

YOUR YEAR IN ISRAEL

The following is a practical guide, which has been compiled in consultation with the students of Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. From our past experience, we feel that the information in this guide will assist you in your transition to life in Israel and your studies at HUC-JIR, Jerusalem. This book is organized into sections, with the first section relating to the Academic Year, and the next two sections organized to closely match the process of getting ready to move, leaving, and arriving in Jerusalem. Waiting for you in Jerusalem will be another guide that will provide more details about life in Israel and at HUC-JIR.

Moving to Israel is no small undertaking and we appreciate the excitement, anxiety, and curiosity which you bring to this reading. Please use this book as a source of information and advice. Firstly: do not read this whole book in one sitting. Thumb through it, but please do not try to digest everything at once.

If after your “ump-teenth” reading, you still have questions—and we hope you will—please feel free to contact us. Also take a look at the classified ads and apartment pages at the back of the book and write directly to the student.

Please feel free to contact the following individuals on the Jerusalem campus with questions about any aspect of the Year in Israel program. We encourage you to use email, as the fastest means of communication.

To contact the Jerusalem campus for any reason, feel free to call or write:

Rabbi Naamah Kelman
Director of the YII Program
972-2-620-3365
nkelman@huc.edu

Ms. Nancy Lewitt
Coordinator of Student Services
972-2-6203326
nlewitt@huc.edu

Mrs. Helen Linden
Administrative Assistant
972-2-6203306
hlinden@huc.edu

The Jerusalem campus mailing address is:

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
13 King David Street
94101 Jerusalem ISRAEL

All questions regarding FINANCIAL AID should be directed to:

Ms. Amelia Smith, Administrative Assistant
National Office of Admissions and Recruitment
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
3101 Clifton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220-2488
Phone: (800) 488-8720
Fax: (513) 221-5372
admissions@huc.edu
or
asmith@huc.edu

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An Open Letter to Students from Rabbi Marmur, Dean HUC-Jerusalem

It is an honor and a privilege for me to welcome you to the Year-In-Israel Program of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. You have been accepted to a rigorous and prestigious program of professional education and your journey begins in Jerusalem: “For out of Zion *Torah* will come forth, and the word of God from Jerusalem.”

I want to take this opportunity to discuss **definitions, priorities** and **expectations** which need to be stated explicitly at the outset of your odyssey. As Dean of HUC-Jerusalem, I pledge the utmost efforts of the entire team to ensure that we stay true to the highest standards in all aspects of the program.

Definitions

Whether you are enrolled in the School of Education, in the Rabbinical School, or in the School of Sacred Music, you are embarking on a course of study which is unlike a regular graduate program. Here three separate institutional identities come together: you are attending a *Graduate School*, whilst being part of a *Professional School*, and all the while it is important to remember that you are now studying at a *Seminary*.

As a *Graduate School*, we strive for academic rigor, intellectual honesty, and freedom of inquiry. By definition, you are already graduates of universities, and some of you have already completed courses of advanced academic study. But this is not the whole story.

Firstly, the demands of language learning and the preliminary steps of text study can sometimes make you feel that you are in Elementary School rather than Graduate School! Since you are now enrolled in a *Professional School*, you will find yourself grappling with challenges a regular M.A. program would never contain. We hope to introduce you to skills and ideas which will serve as a foundation for several decades of successful and fulfilling work. And all this is happening in the context of a *Seminary*, where everyone – faculty as much as students – is involved in a search for meaning beyond even the academic and professional spheres. So I invite you to regard yourselves as part of a three-dimensional picture comprising the depth of academic endeavor, the breadth of professional training, and the heights of spiritual search.

Priorities

There is so much to do in this short year! Since we began this program over thirty years ago it has undergone several changes and additions, and this attempt to set priorities is not to be regarded as definitive for all time. Indeed, as I write this letter a committee comprising faculty from all four Learning Centers is completing work on a new curriculum, which will have a major impact on your program in the coming years. But we thought it would be helpful to let you know how we see the Year-In-Israel program as it is today. There are five priorities for the program:

- To equip you with an understanding of the Hebrew language which will enable you to meet the academic and professional challenges which lie ahead, and to increase your fluency in Modern Hebrew as much as possible
- To expose you to the exhilarating and exasperating realities of modern Israel, with a particular emphasis on the many dimensions of Jewish peoplehood
- To furnish you with both affinity for and aptitude with classical Jewish texts, especially Bible (above all), Liturgy and Rabbinic literature
- To help you explore your religious identity in a committed yet non-coercive framework as part of a learning community
- To lay the foundation for your professional identity and collegial relationships as a future rabbi, cantor or educator

As the year proceeds, we will remind you of these goals and encourage you to judge the program by these criteria. After the year has finished, and as you continue along the path to qualifications, we will try to assess if the program did what it set out to do.

Expectations

As you read the following paragraphs, you may find some of the points mentioned obvious, and perhaps even a little offensive. After all, it might seem unnecessary to mention some of these expectations to students at your level. Please don't be offended – that's certainly not my intention. But based on several years' experience, we are setting down some principles which are worth mentioning even before the year gets underway, so that you can hit the ground running.

Time

You will work hard this year, because we don't think there is any way to achieve our goals without making serious demands on your time and efforts. Rabbinical and Education students will typically spend the following number of weekly hours engaged in study:

Core courses	20 hours
Enrichment courses	3 hours
Israel Field Study	7 hours
Professional Forum	2 hours
Reform Liturgy Workshop	2 hours
Community activities	5 hours
Reading course	1 hour
Miscellaneous	2 hours
TOTAL	42 hours

Cantorial students may expect even more work than this, since they also take voice and other special classes, although on the other hand, they are excused from some core courses.

It is a major time commitment, and this list does not even take into account homework and preparation, informal exploration of the city and its many learning and praying opportunities, organized trips to different parts of the country, and more. This year gives you an opportunity to study and experience without the encumbrances of outside employment. What you learn this year will serve as a springboard for the challenges of the coming years.

It is important, however, that you make time for yourselves and your loved ones, time to unwind and enjoy. Shabbat has been described as "a palace in time." We encourage you to organize your time in such a way that Shabbat does not become a day for catching up on homework, but rather a taste of the world to come. As Reform Jews, we do indeed have different ways of marking the Sabbath, and I have no wish to tell you how to mark your day of rest. And yet however pressurized your life becomes, I urge you to resist the temptation to make Saturday into catch-up day for the rest of the week: after all, you may spend your entire career trying to persuade congregants to take Shabbat seriously. Here is a chance to show yourselves how it is done.

Attendance

We assume that you will attend all of the compulsory classes, sessions, tours and seminars in the course of the year. If you need to be away from a particular class or an entire day of studies, we expect you to inform your teachers. If you miss too many classes, you can expect your grade to reflect this fact, and in certain cases failure to attend will result in failing the course.

If you decide to leave Israel for any reasons during the year, you must inform the administration we need to know who is in the country and who is not at any given time during the year. We expect you to make all travel and work plans in accordance with the academic calendar and examination schedule. Examinations cannot be taken earlier than the stated times.

One day a week, Wednesday, is devoted to the study of Israel outside the classroom. It is important for us to emphasize that this study day is as important educationally as every other part of the program and if you are absent, you have to be prepared to deal with the consequences, just like any other program. If you are expected at an activity and fail to attend you may also be held financially liable.

Community

Some of you will be arriving as single people, some are leaving partners and children back home, and some are coming with family members. Each dynamic has its own blessings and its own complications,

and we will try to be sensitive to your needs. For those of you who are coming with family, I want to welcome your partners and children on behalf of the entire HUC-Jerusalem family, as well as my own family: Sarah, Miriam, Nadav and Gaby join me in welcoming you to Jerusalem and wishing you a year of fulfillment and adventure.

Given the broad range of age and family circumstance, it is not surprising that community-building does not just happen by itself: we all need to work at it, and I pledge the best efforts of the team here at the College-Institute to help cement bonds which will stay with you throughout your careers. We expect each of you to give of yourselves in the community-building process.

These are some of the key definitions, priorities and expectations which you might want to think about as you prepare for the year. We know that having been accepted to the program you are a talented individual with leadership potential. We look forward to seeing that potential become real in the coming months and years.

I look forward to seeing you soon,

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Michael Marmor
Dean

STUDENT ORIENTATION SESSION

General Orientation will take place on July 12 – July 14, 2006

The goals of the student orientation are:

- To get to know one another and to discuss expectations
- To become acquainted with the campus, administration and staff
- To receive detailed information concerning the academic program
- To begin a relationship with the city of Jerusalem and Eretz Israel

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2006-2007

Summer Semester

July 11	Summer Semester Begins
July 14	Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Dinner
July 16	Hebrew studies begin
August 24	Summer Semester ends
August 25-Sept. 2	Recess

Fall Semester

September 3	Fall Semester Begins
September 22	Erev Rosh Hashanah (no classes)
September 23-24	Rosh Hashanah (no classes)
October 1	Erev Yom Kippur (no classes)
October 2	Yom Kippur (no classes)
October 6-14	Succot Recess
October 15	Classes resume
December 15-17	Reading Days
December 18-21	Exams
Dec. 22 – Jan. 9	Semester Recess

Spring Semester

January 10	Spring Semester Begins
March 4-5	Purim and Shushan Purim (no classes)
March 29-April 11	Pesach Recess
April 12	Classes resume
April 15	Yom HaShoah
April 22	Yom HaZikaron
April 23	Yom Ha'atzmaut (no classes)
May 4-6	Reading Days
May 7-10	Final Exams
May 13	Evaluations

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Goals of the Year-in-Israel Program

The two major priorities of this year are the acquisition of classical and modern Hebrew language skills and learning in depth about the land and people of Israel

The College-Institute requires its students during their first year to study Hebrew, basic Judaica and the social, political and religious institutions of Israel. The opportunity to live in Israel enables students to understand the unique historical and sociological facets of the country while immersed in Hebrew culture and language. You will find that the extent to which you master the fundamentals of classical and modern Hebrew this year will directly affect your scholastic achievement in your subsequent years of study.

Time Commitment

The first year program requires a very serious time commitment. Classes meet 25 hours a week, 5 days a week, with an occasional Friday program. Most students will need to spend 3-4 hours preparing for each day's classes. In addition, you will be expected to participate in other activities (details below).

Academic Program

I. Summer Program (Intensive Modern Hebrew)

The Hebrew test and questionnaire administered during the admissions process is used to determine the student's Hebrew language level and ensure proper placement in an appropriate Hebrew level class.

Students are encouraged to improve their Hebrew skills as much as possible **before** arriving in Israel. This will serve them well throughout their course of studies at HUC and during their ensuing careers. There are limitations to what can be achieved in a single year in Israel. Therefore, the higher one's Hebrew level upon entry, the more likely his/her attaining fluency by the end of the Year in Israel Program.

A. Ulpan Placement

Placement is based upon the test and questionnaire taken during the admission process in Jerusalem. It must be stressed that Ulpan placement is not a reflection of a student's academic potential. It is merely an indication of student's Hebrew language ability upon entering the program. Moreover, ulpan placement is by no means final. Upon request of the student and recommendation of the faculty, a student may shift up or down during the summer.

B. Ulpan Course

Students will be instructed in Modern Hebrew grammar, Modern Hebrew texts (essays and newspapers), development of conversational and listening skills and vocabulary for daily life in Israel. Study trips and classes on Jewish life are an integral part of the summer program.

****Successful completion of the summer ulpan is a prerequisite for entering the academic year. Students who do not pass the summer ulpan with a grade of 75 or better will not be permitted to continue in the Year-in-Israel Program for the Fall Semester.**

C. Field Study and Introductory Skills workshop

Once a week we will get to know Jerusalem through text and "tiyul" and alternatively, skills workshops.

II. Fall and Spring Semester Class Placement

Hebrew language placement will be based upon student performance in the summer ulpan, and an assessment of potential by summer instructors.

PROGRAM OF STUDIES: RABBINICAL AND MAJE/JM STUDENTS

The **Rabbinical and MAJE/JM Programs** consist of core courses, including a weekly First Year Seminar, and enrichment courses. The **MAJE Program** also has a required Education Seminar. Students are expected to study a minimum of 22 credit hours of classroom study

CORE COURSES

Modern Hebrew
Classical Grammar
Bible I (Introduction)
Liturgy
Introduction to Rabbinic Literature

In addition, a variety of enrichment courses in various fields of study are offered.

PROGRAM OF STUDIES: CANTORIAL STUDENTS

The **Cantorial Program** consists of Core Courses, including a weekly First Year Seminar, and Professional Courses. Students are expected to study a minimum of 26 credit hours of classroom.

