

Guide to Summer Programs in Israel 2008

Below you will find summer opportunities especially appropriate for:

- a. Taglit-Birthright Israel follow-through
- b. Taglit-Birthright Israel students who want to extend their trip this summer
- c. Students looking to get back to Israel this summer in general

The information below was culled from websites, from information submitted from the ICC member organizations and from other sources. If there are programs not listed here, please let me know and I will revise this guide. Please use the program websites for the most accurate information. I did not include Taglit-Birthright Israel programs in this guide- rather see it essentially as a post Taglit resource. As always, I appreciate the feedback and insight as to how best to facilitate Israel engagement, education, recruitment and advocacy on campus.

B'vracha,
Doron Rubin

I. Internships and Fellowships

1. Hasbara Fellowships

- a. Organization: Aish HaTorah
- b. Dates: May 20 - June 5; June 15 - July 1
- d. Description: Hasbara Fellowships, a program spearheaded by Aish International, educates and trains university students to be effective pro-Israel activists on their campuses. Started in 2001 in conjunction with Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hasbara Fellowships brings hundreds of students to Israel every summer and winter. Now within their sixth year, Hasbara Fellowships has trained over 1,000 students on over 220 campuses, providing its participants with the information, tools, resources, and confidence to return to their campuses as leaders in the fight for Israel's image. The most critical aspects of the Fellowships program is the opportunity for Fellows to network with one another, learning from each other and sharing experiences about Israel activism.
- e. Web Site: <http://www.israelactivism.com/index.php?mode=israelprograms>

2. Stagerim: Professional Internship Program

- a. Organization: Israel Program Center, Jewish Agency for Israel
- b. Dates: Rolling basis
- c. Price: \$50 registration + \$30/mo housing + flight, meals and other Israel costs
- d. Description: Interns work in their professions in a wide variety of disciplines, including medicine, tourism, hi-tech, law, education, social service, communications,

government, etc. Each job placement is tailor-made, based on the needs of the employer and the qualifications of the applicant. The program also provides lectures and trips, and information on cultural and social vents. The Jewish Agency, along with other organizations, arranges various activities in order to give interns a chance to slow down, get to know the other interns, and of course to experience Israel. Interns receive a small monthly stipend from the Jewish Agency in the amount of \$75 per month. In addition students may be eligible for university credit.

e. Web Site:

<http://www.jewishagency.org/JewishAgency/English/Aliyah/Israel%2BPrograms/Professional%2BInternships>

II. Touring and Experiential Programs

1. Study Tour

a. Organization: Haifa University

b. Dates: June 15 - July 3

c. Price: \$1800 + flight

d. Description: Back by popular demand, the International School will again be offering the Study Tour in summer of 2008. "The Land of Israel: The Jewish Connection" is an academic course which allows the student to study both through classroom seminars and visits to the most important historical sites in the State of Israel. The course begins in the north of Israel examining the cultural mosaic of the region and the roots of its Jewish settlement, ancient and modern. From ancient times until today, the Jews' existence in Israel has been a constant process of social and cultural interaction with their surroundings. The complex interplay of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the region will therefore be a major focus for study and discussion, particularly at our visit in Jerusalem. We will continue south, visiting Masada in order to learn about one of Modern Israel's founding legends and examining the role of the Negev in the history of the State.

e. Web Site: <http://overseas.haifa.ac.il/page.asp?id=44&a=a3&b=b4>

2. Marva: Israel Outdoor Course

a. Organization: Israel Program Center, Jewish Agency for Israel

b. Dates: January 6 - February 28, March 30 - May 29, June 29 - August 21, Sept. 21 - Nov. 27

c. Price: \$900 + airfare

d. Description: Marva offers young adults a unique opportunity to experience the physical and emotional challenges of Israel, its problems and people. For those who want to strengthen their ties to Israel, and particularly to the land, Marva is an experience like no other. Activities include camp craft, navigation, topography, hikes, seminars, and walking tours. Special emphasis is placed on Israel's security situation and settlement of the land, through lectures on specific social and political problems.

