

Student Life at the Conservative Yeshiva

Semester and Year Program

Before You Arrive

Obtaining a Visa

A normal tourist visa received upon landing at the airport is only valid for 30-90 days. Therefore, **the Conservative Yeshiva strongly recommends that all students not holding Israeli citizenship apply for an A2 Student Visa before you come to Israel.** You will most likely need to go to the local Israeli consulate or embassy, but call to see if this can be done by mail or fax. You will need:

- Your acceptance letter from the Conservative Yeshiva (on official letterhead) stating that you will be a student during the academic year. Your name should appear exactly as it does on your passport. Please contact us if you need this letter.
- A copy of your Masa award letter if you are the recipient of a MASA scholarship or grant.
- Check the Israeli Consulate website for full requirements; some consulates, especially in countries outside of North America, ALSO require proof of Jewishness / rights under the Law of Return.

The procedure may take several weeks, so apply early. The visa will be valid for one year.

If you do not obtain an A2 Student Visa prior to your arrival you will need to obtain the visa via Misrad Hapnim (Ministry of the Interior) in downtown Jerusalem either via appointment or walk-in hours. The visa will cost approximately 150 NIS (about US \$40) and the process can be lengthy and bureaucratic.

You will need to bring with you:

- Your original birth certificate
- An original letter from your congregational rabbi (on official letterhead), confirming that you are Jewish or have rights under the Law of Return, and explaining. The Rabbi should sign the letter in blue ink to show that it is not a copy.
- Married students: original (civil) marriage certificate (and a photocopy)
- Converted students: original conversion documents (and a photocopy).
- An Israeli-sized passport picture (5cm x 5cm)
- Completed visa application (also available at the office - bring a pen)
- Masa award letter (if relevant)
- Two adjacent blank pages in your passport.
- A NEW acceptance letter from the Conservative Yeshiva (on official letterhead) stating that you will be a student during the academic year. Your name should appear exactly as it does on your passport. We must add to the original letter the date of birth of both your parents, so please be able to provide us that information.

Cost of Living

Students in a semester/year program typically find sublets in apartments around Jerusalem, either with other students or with local Jerusalemites.

There is a wide range and costs of **apartments** available, however a ballpark figure is about \$600-\$750 per month for living expenses such as rent, municipal residence taxes (arnona), building maintenance fees (va'ad bayit), utilities, medical insurance, and other incidentals.

Food can cost an average of an additional \$100-\$150 per month for those who prefer to make their own food and buy frugally, but can easily double or triple if you tend to eat out often (an average meal ranges from \$7 - 10).

Prepaid SIM cards can be found for \$10-15/mo.

Students might spend an additional total of \$150-\$400 on events, books, home goods, and public transportation during their time at the Yeshiva.

One who only goes to free events, shops in bulk, walks, and cooks one's own food can easily keep their additional expenses under \$250 per month. Others can have expenses more than twice that amount.

One-time expenses include round-trip transportation to Israel (typically \$800-1300).

What to Pack

View a suggested packing list, created by a former student, [here](#). The list assumes weekly laundry cycles; please adjust the packing list according to your needs.

Some things to remember:

- Jerusalem gets very cold and wet in the winter. The inside of buildings (your apartment and the yeshiva included) will likewise be cold - bring clothes accordingly.
- If you plan to bring electrical appliances (cell phone chargers, tablet chargers, laptops, etc.), remember that they should be adaptable to Israeli current (220 volts, 50 cycles) or supplied with a transformer.

Arriving in Israel

Getting to Jerusalem from Ben Gurion Airport is fairly simple. We suggest downloading the apps Moovit, for using public transportation, and Gett, for ordering taxis. If you do not have a Rav Kav (public transportation card) then you will need to download the Moovit app or HopOn app in order to ride a bus when you get to Jerusalem.

Shared Taxi (Sherut)

A shared taxi leaves the airport once there are enough passengers going to Jerusalem to fill up the vehicle. It will take you directly to your address and is therefore a good option for someone uncertain or hesitant to navigate public transportation after their flight.

While the drive between the airport and Jerusalem is about 1 hour - 1.5 hours (depending on traffic), you might find yourself waiting for the van to fill up at the airport for anywhere from 5 minutes to 45 minutes and then have an additional 45 minutes added to your drive as all passengers get dropped off at their destinations.

