



Welcome to the University of Haifa



Situated at the top of the Carmel Mountain, amidst the Carmel National Forest, with breathtaking views of the Mediterranean Sea and the Galilee, the University of Haifa provides the perfect setting for your international graduate studies.

The University of Haifa is one of Israel's seven research universities, the largest in the north. It is a microcosm of Israeli society dedicated to academic excellence and social responsibility.

The University of Haifa is the perfect place to be exploring the history of the State of Israel, Israeli society and the Jewish Diaspora. An exciting and inspiring cultural mosaic, the university is a microcosm of Israeli society, with a diverse population of 18,000 students made up of secular and religious Jews, Christian and Muslim Arabs, Druze and Bedouin, new immigrants and native Israelis and a growing number of students from around the world.

Students of all ethnic backgrounds encounter and engage with one another, becoming acquainted with each other and, even when disagreeing, learn to understand and respect each other. In this setting, students will experience the relevant issues of a multicultural, multiethnic society. We invite you to become one of them.

Studies at the University of Haifa consist of both challenging academics, as well as social and cultural opportunities. An academic advisor will guide you during your studies and will respond to all academic issues. The experienced and professional staff at the International School will guide you through any bureaucratic challenges as well as provide a range of social and cultural events on campus.

The Program

The International Master's Degree Program in Israel Studies offers students the opportunity for an in-depth study of the State of Israel from the beginning of the Zionist movement until the present. Emphasis will be placed on the complexity of Israeli society, including its multicultural character within the home as well as in relation to the Jewish Diaspora.

Recent years have witnessed an unprecedented growth of scholarly interest in Israeli history, politics, society and culture. Numerous programs, research centers and chair endowments in Israel Studies have been established in North America and Europe, adding a new, fresh and innovative dimension to existing programs in Judaic Studies. The Israel Studies program is designed for students who wish to deepen their understanding of the experiences of the Israeli population from a wide perspective, and see them against the larger backdrop of twentieth-century Jewish history, Middle Eastern politics and society.



The program will examine Israeli society from a variety of perspectives, including Aliyah and migration, economics, politics, culture, religion, and the ties between Israel and Jewish communities abroad.

The field campus is one of the highlights of the program at the University of Haifa. Students, together with academic program staff, will spend three days and two nights in one of the country's historically rich regions. Possible locations include the Lower and Upper Galilee, the Negev, Jordan Valley, Beit She'an Valley, Jerusalem and its surroundings. They will be able to explore the areas' complexities from the past and present. Students will meet public figures and Israeli citizens with the aim to develop dialogue and familiarity with Israeli society. The cost of the field campus is included in the tuition fees.

The one-year program is taught in English over three consecutive semesters from October through August. Students wishing to pursue the thesis track will be required to submit a research thesis within one year of completing their coursework.

Upon completion of the program, students will be awarded an MA in Israel Studies from the Faculty of Humanities and Department of Israel Studies.

Program Objectives

- To provide students with a historical perspective of the establishment of the State of Israel;
- To encourage independent thinking and critical judgment regarding the historical development of Israel and its current status;
- To provide students with the education and skills to succeed in careers in public affairs, diplomacy, the foreign service, education and research.

Program Outline

The program builds on the scholarly excellence, rich curriculum and unique institutional resources the University of Haifa offers in the fields of Jewish and Israeli history, Middle Eastern politics and society, and on the successful experience of international academic collaborations.

Courses will be subdivided into the following three academic categories:

- History of Zionism and the State of Israel, 1881-1967
- Jewish Diasporas in the 20th Century: A Transnational Perspective
- Contemporary Israel: Sociology, Minorities, Law and Culture

The Program



History of Zionism and the State of Israel, 1881-1967

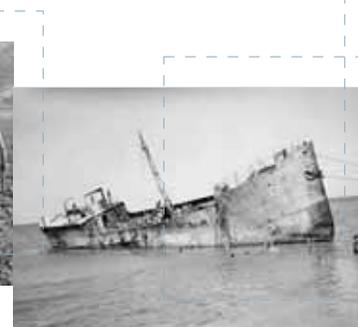
Students will be acquainted with the main trends in Zionist ideology and its key thinkers, the evolution of the Zionist ideas over time and the criticism and internal debates that have accompanied Zionism from its inception. Students will learn the ways in which the Yishuv (the Jewish community in Palestine) and later, Israeli society, has been consolidated through succeeding widespread waves of immigration, starting with the period of the first Aliyah until the first two decades of the State of Israel.