e. Web Site:

<http://www.jewishagency.org/JewishAgency/English/Aliyah/Israel%2BPrograms/Marva/>

III. Volunteer Programs

1. Amirim

a. Organization: Young Judea

b. Dates:

(4 weeks): June 2 - June 26

(6 weeks): June 2 - July 10

(8 weeks): June 2 - July 24

(4 weeks): June 23 - July 17

(5 weeks): June 23 - July 24

c. Price: 4 weeks \$699 + flight; 5 weeks 825 + flight; 6 weeks \$950 + flight; 8 weeks 1200 + flight

d. Description: Amirim is a summer volunteering program for college students and young professionals ages 18-35. It gives participants a structured framework in which they volunteer at a non-profit organization four times a week (they commute with a city bus pass), explore the Israeli landscape through weekly day trips, and discover Israeli culture and society through different educational and cultural events. The program also includes a Three-day tiyul at the beginning of the program in order for participants to “break the ice” and get to know each other while having fun. Participants live in apartments in the Tel Aviv area (either Holon or Bat Yam). Within the format of the program, participants are given plenty of free time for personal growth and exploration and are expected to be independent. Participants enjoy cultural events, weekly group trips, camping, and free time for personal exploration.

e. Web Site: <http://www.yjimpact.org>

2. Yochai Porat Magen David Adom Volunteer Program

a. Organization: Israel Program Center, Jewish Agency for Israel

b. Dates: May 12 - June 23; June 16 - July 20; July 14 - August 18; August 11 - Sept. 21

c. Price: \$500 + flight + meals

d. Description: Spend two incredibly exciting and satisfying months, gaining hands-on first-aid and emergency-care experience in Israel. The Magen David Adom (Israeli Ambulance Corps) provides first-aid services throughout Israel and works with its volunteers to provide effective initial treatment. The MDA Volunteer Program, run in conjunction with the Jewish Agency, allows you to be part of this mission. It gives university students an exciting opportunity to gain valuable experience, giving first aid care, while experiencing "real life" in Israel. No previous medical experience is required.

e. Web Site:

<http://www.jewishagency.org/JewishAgency/English/Aliyah/Israel+Programs/MDA/>

3. Kibbutz Volunteer Program

a. Kibbutz Program Center

b. Dates: Rolling basis

c. Price: \$370 + flight + \$25/mo health insurance

d. Description: The volunteer program is a unique program that offers the opportunity to live and work within the communal Kibbutz environment. The volunteers work 8 hours a

day 6 days a week. In return they are offered free accommodations in the kibbutz, sharing a room with between 2 and 4 people (depending on kibbutz and season), 3 meals a day, free laundry service in the kibbutz's common laundry and pocket money each month. In addition to this, the kibbutz organizes tours for the volunteers.

Generally, the kibbutz offers work in three different categories: agriculture, tourism, the services and other different kinds of work.

e. Web Site: <http://www.kibbutzprogramcenter.org/kibbutzvolunteers.aspx>

4. Livnot Galilee Fellowship

a. Organization: Livnot U'Lehibanot

b. Dates: May 4 - May 17; May 11 - May 24; June 15 - June 29; July 6 - July 19; August 18 - September 1; September 7 - September 20th

c. Price: \$1000

d. Description: An educational and volunteer community service program designed to assist the communities of Tzfat and Kiryat Shmonah after the war of Summer 2006. This is a unique opportunity to travel, learn, help and challenge yourself. Work with Israelis and your peers to rebuild Kiryat Shmonah and Tzfat, two of the communities hardest hit by the war in northern Israel. The 14-day program features hands-on community service, informal classes, hiking, touring and two special Shabbats!