CORE COURSES

Modern Hebrew
Classical Grammar
Bible (Introduction)
Liturgy

PROFESSIONAL COURSES

Cantillation of the Bible
Cantorial Workshops
Traditional Chants - Daily Services
History of Jewish Music
Israeli Art Music
Music Theory and Sight-Singing
Coaching *

*Coaching is provided through individual weekly lessons in traditional and modern Hazzanut. Cantorial students are also required to take voice lessons once a week with a private teacher, for which the College will reimburse half of the payment up to the sum of \$600. The average cost of lessons in Israel is between \$50-\$60 per hour (although a teacher who requires an accompanist may cost closer to \$65 inclusive).

ISRAEL SEMINAR (All students)

This day long course, conducted throughout the year, is divided into 5 clusters: -

- 1) Society in Crisis; Leadership and Defense
- 2) Culture and Education in Early and Contemporary Israel
- 3) Personal and Family Concepts in Judaism and Israel
- 4) The Middle East and its Minorities
- 5) Israel and the Diaspora

While on some days students will study at HUC, many days will include visits off campus. Instructors include HUC faculty as well as visiting lecturers. Various learning techniques will be used including text

study sessions, documentaries, independent study and on-site visits. The extended field study trips are part of the wider course.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS (All students)

- Professional weekly forums for Rabbinical, MAJE and Cantorial students respectively.
- Reform Liturgy Workshop
All students are required to attend and lead the weekly student service on Monday mornings in the Murstein Synagogue. There may also be additional services scheduled for selected Friday evenings, Thursday mornings and Mincha services to enable all students to lead services. These services are part of a larger workshop in which students are assisted by College faculty to prepare a portion of the service, and in which they are later evaluated. Rabbinical and MJE students lead services once, read or chant Torah at least once, and write a D'var Torah (sermonette) which will be delivered during services, if there are dates available. Cantorial students chant Torah at least once and serve as cantors several times.
- Community Service project
Community service is an important element of the HUC Year-in-Israel Program. It encourages students to contribute to the country, develop professionally and become familiar with various facets of Israeli society. Participation in a community service project (2-3 hours a week) is a requirement for all rabbinical, cantorial and education students. Ongoing supervision will be provided by the organization for which the student will be working as well as by the HUC Director of Student Services.
- Shabbat Morning Services at the Murstein Synagogue
- Field Study Tours
There will be three major (3-5 day) *tiyulim* during the year:
 - A Reform Judaism Weekend and Seminar in Haifa, including visits to the Leo Baeck High School, the Or Hadash Congregation and the progressive settlement of Har Halutz.
 - A trip to the Negev, which will include visits to the kibbutzim Yahel and Lotan.
 - A trip to the Golan and Eastern Galilee.The cost of these *tiyulim* for students is covered by tuition. For the policy concerning spouses/partners, please see the section "Spouses and Children - Student Activities," p. 35
- Educational Seminar (MAJE students)
- Student Public Concerts (cantorial only)
- Voice Lessons (cantorial only)

OPTIONAL (All students)

Students are **encouraged** to participate in a range of additional activities and learning opportunities including:

- Weekly Torah Portion study sessions
- Daily Mincha prayer services
- Thursday Morning Minyan
- Visits to Progressive congregations throughout the country
- Cantillation Classes

EXEMPTION

Advanced students with high proficiency in Modern and Classical (Biblical and Rabbinic) Hebrew, who have also had an intensive Israel experience are offered the opportunity to exempt from the Year-in-Israel Program by passing a comprehensive examination that is administered by the National Office of Admissions.

Cantorial students, who have had an intensive Israel experience, and wish to exempt from the Year-in-Israel Program must pass a similar comprehensive examination in Modern and Biblical Hebrew as well as in Cantillation, Basic Modes of Hazzanut, History of Jewish Music, and also demonstrate an advanced level in Music Theory.

PREPARING FOR YOUR JOURNEY

This section has tips for getting a plane ticket, your visa, and passport. We've also listed books and websites that we think will help you prepare and get excited about your year in Israel.

Getting a plane ticket

When booking your flight, you most likely will not be able to schedule your return trip home the following June. Some travel agents will offer either an open-ended ticket or no fee to change a reservation. You can then change the flight returning home once in Israel. There is a consensus among students that you can get a good deal from a student travel agent. In the USA try Council Travel (www.ciee.com) or STA (www.sta-travel.com), and one Canadian student recommends Travel Cuts for his countrymen. Even if you are over 25 you may still be eligible for student rates (even with a travel agent), so ask. (To be eligible you may need to purchase an ISIC (www.istc.org) or ISSTA card.)

Before you purchase plane tickets through a student travel office, you may be asked to purchase an International Student Card, for which you will need a passport photo, your acceptance letter to HUC, and approximately \$10. Please note that the International Student Card and flight tickets purchased through CIEE may entitle you to certain types of insurance. Ask when you make your reservations.

Your rabbi may have an agent that s/he works with on trips and missions to Israel. If you call the agent and mention the rabbi's name, you may get a better deal. If you enjoy teenagers, and noise is not a problem, you might want to chaperone a NFTY flight. Call the national NFTY office for more information. Just be sure to check the time limitations on the return segment.

Students also advise that you try to fly direct (if the cost is not prohibitive) to minimize the chance of loss of luggage and changed flight schedules. If you know that you will be flying back to North America during the year, you may save money by not buying a year long ticket. Check with your travel agent.

In past years, students organized themselves through the list serve and booked a group fare for all students arriving on the same day. The cost was about \$1200 for an open ended round trip ticket from New York City.

While any travel agent can book a flight to Israel, current students found the following travel agents helpful (but remember, HUC is not advocating any of these agents):

Airbrokers International, Inc.
(ask for Sharon Leipzig)
150 Post Street, Ste. 1620
San Francisco, CA 94108
(800) 883-3273 ext. 230
fax (415) 397-4767
www.airbrokers.com (atten: Sharon)

Main Street Travel
22 Main Street
Monsey, NY 10952
(800) 675-2123
(914) 675-2123
fax (914) 425-2151

Do-All Travel
New York, NY
(718) 972-6000

Midwest Flights
(Gayle Morrison)
(517) 339-3432

My Travel Agent (Chicago)
(847) 677-7550
fax (847) 677-7097
ask for Chaim

Five Star Travel
Brooklyn, NY
(212) 650-4110

Elite Tours (Ohio & Florida)
Israel Flight Wholesaler
800-354-8320

Whatever you do, make sure you trust your travel agent. And even after you have made arrangements, confirm your flights with the airline well in advance. If you want to try booking a flight yourself, a highly recommended website for plane tickets is www.sidestep.com, which searches all the major ticket-sellers, including all airline websites.

Try not to arrive late Friday or on Saturday – since it will be Shabbat, it may be more difficult to get from the airport to your apartment. Additionally, banks, most stores, and HUC-JIR will be closed. Try to come at least 2-3 weeks before the start of classes. After all, you don't want to be getting over jetlag during the first day of ulpan! If you do not have an apartment, make sure to leave adequate time to hit the pavement.

Passports

Don't have one? DO IT NOW!

(For US citizens, useful web site: <http://www.travel.state.gov>)

You can get a passport application online, or at your post office. Even though you may hate getting those passport pictures, **don't delay!** It can take up to six weeks to process a US passport, and you will need it to get your plane tickets and your visa.

(While you're at it, get at least five extra photos, size 3 1/2 cm x 4 1/2 cm. This is the standard Israeli size. You will need them for visas, for HUC-JIR records, for your Cinemateque card, etc. You can also get extra passport size pictures at vending machines in Israel.)

Visas

(Useful site: Israel Embassy web page <http://www.israelemb.org>)

The Ministry of Interior requires all registered overseas students to possess A2 student visas. If you do not obtain an A2 visa while still abroad, you must go to the Ministry of Interior offices in Jerusalem within 3 months of arriving in Israel to get your new visa. Be prepared, this is an extremely time consuming process and it may help to bring a letter from your rabbi, on congregational letterhead, stating that you are Jewish and a member of the congregation. Spouses and family members should bring the same type of letter. It is suggested that Jews by choice bring their conversion certificates as well. Make sure your name matches your passport on all documents requested (maiden names can cause issues).

To get the A-2 student visa in North America, before you leave for Israel, you will need to contact your nearest consulate (check the embassy web page for listings). The websites will often tell you which forms you will need to bring with you (If you are coming with family, check if you will need copies for each person). Unfortunately no two consulates seem to work the same, but in general, you will need to bring your valid passport, a letter of acceptance from HUC-JIR, a copy of your medical exam and some passport-size photographs. Some consulates levy a fee (up to \$50), and some require that you show proof that you can support yourself. The consulate may require a letter of acceptance from the Jerusalem campus. If so, write to the Jerusalem office at hlinden@huc.edu and you will be faxed an acceptance letter. **IMPORTANT: Make sure that the visa is valid from the expected date of entry to Israel and not from date of issue.**

If you live close enough, we recommend that you visit the consulate in person. If not, many consulates will allow you to get a visa by mail. It is especially helpful to go right when they open in the morning to avoid waiting in line. Plan to spend anywhere from 15 minutes to 2 hours at the consulate office. You can also log on to the website (above) and find the Israeli consulate closest to you. You can download the forms you will need and send forms and fee by priority mail. Call before you send in your information. Students report that the process is very easy and takes about two weeks. We strongly recommend that you do everything possible to get your A2 visa while still in the U.S.

If you do not manage to get an A2 visa while still abroad, you will receive a three-month B-2 tourist visa, which you get free when you arrive at Ben Gurion airport, and expires after 3 months or when you leave the country. You will need to renew it for an A2 visa yourself at the offices of the Ministry of the Interior in Jerusalem.

For Students born to Israeli parents, born in Israel, or who were Israeli citizens:

Make sure to check with the nearest Israeli consulate about the status of your citizenship, army service, and travel documents. A student born in Israel, who was an Israeli citizen in the past, or whose parents were/are Israelis should clarify the status of his/her Israeli citizenship. This can be done by contacting the nearest Israeli Consulate. If you are asked to visit their offices, you should bring all documents related to Israeli citizenship as well as your letter of acceptance from HUC. The Israeli consulate will clarify and formalize your present citizenship status, give you official information as to deferment from military service, and issue appropriate travel documents if necessary. Students who have an Israeli passport do not need an A2 visa.

OTHER DOCUMENTS YOU MAY NEED

Health

You don't need any special health certificates to travel to Israel. Consider renewing your tetanus shot. Also, check with the Center for Disease control: <http://www.cdc.gov> (go to the traveler's health section) for advice on staying healthy while traveling and for up-to-date information. (This is also good if you're planning on traveling around the Middle East – the CDC lists regional health recommendations as well as general travel guidelines.)

Taxes

You may need tax information to complete various forms. Bring a copy of your previous year's earnings and tax statements.

Driver's License

Your license is valid for a year while you are here on a student or tourist visa (if you decide to brave the roads).

Advance Letter

You **MUST** write, fax, or email a note to the Office of Student Services in Jerusalem which includes:

- Date of arrival, flight number and time
- Short term or permanent lodging arrangements (name, address, phone number)
- If you will have significant others and/or kids coming with you
- Your passport number

Mailing address: **Office of Student Services**
 HUC-JIR
 13 King David St.
 94101 Jerusalem, Israel
Fax: **001-972-2-625-1478**
e-mail: **nlewitt@huc.edu**

Excited yet? Have you started dreaming about your year in Israel?

BOOKS TO READ BEFORE ARRIVAL

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED READING

The following readings will greatly enrich your experience in Israel and enhance your academic studies at the College. They will provide the necessary background for both your course work and your Israel encounters during the year. It is especially important that students with little formal Jewish study become familiar with all the topics covered in this list. There are also additional books that explore subjects in greater detail for those who have some background in a particular area. **It is not necessary to bring these books with you.**

A. Bible: The New Jewish Publication Society Translation

Entering students are expected to have a basic familiarity with the Bible. Carefully review the following:

Genesis	- All except genealogies
Exodus	- Chapters 1-34
Leviticus	- Chapters 11-12, 18-20, 23
Numbers	- Chapters 5-6, 11-17, 20-25, 27, 35-36
Deuteronomy	- All except Chapters 32-33
Judges	- Chapters 3-8, 13-16, 19-21
First Samuel	- Chapters 1-7, 9-20, 27-31
Second Samuel	- Chapters 1-7, 11-13
First Kings	- Chapters 1-3, 5, 10-12, 16-19, 21
Second Kings	- Chapters 1-2, 4-9, 13, 18-25
Amos	- Chapters 1-9
Jonah	- Chapters 1-4
Micah	- Chapters 1-7
Psalms	- Numbers 19, 23, 24, 92, 121, 126, 133, 137, 150

B. General Jewish History:

A History of the Jewish People, ed. H. H. Ben-Sasson, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1976.