A shared taxi costs approximately \$18.

Public Bus

At Ben Gurion Airport, ask for the shuttle from your terminal to the Ben Gurion Airport El Al Junction.

At the junction, take Egged bus 947, destination Jerusalem Central Bus Station, that leaves the junction approximately every 20 minutes, from 6:17 a.m. through 22:22.

The ride will take about an hour and a half and costs 21 shekels, approximately \$6. From the Central Bus Station, you will need to take a bus, the light-rail, or a taxi to your final destination.

Express Train

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From the Train Station you will need to take a bus, the light-rail, or taxi to your final destination.

Medical Insurance

The Conservative Yeshiva requires all students to have health insurance that covers the basic health risks while you are here. We do not consider a catastrophic health insurance policy alone to be sufficient. Health insurance can be obtained either through a policy from home, if it covers you while you are here in Israel, or through a policy you purchase from an Israeli insurance company or agency specifically for your time here.

If you expect to be covered by your policy from home: Ask your insurer for confirmation of your coverage for medical care and hospitalization here in Israel (in hard copy or by e-mail). Check on the payment mechanism (and deductibles). It is likely that you will have to pay for any medical charges yourself and then seek reimbursement from your insurer (unless the insurer tells you otherwise). Even if covered from home, you may want to consider a local policy as a supplement. This is your decision.

Local Israeli health insurance for tourists/students: This is an established market here. The policies can be purchased for the length of a visit, with charges running from about \$1.00 to \$5.00 per day, generally scaled to age. Pre-existing health conditions might also be a factor in the cost – check!

The following is a list of Israeli insurance companies which have policies for students and tourists:

Student Preferred

Shiloach/Harel through Egert & Cohen Insurance

Tel: +972-2-623-2546
Fax: +972-2-625-4655
Website: <https://www.egertcohen.co.il/health/signup.asp>

Shiloach/Harel through Sasson Chacoty Insurance Agency

Tel: +972-2-625-4488
Fax: +972-2-625-1276
Email: info@chacoty.co.il
Website: <http://www.chacoty.co.il/Default.aspx?tabid=149>

American Israel Medi-Plan, Inc. (AIM)

Tel: +972-2-653-7111 / U.S. Phone: 1-800-424-6752
U.S. Fax: 305-792-5472
Email: info@aim.co.il
Website: www.aim.co.il – Provides coverage for pre-existing conditions. Best coverage for people who are trying to get pregnant.

Clal through Howden Insurance Brokers

Contact Shai at Tel: +972-3-568-8825
Fax: +972-3-760-2202
Email: shair@howden.co.il

The Conservative Yeshiva has no interest whatsoever in your decision from whom to purchase health insurance. We do not represent these companies/agents in any way nor influence the coverage, conditions or prices. We get nothing from them (not even a calendar). Our only interest is that you have reasonable coverage and know how to get care should the need arise.

Upon receipt of policy details, please complete your online application file so we have a record of your insurance and emergency information in the office.

Important: Ask the agent how their insurance works (such as calling a central number before seeking treatment, using the magnetic card if they give you one, etc.). Always be sure to follow the policy's procedures when utilizing medical services.

Finding Housing

Semester and year students are responsible for finding their own housing. But Jerusalem, with its large and eclectic student population, has a wide range of furnished and partially-furnished rental apartments available.

Most students live in apartments within a 10-30 walking radius of the Yeshiva campus. This generally means the following neighborhoods which are within easy walking distance to the Yeshiva: Old Katamon, Rechavia, Talbieh, the German Colony, Baka, and Nahlaot. We will connect you with current students if you wish to discuss the ins & outs and advantages & disadvantages of specific neighborhoods.

How do I find housing?

We will help you and other new students connect with each other, and connect with current students via Facebook who are vacating their apartments or have a spare room.

The best way to find apartments is through a wide variety of Facebook apartment groups, where people post their available rooms or apartments. Posts are in English and Hebrew, depending on the group and most will specify if the apartment keeps shabbat (SS) and/or kosher (SK).

Some groups to look up are: "Sublet Jerusalem", "Looking for an apartment in Jerusalem" and "Apartments/Roomates in Jerusalem". Let Facebook connect you with other groups in the same vein.