e. Web Site: <http://www.livnot.com/pages/Galilee%5FFellowship/>

5. Volunteers for Israel

a. Organization: Sar-El

b. Dates: June 29 - July 17; July 20 - August 7

c. Price: \$80 registration + flight + spending money and some other expenses

d. Description: This program offers volunteers the opportunity to work on military bases performing non-combat civilian support duties such as packing medical supplies, repairing machinery and equipment, preparing meals, painting and otherwise maintaining the base. Volunteers work side by-side with the young men and women of IDF (Israel Defense Forces) to help Israel shoulder its defense burden. The standard program is a 3-week commitment, beginning on scheduled start dates year-round, with the exception of certain black-out dates noted on the SCHEDULE page. Volunteers are housed in barracks on a base, and receive 3 kosher meals per day. Work uniforms and boots are provided.

e. Web Site: <http://www.vfi-usa.org/>

6. Solidarity Sheli Volunteer Project

a. Jewish Agency for Israel

b. Dates: The dates and duration of the program are open and flexible and depend on the availability of the participant and the needs of a particular volunteer framework.

c. Price: There is no program cost, but there is a minimum work requirement of twenty hours a week. Participants are responsible for their flight, health insurance, housing, transportation, food and incidentals.

d. Description: Create your own volunteer placement in Israel. Can't find a program that fits your needs? Don't want something with too rigid a framework ... Want to experience Israel and have no interest in getting on a tour bus... Sheli, the Volunteer Project that allows you time in Israel in almost any way that works for you. For a period of 2 weeks

to one year we invite you to use your time and skills in a variety of social or educational placements. At Sheli we can create a tailor-made volunteer placement based on your needs, talents and interests. With the aim of providing young Jews from all over the world the opportunity to volunteer in Israel, Sheli offers you the chance to: connect with Israelis, show your solidarity with Israel through volunteer work, and contribute to the country while experiencing it.

e. Web Site:

<http://www.israelprograms.org/JewishAgency/English/Aliyah/Israel+Programs/Sheli>

IV. Hebrew Programs

1. Ben Gurion University Summer Ulpan

a. Organization: Ben Gurion University

b. Dates: July 30 - August 24 (3 weeks- 3 credits); July 30 - Sep. 10 (6 weeks- 6 credits)

c. Price: 3 weeks- \$1180 + flight; 6 weeks \$2010 + flight

d. Description: This intensive, immersive Hebrew language course meets for 4 academic hours, 5 days per week. The course combines writing, reading, and speaking of the language. You will join students from all over the world as you come to learn or improve your Hebrew. Students may opt to study for either the 3-week or full 6-week option of the course. A weekend on a kibbutz, lectures, and field trips throughout the country are all part of this fantastic summer experience of language immersion.

e. Web Site: www.bgu-osp.org

2. Summer Hebrew Ulpan

a. Organization: Haifa University

b. Dates: 7 July - 30 July; 4 August - 28 August

c. Price: Tuition: \$1000

d. Description: The Intensive Hebrew Summer Ulpan brings students from over 30 countries to the University of Haifa to study Hebrew in one of the most effective language learning programs in Israel. The Ulpan is designed for those who want to immerse themselves in an intensive language acquisition experience that is personally enriching as well as academically demanding. Instruction is offered on all levels from beginning to advanced. The Summer Ulpan is divided into two independent four-week sessions, each offering all levels of proficiency. Students may register for either or both sessions.

e. Web Site: <http://overseas.haifa.ac.il/page.asp?id=72&a=a3&b=b4>

3. Jerusalem Ulpan

a. Organization: Hebrew University

b. Dates: June 24 - July 30

c. Price: \$1100 + flight

d. Description: The Jerusalem Ulpan is an intensive Hebrew language course designed for visitors with an academic background who are interested in learning Hebrew through the Jerusalem experience. Field trips in Jerusalem are an integral part of the curriculum.