Alternative: *The Course of Modern Jewish History*, Howard Sachar, Vintage Books, N.Y. 1990.

C. Israel:

A History of Israel, Howard Sachar, Alfred A. Knopf, 1976. pp. 1-88; 279-394; 580-614; 714-739.

Alternatives:

The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State, Shlomo Avineri, Basic Books, 1981.

D. Reform Judaism:

Renewing the Covenant, Eugene Borowitz, JTS, Philadelphia, 1991.

(or) *Reform Judaism Today*, Eugene Borowitz, Behrman House, 1978. (Can be purchased from the publisher at a Student Discount.)

(or) *Response to Modernity*, Michael Meyer, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, 1995.

E. History of HUC-JIR:

HUC at One-Hundred Years, Introduction and Part One, ed. Samuel E. Karff, HUC Press, 1976.

F. Texts:

Back to the Sources, ed. Barry W. Holtz, Summit Books, 1984. Introduction, Chapters 1 (Bible), 2 (Mishnah), 3 (Midrash), 4 (Rashi), and 8 (Liturgy).

G. Cantorial Students:

Jewish Music, A. Z. Idelsohn, Dover Books, 1981.

Chosen Voices: The Story of the American Cantorate, Mark Slobin, U. of Illinois Press, 1989. (phone: 1-800-545-4703)

H. Maps of Jerusalem/Israel. – Get oriented before you even arrive.

Students are often anxious to know what books they will be using. Different classes use different texts but, students have found the following books very useful. If you **already own** any of them, it is recommended you bring them. If not, most students recommend that you buy your books in Israel.

- Gates of Shabbat* - not available in Israel
- On the Door Posts of Your House* - not available in Israel
- Back to the Sources*, Barry Holtz
- Siddurim
- Mishkan Teffillah
- Gates of Repentance
- Good Hebrew- English Dictionary
- JPS Hebrew- English Bible
- Entering Jewish Prayer*, Reuven Hammer

Other books that students use primarily for reference are listed below. **These books do not have to be bought.** All can be found in the Abramov Library, in limited quantities. All books are available in Israel and you can purchase many of them through the Abramov Library on the Jerusalem campus. Note that books printed in the States are more expensive while books printed in Israel are much cheaper here. **Many students advise saving shipping space and buying books in Israel.**

- The Metsudah Siddurim or Art Scroll Siddurim* *
- A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice*, Isaac Klein**
- Koren Tanach* *
- Siddur Rinat Yisrael* *
- Judaism A-Z*, Newman and Sivan *
- Alkalay Hebrew/English and English Hebrew Dictionary* *
- Jewish Liturgy*, A. Z. Idelsohn (*especially Cantorial Students*)
- Mikraot Gedolot Bereshit* *
- Pentateuch with Rashi's Commentary*, translated by Silverman
- Sefer HaAgadah*, Bialik & Ravnitsky (*for rabbinical and education students*) *
- Dictionary of Talmud and Midrash*, Marcus Jastrow (*for rab. & ed. students*) *
- A Hebrew & English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, Francis Brown, S.R.Driver, A. Briggs, Oxford University Press - (difficult to find in Israel)
- The Torah: A Modern Commentary*, W. G. Plaut
- To Be a Jew*, Hayim Halevy Donin
- To Pray as a Jew*, Hayim Halevy Donin **
- An English dictionary

* Printed in Israel and cheaper to obtain in Israel.

** Some students recommend bringing this if you already own it.

Consider saving shipping space by opting for reference books on CD Rom for use with your laptop. Keep in mind that English language books for pleasure reading are available at the Abramov Library and at several booksellers in Jerusalem.

Cantorial students should bring:

- Biblical Chant*, A.W. Binder (buy through Sacred Music Press, HUC-JIR, New York.)
- Jewish Music in its Historical Development*, A.Z. Idelsohn
- Gates of Song*, published by the CCAR, ACC, UAHC
- The Complete Weekday Service*, P. Spiro

STUDENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Unless you already own them and choose to bring them, many students advise saving shipping space and buying books in Israel. You can also order from Amazon.com and have books shipped to you after you arrive. Consider saving shipping space by opting for reference books on CD Rom for use with your laptop. Keep in mind that English language books for pleasure reading are available at the Abramov Library and at several booksellers in Jerusalem.

Although different classes use different texts, the following books have been recommended by students as useful to have in Israel. Many of the following books can be found in the Abramov Library on the Jerusalem campus or in Israeli bookstores (unless otherwise noted).

Dictionaries:

- Good Hebrew- English Dictionary
- BDB Lexicon Hebrew-English Dictionary*
- Dictionary of Talmud and Midrash*, Marcus Jastrow (for rab. & ed. Students)*
- A Hebrew & English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, Francis Brown, S.R.Driver, A. Briggs, Oxford University Press - (difficult to find in Israel)
- Rav-Milon Hebrew-English Dictionary *
- 501 Hebrew Verbs*, S. Bolozky

Torah/Tanakh:

- JPS Hebrew- English Bible (The pocket version of this is useful)
- The Jewish Study Bible*, Berlin & Brettler
- Koren Tanach* *
- Pentateuch with Rashi's Commentary*, translated by Silverman

Other Reference Books:

- On the Door Posts of Your House* - not available in Israel
- Back to the Sources*, Barry Holtz
- Entering Jewish Prayer*, Reuven Hammer
- Evan-Shoshan Biblican Concordance* *
- Gates of Understanding*, L. Hoffman *
- A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice*, Isaac Klein**
- An Introduction to Talmud and Midrash*, Streck and Stemberger (for rab. & ed. students)
- Jewish Liturgy*, A. Z. Idelsohn (especially Cantorial Students)
- Judaism A-Z*, Newman and Sivan *
- Mikraot Gedolot Bereshit* *
- Sefer HaAgadah*, Bialik & Ravnitsky (for rabbinical and education students)*
- The Jew in the Modern World*, P. Mendes-Flohr & J. Reinhartz
- To Be a Jew*, Hayim Halevy Donin
- To Pray as a Jew*, Hayim Halevy Donin **

Student Recommendations for Cantorial students:

- Biblical Chant*, A.W. Binder (buy through Sacred Music Press, HUC-JIR, New York.)
- Jewish Music in its Historical Development*, A.Z. Idelsohn
- Gates of Song*, published by the CCAR, ACC, UAHC
- The Complete Weekday Service*, P. Spiro*

* Printed in Israel and cheaper to obtain in Israel.

The Abramov Library and Israeli bookstores have a large selection of English books for pleasure.

BOOKS TO GET YOU EXCITED AND CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR YEAR IN ISRAEL

- Exodus* by Leon Uris
- The Source* by James Michener
- Lonely Planet Israel*
- Rough Guide to Israel*
- Into the Heart of Jerusalem*
- Culture Shock: Israel*, Dick Winter
- Streetwise Jerusalem map* – not available in Israel
- From Beirut to Jerusalem* by Thomas L. Freidman
- The Source* by James Michener

HELPFUL WEBSITES ABOUT ISRAEL

www.maven.co.il – a search engine for all things Jewish
www.infotour.col.il – has good trip planning and tourist info
www.emap.co.il – has good maps
www.iaa.gov.il/Rashat/en-US/Airports/BenGurion/ – lists arrivals and departures 24 hrs in advance
www.jobnet.co.il – AACI Israeli job site—good for spouse's/partner's job search
www.marksman.co.il – Tel Aviv headhunter specializing in English speaking jobs
www.jpostradio.com – news report site
www.jerusalempost.com– the Jerusalem Post online
www.haaretzdaily.com – (has link to English edition) leading Hebrew language newspaper in Israel
www.goisrael.com – web page of the Israeli ministry of tourism
www.janglo.net – a very useful e-bulletin board for Jerusalem Anglos (English speakers)
www.weekend.co.il – info on all types of accomodations and leisure activities all over Israel

OTHER RECOMMENDED BOOKS TO BRING

- A good Israel guidebook (*Fodor's* or *Lonely Planet*)
- Your favorite cookbook (and recipes)
- Personal Reading (Bestsellers, outside interests, non-Judaic pursuits) – However, pleasure reading is available in the Abramov Library.
- Prayerbooks

SOURCES FOR BOOKS (in the U.S.)

Central Conference of American Rabbis
355 Lexington Ave. New York, N. Y.
Phone: (212) 972-3636
(20% discount available)
ccarnet.org/Press/

Union of American Hebrew Congregations
633 Third Ave. New York, N. Y. 10021
Tel: (212) 650-4000
(40% discount available)

Levine J CO Books & Judaica (relig. supplies)
5 W. 30th St.
N.Y., N.Y. 10001
Phone: (212) 695-6888

Cantor's Assembly
150 5th Avenue
N.Y., N.Y.
Tel: (212) 691-8020

Simon & Schuster
1230 Ave. of Americas
N.Y., N.Y. 10020

www.judaism.com
www.bilbliofind.com
etranscon.com
www.amazon.com (look for independent sellers)
www.bookfinder.com

A clearinghouse for Jewish books may be reached by dialing 1-800-Judaism. Check to see if discounts are available by buying books through your rabbi or local Jewish bookstore.

HOUSING

For some students the thought of having to find an apartment half way around the world will be the most overwhelming part of this transition. We hope that after reading this section you will understand that there are a number of options and that you will find comfortable living arrangements.

Accommodation at Beit Shmuel

Dormitory type accommodation at Beit Shmuel, the Reform movement guest house adjacent to the HUC campus, is available, (book well in advance) for the duration of the summer semester. This option allows students the convenience of arriving in Israel and beginning studies without having to immediately search for a long-term apartment. It also allows time for students to investigate neighborhoods and apartments and to meet with future roommates. Students can also arrange to stay at Beit Shmuel for the entire academic year.

Costs for Dormitory accommodation: (not including meals or cleaning)

Single Room	\$550 per month
Double Room	\$325 per person, per month

If you are interested in more information or if you want to register for a room on a monthly basis, please contact Ayala Dekel at Beit Shmuel - (02) 620-3403 btshmuel@netvision.net.il . Accommodations are limited. If you book for a month, you must pay for the entire month. **Students are NOT required to live in the Dorms.**

Accommodations at Beit Shmuel can also be booked for a shorter time period. (see p. 33)

Apartment Hunting

Following some general words about housing in Israel you will find a listing of the apartments currently occupied by HUC students. This will of course be the easiest way to find an apartment, but by no means the only way. (We have compiled a list of temporary housing options for those who will be searching for apartments but do not want to reserve dorm space at Beit Shmuel – see p. 33)

Whether deciding upon the dorm option or opting to immediately search for an apartment, finding a suitable place requires time and patience. Past experience shows that the best procedure is to arrive at least two weeks early, survey the market, and select what best meets your needs. You may also consider living with a non-HUC student. Many students have recommended making the effort to live with an Israeli student. The Office of Student Services will try to help the student arrange this option through the services of rental listing agencies.

Be aware that the standard of living is different in Israel from that of North America. Some apartments may not have central heating, ovens, or telephones. The availability of these amenities should be taken into account when choosing an apartment. Also remember to take kashrut and Shabbat observance and practice into account before deciding to live with a room-mate. Although apartment hunting is stressful, ALL students do find suitable housing.

It should also be noted that every year there are students who change roommates and apartments during the year without too much difficulty.

Apartment Rent

The amount of rent will depend on location, size, and extras, such as oven, washing machine, etc. Current rental rates for furnished apartments range from \$550-\$800 for a one bedroom apartment plus living room to \$650-\$900 and up (\$250-\$350 per person) for a two- or three-bedroom apartment plus living room. Additional monthly costs could add approximately \$80-\$100 per person, depending on telephone usage.

These monthly costs include:

- Utilities (water, gas, heat, electricity, and telephone – can be expensive)
- Va'ad Ha-bayit, building maintenance fee for building upkeep, central heating, etc.
- Arnona, the municipal property tax (approximately \$60-\$90 per month)

You should also be aware that while some landlords may not require a security deposit, they may request advance payments to cover two to six months' rent. The College recommends that you pay no more than three months' rent in advance.

If necessary, HUC will serve as a guarantor for rental agreements made by students. We will review the lease in advance to assure that the terms are acceptable. Also, HUC will require that the lease contain a 30 day clause for early termination for any apartments requiring an HUC guarantee of payment. However, all leases will be transacted directly between students and landlords (or their agents). You and your landlord may choose to use the standard HUC leases and guarantee forms that are available from the Office of Student Services.

Neighborhoods in Jerusalem

The majority of students live in the Rehavia and Talbiyeh neighborhoods. These largely residential areas allow a ten to twenty minute walk to HUC. The apartments downtown are even closer (within ten minutes to school) but include the typical urban amenity of noise. Farther from campus—in the twenty to thirty minute walk range—are the neighborhoods of the German Colony, Baka, the Greek Colony, Abu Tor and Old Katamon. For more information on these or other Jerusalem neighborhoods we suggest consulting the "Streetwise Jerusalem" map or a current HUC-Jerusalem student. If you are considering a neighborhood other than those mentioned above, we suggest you consult with the Office of Student Services in Jerusalem first.