Other good services in English include Janglo (www.janglo.net/real-estate-rentals/apartments/jerusalem), Bayit Buddy (www.bayitbuddy.com), Craig's List Jerusalem (www.craigslist.com), and Flathunting (www.flathunting.com), a free English-language Yahoo! Group with a wide variety of Jerusalem apartment listings.

Hebrew-speakers can use Ma'agar Meidah (www.999.co.il), probably the best local apartment service. For a monthly fee, you will receive a new listing of available apartments every day via email. Other good Hebrew-language apartment-hunting websites to try are www.homeless.co.il, www.sheal.co.il, Kan Garim (www.kangarim.co.il), <http://www.yad2.com> and the Hebrew University student apartment board at www.huji.ac.il/huji/info_apartments.htm.

Those coming for the semester or year are encouraged to arrange for a short-term sublet for when you first arrive that will give you time to look more extensively for an apartment with a longer lease. Some useful websites for short-term housing options include Jerusalem Bed and Breakfasts (<http://www.bnb.co.il/>), Good Morning Jerusalem (www.accommodation.co.il), and Jerusalem Lodges (www.jerusalemloidges.com).

What should housing cost?

If you live with roommates and either sublet or sign a 1-year lease, you can expect to pay 1800 - 2100 nis (\$500-\$600) per month for an average-sized private room in an average apartment. More than \$600 and you should be enjoying more upscale amenities in a renovated, spacious apartment. Less than \$500 and you might be in a smaller space or in a shared room.

Rental agreements usually specify that the renter ALSO pays for the municipality taxes (arnona), utilities (gas, water, electricity, internet/cable), and building maintenance (va'ad bayit). This will usually come out to 150-200 nis/month (~\$50-\$60.)

Students who wish to live alone and/or rent for a short period of time will likely pay more per month.

Once You Are Here

Topics: Our Location, Banking, Computer and Internet Usage, Cell Phone SIM Cards, Books and Learning Materials, Getting Around, Language and Culture, Security

Our Location

The Conservative Yeshiva is centrally located at Agron 8, off the corner of the intersection of Keren HaYesod/King George.

It is about a ten minute walk to the Center of Town (Zion Square), a 15 minute walk to Jaffa Gate entrance to the Old City or the top of Emek Refaim Street, and a 20 minute walk to the Shuk Mahane Yehuda Market.

Banking

The main banks in Israel are Leumi, HaPoalim, Israel Discount, Mizrahi, and First International. There is an Israel Discount Bank around the corner from the Yeshiva . There is also a Discount subsidiary bank (Mercantile Discount) across the street, which the Yeshiva uses. You should be able to draw any checks that you receive from the Yeshiva at this bank.

You can open a foreigner's account at any of these banks, which would give you the ability to write local checks. You may need to pay rent in shekels and if your landlord expects a bank transfer, then it would be necessary to open such an account. If you do open an account, you may prefer to open parallel dollar and shekel accounts. Ask about the costs involved in transfers and conversions, as well as the time period before funds from foreign checks deposited are made available. Do note that international wire transfers and cashing checks that need to be converted can be quite costly. Many students have recommended TransferWise or other 3rd parties for wiring money.

If you choose not to open a local account, the most common way of getting Israeli currency is via an ATM (caspomat). Most of the major ATM systems allow withdrawals in shekels against accounts/credit cards in the United States. Be sure to check your fees for international credit card usage. You can also change dollar cash or some checks at the various "Change" shops around town. It's always advisable to check rates and fees.

Computer and Internet Usage

The Yeshiva has three computers designated for limited student use and free campus wifi. Many students bring computers or tablets from home and use the campus wifi.

If you bring a computer from home, check whether it has an "international power supply" and can accept 220 volt current. Almost all laptops have this feature built-in. If your computer has an international power supply, you just need a simple adapter to change the shape of your plug. These are available in any hardware or electrical store for a few shekel.

Cell Phone SIM Cards

Semester/Year Students will want to get a local Israeli SIM card to use during their time here. **You must have an unlocked phone in order to use an international SIM.** Please be in touch with your cell provider for more details.

