

Israel Study Abroad Trip

HONORS & SCHOLARS International Affairs Scholars

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How I Came to Choose My Project

Israel is a country that has meant a significant amount to me throughout my life. Being Jewish, I have always felt a special connection to the country of my people. My mother's side of the family is from Israel and I still have relatives living there now. When I went to Israel for the first time for my Birthright trip with thousands of other Jewish people from all over the United States I felt at home among so many people, all with different backgrounds, but our Judaism tying us all together. By talking to and interacting with the Israeli people, I felt welcomed and more in-touch with my roots than I had ever been. Ever since I was young, I have kept up-to-date on Israel's national and international relations. For my senior year project in high school, I conducted research into a potential resolution between Israel and Palestine, using a wide array of resources including online, text and personal interview with both Israelis and Palestinians.

The chance to travel to Israel for a second time has been something I have been looking forward to ever since my first trip, and will add a new layer to my education and give me an additional talking point about myself for future jobs. I look forward to involving myself in another culture, especially one that has been so significant to me so far.



Project Description

My project will be an undergraduate study at Tel Aviv University in Israel. I will be taking two three credit courses: The Strategic Revolution in the Middle East: The Roots of the 2011 Arab Uprisings and History and Memory in Tel Aviv-Jaffa. I also will be beginning a research project in the city of Herzliya, where I will be finding a project that the city of Columbus and Herzliya can collaborate on together because they are global partners.



How My Project Has Impacted Me Moving Forward

Going to class in a different culture will expand my capacity to learn and interpret new information. By going abroad, I will be able to complete certain requirements for my major and make progress toward my degree in general. Studying abroad also offers unique classes that may not be offered at my university. To be able to continue to develop my knowledge of both the Hebrew and Arabic language in a country that speaks both is an opportunity I do not want to miss out on. Studying abroad is also an important step for me in working towards one day having a job in the government. This experience will help me stand out from other potential job candidates and add to my international experience that many agencies and departments look at.



How IA Has Affected My Project

The International Affairs scholars program encouraged me to consider how studying abroad provides students with rich opportunities and experiences that cannot be replicated by staying in the United States. Living and learning in another country is the best way to immerse one's self in a new culture. By exposing myself to a diverse array of people and communities, I expand my own knowledge of a culture while still earning college credit. By going out on my own in a foreign country, I increase my confidence and self-esteem by surviving and adapting in a new environment, and still enjoying myself through this process. I will be able to gain a sense of independence that is unlike just going away for college. I will be in a completely different atmosphere with completely new people, and will be able to further prepare myself for life after I graduate. Studying abroad is important because it offers a new perspective on our own home, the United States, and still readies us for the ever-increasingly globalized business world today.



Favorite Part of My Project

My favorite part about travelling to Israel is getting the chance to reconnect with my religious and ancestral roots, including relearning Hebrew. Currently, I can read Hebrew and can write a bit, however, I never learned to speak Hebrew. I enjoy learning new languages and am looking forward to developing my knowledge of both Hebrew and Arabic. Study abroad in Israel provides a unique opportunity for me, as a country that speaks both languages and has many English speakers, as well.