APARTMENT LISTINGS

The following is a list of HUC students' apartments. You will find a telephone number and e-mail address to use when contacting the student to inquire about taking over a lease. Unless otherwise noted, only students who are satisfied with their apartments and landlords have been included.

If there is no name of a student, it means HUC students did not use the apartment in the past year. But it is still available for rent and you can contact the landlord directly. We strongly suggest that you check with the Office of Student services when considering an apartment not listed below.

In addition to these apartment listings, other sources of housing information in English can be found at:

- the HUC postings board,
- in the Jerusalem Post's Friday edition
- Jerusalem Lodges – email: jerel@jerel.co.il, phone: (9722)561-1745
- <http://www.flathunting.com>

Hebrew listings:

- She'al Agency – www.sheal.co.il (free of charge)
- Ma'agar Meida Agency – www.1.co.il (fee)

Additionally, rental agencies in Jerusalem will assist you in finding an apartment for a fee (usually 5-10% of the annual rent.)

There is a Real Estate Agency across the street from HUC at 3 Hess Street:

Anglo-Saxon Real Estate
 Yael Ben-Shalom is in charge of rentals
 Telephone 6251161 or 6251211 or 6232471
 Fax 6259207
 Cellphone 050 5752 700
 e-mail jerusalem@anglo-saxon.co.il

Two other Jerusalem agents accustomed to working with HUC students are:

Tzipi Toussia-Cohen	Rachel Greenberg
Telephone 6249947	Tel/Fax 5618390
Cellphone 050 7557 769	Cellphone 054 7201 354
e-mail zipi@jtc_law.co.il	e-mail arig@netvision.net.il

Do not give a non-refundable deposit on an apartment nor sign any lease or contract until it has been read by a member of the HUC Jerusalem School staff.)

In addition to these apartment listings, other sources of housing information can be found on the HUC postings board, the Friday edition of The Jerusalem Post, the website www.groups.yahoo.com/group/flathunting, Hebrew newspaper listings (for example, Kol Ha'ir), the She'al Rental Agency (located at 21 King George Street) and Ma'agar Meda rental agency. The agencies charge a nominal fee (about \$15) for the use of their listings for a period of two months, but no additional fee if you ultimately rent an apartment from their listings. You may also want to contact a rental agent prior to your arrival. Please remember that their fee is usually one month's rent.

Several Jerusalem agents are:

Stuart Wurthman	Vic Hoffman
Telephone: (02) 586-4850	Telephone: (02) 623-5595 (02) 563-7230
E-Mail: stuart@netmedia.net.il	Fax: (02) 563-2482
Fax: (02) 587-0375	

Discount on agent fees for HUC students

Dvorah Block	Rachel Greenberg	Tzipi Tussia-Cohen
27 Chovevei Zion	972-67-201-354	972-2-624-9947
Telephone: (02) 561-7276		zipi@jtc_law.co.il

One bedroom apartments

5B Lincoln St. #5 HUC neighborhood 625-7864 \$650/mo

Owner Rami Brachiya Cellphone 054-4228-411 e-mail ramib8@bezeqint.net
The apartment is in pretty great condition. Plus, any problem that we've had, Rami is quick to respond, so we are always happy. The apartment is on the third floor of a walk-up, about 2 blocks from school. Our landlord is wonderful which is big plus. He takes care of most of the bills, and then we just write a check out to him. He always explains everything to us first, which is a big help. The apartment has a bedroom, living room, bathroom, laundry room (washer and dryer) and newly renovated kitchen. It is one of the more modern kitchens you will find. The kitchen has a microwave, four-burner stove, a large toaster oven (purchased this year), double sink and modern refrigerator. The bedroom has huge closets. The living room has a comfortable couch, coffee table and a dining room table which can be extended to fit about 8, but you can fit more without much trouble. Also has a CD player and some artwork on the walls. Most likely, you won't have to buy anything for the apartment. Enclosed porch. Plug in heat for winter/fan for summer. Perfect for one student or a couple. Arnona (municipal tax) is NIS 250 per month, and va'ad bayit (association fee) is NIS 50 NIS per month. Can send you digital pictures if you are interested.

5 Lincoln St. HUC neighborhood 623-6989 \$700
Owner Benny Brama phone 09-7716583 cellphone 050-5200-717
e-mail benny.brama@gmail.com

5 minutes walk to HUC. Second floor walk up. Moderate condition. Balcony. Plug in radiator heaters-- one in each room. Small, old building, fully furnished, full kitchen (oven, stove, refrigerator), washer and dryer (great in the winter!), fan. Good cross-ventilation in summer. Nicely decorated (lots of purple).. Nice and responsive landlord. Arnona NIS3,400/yr Vaad bayit NIS50/mo

12 Lincoln St. #6 HUC neighborhood \$650

Agent Rachel Greenberg phone 5618390 cellphone 054 7201 354 e-mail arig@netvision.net.il
One flight up, fully furnished apartment with TV, double bed, table with chairs, pull-out couch, stove, microwave, washing machine, and balcony. Electric water heating and portable electric heaters for the winter. Very responsive and flexible manager. Ideal for a couple or individual student. Arnona NIS 3,000/yr, Va'ad bayit NIS 50/month.

16A Lincoln St. #1 HUC neighborhood \$1000/mo
Owners Ron and Dorrit Perry phone 533 6148 cellphone 050 5529 534 e-mail perrye@netvision.net
4 minute walk to HUC. Ground level, fully furnished and stocked apartment with large garden. Washer/dryer, refrigerator, microwave, small dishwasher, toaster oven, gas stove. Close to grocery stores, 10 mins walk to Rehavia cafes. Landlord is nice, helpful and very responsive Great for a single or couple. Rent includes Arnona and Vaad bayit.

5 Moshe Hess Street HUC neighborhood \$750/mo
Owner Avigail Hayam phone 6751547 fax 6413313 - must write "Attention Avigail Hayam"
One minute walk to HUC. Second floor. Good condition. Two balconies and nice dining area/computer alcove. Equipped kitchen. Linens. Washer. Plenty of nice furnishings, TV. Good heating, tenant-controlled., A/C and solar water heater. Nudgey landlady. Rent rather high (but normal for location). Arnona approx. \$700/yr Vaad bayit NIS80/mo

23B Washington St. #11 HUC neighborhood 625-5439 \$675/mo
T
Owner Lea Idinopulos phone U.S. 513-961-1114 e-mail tlidinop@aol.com
5 minute walk from HUC 4th floor with nice balcony. This bright apartment includes a new washing machine, queen size bed in roomy bedroom, small but well stocked kitchen, stove, oven, microwave, big fridge. Spacious living room, TV, large desk. The couch opens into a double bed. There are ceiling fans in both living room and bedroom, which helps keep the place cool in the Israeli summer. Most importantly, the building is very secure -- no one can get in without being buzzed in by a tenant. Highly recommended for a cantorial student/musician as it has a piano! Va'ad Bayit: Arnona NIS110/mo.

23B Washington St. #7 HUC neighborhood 6246326 \$720/mo
Owner David Appel cellphone 050 6368 090 Fax 08- 6733523
5 minute walk from HUC. Two flights up. Great location, can't get closer to school. Rooms are all huge by Israeli standards and there is a lovely balcony that can be enclosed to make another little room. Fully furnished including bookshelves, heaters, everything except desks and desk chairs (you can buy ours if you want) – we got rid of the old beds (we did you a favor) and bought a new one – you can request that the landlord provide another bed, or buy the bed from us or buy your own bed. Fully stocked kitchen, except blender and oven (which you can buy from us if you want). Washer, dryer, TV and cable modem all included. Warning: The central heat does not work. Do not believe the landlord if he implies otherwise. There have been times we have wanted to kill the landlord. He is really cheap, lives far away and is in no hurry to fix anything. He doesn't lie, but sometimes 'plays with the truth' a bit. He is not a bad landlord, in comparison to the real horror stories I've heard. If you stick up for yourself, and defend your rights, he will handle everything properly in the end. It's just aggravating. Having said that (which I wish I had known in advance, so I'm telling you now) the apartment is great and it is well worth it. We are happy with our decision.

7 Hatachana Yemin Moshe 6243417 \$800/mo
Owner Hanna Kalfon phone 6234830 cellphone 050 798 4020 e-mail jan.gunneweg@huji.ac.il
or yangunny@netscape.net.
Beautiful loft apartment, in the most amazing neighborhood in Jerusalem, 7 minutes walk from HUC. Private patio with garden w/BBQ that can host up to 10. Large main room with great loft. Small Israeli style bathroom (no separate shower stall). Small kitchen with 2 gas burners. Large storage area behind apartment with washing machine. Space heaters but stays warm naturally in the winter and cool in the summer. Very attentive landlord lives upstairs. Arnona included in rent. No Vaad Bayit. Neighborhood is amazing. Next to the windmill, beautiful view of Old City and Judean desert. Have the apartment

everyone else talks about. The place is incredible, come see for yourself. For pictures, email Ross

7 Hatachana Yemin Moshe \$500/mo

Owner Hanna Kalfon phone 6234830 cellphone 050 798 4020 e-mail
jan.gunneweg@huji.ac.il

or yangunny@netscape.net.

Studio apartment for one person, 7 minutes walk from HUC, with kitchen toilet, shower. Rent includes arnona, va'ad bayit, cable TV and water! Furnished, with dishes and linens. No oven or washing machine. Electric heating and hot water. The positives of this apartment are: very special neighborhood with view of Old City, great location (near school and Talbiyah, not far from Emek Refaim), low rent. The negatives of this apartment are: It is very small! In fact, the landlord will only rent to a single, no couples. The bed is a single though the second part can be pulled out and then it is a double but takes up a large portion of the room. The kitchen area is along the wall of the apartment in the corner near the bathroom. The shower is in the same small room as the toilet and sink. There are book-shelves but no full desk.

22 Itamar Ben Avi Street #1 Talbieh \$800/mo

Owner Rick Fishbein in the States (310) 666-7119 e-mail kesherLA@aol.com
Near HaPalmach street, a fully furnished one bedroom plus den ground floor apartment. Recently redone and repainted with thermostat central air and heat, as well as a solar water heater. Enclosed balcony at bedroom and open patio off living room. Quiet building. All furnishings including double bed, built in closets, washer, dryer, two color tvs (cable ready), CD/stereo, desk and workspace in den. Renovated American-style kitchen with refrigerator. Moked 99 security system available. Arnona approx \$80/mo Vaad Bayit approx \$70/mo.

Emek Refaim St. German Colony \$650/mo

Owner Rick Fishbein in the States (310) 666-7119 e-mail kesherLA@aol.com
One bedroom apartment in newer Jerusalem stone building. Remodeled kitchen with stove top. Central air, custom closets/cabinets and subterranean space included. Best Jerusalem neighborhood with easy access to transportation. Quiet unit, not on the main street. Presently unfurnished, but could be partially furnished for additional \$100/mo. Represented by agent in Jerusalem, so a commission would apply. Arnona (city taxes), utilities and va'ad bayit extra.

22 Jabotinsky #7 Entrance 10 Talbieh \$675/mo

Owner Tzofit Haim phone 02-5665894 cellphone 050 853 1886 e-mail T_zofit@yahoo.com
15 minute walk to HUC. Top (5th) floor, no elevator, 75 stairs to climb. This means you're carrying your groceries, luggage, school stuff etc. up the stairs all the time. Gotta be in good shape!. Landlords are wonderful. Attentive but by no means invasive, good English-speakers, live nearby. We hear nothing from the other tenants. It's a quiet building and people are friendly in the stairwell. There's an American-sized washer and dryer (super lucky!), self-controlled heat and A/C, although only in the bedroom and office. There is a black pot-belly wood-burning stove in the living room which is good for heating the room (although it's a challenge to find wood!). Kitchen has oven, hot plate, refrigerator and is fully stocked with all dishes and utensils. Fully furnished with TV. Dining room table seats 6-8. Separate room for study. Bedroom has ample storage and closet space. 10 minutes walk to many synagogues, grocery stores, shopping etc. We've loved this apartment and think we got a great deal. Not suitable for 2 roommates, but perfect for a couple. Extra mattresses for guests to sleep on floor and one of the couches is comfortable as a bed. Large bathroom with full tub (a rarity), no separate WC. Arnona NIS300/mo Vaad bayit NIS100/mo

6 Moshe Hess #4 HUC neighborhood \$750/mo

Owner Ruth Inbar cellphone 054-635-3493 e-mail inbar@ee.technion.ac.il
Recommend to anyone that wants to be steps to school and right in the city center. The location is perfect, central to every place. Huge living room and eating area. Large balcony. Washer and no dryer in service room. Very quiet as apartment is in back of building. View of beautiful monastery across the street. Landlord can be very difficult. Need to be strong when speaking with her. No a/c but there is heat for an extra cost. We just use space heaters. Arnona (city tax) is around 1500NIS. Both couches in living room can also be used as beds. New shower and sink in bathroom.