Most cell service providers require an Israeli credit card in order to register for a cell phone plan, however many companies offer "refillable" prepaid SIM cards for 1-3 months at a time. GolanTalk is a popular plan due to its pricing and services. Other options include HotTalk, 012Talk. These will cost 40-60 shekels/month (\$11-15) depending on the plan you choose.

There is WiFi at the Ben Gurion Airport, on the train, and on many buses so you can use your smartphone after you arrive, even without a SIM.

We recommend everyone install Whatsapp on their smartphone while you are still at home so that it will be registered to your home phone number.

Books and Learning Materials

All of the material for your studies is available in Jerusalem. We have a relationship with a bookseller who comes to the Yeshiva within the first few weeks of the program (and returns if requested). For students who wish to purchase books on their own instead, we will direct you to area bookstores. You can buy the books you need here in Jerusalem, usually for less than the cost abroad.

Additionally, the Yeshiva's beit midrash is well-stocked, and therefore some students purchase a minimum amount of books while relying on the library for the rest. **Note**, the Yeshiva library is NOT a lending library; all books must be kept in the beit midrash.

If you already own any of the following, it is recommended that you bring them with you:

English/Hebrew Tanach (JPS version preferable)

- A Weekday and Shabbat Prayerbook
- High Holiday Prayerbooks (most synagogues in Israel do not provide them)
- Hebrew/English dictionary
- Jastrow Dictionary
- Frank Talmud Dictionary

Many students develop note-taking systems to help them process texts that can include colored pens, highlighters, etc. All school supplies can be purchased in local stores, however if you are inclined to specific learning styles, it is recommended that you bring a *small* supply with you.

Getting Around

Most students get to where they want to go by walking, taking public buses or the light rail, or taking the occasional taxicab. Jerusalem is a very walkable city for those who enjoy exploring and an extensive and well-subsidized public bus and train system makes for easy inter-city and intra-city travel. (Intercity bus fares are 5.90NIS and intracity bus fares range according to location. Ex: 15 NIS to TLV, 36NIS to Haifa)

To use public transportation, students will need a refillable pass called a "Rav-Kav" that can be purchased for 5 NIS on a bus. Recent changes also allow riders to scan a QR code through any of the apps: Moovit, HopOn, and ANYWAY and then pay their total rides at the end of each month.

While the hills and traffic can make it challenging, many students find that a bicycle, either conventional or electric, can greatly improve their mobility and save them precious time. There are many shops throughout the city selling and servicing new and used bicycles, as well as an active person-2-person market.

Language and Culture

While it's great to know Hebrew, one can manage perfectly well navigating Jerusalem in English. Almost everyone in Jerusalem speaks enough English, most signs are in English,

and many products found in stores are labeled in English as well as Hebrew (and often in Russian and Arabic, too). There are modern supermarkets (albeit smaller) as well as tiny neighborhood corner-stores. There is the colorful Machane Yehuda shuk - a very Middle Eastern attraction, and the Malcha Mall- which could be suburbia. Furthermore, there is a remarkable variety of cultural activities of all types, not to mention the level of Jewish activity, in both Hebrew and English. Movies, plays, lectures, classes, and events are always happening for those interested in finding them.

For many students, Jerusalem is a new experience - whether it is your first time living abroad or your first time being immersed in another language, or even your first time in Jerusalem on your own and for an extended period. We are aware of this and will do our best to help you bridge the “culture gap” as quickly as possible. Meeting Israelis is one of the best ways to do this, and if you don’t have Israeli friends or relatives, we’ll help you. The Conservative Yeshiva has a gemilut chesed program (helping people in need) and this is often a meaningful way to make contact with the local population.

Security

We know that you, and very likely even more so, your family/friends are concerned for your security while you are in Israel. Please be assured that the security of our students is the highest priority of the Conservative Yeshiva .

The Yeshiva is located on a closed campus, with its one entrance being through a locked gate controlled by an armed guard. In addition, we work closely with the Security Department of the Jewish Agency, which provides regular security updates that are communicated to students when they are received. All trips are conducted according to the security guidelines of the Jewish Agency and the Israel Nature Society.

Students will get a full security briefing upon their orientation at the Conservative Yeshiva. Feel free to be in touch with any further questions.

