 2014
for priority consideration.
See page 8 for more information.

Updated May 19, 2014
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Introduction

The traveler in Israel and Palestine walks through history: from windswept crusader castles to ports where seamen, pilgrims, and famous travelers once stood; from desert landscapes once home to nomadic tribes, great armies and merchants in camel caravans to sheikhs’ tombs with whitened domes, silent monasteries, and ancient synagogues, mosques and churches decorated with exquisite mosaics.

Israel is home to a variety of geographical features from arid deserts to rocky mountains, from remote farming communities to the bustling metropolis of Tel Aviv. Much like its geography, Israel and Palestine are home to a diverse population covering a broad spectrum of local and immigrant backgrounds. While it is host to a deeply rooted conflict it is also a place where necessity has given rise to ingenuity. The climate and location of Israel and Palestine have required its people to adapt to limited natural resources and develop new technology for power and water. Thus, the ancient monuments mingle with solar panels, and a nation with little rainfall is today a major regional producer of agriculture.

Nowhere is this meeting of old and new more present than in Jerusalem. As the epicenter of a melting pot culture, one can find a vast array of museums, monuments, and memorials. Large immigrant and tourist populations contribute to the variety of languages, religions, cuisines, and customs found in this vibrant city.

As a city that has been coveted by many, Jerusalem has been the site of many battles. It is a point of contention in which the melting pot has at times become a broiling cauldron. Amidst this complex political history, the people of Jerusalem have also had to contend with a geography and climate that has proven challenging at best and relentlessly unforgiving at worst. The intricacies of history, ethnicity, identity, geography, and culture are all woven together in Jerusalem, creating a formidable environment for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Program Description

This Program offers students the opportunity to spend significant time living, studying, and working in a region that is experiencing monumental social and political change. Jerusalem, as a religious and political center, serves as the base from which the students will gain a well-rounded understanding of the many issues facing Israel.

The Program consists of four components:

(a) **Pre-departure workshops** that will address the academics, logistics, policies, and guidelines for all participants.
(b) A **seminar** that will include lectures from prominent academics, journalists, politicians, government officials and non-governmental activists on critical issues facing the area, and site visits to some of the country’s most important historical, religious and cultural markers.
(c) An optional **internship** with a partner organization in Israel. The internship experience is not an integrated part of the seminar program and can be done for credit, or on a non-credit bearing basis for students who wish to complete their professional experience requirement.
(d) An optional **independent research project** may be substituted for an internship with the approval of the supervising faculty director.

The Program’s main themes will be explored through the many voices of Israel and Palestine and include the following issue areas:

- The Israeli-Palestinian conflict
Seminar, 3 credits, May 28–June 14
This seminar is designed to provide students with insight into Israel as a sovereign and international actor, and to the underlying dynamics of the country’s unique political system, diversified culture, and myriad political, social, economic, and environmental issues.

Participants learn first-hand about ongoing efforts to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israel’s security concerns, Arab-Israeli peacemaking, the special relationship between Israel and the United States, and the challenges brought forward by the desert ecology of the region. Through a combination of site visits and direct interaction with both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders (including academics, think tank scholars, and activists in NGOs), students will gain a deeper understanding of the complex issues and key debates facing Israeli society.

Internship, 3 credits, variable dates
The Program can provide students who participate in the seminar with connections to internship opportunities with organizations in the country. SIS maintains relationships with several organizations in Israel and offers students the opportunity to intern through one of its established partnerships. The internship can be registered for academic credit or be used to fulfill the MA Professional Experience Requirement (for more information, see http://www.american.edu/sis/gradadvising/professional.cfm).

Students who wish to pursue the internship will be required to indicate during the application process their internship organization preference and identify the skills and qualifications that they would bring to an organization. The application will be used by the Program staff to match students with participating internship hosts.

Academic credit for the internship may be earned through completion of the internship work and an academic project under the direction of the program director. The grade earned on the academic project, together with an internship evaluation completed by the student’s internship site supervisor, will provide the overall grade for the internship credits. According to the minimum requirements at SIS for earning academic credit for an internship, students must work a minimum of 192 total hours. Service at the internship must be related to the student’s field and should consist of at least 85% substantive work (e.g., research, report writing, etc.).

The start date and length of each internship will vary depending on the needs of the organization and the preference of the student intern. Students are responsible for determining the dates of their internship with their site supervisor prior to beginning the internship and for reporting these dates to SIS. Students who also participate in the program seminar cannot intern during the seminar dates.

Students are responsible for making their own housing arrangements and for all housing costs and other personal expenses (transportation, meals, etc.) during the internship period.