Jerusalem Heights, 16 HaMatmid Alley #78 City Center \$900/mo

Owner Benny Liebeskind phone 6414674

Agent Rachel Greenberg phone 5618390 cellphone 054 7201 354 e-mail arig@netvision.net.il
Landlord is terribly busy so agent helps intermediate. Apartment is elegant, with parquet floors, includes washer/dryer and pool/gym. Kitchen is adequate, microwave but no oven. This is a beautiful apartment by any standards – nicer than a student apartment. Rent includes arnona. Vaad bayit NIS840/mo, high due to security, indoor pool and lots of heat.

Jerusalem Heights, 16 HaMatmid Alley #23 City Center \$800/mo

Owner Mirella Nissim phone 03 641 4967 cellphone 0508 620 601 e-mail mirellanissim@gmail.com
3rd floor. Great location, 1/2 block from the Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall, gift shops, and the downtown nightlife. 24/7 doorman service. This is unheard of in Israel, and the doormen have been wonderful. Pool, jacuzzi, sauna, some fitness equipment. Landlady made aliyah from Italy. Hebrew is helpful but not crucial for dealing with her and she is very kind and understanding. Washer – good quality but takes a long time to do the wash – there are also 2 laundromats nearby. We have wired the place for cable TV and Internet. For a single or couple you cannot beat this place (we did it with a baby and a dog which made it feel very small). Rent does not include vaad bayit (another \$200/mo) or arnona This is still a steal.

6 Hama'alot #10 City Center \$700/mo

Owner Jonathan Paradise e-mail jparadis@umn.edu
This spacious one-bedroom apartment on the 5th floor (with elevator) is a 10-15-minute walk from campus (longer at night when it is unwise to cut through the park). The apartment is very near downtown, Ben Yehuda mall, stores and the shuk, which is great for shopping and entertainment, but there is a lot of noise from the street, especially in the summer. There's a small balcony over the street from which you can see the Old City (and you have a great view of fireworks which are frequent on Summer evenings). The owners live in the States and have stayed in the apartment on occasion, and so have furnished it at a level not usually found in student rental apartments. They made many improvements in the summer of '05, including new paint and high quality linens and towels. Best features include the wonderful new mattress on the bed (which is at least American full size) and the very complete, eat-in kitchen with gas oven, 5-burner gas cooktop, full-size refrigerator, and lots of cabinets and counter space. There are separate meat and milk dishes which the owners would like to have kept separate. There is a very nice desk and plenty of bookshelves. There are pictures on the walls; great if you don't want to spend time and energy decorating, but there isn't much opportunity for doing your own decorating if that's your desire. The landlords wish for the apartment to be kept in its current clean condition, so putting more holes in the walls or taping things up are not allowed. Apartment has washing machine and solar water heater. No central heat; there are many space heaters provided. Preference is for a single person or couple.

14 Mendele Mocher Sefarim #1 Entrance 13 Talbieh \$900/mo

Owner Chaim (Marty) Seiden phone 624 3607 e-mail seid@netvision.net.il
1+bedrooms, ideal for a couple or couple w/child. This apartment is up one flight of stairs, overlooking a courtyard garden in the back. The neighbors are all very nice and friendly. The apartment has ample storage, washing machine, and all new appliances. It is equipped with air conditioning and heat, and is mostly furnished. This is a *clean*, new apartment. When we took occupancy, the apartment was not furnished and was in the process of being completed from the rehab. The landlord has been nice about taking care of the apartment and us, including having us over for Shabbat dinner. As we were moving in, Chaim and his wife, Rachel, agreed to provide furniture, which was new or gently used. We have had to buy some items to make our stay here more comfortable and would be happy to sell these items to the incoming tenants, so they would be able to move right in and not have any worries. The floors have new, modern tile, and the bathroom is American-style and has all new fixtures with a large sink and vanity. The kitchen has a large countertop area with a double basin sink, new refrigerator and range, with ample cabinets for storage above and below the countertop. The landlord provided a mismatched set of old, used dishes. The master bedroom has floor to ceiling storage across one wall, and additional storage under the bed. There are also two nightstands and a makeup vanity, all with drawer storage. The living room has one wall, floor to ceiling, with fantastic bookshelves. There is also a couch, armchair, and large coffee table. Additionally, there is a desk which is also in the living room. The dining room has an extendable table that can easily seat up to six people; included are five chairs. The additional room, which is a large, converted porch, we have been using as a nursery. The landlord has provided a large cabinet, which we have been using as a changing table and dresser for our baby. This

room could also be used as an office, or a small second bedroom. E-mail us for a list of the items we've had to buy to supplement our living, which we are not taking with us, and would complement/ complete the apartment

33 Bezalel

Nachlaot

\$280/mo

This is a sub-let so contact Lev first and then roommate Yonatan Matsree e-mail y_matsree@yahoo.com cellphone 052-898-9046
Two bedrooms but one is occupied. Close to the shuk and Ben Yehuda, cheap rent, living with a super cool Israeli guy who speaks English but will help you with your Hebrew. Apartment will be available from beginning June through end August as a sub-let with an option to stay on and renew the lease. Small balcony has great view of the city. Knesset and Supreme Court buildings. Not kosher. No washer/dryer but laundromat (with American appliances) is one minute walk from the apt. (NIS30 a load including drying). Fully furnished. Either stay the first couple of months here while looking for your perfect place or stick around through the end of the year.

Two bedroom apartments

8 Moshe Hess Street #8

HUC neighborhood

624 2144

\$850/mo

Owner Simon Yemin 532 9833 cellphone 052 352 2775
e-mail simon.yemin@baesystems.com or siye@zahav.net.il
Spacious two bedroom apartment. 3rd floor walkup. Good natural light and airflow. Great location! Close to everything (Ben Yehuda, Emek Refaim, Old City, grocery store and 3 minute walk from school). Working TV and tons of storage. We kashered the kitchen and you're welcome to buy our dishes and kitchen utensils (we also saved the non-Kosher ones that were already here). New washer. Bedrooms decent size with desks, closets, double beds, and linens. Solar water heater, no central heat, but we managed with space heaters. We will sell you them any extras we have added to make our apartment home. Great, attentive landlord with good English. Sweet older neighbors. Email us or Simon for photos and with questions. Arnona 350 NIS/month va'ad bayit 25 NIS/month

12 Lincoln #8A

HUC neighborhood

622 1325

\$950/mo

Agent Anita Ellis phone 5611745 e-mail jerel@jerel.co.il
2 minutes walk to HUC Third floor walk up. There is a washer and dryer, AC/heat wall unit. You'll need a couple of space heaters for the bedrooms. Enclosed balcony but you do have roof access. There is construction across the street that can get quite noisy during the day but it isn't too bad. No construction on Shabbat and they quit early on Fridays. Kosher kitchen. Oriental rugs from King David's reign and furniture from the days of the Bee-Gees. That said, the place is great, better than most. We're happy to send pictures. Lease is end of August through beginning of June.

12B Lincoln #7

HUC neighborhood

\$650/mo

Owners Tzipporah and Chaim Reich Home 03 6185721 cellphone 054 440 4451
Work 03-5702172 Fax 03-619 6687
4 minute walk from HUC. 2nd floor apartment in good condition. The paint is a little chipped on the walls, but other than that it is a fabulous deal for a two bedroom. It is one of the cheapest (and cutest) apartments I have seen. Definitely recommended. It has been an HUC apartment for years and I'm SO glad I got it before I came here!. I couldn't be happier with my apartment! The landlords are really nice- they live out of town (in B'nai Brak), so they would like the rent 3X at a time, which is nice because they don't come around much. If you need repairs etc., there is someone in Jerusalem who you can call. In all of Lincoln 12 (A and B) there were 3 HUC tenants – perfect number. Israeli tenants all nice – it is a friendly building. There is a washer but no dryer. No heat, so the floor is cold – but I have a few space heaters and lots of blankets, so it's ok. Nice porch off one bedroom. Great cross-breeze through kitchen and living room which both have large windows (so airy and bright). Fully furnished with kitchenware. Oven, stove, fridge, TV all work great. Furniture a little beat-up, but cover it with cute blankets. Good shower. Comfy beds. Lots of closet space. Perfect location in the middle of everything and very convenient. I have pictures, so be in touch.

13 Hovevei Zion #7 HUC neighborhood \$900/mo

Owners Yehuda Blum phone 566-6714 & Amram Blum phone 566 3019/1102 e-mail a-blum@zahav.il
12 minute walk to HUC. Very spacious 3rd floor apt.. Beautiful and quiet neighborhood. Washing machine, tenant-controlled central heating unusual for Jerusalem), solar and gas water heater, large balcony connecting both bedrooms, lots of light. Kosher Kitchen has new stove/oven, and is fully stocked. We had quite a bit of difficulty with the landlords this year because of new conditions that were implemented for HUC's guarantor agreement. Hopefully this will be remedied for the coming year and relations with the landlords will return to being hands off, if not pleasant, for next year's tenants.. Old tiling and bathroom fixtures but otherwise a great apartment. Arnona \$1000/yr. Va'ad bayit around \$20/m.

3B Sokolov St. #13 HUC neighborhood 5631793 \$825/mo

Owner Natan Ben Chorin Tel/Fax 5618025

This 3rd floor apartment is on a quiet street with a park, and is a 10 minute walk from both HUC and a grocery store (there is a small store on the street). It has a keypad entry, central heating, gas stove, washing machine, 2 balconies (which can be closed off with windows) and is completely furnished. One bedroom has a full size bed; the other has a twin bed and a desk. Really nice landlord. Lots of Americans in the area and the building. Contact us, not the landlord, for inquiries, as he will be away. Additionally, the apartment comes with everything, so talk to us before buying anything! The contract begins June 15th for 12 months. Va'ad bayit and arnona are minimal costs but separate from rent.

12 Jabotinsky #10 Talbieh 566 5994 \$1,000/mo

Owner Chaya Argamon phone 675 1464

7 minutes easy walk to HUC. 5th with elevator. 2 large bedrooms, 1½ bathrooms. Fully furnished including kitchen appliances and utensil (some of which were here and some which we bought this year and added). Dining table extends to seat 8 (perfect for Shabbat). Balcony with nice view. 2 bathrooms, one with toilet and sink, and another larger one with 2 showers, toilet and sink. Couch in living room opens into double bed (great for guests). New paint job last summer. New toilet installed in the Fall. Elderly landlady speaks English. Washer and drying racks. Central heat works well in winter. Great cross breeze makes it comfortable in summer. Constant hot water. Very nice neighborhood near parks and school. Lots of space suitable for a small family or 2 roommates. Nice neighbors speak English. Sarah would like to sell a brand new desk, chair and printer to whomever takes the apartment. E-mail us with questions. Online pictures also available.

6 HaNasi Talbieh 5670297 \$850/mo

Owner Eitan and Debbie Zuberi phone 5345191 cellphone 050 2212503 e-mail zuberie@netvision.net
15 minutes walk to HUC. Ground floor apt. w/back garden. Opposite Israeli president's residence, so good security! No washer or dryer but laundry services nearby. 10 minute walk to 2 supermarkets. One bedroom has 2 American twin beds, nightstand and closet. The second bedroom has a daybed that converts into 2 Israeli twin beds and a closet. Living/dining room has sofa, table+4 chairs, cable TV and phone and internet access. Kitchen has stove, refrigerator, microwave, toaster, electric kettle and coffee maker. Small bathroom, shower no tub. Central heating on 24 hrs a day in the cold winter months - Radiator with individual control in every room. Solar water heater. Landlord is very responsive and accepts US checks. Vaad bayit 200 shekels/mo. Arnona approx. 250 shekels/mo

1 Klein Street German Colony \$850/mo

Owner Eitan and Debbie Zuberi phone 5345191 cellphone 050 2212503 e-mail zuberie@netvision.net
20-30 min walk to HUC, 4th floor with elevator. Open living/dining room with panoramic windows with lots of light and trees around. Balcony off living room. Refrigerator, oven, microwave, washer, dryer, TV. Central heat. Very tastefully furnished. Located off Hatzfira St. and a couple of blocks from Emek Refaim where there are cafes, restaurants, shops, grocery stores, bank, post office and public swimming pool. Arnona NIS4400/yr Vaad bayit NIS400 winter (for heat) NIS200 summer

19 Keren Kayemet Talbieh 5639886 \$1,000/mo

Owner Elan Ezrachi phone 5619761 e-mail ezkel@012.net.il

Two large bedrooms (one with a queen and one with two twins), one and a half bathrooms. 3rd floor

walkup. Great landlord lives across the hall, so very accessible. One of the largest apartments we have seen. Heat is building controlled, so not on during the day or late at night (seems to be the norm) but apt. has space heaters. Washer, large American fridge, dishwasher, Large open kitchen with breakfast bar fully stocked (food processor, hand mixer, juicer). Dining table expandable to seat up to 12 comfortably. Large living room and small room which could be an office or storage. No balcony. Great neighborhood with everything you need on the street, but a bit loud. Arnona \$1290/year, Va'ad Bayit 70NIS/mo, Rental period July 1 to June 30.