Yeshiva Life

Tab: Our Vibrant, Diverse & Supportive Community, The Beit Midrash (House of Study), Tefillah (Prayer), Food, Night Seder (Late-Night Learning), Gemilut Chesed (Community Service)

Our Vibrant, Diverse & Supportive Community

The Conservative Yeshiva prides itself on its vibrant communal atmosphere. Through both formal and informal events, the Yeshiva community stretches far beyond the daily schedule and the building itself.

Students share Shabbat meals together; faculty invite students to their homes for holiday meals; and shabbatonim give the Yeshiva community the opportunity to learn from each other and grow together outside the Beit Midrash. For many, the Conservative Yeshiva becomes “home” and “family” - a source of support and a catalyst for life-long friendships.

What is the age and general background of most students?

Our students hail from all over the world, including the United States, England, Canada, Australia, South Africa, France, Germany, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. They come from a variety of Jewish backgrounds – Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Reform,

and unaffiliated. Most of our students have recently finished college and are either on their way to or in the middle of advanced degree study or careers. There are also older students who are taking a sabbatical or a mid-career break for a year of learning, some of whom come to Israel with their spouses or families.

Pre-college age students who would like to attend the Yeshiva can take part in the Yeshiva track of the Nativ Program of United Synagogue. The Nativ program includes one semester at the Conservative Yeshiva and one semester at a youth village boarding school or in community work.

Students, doctors, business people, teachers and more learn at the Conservative Yeshiva, sharing a common desire to study Torah in Israel.

Do the students tend to socialize outside of classes?

There is a strong, supportive community atmosphere at the Conservative Yeshiva. Many students celebrate Shabbat and holidays together and spend time together socially in other ways. Students often leave the Beit Midrash together at the end of the day to go to other events around the city or to grab dinner. A greater network of students studying at institutions around Jerusalem tends to form over the course of each semester as circles intermingle through Shabbat meals and informal social events.

Additionally, we host Yeshiva social events over the course of the year, many of which are initiated and organized by students.

The Beit Midrash (House of Study)

The Beit Midrash is the beating heart of the Yeshiva. As the central space of the Yeshiva, students daven (pray) there, eat there, and learn there every day. The Conservative Yeshiva's Beit Midrash is a beautiful and intimate space brimming with traditional texts and lively discussions.

Over time, many students establish a particular spot at a particular table as their makom kavua (designated place) and there they can be found day in and day out learning. The first week or so of classes, students find themselves a chevruta (learning partner) for each of their classes. Throughout the day, pairs of chevrotot sit opposite one another preparing for that day's shiur (lesson), engaging in intense debate, or reviewing material together.

Teachers are an important presence in the Beit Midrash. They alternated between sitting in their makom kavua (designated place) engaging in their own learning and moving around the beit midrash to check on their students' progress during chevruta study. Teachers are always available to students for answering questions.

The Yeshiva encourages students to both feel completely at home in the beit midrash and to honor its fundamental purpose - study. Students and faculty alike are expected to refrain from phone use, and to take more social or personal conversations and activities outside.

Students are able to keep books and other personal learning materials in a storage cubby just outside the beit midrash.

Tefillah (Prayer)

Tefillah is an integral part of life at the Conservative Yeshiva, supplementing learning with religious practice and expression. The community davens together three times each day – Shacharit, Mincha, and Ma'ariv. **Services are fully egalitarian and participatory**, led by students, faculty and visitors.

Students enter into the Yeshiva with varying backgrounds and experiences with Tefillah, including levels of Tefillah skills. Those who are unfamiliar with regular davening and the siddur are given the support they need and all students have the opportunity to expand their tefillah skillset. Throughout the semester and year, all students who desire are given the chance to lead knowing that they have the unconditional support of their community.

Do students daven together on Shabbat and holidays?

There are endless options for services in Jerusalem, however only a handful are within the spectrum of egalitarian services.

Most students end up davening together at the various egalitarian options around the city or deciding in small groups to explore other options. Many students also take advantage of shabbats to explore other cities and spend Shabbat with friends or relatives located around the country.

About once a month Conservative Yeshiva students organize and lead Friday night services at Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center Community Synagogue located next to the Conservative Yeshiva.

Food

The Yeshiva only provides students with meals once a week during communal lunch, called "Kehillah Medaberet". On special occasions, other meals might be provided for guest speakers, celebrations, or events.