Jewish Diasporas in the 20th Century: A Transnational Perspective

One of the distinctive qualities of the program is that it encourages its students to examine Israeli history within the context of twentieth-century Jewish history and to think more seriously about the mutual – complex and ambivalent – interrelations between the State of Israel and the Jewish Diaspora. Courses included in this category will examine the histories of the major Jewish communities in the English-speaking world, Central and Eastern Europe, North Africa and the Arab world. Students will learn about the far-reaching transformations which shaped the Jewish world during one of its most turbulent centuries, and the dynamic processes which continue shifting old balances and reshaping the landscape of the Jewish world.

Contemporary Israel: Sociology, Minorities, Law and Culture

Students will learn about the social structure and tensions in contemporary Israel, its political system, legal institutions and its multicultural character. In addition, faculty-led field trips and tours will give students the opportunity to become acquainted with Israel's landscape and geography, and meet weekly with representatives from different sectors that make up Israeli society: Palestinian-Israelis, Druze, the national-religious, ultra-Orthodox, Russian immigrants, Ethiopians, residents of development towns, kibbutz residents and the veteran population.



Program Structure and Scope

Study Tracks

Track A* involves preparation of a research thesis and consists of 32 credits, including four core courses, four elective courses and three seminar papers.

A thesis is required for those students planning to continue on to doctoral studies in Israel, which is normally completed in the year following the completion of the MA coursework. A thesis is an independent research project and the pace of progress depends largely on the student's efforts. Students who complete their thesis later than one semester after the completion of their coursework, may be expected to pay an additional fee as detailed by the Graduate Studies Authority.

Track B consists of 40 credits (without a thesis), including four core courses, six elective courses, three seminar papers and a final exam.

Exceptional students may want to take advantage of the Hebrew and/or Arabic courses available, although they are not required and are not covered by tuition. Please see the International School website for more details (www.uhaifa.org).

*The ability to pursue the thesis track is dependent upon the student's ability to find an appropriate advisor.

Curriculum*

Track A and B Core Courses	Credits
Israel: Society and Culture	4
Jewish Immigration from Eastern Europe to Palestine and the United States, 1881-1939: A Comparative Look	4
Religion and Politics in the Cartography of Israel from the Middle Ages to Our Time	4
Field Campus	4

Elective Courses	Credits
Judaism as a Question	4
The American Jewish Leadership: Between the Holocaust and the Establishment of Israel	4
Gentleman and Jews: History of Anglo-Jewry and Britain in the Middle East	4
Israel and Zionism in the Face of the Islamic Movement and the Muslim Brotherhood	4
Israeli Documentary Film from the 1960s to the New Millennium	4
The Israeli Settlement Project: In Between the Occupied Territories and Judea and Samaria	4



*The curriculum is subject to change without notice. Please see program website for the most up-to-date curriculum.

Course Descriptions

Israel: Society and Culture

A guided tour through some major junctures in Israeli social and cultural history from the 1950s to 2000. Course materials include literary, cinematic and journalistic sources alongside recent studies and debates. We will discuss central themes, evaluate long-term changes, get a grasp of conflicts and controversies, and seek out the underlying longitudes and cohesions of Israeli society and culture during the country's first half-century.

Jewish Immigration from Eastern Europe to Palestine and the United States, 1881-1939: A Comparative Look

The era of mass migration from Eastern Europe (1881–1914) has long been the topic of extensive, in-depth historiographical discussion. Two parallel, but completely different, historiographical approaches have emerged over time. The first deals with general Jewish migration to destination countries, especially the United States. The second deals with immigration to Palestine as a unique, exceptional case unlike other Jewish migrations at the time. The main goal of this course is to emphasize the common denominator between those who came to Palestine in the early 20th century to those who went to the Americas during the same time period.