e. Web site: <http://overseas.huji.ac.il/academics.asp?cat=45&in=24>

4. Summer Ulpan

- a. Organization: Hebrew University
- b. Dates: August 2 - September 25
- c. Price: \$1500 + flight
- d. Description: The Summer Ulpan is an intensive Hebrew language course, consisting of 200 academic hours. It is designed primarily for students enrolled in academic programs at the Hebrew University, but is also open to external students with appropriate academic background.
- e. Web site: <http://overseas.huji.ac.il/academics.asp?cat=45&in=24>

5. Summer Hebrew Ulpan

- a. Organization: Pardes
- b. Dates: June 30 - July 21; July 23 - August 13
- c. Price: \$150 per session + flight, housing and food
- d. Description: Improve your Hebrew this summer at Pardes. Combine the Hebrew Ulpan with a Summer Session, or take it on its own. The Summer Hebrew Ulpan meets four and a half hours per week for intensive Hebrew language study, with an additional optional Judaica class. The course is designed for serious students able to handle a fast-paced class. The teaching will be dynamic, with student participation and discussions. Classes correspond to levels Alef, Bet and Gimel. This means that classes will cater to absolute beginners through to those ready to tackle everyday Hebrew. Students will create and improve reading and speaking skills, including conversation practice. Hebrew Ulpan courses will not conflict with the Pardes Summer Program schedule.
- e. Web Site: <http://www.pardes.org.il/programs/summer/ulpan/>

6. Kibbutz Summer Ulpan

- a. Kibbutz Program Center
- b. Dates: July 8 - August 20 (6 weeks); June 29 - August 24 (8 weeks)
- c. Price: \$2050 + flight; \$2800 + flights
- d. Description: Live on Kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon in central Israel. Ulpan students experience the unique lifestyle of the kibbutz community, living in dorm-style kibbutz rooms of 2-3 students, eating in the kibbutz dining hall, and participating in the social and cultural activities of the kibbutz. Study conversational and practical Hebrew. Three days a week of classes are given which aim to provide students with a working knowledge of conversational Hebrew. Classes consist of 20-25 students, and are taught by experienced instructors of second-language Hebrew. Work in different jobs on the kibbutz. Three days a week of work are assigned in different branches of the kibbutz, such as the fields, orchards, gardens, dairy, kitchen, kindergarten, and laundry. Travel through Israel. The group has seminars dealing with current Israeli and Jewish events, and goes on guided tours and hikes to historic and scenic sites throughout the country.
- e. Web Site: <http://www.kibbutzprogramcenter.org/newprogram.htm>

V. Academic Programs

1. Academic Summer Institutes for Middle Eastern Studies

- a. Organization: Hebrew University
- b. Dates: July 1 - July 30
- c. Price: \$1200 tuition + \$525 housing + \$50 insurance
- d. Description: The Rothberg International School offers several summer institutes in July: the Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Institute for the Bible World and the Summer Institute for Israel Studies. Each institute is run by the Department of Summer Courses and Special Academic Programs and includes symposia, guest lectures and field trips. Academic credits are available.
- e. Web Site: <http://overseas.huji.ac.il/academics.asp?cat=23&in=0>

2. Summer Course 2008

- a. Organization: The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies
- b. Dates: June
- c. Price: \$2600 + flight
- d. Description: The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES) is offering a four credit, interdisciplinary summer course entitled Israel and the Environment: Development Challenges in a Desert Environment. The course takes place at the Arava Institute, which is located on Kibbutz Ketura in the quiet Arava Valley of Israel. The course is designed for English speaking, overseas, college students and graduates, who are interested in sustainable development, natural history and Israel. The course, taught in English, introduces students to the unique aspects of the desert environment and its natural resources, and provides an understanding of the environmental challenges that are connected to human settlement in the Southern Arava, from a cross boundary perspective (Israel, Jordan). The Arava Institute summer course provides an excellent opportunity for college students and graduates to integrate a meaningful visit to Israel with a rewarding and unique academic experience.
- e. Web Site: http://www.arava.org/new/academics/summer_course_2008/how_to_apply