14 Mendele Mocher Sefarim # 12 Talbieh 5610589 \$850/mo

Owners Ofir Paz and Sara Alon cellphone 054 423 6201 e-mail ofirp@cmagine.com
8 minute walk to HUC. First floor (one flight up). Large master bedroom, 70's style, with lots of storage. Very small second bedroom with a twin-size bed, good for guests or a small child. Living room with leather-look couches and a table with fold-out leaves to seat 6-8. Enclosed porch with futon and desk. 60's style kitchen with kumkum, microwave, toaster, mixer, dishes, tupperware, gas range top and electric stove. Laundry room with washer and dryer. Central heating you control, works great. Also A/C but hardly need it due to great cross-ventilation. Courtyard in backyard. Landlords live in Tel-Aviv and are difficult on arrival, but you won't deal w/them after that. You'll need to buy nothing for the apt--fully stocked. Good for a single person or couple, NOT two roommates.

33 Harlap Street Kiryat Shmuel \$1000/mo

Owners Elitzur and Michal Bar Asher phone (in US) 617 864 7651 e-mail barasher@fas.harvard.edu
25 minute walk to HUC. Great apartment on the second floor. Recently renovated with modern appliances, including washer/dryer, AC/heat (that the tenant controls!) Great kitchen, bathroom with shower and a tub and a small 1.2 bathroom. Wonderful study room off the main bedroom. Great, quiet neighborhood. Landlords are in the US but have family here who manage the apt. for them and are very responsive. Arnona NIS 334/mo Vaad bayit NIS 100/mo

27 Ussishkin St. Rehavia 563-5690 \$725/mo

Owner Zvi Landes home phone 648-0856 wk 625-3758 Cellphone 050-866 1615 Fax 6243889
e-mail kmeir052@zahav.net.il
17 minute walk to HUC. Helpful and responsive landlord, fabulous neighbors & neighborhood, washer, dryer. Fully furnished. TV. Only one flight up, Central heating - cool in summer, warm in winter, 3 porches, one huge. Great central location but a hike to German Colony & Kol Haneshama. Convenient to food shopping & Ben Yehuda. Arnona NIS4,200/yr. No vaad bayit, but share cost of winter heating fuel with neighbors in the building.

8 Ha'ari #4 Rechavia 5635339 \$850/mo

Owner Eliezer Ya'ari Cellphone 052 534 5945 e-mail eliezer@nif.org.il
12-15 minute walk to HUC Only one flight up. Older apartment but in pretty good condition with high ceilings and lots of windows. Fully furnished including beds, desks, living and dining room furniture. We would like to sell (possibly in "packaged deal") linens, lots of kitchen supplies, lamps, heaters etc. Two bedrooms are spacious and connected to balconies with lots of light. Always have hot water, central heating can be off and on but we are comfortable with space heaters. No washer but laundry/dry cleaner around the corner. Great location near street with restaurants, cafes, groceries, veg/fruit stand. Rent can be paid in American checks. Landlord is friendly.

10 Ibn Gvirol #11 Rechavia 5635157 \$800/mo

Owner David Dolan e-mail daviddolan@dsl.pipex.com
10 minutes walk to HUC. Good condition. Fabulous neighborhood, close to school, but not so close as to be suffocating. Don't feel like you're living in a dorm! Israeli landlord lives in England but is efficient. Neighbors are very helpful. Washing machine. Dishwasher. Tenant-controlled individual radiators are a plus. Kitchen has the utensils for keeping kosher. Fully furnished with lots of extras (hair dryer, office supplies, hamper, etc.) we can leave behind for you. Very cool in summer. If you can handle the 8 flights walk-up you have a built-in gym (our legs look great!) and beautiful sunrise views! Pictures available upon request from tenants. Available to rent starting as early as June 1st

7 Ramban #15 Rechavia 5671722 \$800/mo

Owner Ora Haber Phone 5637380 cellphone 0508 717033
7 minute walk to HUC. Good condition, third floor, very conveniently located in beautiful neighborhood.

Landlords live next door and are friendly, helpful and responsible. Large master bedroom with own half-bathroom. Second bedroom is small, fitting only a single bed. Apartment especially good for a couple or family with one child. Washing machine. 2 balconies. TV and Internet/Cable connection Arnona NIS360/mo Vaad bayit NIS36/mo

Resh Lakish St. 5/4 Greek Colony 567-2113 \$650/mo

Owner Nicky Kregorphone 678-5208 cellphone 052-2865-836 e-mail jeffnick@zahav.net.il
30-35 minute walk to HUC. Recommended if you want a little distance from everyone else and like to walk, bike or bus. The neighborhood is wonderful, great people, great stores, restaurants, excellent location. Next to the park and one block from Kol HaNeshama. 2nd floor w/ a small balcony. Nice neighbors. Landlady is extremely nice. Washing machine, large dining room table and well stocked kitchen. Control your own heat and AC, cable TV, microwave, plenty of light. Arnona 250 shekels/mo. Vaad Bayit 40 shekels/mo

9 Haim B"Jayo #16 German Colony 567 0650 \$1200/mo

Owners Rabbi Erica Burech and Craig Weiss phone US 011 972 54 260 401 or 480 201 8221
Israel cellphone 054 260 401 e-mail weissiplaw@yahoo.com
Luxury, modern, American-style apartment with wall-to-wall carpeting. Fully-furnished with new furniture from America, new washing machine, dryer, stove, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, and fax machine. New 34 inch Sony Television, home-theater system with VCR, CD and DVD. Central Air-Conditioning and Heating. 2 bathrooms. Kosher kitchen. Underground parking garage. New apartment in beautiful court-yard minutes from Emek Refaim, Kol Haneshama, Yakar, and Pardes. Digital Pictures available. Arnona \$80/mo Vaad bayit \$40/mo Kosher/Non smoker.

7 Israeli (next to Ussishkin and Hagra) Rehavia \$600/mo

Owner ArieH Helmund cellphone 054 210 5642 e-mail alternativ1@walla.com
This apartment has one master and one small bedroom and is perfect for a couple or living alone. We love it! It is in a beautiful neighborhood, central to downtown (3 min walk to Ben Yehuda). The 25 min walk to school is pleasant and well worth the artsy feel of the place. Balcony with view of the Knesset, full size fridge, stove, oven, shelves, desk. Also we have a lot to sell to help furnish the place. Landlords live upstairs and are always helpful and nice. Pictures available on request.

22 (Binyamin) Metudela #4**Rehavia****\$850/mo**

Agents Jerusalem Home Management, Judy Paikin and Gladys phone 678 5560
 e-mail gludy@netvision.net.il cellphones Gladys 054 4757166 Judy 054 7805161

12-15 min. walk to HUC. We love this very comfortable apartment. It's our Israeli home. Fully stocked kosher kitchen. Great new and tasteful furniture. Giant, beautiful tree-shaded balcony. Excellent beds including pull out sofa for guests which is very firm and comfortable. Beautiful neighborhood near many florists. Large dining table with new wooden table and chairs. High ceilings. Giant fridge. Bit TV. Cable modem. Management touch negotiators, but very conscientious, English speakers with full office staff.

7 Molcho #1**Rehavia****\$1100/mo**

Owner Saul Singer phone 08-970-9054 cellphone 054 742-5001 e-mail saul@redseed.net
 Wonderful apartment, perfect distance (15 min) from school. Quiet street. 10 mins. from the grocery store but there are many convenience stores in the area along with a pharmacy and amazing fruit stand around the corner. Fully furnished with really nice stuff. Recently remodeled. Bedrooms are a good size with one double or twin bed and one queen bed. Lots of closet space. 1 1/2 bathrooms. Nice patio with washer. We bought some furniture, dishes, kitchenware, linens, etc. We are willing to sell that to you and leave it in the apartment. Apt. available August 1, but that it is well worth the wait.

4 Disraeli #8**Talbiyeh****\$800/mo**

Owner Itzik Sideoff phone 03-612 1816 cellphone 054 2000 531 Fax 03-612 1741

15 min walk to HUC, beautiful area, tranquil. Great condition, just 1970's furniture. top floor, quiet. The kitchen is very small and basic . It has a large, wonderful balcony, and kitchen nuke. The living room is huge. No elevator, no washer, heat is OK, but not great. Landlord is nice, but will not accept HUC lease. Must have lease done by Israeli lawyer. You will split the cost of the lawyer's time with the landlord. The landlord lives in Tel Aviv. He will only rent to a couple or family, not to student roommates.

2 Rehov Hirshenberg**Rehavia/Shaaarei Chesed****\$1000/mo**

Owner Anat Teitelbaum cellphone 054 4636732 e-mail assayag@zahav.net.il

2nd story apartment on a very quiet street. Nice 20 min. walk to school, very close to Ben Yehuda St. and the shuk. Central air and heat, open kitchen and living room (think Monica and Rachel's place on Friends), and American-style bathroom with a good washing machine. 2 bedrooms each with access to the porch, beds, desks, chairs in both rooms. Landlord lives on the same street and speaks very good English, and is very sweet. We've been very happy with this apartment and it's definitely worth the extra money in comparison with other places! See Anat's website of the apartment: www.borisforever.blogspot.com We have many things to sell from our place, so please contact us if you take the apartment!

3 Zipporah Street**Baka****\$750/mo**

Owners Simcha and Abraham Mizrachi phone 720-840-8054 (Avi) e-mail jperlstein@lrflegal.com
 This third floor condo has 2 bathrooms, 3 balconies, nice views of the surrounding area, is half a block from the bus stop, very close to shopping areas and the grocery store. Newly renovated and partially furnished (there are beds and pots and pans but no other furniture). Two private parking spaces. Refrigerator, oven, microwave, TV. Sun boiler and central heating. Minimum lease one year.

27 Binyamin Metudela**Rehavia****\$880/mo**

Owner Zehavit Stern e-mail zehavit@berkeley.edu

Gorgeous 4th floor apartment with great views. Wonderful neighborhood. Easy-going landlady. Washer, no dryer. Heat and AC in the apartment. Near great cafes and Wolfson center (grocery, medical, gym etc.). Not so close to HUC but worth the 20 min walk!

7 Keren Hayesod Entrance B #8 Talbiyeh \$900/mo

Owner Yael Levin e-mail yael_levin@yahoo.co.uk

5 minute walk to HUC. Center of the city. 2 minute walk to supermarket. AC and heating units in both rooms. The AC works great during the hot months. But, with so many windows, you rarely need it. Washing machine. Kosher kitchen, well stocked. Perfect for a couple or roommates. In a building with many families. Second bedroom only has a high rise (a daybed with a pull-out bed underneath; good for guests). The room can be used as an office. If you want to use it for a bedroom, you might want to buy another bed. 3 balconies. Two of them are enclosed. One is for cooking- with microwave, stove, and oven. One is for laundry. The other is a wrap-around porch. It's one of the nicer HUC student apartments. And the landlady is great. She is an English speaking, young Hebrew U professor. Kitchen table can seat around 12 people. High-speed internet and Cable TV.

HaRav Berlin 15/6 Kiryat Shmuel \$750/mo

Owner Dafna Furst phone 5660874 e-mail firstd@zahav.net.il

Second floor apartment. Relatively responsive Israeli landlord who speaks good English. One bedroom is slightly larger than the other, but nothing drastic. Balcony off the bigger bedroom. Apartment is carpeted, which is very unusual here. No central heating, but space heaters warm the apartment up well. Washer (no dryer). Water heater is on a timer (major plus on cold winter mornings)! Kosher kitchen. Nice neighbors. Located close to good restaurants, cafes, convenience stores and supermarkets.