Religion and Politics in the Cartography of Israel from the Middle Ages to Our Time

Today we appreciate historic maps of the Holy Land mainly for their decorative and sentimental value. It is hard to imagine what an incredible amount of intellectual effort and creativity went into the production of these images, and even harder to reconstruct the precise cultural, political and religious contexts into which they were born. Profiting from new methodological approaches to cartography and visual culture, and closely studying particular objects, students will be able to better interpret maps as historical documents. On this basis, students will also look at more recent mapping projects in the region and attempt to evaluate their contemporary aims and meanings.

Course Descriptions



Field Campus

Students, together with academic staff, will spend three days and two nights in one of the country's historically rich regions. Students will explore the areas' complexity from the past and present. Students will meet public figures and Israeli citizens with the aim to develop dialogue and familiarity with Israeli society. The field trip location will be determined at the beginning of the academic year. Possible sites

include the Lower and Upper Galilee, the Negev, Jordan Valley, Beit She'an Valley, Jerusalem and its surroundings. Each student will be given a research subject related to the trip site and will prepare a research project during the course of the semester. Each student will present his/her findings to fellow students and to academic staff during the field campus. The tour will be held in an informal, relaxed atmosphere and accommodations will be in hostels or hotels. The cost of the field campus is included in the tuition fees.

Judaism as a Question

In the seminar students will read literature written by German Jews in the second half of the 19th century and in the first decades of the 20th century. Discussions will center around the direct and indirect ways in which the authors negotiated their Jewish backgrounds and experiences within the wider German perimeters, culture and society through their literature.

The American Jewish Leadership: Between the Holocaust and the Establishment of Israel

In the course we will see that the great waves of Jewish migration to the United States, in particular from Eastern Europe, had a tremendous influence on the Jewish people, creating a new reality in spheres ranging from politics and economics to spiritual thought and culture. During our learning we will see that the vital role of American Jewry over the past two hundred years of Jewish history is all the more consequential from the Israeli perspective. Documents from American and Israeli archives reveal the crucial role which American Jewry played in the formation of the State and its first decades of existence.

Gentleman and Jews: History of Anglo-Jewry and Britain in the Middle East

The seminar has two linked aims: First, to offer a broad-canvas survey of the history of Jews in Britain, between roughly 1650 and 1948, with emphasis on their cultural, religious and intellectual life. The second and more ambitious aim is to explore the possibility of using Anglo-Jewish history as a platform or prism for reading British history "from the margins." In other words, we will not only focus on "key chapters" in the encounter between Jews and non-Jews in Britain, but also examine advantages, as well as possible difficulties, that emerge when connecting Anglo-Jewish history to the 'mainstream' history of Britain and its empire.

Israel and Zionism in the Face of the Islamic Movement and the Muslim Brotherhood

Is there a real chance for mutual understandings between Israel and the political Islamic circles? The course will focus on this question. Even before the establishment of the State of Israel, political Islamic forces in Palestine and the Arab region attempted to prevent the Zionist movement from fulfilling its nationalist objectives and goals. Since Israel was founded, these forces, which are currently led by the Muslim Brotherhood (including Hamas), add a religious dimension to the Israeli-Arab conflict. The course will expose the different dimensions of the Israeli-Arab conflict, putting a special emphasis on the religious one.



Course Descriptions

Israeli Documentary Film from the 1960s to the New Millennium

When Israeli television was first introduced in the mid-1960s, filmmaking in Israel became the dominant producer and broadcaster of most of the documentaries made in Israel. When film schools were first established in Israel in the 1970s, documentary filmmaking became a personal tool of expression for directors who graduated from those schools and began to produce their films independently with the assistance of public foundations. The tendency towards the personal and subjective on one hand, and to the sociopolitical on the other hand, became much sharper. The course engages in political, social, national and personal issues appearing in Israeli documentary cinema from the 1960s to the present, with emphasis on the impact of modern world documentary cinema on Israeli filmmakers. The course will examine the dialogue and feedback between feature films and documentaries in Israel, based on an attempt to examine where the documentary filmmaker stands in Israeli culture and the filmmaker's stance towards the major issues engaging Israel.