3. The Diplomatic Seminar for Young Jewish Leaders

- a. Organization: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- b. Dates: June 29 - July 10
- c. Cost: Travel
- d. Description: This program is designed for young Jewish men and women of outstanding leadership potential. The Seminar is open to participants aged 26-36 from Jewish communities around the world. The Diplomatic Seminar imparts analytical tools for understanding the political and national security challenges facing Israel, and insight into the society, economy and culture of the Jewish-democratic state. The seminar program will include lectures, workshops, cultural events and study tours in order to explore these topics and to expose participants to the rich fabric of Israeli life. Particular attention will be paid to challenges facing the Jewish people as a whole: demography and Jewish continuity, the combat against anti-Semitism, and the relationship between Israel and the Jewish Diaspora. The Diplomatic Seminar for Young Jewish Leaders is conducted under the auspices of the Department for Jewish Communities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The language of instruction is English.

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs will cover full board and lodging for participants, as well costs of seminar excursions in Israel. Participants are responsible for covering their travel costs to and from Israel. Participation in the Diplomatic Seminar is competitive.

Completed [registration forms](#) should be submitted to the [nearest Israeli Embassy or Consulate](#) not later than April 22, 2008.

e. Website: <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Sherut/IsraeliAbroad/Continents/>

VI. Jewish Studies Programs

1. Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem

a. Organization: The Conservative Yeshiva

b. Dates: June 29 - July 17; July 20 - August 7

c. Price: \$650 for one session, \$975 for both

d. Description:

The Conservative Yeshiva Summer Program features:

The opportunity to study the classic texts of Judaism, including Rabbinic literature, Bible, and Philosophy. Intensive Ulpan to build Hebrew speaking and reading skills, learning appropriate for students of all levels, backgrounds, and interests. Courses built on the traditional model of chevruta, learning one-on-one with a partner, and shiur, a seminar-style class.

e. Web Site: www.ConservativeYeshiva.org

2. Keren Kolot

a. Organization: Kibbutz Ketura

b. Dates: TBA

c. Price: \$500 + flight

d. Description: The Keren Kolot Jewish Studies program is based upon the belief that the classical Jewish sources belong to all of the Jewish people, regardless of an individual's religious affiliation or background. Our approach aims to reacquaint Jews with Jewish sources, in an open, nonexclusive environment. Participants are challenged to come to grips with their Jewish identity, both intellectually and spiritually, within the context of modern culture and society. Furthermore, our program emphasizes outdoor experiences as a means of deepening our connection and commitment as Jews to our natural environment. Israel is the natural setting for the exploration of issues of Jewish identity and heritage. During the course of our program each participant is encouraged to discover his or her own relationship to Judaism, the Jewish People and the Land of Israel.

e. Web Site: <http://www.keren-kolot-israel.co.il/html/jewish.html>

3. Pardes Summer Program

a. Organization: Pardes

b. Dates: June 15 - June 27; June 30 - July 21; July 23 - August 13

c. Price for full day: \$450 June session only; \$650 One session: July or August; \$950 June plus one other session; \$1,100 Both July and August sessions; \$1,300 June, July and August sessions

Price for half day: \$300 June session only; \$450 One session: July or August; \$650 June plus one other session; \$800 Both July and August sessions; \$900 June, July and August sessions

d. Description: Join us for one or more summer sessions which include intensive text study, trips, volunteering, and evening activities. Dynamic classes with top Jewish educators; Intimate Havruta sessions with fellow students; Courses include Torah, Talmud, Jewish Philosophy, Ethics, Jewish Law, Parshat Hashavua, contemporary issues; Special programs including tours of Jerusalem, cultural events, volunteering, Shabbat program. Develop worthwhile text skills, meet a wide range of Jews of all denominations and belief systems and form a community. Enjoy the opportunity to grow as a person and as a Jew through an intense experience where you are constantly challenged by new ideas and opinions.

e. Web site: http://www.pardes.org.il/programs/summer/summer_sessions/