15 Alfasi Street, Apt. 10 Rehavia \$1000/mo

Owner Yehuda Goodman e-mail ygoodman@mscc.huji.ac.il

Great apartment with lots of space and lots of light. Newly painted and renovated, it is in great condition. The street is pretty and quiet and it is off a main street with store, cafes, restaurants, etc. The building is quiet and it is all around a great place to live. Rent is for 12 months. Starting July 1st. Can be a bit earlier and a bit longer than 12 months. Fully furnished. Rent is excluding utilities (arnona, vaad-bait, phone etc., also excluding cleaning every few weeks by a cleaning-person). Best for 2 roommates (double-bed in each bedroom; also suitable for a couple with a child). Pictures available from landlord.

86 Derech Hebron Baka \$1100/mo

Agent Jeffrey Gilbert phone 624 5977 e-mail jgilbert@netvision.net.il

2nd floor apartment.. 30 minutes walk, or 10 minutes bus ride, to HUC. 2-3 bedrooms - It has two bedrooms and a small study off the living room/dining room that has a futon fold out sofa/ bed and a TV. This room has a doorway with levolor blinds. This room would be suitable for a child or someone who does not need much privacy. Washer, dryer, central heat (controlled by tenant) 2 bathrooms – shower in one, bath-shower-jacuzzi in other. Fully equipped renovated kosher kitchen. Completely furnished. Baka is a great family neighborhood. English speaking agent is helpful.

37 Ramban #1 Rehavia \$900/mo

Owner Dina Feuchtwanger phone 08-6469588 cellphone 050 7811 963

12 mins from HUC. Suitable also for a family or students with dogs/animals. It was renovated for the landlord to use herself and then she moved outside Jerusalem. Large backyard with porch and rose garden. Ground floor with a private gate to enter. Master bedroom is slightly smaller than the guest room which has doors that open to the living room. Landlord has been very understanding and helpful. Her family lives in the neighborhood and is available to collect rent and help with any issues. Kitchen is average/above average in size, with marble countertops and a table large enough for two to eat. There is a large table (easily sits 6) outside on the porch that we bring inside for Shabbat dinners. Heat in this building turned on as soon as the cold weather hit. Problems with the apartment have centered around the furniture. The apartment was empty for three years as it was renovated prior to our stay here. It was furnished for one person (1 bed, 1 closet, etc.). We furnished the apartment to fit our needs, but it is still lacking artwork on the walls, floor rugs, and other items an apartment may acquire over the years. Also, we purchased some major items like a TV and mattress that many apartments already have. We would like to sell the mattress and TV as well as some other items in the apartment for very reasonable prices to the student(s) who choose our place. We have been very happy here. It is a great apartment for entertaining outdoors and is in a wonderful part of Rechavia. There are two small grocery stores within a 2 block walk and a great park filled with kids across the street. Pictures available.

TEMPORARY HOUSING

If you do not arrange for housing prior to arriving in Jerusalem and do not reserve summer space in Beit Shmuel, you will need to make temporary arrangements. You must make these arrangements yourself – the College will not do this for you. You can keep your bags in storage at the College until you find a permanent apartment. As it may take two to three weeks to find an apartment, you should calculate your arrival and initial expenditure budget accordingly.

A travel agent often receives cheaper rates on lodging. Or, you may want to arrange to stay with relatives and friends in Jerusalem until you find a permanent place.

Current students who used temporary lodging when they arrived in Jerusalem recommend **Beit Shmuel**.

Beit Shmuel (BB), 6 Shamah Street (behind HUC) (9722) 620-3455/6/7 fax (9722) 620-3467
btshmuel@netvision.net.il Single - \$42 Double - \$62

Agron Youth Hostel and Guest House, Agron 6, Tel: 02-6217555 , www.iyha.org.il, agron@iyha.org.il
Part of the Conservative Yeshiva, 10 minute walk from HUC.

Also, check out www.flathunting.com or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/janglo/> for temporary housing options.

The following are other suggestions

BED AND BREAKFAST

You can rent a room with an Israeli family until you find permanent housing. This relatively inexpensive option is available through the internet at <http://www.bnb.co.il/list.htm> and also <http://www.jerusalemlojdes.com/Home.html>

Check out the internet for other bed and breakfast options in Jerusalem

Check out the internet for other bed and breakfast options in Jerusalem

YOUTH HOSTELS

If you plan to lodge in youth hostels, you should purchase a youth hostel card. The card reduces the price of a room and almost guarantees you a space. See p. 12, for ISSTA Card information. Additional youth hostel information can be obtained by contacting the American Youth Hostel Association, 75 Spring Street, New York 10012, telephone (212) 932-2300.

HOTELS

Below you will find a sampling of hotels. They have been listed primarily because of their proximity to HUC. Listing a hotel or hostel does not constitute a recommendation.

Not Rated

St. Andrew's Scottish Hospice (BB), 1 King David Street, (9722) 673-2401. Limited number of rooms, make reservations in advance. Highly recommended.

Rosary Convent Hostel (BB), 14 Agron Street, (9722) 625-8529

Little House in Bakah 1 Yehuda St. Bakah, Jerusalem Tel. 972-2-5637641, Fax 972-2-6737955
littlehouse@o-niv.com, www.o-niv/bakah

Three Star:

Jerusalem Gate Hotel (BB), 43 Yirmiyahu Street (near Bus Station), (9722) 500-8500

Eyal Hotel (BB), 21 Shammai, (9722) 623-4161

Eldan Hotel (BB), 24 King David (across from HUC), (9722) 625-3311

Jerusalem Tower Hotel, 23 Hillel St., (9722) 620-9290 www.towerhotels.com/jth

Four Star:

Windmill Hotel (BB), 3 Mendele Street, (9722) 566-3111

Prima Kings Hotel (BB), 60 King George Street, (9722) 620-1201

Kikar Zion Hotel (BB), 25 Shamai Street, (9722) 624-4644

YMCA (BB), 26 King David Street, (9722) 569-2692

FINANCES

Students also suggest arranging temporary housing with classmates, to save money. Get in touch with each other through the listserve which will be set up through the admissions office.

FINANCIAL AID

Your eligibility for an HUC tuition scholarship and for federal Stafford loans will be determined once all appropriate documents are received in the financial aid office for the year in Israel (see Year In Israel financial aid booklet).

Other places to search for financial assistance are:

- Your home synagogue (sisterhood/brotherhood)
- Your local B'nai B'rith
- Your local Jewish Federation and Jewish Free Loan Society
- Your local UAHC office (possible grants and/or loans)
- National Council of Jewish Federations ("FEREP" scholarships)
- The Wexner Foundation, Graduate Fellowship Program Director
41 High Street, Suite 3390
Columbus, Ohio 43215
- Wolf Foundation, New Orleans, LA.
- Bernard David Nathan Memorial Scholarship for Study in Israel
Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple
22 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Tel: (132) 545-6484 Fax: (132) 745-7448
- Rotary Clubs
- Jewish Vocational Service
- JCC Association
- Wolff Scholarship – Jewish Endowment Foundation – (504) 524-4559
- MASA – www.masaisrael.org

Please contact the HUC-JIR National Office of Admissions and Student Services if you require any additional advice regarding financial aid. Their telephone number is (513) 221-1875.

Current students suggest that you:

- *do not be shy about asking for money from local sources*
- *take as much loan money as you can*
- *do not wait to turn in your financial aid forms*

COST OF LIVING

The following is an estimate of expenses for an 11-month stay (July through May) in Israel. These figures are based on students sharing an apartment with one or two roommates and represent a **no frills** estimate. Remember to take into account additional expenses incurred while settling in.

	<u>RABBINICAL/RHSOE</u>	<u>SSM</u>
HUC Tuition	\$15,950	\$15,950
Registration Fees (includes HUC registration, tours, student health services)	\$1,100	\$1,100
Summer Ulpan	\$950	\$950
 <u>OTHER FEES</u>		
Transportation	\$1,250	\$1,250
Additional cost for travel to NY	\$600	\$600
Shipping	\$400	\$400
Ulpan materials	\$70	\$70
Books	\$500	\$500
Personal Accident Insurance	\$100	\$100
Housing, including utilities	\$9,800	\$9,800
Other living expenses (food, laundry, minimal entertainment, very limited travel etc.)	\$7,000	\$7,000
Settling in expenses	\$500	\$500
Stafford loan fees (Origination and Guarantee fees)	\$650	\$650
Voice Lessons	\$0	\$1,200
TOTAL FOR SINGLE STUDENT	\$37,920	\$39,120
 <u>ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR SPOUSE</u>		
Transportation/shipping	\$1,250	\$1,250
Personal Accident Insurance	\$100	\$100
Housing (additional \$300/mo, plus 1/2 utilities)	\$4,000	\$4,000
Ulpan (non-HUC)	\$1,000	\$1,000
Health Insurance	\$500	\$500
Touring (with the school)	\$350	\$350
Other living expenses (food, laundry minimal entertainment, very limited travel etc.)	\$4,000	\$4,000
TOTAL FOR SPOUSE	\$11,200	\$11,200
TOTAL FOR STUDENT AND SPOUSE	\$49,120	\$50,320

ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR CHILDREN (per child)

Transportation	\$1,250
Living Expenses	\$3,300
Israeli School Registration	\$250
Hebrew Tutoring	\$480
School Enrichment Programs (compulsory)	\$700
Day Care Center	\$1,500
Summer Camp (per session)	\$300
School bus	\$800
School books and supplies (compulsory)	\$150
TOTAL ADDITIONAL COST (per child)	\$8,730

* Extra expenses for food, clothes, babysitting, toys, books, insurance, taxis, etc. as well as additional costs for larger apartments. Additional tutoring lessons for school children cost approximately \$17 per hour.

** Although most Israeli schools only charge registration and compulsory fees, students hoping to send their children to the Tali Bayit V'Gan School (associated with the Progressive/Reform Movement), in the Bayit V'Gan neighborhood, should note that extra fees are levied for transportation and compulsory enrichment programs. Tuition and fees (including transportation) totaled \$100 a month per child during the academic year. This is in addition to regular school fees and supplies.

The "Haim" Nursery and Kindergarten are located on the campus of Hebrew Union College. Monthly tuition fees for the Nursery School (till 1:30 pm) and kindergarten (till 1:00 pm) are \$165 and an additional \$95, until 4 p.m. Hot lunches are extra. Prices are subject to change.

There is **no guarantee** that children will be accepted to either the nursery, kindergarten or primary school associated with the Progressive movement. See p. 44 for details.

Students from this year's class share some of their expenses from their own personal experiences:

- \$ 50–75 Arnona (municipality taxes which are usually paid in addition to your rent but sometimes included)
- \$75-100 Va'ad Bayit (upkeep of public areas and sometimes for heat in apartments, usually paid in addition to your rent, rarely included)
- \$310 a week on food and entertainment – comparable to cost of living in America
- \$2000 a month for student and spouse, which includes \$670 rent, NIS 300 Arnona, NIS 110 Va'ad Bayit
- \$80 a week for food, \$30 a month for a gym membership at YMCA right across the street from HUC, NIS 250 a month for a cellphone, \$10 for a meal at a restaurant, \$20 a week for snacks, \$30 a month for cat food, \$6 for a cocktail, \$5 for a glass of wine, \$6 for the average cab ride in Jerusalem, \$8 for a move, \$25 for a concert.
- \$1100 a month for rent, utilities, food, books, fun, etc.

BANKING

Since the value of the New Israel Shekel (NIS) may change during the year, it is best not to convert a large sum of dollars at any one time, but instead to convert small amounts as you need them.

Most students maintain bank accounts “back home” and use their ATM cards to withdraw shekels in Israel. However some students have found it convenient to open accounts in Israeli banks. The best advice we can offer is to check the services at your home bank before coming to Israel. One student had his ATM fees canceled for the year when he showed proof to his bank that he would be a student in another country, another had his parents co-sign to get a lower transaction charge and better conversion rates. Another found a credit union allowing 4 free withdrawals per month.

Maintaining Your North American Bank Account:

If you do keep your current account open there are a few things to keep in mind:

- Any ATM card with a Cirrus, Plus, or STAR System should work in Israel.
- Any ATM/debit card with a **Visa logo** is accepted at any bank in Israel. Students recommend Visa.
- Mastercard ATM cards will only work at a limited number of banks
- You will not be able to access money from savings accounts.
- Take out large sums at once in order to avoid many withdrawal fees.
- Check with bank or credit card company regarding credit card fees.
- Internet access to your account will prove invaluable.
- US dollars are available at some ATM machines—useful for paying rent, though some landlords accept checks or shekels.
- Try to bring a spare ATM card in case one becomes de-magnetized. This will save you the cashless weeks waiting to be sent another card.
- Arrange to pay your credit card bills and check your account online.
- You may want to open an emergency account in the States in case you have trouble accessing your normal account.
- Be sure to bring phone numbers of your banks and credit card companies.
- Leave deposit slips, as well as all account information with someone at home, so that s/he can access it in case of emergency.