Please see the list of Internship Organizations, available on the Program website, for a sample listing of the internship organizations.

Independent Research, 3 credits, variable dates
Students who wish to pursue an independent research project or Substantial Research Paper (SRP) may
do so during their stay in Israel. Based on a well-designed research proposal submitted and reviewed during the application and admission process, exceptional students are considered for independent research projects on topics of their choice. If accepted, students receive assistance with research design and resources while enrolled in the program.

**Human Subjects Research:**
If any portion of your research involves human subjects as defined by AU’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects, your research must receive prior approval by the IRB or its designee. To determine whether your research qualifies or to whom you should apply for review, please consult the IRB website at: [http://www.american.edu/irb/index.cfm](http://www.american.edu/irb/index.cfm)

**Program Schedule and Registration Options**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>First pre-departure workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Second pre-departure workshop TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>Seminar students arrive in Tel Aviv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 29—June 14</td>
<td>Seminar and site visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Departure for seminar-only participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable dates</td>
<td>Internship or Independent Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students can participate in the Program in one of four ways:

1. Seminar only (3 credits)
2. Seminar and credit-bearing internship (6 credits)
3. Seminar and non-credit internship* (3 credits)
4. Seminar and independent research or SRP (6 credits)

*The internship can be done for academic credit or be done on a non-credit bearing basis to fulfill the MA Professional Experience Requirement (for more information, see [http://www.american.edu/sis/gradadvising/professional.cfm](http://www.american.edu/sis/gradadvising/professional.cfm))

**Faculty Director**

Professor Guy Ziv is a full-time faculty member at SIS, affiliated with the U.S. Foreign Policy Program. He teaches courses on U.S. foreign policy and the Middle East. His research interests lie at the nexus of international security, foreign policy decision-making and the Arab-Israeli conflict. His written works on the impact on Israel’s nuclear policy on U.S.-Israel relations; Israel’s strategic partnership with France in the 1950s; and the role of leaders’ personalities in foreign policy change have been published in academic journals and newspapers. He also writes a blog for the Huffington Post, and he has been quoted in major media outlets including U.S. News & World Report, USA Today, and Al Jazeera English. Prof. Ziv has a background in policy, having worked for the U.S. Department of State, on Capitol Hill, and for leading non-profit organizations that promote American involvement in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.

**Who Should Attend**
The Program invites applications from students from all majors and disciplines from American University. Graduate and advanced undergraduate students who have completed at least 60 credits
with interests in comparative political systems, history, gender, human rights, international communication, international politics, Middle East area studies, international security, peace and conflict resolution, international development, and environmental conservation are invited to apply. Students enrolled in graduate programs at other US-based universities and colleges are also invited to apply. Priority consideration for the program will be given to SIS graduate students who have applied by the priority deadline of February 24, 2014.

Program Orientation
Students will be required to attend two pre-departure workshops at American University and will be provided with background readings before leaving for Israel. The workshops will take place in April (first workshop on Sunday, April 6th; second workshop later in April, date TBA) and will address the academics, logistics, policies, and guidelines for all participants. Both meetings are mandatory.

In the Fall 2014 semester, SIS will host post-program events for all students who participated in SIS Study Abroad programs, including the student research panels during International Education Week (in November). Students will also be asked to participate in a de-briefing session in order to assess the Program’s impact on professional and career objectives.

Program Fees
Students enrolled in the program will pay tuition for each course for which they are registered at the prevailing American University tuition rate. The Summer 2014 tuition rate for graduate students is $1,440 per credit hour; for advanced undergraduates, it is $1,337 per credit hour.

There are no additional expenses for the pre-departure orientation program, double- or triple-occupancy lodging for the duration of the seminar, ground transportation to and from academic sites during the seminar, mandatory international health insurance, guest lectures, and faculty supervision.

Students enrolled in the internship or independent research portion of the Program will be responsible for making and paying for their own housing arrangements during their internship or independent research period, and will be responsible for all other personal expenses (transportation, meals, etc.) during this period.

All Program participants are responsible for their own travel to Tel Aviv and from Jerusalem, meals, any and all immunization and/or immigration documents, and all personal expenses. A suggested amount of $1,500—$2,000 is recommended for students’ personal use and spending during the seminar.

Visa Information
Students are solely responsible for obtaining any and all visas or other immigration documents to enter Israel. SIS supports students in this endeavor and assists with necessary letters or other documents as needed. For more information on entry requirements, students should consult the following website: http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/About+the+Ministry/Consular_affairs/Visas.htm

As of February 3, 2014, citizens of the United States do not require a visa to enter Israel, but must travel with an onward or return ticket and have a passport valid for at least six months beyond duration of stay and proof of sufficient funds. The Dept. of State recommends that students have at least two blank visa pages available in their passports. Please read the Dept. of State website carefully for special
regulations that may affect your travel: [http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/israel.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/israel.html).