Students are required to supply their own food- either in the form of a packed lunch from home, something from the supermarket across the street, or a meal from any of the many restaurants nearby.

The Yeshiva has a **dairy** kitchenette with some cabinet and drawer space, a sink, refrigerator, and microwave. These are adequate for putting together a sandwich or salad, or reheating food brought from home. Students are able to store a *small* amount of food in the cabinets and refrigerator, but these spaces get cleared out regularly to avoid overcrowding.

You can see the daily schedule, and the breaks for meals, by clicking [here](#).

Night Seder

Students are encouraged to stay late in the beit midrash to review material from the day or pursue individual learning goals. Often, student-organized initiatives lead to after-hours shiurim taught by guests or students themselves.

Gemilut Chesed

The Jewish tradition teaches that one should not only worship God and study Torah, but also help those in need. To achieve this balance, every student chooses a volunteer project to benefit the surrounding community. Students can find their own projects or select from a variety of projects with which the Yeshiva has connections. For example, students have volunteered to assist the elderly, tutor children, work for the environment, and lead Shabbat singing and visit at a nursing home. In addition the Yeshiva community contributes to selected worthy causes through our student-run Tzedakah fund.

Vacation Break Intensives

Before You Arrive

Visa

The tourist visa you receive upon landing at Ben Gurion airport is valid for 30-90 days, therefore you do not need to obtain a visa prior to coming on a vacation break intensive. Should you plan on extending your stay in Israel beyond the Conservative Yeshiva's program, please review the [visa requirements](#) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Cost of Living

Summer Students are expected to find their own housing - most of whom decide upon fully furnished short-term rentals via AirBNB. Others find sublets for a few weeks in an established apartment with locals. The going rate for a month of rent in Jerusalem is about \$600-\$750 per month, however short-term sublets and AirBNB rentals will probably be slightly higher.

Students attending our alternative college break intensives do not need to pay for housing. Food, events, transportation, and other personal expenditures are the main expense during their time at the Yeshiva.

Food: A "cheaper" meal out can cost 15-30 shekels while more "expensive" meals will be around 50+ shekels. If you plan on purchasing food to make yourself meals, expect to spend an average of 100-200 shekels per week depending on personal preferences.

Events: Many events and lectures around the city can be found for free. Others might cost 30-50 shekels, while culture events (plays, movies, concerts, etc.) might cost 50-100 shekels

Transportation: Intercity bus fares are 5.90NIS per ride and intracity bus fares range according to location. Ex: 15 NIS to TLV, 36NIS to Haifa

Cell Phone Plan

Students coming for the Summer Program or Winter Break Program can get a local, prepaid Israeli SIM card, however you should consider getting either a special global data plan from your cell phone company depending on the price. In order to use an international SIM, your phone must be unlocked for global use. Please check with your cell service provider before making your decision.

If you do choose to purchase a prepaid SIM card, you can pick one up at the airport or go to any cell phone store in Jerusalem to get one. Students often choose GolanTalk due to its pricing and services but other options include HotTalk and 012Talk. These will cost 40-60 shekels/month (\$11-15) depending on the plan you choose.

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If you expect to be covered by your policy from home: Ask your insurer for confirmation of your coverage for medical care and hospitalization here in Israel (in hard copy or by e-mail). Check on the payment mechanism (and deductibles). It is likely that you will have to pay for any medical charges yourself and then seek reimbursement from your insurer (unless the

insurer tells you otherwise). Even if covered from home, you may want to consider a local policy as a supplement. This is your decision.

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Fax: +972-2-625-4655
Website: <https://www.egertcohen.co.il/health/signup.asp>

Shiloach/Harel through Sasson Chacoty Insurance Agency

Tel: +972-2-625-4488
Fax: +972-2-625-1276
Email: info@chacoty.co.il
Website: <http://www.chacoty.co.il/Default.aspx?tabid=149>

American Israel Medi-Plan, Inc. (AIM)

Tel: +972-2-653-7111 / U.S. Phone: 1-800-424-6752
U.S. Fax: 305-792-5472
Email: info@aim.co.il
Website: www.aim.co.il – Provides coverage for pre-existing conditions. Best coverage for people who are trying to get pregnant.