The Israeli Settlement Project: In Between the Occupied Territories and Judea and Samaria

One of the most eminent questions concerning Israeli identity relates to the history Zionism shares with the Palestinians. Sometimes it seems that the Zionist project and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are two very different themes. Examining the settlement project creates the impression they are the exact two opposites of one historic process. From an analytical perspective, this peculiar history provokes stimulating questions relating to the connections between ideological discourse in practice and daily life. The course will provide a short historical and geopolitical background for the settlement project. It will then critically explore the discourse of the settlers as an anthropological abyss into personal perspectives of settlers as elicited in their life stories.

Admission Requirements & Prerequisites

General Admission Requirements

- An undergraduate degree in the humanities or social sciences from an accredited university in Israel or abroad, diploma and transcript
- A minimum of 3.0 GPA, 80% or equivalent
- TOEFL scores (if native language is not English or candidates have not previously studied at an institution of higher education where the language of instruction is English). A minimum of 570 (paper-based test); 230 (computer-based test) or 89 (internet-based test)
- Two recommendations from relevant academic faculty members
- Curriculum Vitae/Résumé
- Copy of valid passport & six passport-sized photos
- Statement of Intent/Personal Essay (500-750 words)
- Medical forms

Academic Prerequisites

Students who have not completed the required credits in history during their undergraduate studies, will be requested to take relevant courses. Each case will be considered on its own merit.

Under certain exceptional circumstances, the committee may be willing to consider applicants who do not meet the minimal admissions requirements. See program website for more details (<http://israel-studies.haifa.ac.il>).

General Information

Tuition and Financial Aid

Please see program website for current tuition and fees. There are numerous sources of financial aid available to students who choose to study at the University of Haifa. For a list of scholarship options please see the International School website.

Application Procedure

Application forms can be found on the International School website or by contacting the International School directly. Applications are processed on a rolling admissions basis; we review and accept applications as the complete application file is received.



Housing

All international students who are enrolled in a full-time program of study are eligible to live in the campus dormitories alongside other international and Israeli students. The University of Haifa offers apartments of three or six single rooms, each with its own bathroom, and a shared kitchen and living space. The dormitories provide many facilities for student's use. Refer to the International School website for more details.

Campus Life

The manageable size of the campus exposes international students to the events and activities taking place throughout the semesters. Students at the International School are strongly encouraged to participate in the variety of activities including concerts, fitness classes, salsa and Israeli folk dancing, lectures and conferences on various topics and sports competitions. In the International School, we promote the diverse religious and ethnic self-expression of all of our students and help them find their own unique connection to Israel. The campus is a mix of secular and religious Jewish native Israelis, new immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, North and South America and Europe, and Israelis whose religious and ethnic backgrounds are Muslim, Christian, Druze and Bedouin.

Social Activities

The University of Haifa International School offers a range of optional co-curricular activities for students participating in the various international programs. An experienced staff of student activity coordinators prepares an extensive itinerary of trips and tours which offers students an enlightening view of Israel, its people, natural beauty and cultural sites. Visiting lecturers come to speak on various aspects of life in Israel, including politics, security, religion, culture and other topics of interest to the students. Some activities may require additional fees.



Cultural Immersion

The International School makes every effort possible for students to become part of Israeli society. Israeli students will be enrolled in the program with international students, and international students will live alongside Israeli students in the campus dormitories. Students can take advantage of the volunteer opportunities both on and off campus. Students may request to join a local family for a festive meal on holidays and the Sabbath, which is rewarding for both the student and the families involved.

Security

The safety and security of all students are a primary concern of the University of Haifa. All campus and dormitory entrances are guarded and all off-campus activities are organized and run in consultation with the relevant security authorities. While enrolled in a program at the International School, all full-time students are required to rent a cell phone through a recognized supplier. It is important that we will be able to reach each and every student both with practical information and in case of emergency. Health insurance for all international students under the age of 65 and with no pre-existing conditions is included in the cost of the program. The University of Haifa has a crisis management and evacuation plan in place.