**Medical Information**
The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that travelers consult a health care provider 4-6 weeks prior to traveling abroad. It also recommends that travelers make sure their routine vaccinations are up-to-date. For more information on vaccinations and travelers’ health issues, consult the CDC website at: [http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/israel](http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/israel)

**Nuts and Bolts of Enrollment**

**Applications**
Students must complete and return all parts of the application, the link to which can be found on the Program website. **No incomplete applications will be accepted.** Complete applications should be submitted by **February 24, 2014** for priority consideration.

Components of the application are as follows:

- Participant Application and Information Form
- Internship Interest and Application Form (if applicable)
- Independent Study Application Form and supporting documents (if applicable)
- Personal Statement
- Résumé/C.V.
- Unofficial Transcript
- Academic Advisor Approval Form (AU students only)
- Non-Degree/Visiting Student Information Form (if applicable)

**Admission and Acceptance**
Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, but must be **received by February 24, 2014** for priority consideration. As part of the review process, the Faculty Director or the SIS Director of International Programs may invite students to meet with them to discuss the submitted application. Enrollment may be limited to approximately 10 students. Once admitted to the Program by SIS, students will receive notification via e-mail. At that time, students will be required to submit a non-refundable deposit of $250 to SIS, through a check or money order made payable to American University, to secure their place in the Program.

**Registration**
Once the non-refundable deposit of $250 is received, students will be registered for the appropriate Program components by SIS and will receive e-mail confirmation from SIS. Once registered, students will be billed through the AU Office of Student Accounts for the program fee (if applicable) and tuition for Summer 2014.

**Financial Aid**
AU students will be able to use AU financial aid, including loans, to cover tuition for the Program. Some awards may not apply to summer registration, so students will need to consult their financial aid advisors for specific information. Students should also remember that in order to be considered full-time students in the summer semester, they will need to be registered for 4 or more credits. Students registered for only 3 credits will be considered half-time students in the summer.
Withdrawal Policy
Once students have accepted their place in the Program and paid the deposit, they are committing to participating in the program. **Students may NOT drop the Program courses online or through their academic advisor.** Students seeking special permission to withdraw must contact Jeannie Khouri, in writing (khouri@american.edu).

Students who are granted special permission to withdraw from the Program may be responsible for program-related costs incurred on their behalf. Tuition refunds in this Program do not follow the standard refund policy as outlined in the American University Schedule of Classes. No refunds are guaranteed after the Program start date and depend upon the terms of any/all contracts between American University and affiliates of this Program.

Program Cancellation Policy
In the event that SIS has to cancel the Program prior to the start date, enrolled students will be notified in writing and will receive full refunds for tuition and deposit.

Additional Information

Visiting Students
Degree-seeking students from other educational institutions are welcome to apply to the Program. They must complete the attached Non-Degree/Visiting Student Information Form. Under D.C. law, students under age 26 must also complete an immunization form. This form needs to be returned with the application materials and can be found on-line at: [http://www.american.edu/ocl/healthcenter/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=39852](http://www.american.edu/ocl/healthcenter/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=39852)

International Students
Students who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States may be required to obtain immigration documents from AU to enter or re-enter the United States as a function of their participation in the Program. For information regarding visa status, benefits and limitations, international students should consult with the office of AU International Student and Scholar Services, or the appropriate office on their home campus. More information for AU international students is also available online at [www.american.edu/ocl/isss](http://www.american.edu/ocl/isss)

Alumni Audit
The alumni audit option is not available for SIS Summer Study Abroad Programs

Tuition Remission
Current staff members at American University who are also enrolled as degree-seeking AU students may apply their tuition remission benefit to the seminar portion of this Program only. Staff members who wish to apply the benefit to the Program will need to seek the approval of their supervisor first and submit written authorization as part of their application. For additional information, staff members may contact the SIS Director of International Programs (rbellinger@american.edu).

Deadlines
Due to the logistics involved in planning this Program, the application process begins immediately.
Applications are reviewed in the order they are received. Applications received after the Program is full will be put on a waitlist in the order they are received. Applications should be received by February 24, 2014 for priority consideration.

Contact Information
SIS Study Abroad Programs  
E-mail: sisabroad@american.edu  
Mailbox: SIS 116, Main Office (Advisor Approval Form only)  
American University  
4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
Fax: 202-885-2494

Questions? Please contact SIS Study Abroad Programs at sisabroad@american.edu