Clal through Howden Insurance Brokers

Contact Shai at Tel: +972-3-568-8825
Fax: +972-3-760-2202
Email: shair@howden.co.il

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View a suggested packing list, created by a former student, [here](#). The list assumes weekly laundry cycles; please adjust the packing list according to your needs.

Some things to remember:

- Jerusalem gets very cold and wet in the winter. The inside of buildings (your apartment and the yeshiva included) will likewise be cold - bring clothes accordingly.
- Jerusalem is extremely hot and dry in the summer. Please plan accordingly
- If you plan to bring electrical appliances (cell phone chargers, tablet chargers, laptops, etc.), remember that they should be adaptable to Israeli current (220 volts, 50 cycles) or supplied with a transformer.

Finding Housing

Students attending our alternative college break program live together either on the on-campus ANA Agron Hostel or at another youth hostel nearby in Jerusalem.

Students attending our Summer Program are required to find their own housing for their time at the Yeshiva. Most prefer living within a 10-30 minute walk from the Yeshiva, which include the neighborhoods of: Old Katamon, Rechavia, Talbieh, the German Colony, Baka, and Nahlaot,

Some useful sites for finding short-term housing include: Jerusalem Bed and Breakfasts (<http://www.bnb.co.il/>), Good Morning Jerusalem (www.accommodation.co.il), and Jerusalem Lodges (www.jerusalemlojdes.com). There are also many hostels throughout Jerusalem that can accommodate you during your stay.

Other students look for a sublet in local apartments. These are most easily found in Facebook pages like "Sublet Jerusalem", "Looking for an apartment in Jerusalem" and "Apartments/Roomates in Jerusalem".

Once You Are Here

Tabs: Our Location, Books and Learning Material, Computer and Internet, Getting Around, Language and Culture, Security

Our Location

The Conservative Yeshiva is centrally located at Agron 8, off the corner of the intersection of Keren HaYesod/King George.

It is about a ten minute walk to the Center of Town (Zion Square), a 15 minute walk to Jaffa Gate entrance to the Old City or the top of Emek Refaim Street, and a 20 minute walk to the Shuk Mahane Yehuda Market.

Books and Learning Materials

All of the material for your studies is available in Jerusalem. The Yeshiva's beit midrash is well-stocked, however if you find yourself desiring the purchase of a specific book, we will direct you to area bookstores.

Note: the Yeshiva library is NOT a lending library; all books must be kept in the beit midrash.

If you already own any of the following, it is recommended that you bring them with you:

- English/Hebrew Tanach (JPS version preferable)

- A Weekday and Shabbat Prayerbook
- Hebrew/English dictionary
- Jastrow Dictionary
- Frank Talmud Dictionary

Many students develop note-taking systems to help them process texts that can include colored pens, highlighters, etc. All school supplies can be purchased in local stores, however if you are inclined to specific learning styles, it is recommended that you bring a *small* supply with you.

Computer and Internet Usage

The Yeshiva has three computers designated for limited student use and free campus wifi. Many students bring computers or tablets from home and use the campus wifi.

If you bring a computer from home, check whether it has an “international power supply” and can accept 220 volt current. Almost all laptops have this feature built-in. If your computer has an international power supply, you just need a simple adapter to change the shape of your plug. These are available in any hardware or electrical store for a few shekel.

Getting Around

Most students get to where they want to go by walking, taking public buses or the light rail, or taking the occasional taxicab. Jerusalem is a very walkable city for those who enjoy exploring and an extensive and well-subsidized public bus and train system makes for easy inter-city and intra-city travel.

To use public transportation, students will need a refillable pass called a “Rav-Kav” that can be purchased for 5 NIS on a bus. Recent changes also allow riders to scan a QR code through any of the apps: Moovit, HopOn, and ANYWAY and then pay their total rides at the end of each month.

Language and Culture

While it’s great to know Hebrew, one can manage perfectly well navigating Jerusalem in English. Almost everyone in Jerusalem speaks enough English, most signs are in English, and many products found in stores are labeled in English as well as Hebrew (and often in Russian and Arabic, too). There are modern supermarkets (albeit smaller) as well as tiny neighborhood corner-stores. There is the colorful Machane Yehuda shuk - a very Middle Eastern attraction, and the Malcha Mall- which could be suburbia. Furthermore, there is a remarkable variety of cultural activities of all types, not to mention the level of Jewish activity, in both Hebrew and English. Movies, plays, lectures, classes, and events are always happening for those interested in finding them.

Security

We know that you, and very likely even more so, your family/friends are concerned for your security while you are in Israel. Please be assured that the security of our students is the highest priority of the Conservative Yeshiva .

The Yeshiva is located on a closed campus, with its one entrance being through a locked gate controlled by an armed guard. In addition, we work closely with the Security Department of the Jewish Agency, which provides regular security updates that are

communicated to students when they are received. All trips are conducted according to the security guidelines of the Jewish Agency and the Israel Nature Society.

Students will get a full security briefing upon their orientation at the Conservative Yeshiva. Feel free to be in touch with any further questions.

Yeshiva Life

Tab: Our Vibrant, Diverse & Supportive Community, The Beit Midrash (House of Study), Tefillah (Prayer), Food, Night Seder (Late-Night Learning)

Our Vibrant, Diverse & Supportive Community

The Conservative Yeshiva prides itself on its vibrant communal atmosphere. Through both formal and informal events, the Yeshiva community stretches far beyond the daily schedule and the building itself.

What is the age and general background of most students?

Our students hail from all over the world, including the United States, England, Canada, Australia, South Africa, France, Germany, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. They come from a variety of Jewish backgrounds – Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Reform, and unaffiliated. Most of our summer students are taking a break from their working lives for a few weeks of learning.

The Beit Midrash (House of Study)

The Beit Midrash is the beating heart of the Yeshiva. As the central space of the Yeshiva, students daven (pray) there, eat there, and learn there every day. The Conservative Yeshiva's Beit Midrash is a beautiful and intimate space brimming with traditional texts and lively discussions.

Over time, many students establish a particular spot at a particular table as their makom kavua (designated place) and there they can be found day in and day out learning. The first week or so of classes, students find themselves a chevruta (learning partner) for each of their classes. Throughout the day, pairs of chevrotot sit opposite one another preparing for that day's shiur (lesson), engaging in intense debate, or reviewing material together.

Teachers are an important presence in the Beit Midrash. They alternated between sitting in their makom kavua (designated place) engaging in their own learning and moving around the beit midrash to check on their students' progress during chevruta study. Teachers are always available to students for answering questions.

The Yeshiva encourages students to both feel completely at home in the beit midrash and to honor its fundamental purpose - study. Students and faculty alike are expected to refrain from phone use, and to take more social or personal conversations and activities outside.

Students are able to keep books and other personal learning materials in a storage cubby just outside the beit midrash.

Tefillah (Prayer)

Tefillah is an integral part of life at the Conservative Yeshiva, supplementing learning with religious practice and expression. The community davens together three times each day – Shacharit, Mincha, and Ma'ariv. **Services are fully egalitarian and participatory**, led by students, faculty and visitors.

Students enter into the Yeshiva with varying backgrounds and experiences with Tefillah, including levels of Tefillah skills. Those who are unfamiliar with regular davening and the siddur are given the support they need and all students have the opportunity to expand their tefillah skillset. Throughout the program, all students who desire are given the chance to lead knowing that they have the unconditional support of their community.

Do students daven together on Shabbat and holidays?

There are endless options for services in Jerusalem, however only a handful are within the spectrum of egalitarian services.

Most students end up davening together at the various egalitarian options around the city or deciding in small groups to explore other options.

Food

The Yeshiva only provides students with meals once a week during communal lunch, called "Kehillah Medaberet". On special occasions, other meals might be provided for guest speakers, celebrations, or events.

Students are required to supply their own food- either in the form of a packed lunch from home, something from the supermarket across the street, or a meal from any of the many restaurants nearby.

The Yeshiva has a **dairy** kitchenette with some cabinet and drawer space, a sink, refrigerator, and microwave. These are adequate for putting together a sandwich or salad, or reheating food brought from home. Students are able to store a *small* amount of food in the cabinets and refrigerator, but these spaces get cleared out regularly to avoid overcrowding.

You can see the daily schedule, and the breaks for meals, by clicking [here](#).

Night Seder

Students are encouraged to stay late in the beit midrash to review material from the day or pursue individual learning goals. Often, student-organized initiatives lead to after-hours shiurim taught by guests or students themselves.