Students have recommended:

- Umbrella.com, an American on-line bank, with no charge for taking money out at ATMs in Israel, up to four times a month
- Commerce bank in the U.S. offers free ATM withdrawals overseas.
- Washington Mutual has a \$2.00 transaction fee, no international fee, and a good exchange rate
- Capital One No Hassle card does not charge a fee
- Don't bother with traveler's checks – bad exchange rate

Israeli Bank Accounts

If you decide to open an Israeli bank account, it is surprisingly easy and the staff accommodating. But, be warned, all the material is exclusively in Hebrew and there are numerous fees for transactions! The location of the bank is significant. There is no “Branch Banking” in Israel! Most banks are open Sunday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Friday from 8:30 a.m. - noon, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Thus, banks are generally open when you are in class, closed when you leave, and open again when you have already gone home.

When comparing one bank to another check if there are discounts available for students.

Foreign residents of Israel can open a “Foreign Currency Account” for deposit and withdrawal of dollars as well as a “Shekel Account”. The advantages of a Shekel Account are:

- You can pay school fees for children by check

- If you receive checks in shekels (from student employment, insurance company, etc.), you can deposit them, rather than cash them, immediately.
- You will receive a checkbook for purchasing with shekels. Checks are widely accepted in Israel and can be used at supermarkets, restaurants, department stores, rent and utilities.
- You can obtain a teller machine card and cashier's checks. These can be very handy when you have no cash and the banks are closed, or if you run out of cash while travelling in Israel. All of the major banks honor the teller machine cards of the other banks, allowing you to withdraw money at virtually any teller machine in the country (at no extra charge)! Some banks allow you to obtain a card and checks with no conditions attached. Other banks require you to keep a standing balance of a least \$500 in your foreign currency account. Check with the bank manager of the branch in which you want to open an account.
- Once you open an account, you can have money wired. Checks from abroad take at least 4 weeks to be cashed.

Keep in mind that Israeli banks in North America such as Bank Leumi are not the same companies in Israel. Therefore, if you have an account at Bank Leumi in North America you will not be able to enter a Bank Leumi branch in Jerusalem and access that account.

Cashing any kind of foreign bank check at a local bank will take approximately 3 to 6 weeks to clear, and thus delay access to your funds. We highly recommend that you bring a checkbook for special purchases, emergencies, and for payments at home that you may have to make during the year.

Money Changers

Another option for cashing dollar checks or converting currency is at a money changer. These are small shops, located downtown, in some malls and on main thoroughfares. Most, but not all will cash checks, but take a small commission. Generally the rates they pay are slightly less than banks, but are open all day and are more convenient.

Wire Transfers

Most banks in North America will transfer funds electronically to an account in Israel for a charge of approximately \$30. The money will appear in your account very quickly, within 3 to 4 days. However, it requires someone to physically go to the bank at home to arrange the wire transaction. Thus, unless someone you trust already has access to your bank account, you will have to arrange it before your departure. Make sure to ask your bank at home whether they perform this service and its cost.

Western Union: Money transfers from Western Union can be made through the Israeli Post Office. The recipient can collect the money in Israeli shekels in almost every post office in Israel. There is no need for the student to produce a credit card or traveler's check nor does the student need a bank account. The money is transferred within a matter of minutes. For details, call 1-800-CALL-CASHSM or click onto Western Union online www.westernunion.com. In Israel, call 177-022-2131.

Redeeming Israeli Bonds

You may redeem State of Israel Bonds in accordance with Israel Foreign Exchange Regulations, for Israeli currency, in amounts not exceeding \$2,500 per person per calendar month during your visit. Proceeds from the bonds redeemed before maturity are in shekels and may not be reconverted into foreign currency. Cashing Israeli bonds at a bank where you have an account (even one you just opened) accelerates the procedure.

Visa, Mastercard and American Express

At one time American Express had an office in Jerusalem where money could be transferred, etc. As it is now closed, students tell us that it is preferable to use Visa or Mastercard.

Check with your credit card company to see what services are available to you while you are in Israel. Most credit card cash advance transactions can be completed in Israeli banks but you can only receive shekels (which can then be exchanged for dollars.) You will be able to withdraw up to the available cash limit on your card. The post office will change traveler's checks without commission and rates are usually better than in the banks.

Most credit card companies will begin to charge you interest on your credit card account from the time of a transaction rather than after the due date of your next credit card statement. Therefore this kind of transaction can be quite expensive and funds should be deposited in your credit card account before you withdraw funds in Israel. Students should check with their credit card company as to the rate of interest charged on cash advances.

Also, notify your credit card company that you will be in the Middle East for a year to make sure they don't put a "hold" on your account because of "suspicious foreign purchases".

PAYING BILLS

In general, it is advisable to designate someone have Power of Attorney for you back home. This person would then be able to maintain your bank account, write checks for bills, and handle other financial transactions while you are in Israel.

Most credit card companies will now allow you to pay your bills on-line by debiting your checking account in North America. Current students recommend this procedure and advise that you arrange for it before leaving for Israel. Students also advise that you bring with you a list of banking and credit card information (account numbers and means of contacting the institutions.)

Also keep in mind:

Utility bills in Israel can be paid in shekels at the post office, the bank or over the phone with a North American credit card.

- You will not need to bring shekels with you—the exchange rates will be better at Ben Gurion Airport than at your local bank and even better in Jerusalem—taxi and *sherut* drivers will accept US dollars

HEALTH CONCERNS

In general, current students suggest that you be prepared for some digestive discomfort as your body acclimates to the food and weather in Israel. You should remember to drink a lot of water and wear sunscreen everyday.

HUC does not have a private insurance plan or clinic for students. However, your Hebrew Union College tuition fees include private, HMO-type health coverage through a local insurance provider. An agent of the health provider serves as the liaison for the student for all health and insurance matters. Students without pre-existing health concerns are generally satisfied with the quality of the medical coverage. However, if you have prior or existing health issues you should seriously consider retaining your current coverage because pre-existing conditions are NOT covered by the health plan. **ANY PRE-EXISTING CONDITION OR ANY COMPLICATION RESULTING FROM A PRE-EXISTING CONDITION WILL NOT BE COVERED UNDER THIS PLAN.** The representative of the insurance provider visits the campus to meet with students on a regular basis. If you are in doubt as to whether you should retain your current policy or not, we advise you not to cancel your policy until you can confer personally with the agent. Additionally, during Orientation there will be an in-depth explanation of the coverage and procedure for obtaining medical services. The following is a brief outline of the students' insurance plan.

Every time a policy holder (student, spouse, dependent, etc) visits a doctor under the health plan, s/he will have to pay \$5.- (in Israeli currency) as co-payment to the doctor's office. The rest of the cost will be covered by the insurance carrier. In the same way, each time a policy holder has a prescription filled in a pharmacy, s/he will have to pay \$5 per medication. All other costs will be covered by the carrier.

COVERAGE AND EXCLUSIONS - FAQ

Will the plan cover prescription drugs that I am currently taking?

The insurance plan only covers drugs prescribed by the participating doctors in Israel, up to \$50 for 3 months and not more than \$200 per year. Any prescription drugs you are currently taking must be paid for privately since it indicates a prior condition, which is not covered by the plan. Most prescription drugs (or a generic version) are available in Israel (and usually much cheaper than in the US). If you are on medication, we suggest you bring a supply of drugs with you as well as your doctor's prescription. If the medication is available in Israel, you will be able to fill the prescription here. If not, you will need to make arrangements to have your medication sent to you in Israel.

Can I get extra coverage to cover chronic conditions such as asthma?

In most cases, you cannot get coverage in Israel to cover prior or chronic medical conditions. You can get private additional coverage from the insurance carrier to cover asthma but **ONLY FOR HOSPITALIZATION**. The plan does not cover doctor visits or special medications. To get all the details, you can contact the insurance carrier directly at y_health@yedidim.co.il or wait until you arrive to speak with the health care representative. If you are uncertain as to whether your specific health issues will be covered, we strongly suggest that you continue with your current policy until you can speak to the agent. For specific questions, contact the insurance carrier.

What if I have a chronic or serious prior medical condition and worry that I will not be covered?

If you have suffered from a chronic or serious illness in the past (lupus, cancer, heart problems, etc) the insurance carrier will most probably refuse you coverage. Therefore, you must continue with your current insurance policy. If you are in doubt, **KEEP YOUR CURRENT POLICY** until you can confer with the agent. (Know that there are NO insurance carriers in Israel who will provide short term insurance for chronic and serious prior medical conditions).

What about well baby checkups and immunizations?

Again, this is not covered in the basic policy. Once you arrive, you can speak with the agent about buying additional insurance which could cover these expenses.

When does the policy take effect?

We have made arrangements with the health insurance carrier to cover all students from the day they arrive in the country. However, you **MUST** come to HUC asap after arrival to register. In this way, we can be sure that everyone is covered at all times. If you already have an insurance plan, you may want to extend it for the first few days that you are in Israel.

Will the plan cover me if I travel outside of Israel or back to the United States?

No. The plan only covers your health needs in Israel and by specific doctors and pharmacies. If you travel outside of Israel during the year you are here, you must take out private travel insurance or make other arrangements. The health provider that HUC uses does provide private travel insurance and you can take care of the arrangements when you need it.

What health coverage can spouses, significant others and dependents buy?

The insurance carrier that works with the College can also provide policies to non-students. The conditions are the same and the price will vary from \$1 - \$1.75 a day, depending on factors such as age and type of policy. Coverage will begin as soon as the non-student registers at HUC for insurance. It is suggested that the non-student make arrangements to continue his/her current insurance policy for the first few days in Israel until finalizing the policy with the insurance agent.

What if I don't want the policy because I want to continue with my current policy or have another option?

All students must be covered by a health insurance policy. If you choose an option other than that provided by HUC, you will be refunded the cost of the insurance plan (about \$300). You will receive the reimbursement once you are here in Israel and can demonstrate that you are covered by another plan.

What else is included?

Treatment by internists and specialists listed on the health provider lists. Treatment in Israeli public hospital emergency rooms and clinics for up to 90 days a year; tests, x-rays, medications, doctor's fees, surgeon, intensive care, anesthetist, angioplasty, pacemaker, catheterization, general services. Emergency dental treatment, up to \$200 a year. Discounts for routine dental care. Remember that each doctor's visit will cost you the \$5 co-payment.

What else is excluded?

ANY PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL HANDICAP, CHRONIC ILLNESS OR CHRONIC CONDITION THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE STUDENT JOINED THE HEALTH PLAN. ANY COMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM A PREVIOUS INJURY OR A CHRONIC CONDITION.

Injuries sustained in road accidents (which are covered by automobile insurance companies), work accidents, earthquakes, war, or terrorist attacks (which are covered by the National Insurance Institute).

Supervision during pregnancy, rehabilitation, cosmetic surgery, organ transplants, hospitalization for non-emergency treatment, AIDS or AIDS-related conditions, routine tests such as pap smears and mammograms or annual examinations, sexually transmitted diseases

Students will be asked to sign a declaration that they have not withheld health information.

Do I have to do anything now?

No. You will take care of all the paperwork when you register at HUC. If you have specific questions, speak with the agent once you arrive or contact Amos Gilboa at y_health@yedidim.co.il We do not have specific information about the plan – speak with the agent.

Routine Maintenance Visits - Make sure you have an annual physical/gynecological/dental check-up before coming to Israel.

Private Health Coverage

Students who maintain their private health insurance policy in North America should become familiar with the details and terms of its coverage especially as related to overseas coverage, and what the insurance company will need in order to reimburse the student for overseas expenses. The Office of Student Services strongly recommends you maintain your current private health plan in the following circumstances:

- If you have a chronic illness or injury or prior conditions that may require hospitalization or extended treatment
- If you want or need cosmetic surgery during the Year-in-Israel
- If you plan a pregnancy

Additionally, students or spouses/partners with medical coverage from a current employer should check into the COBRA coverage as soon as possible.

Counseling Services

The HUC health plan does not cover psychological counseling. However, limited counseling is available to students on the Year In Israel program. Details will be given during orientation.

In Jerusalem there is a free walk-in crisis center which has English speaking therapists. In the past, some students have chosen to seek the services of a private psychiatrist, psychologist, or social worker. There are many English speaking immigrants in these professions whom the college can recommend. Costs per visit are equivalent to those in the States.

Spouses*, Partners*, and Children

*Or "Significant Others" if that better describes your situation.

Spouses and Partners

It is usually difficult for a spouse or partner to decide whether or not to come to Israel with a newly admitted HUC student. The following sections are designed to give both the student and spouse an accurate picture of the pros and cons, as well as realistic expectations for the year. Spouses/partners of students in the current Year-In-Israel program, by and large, prepared the words of advice that follow.

Before you leave for Israel or soon after your arrival, define and write down your goals for the year! As an HUC student, your spouse/partner has an explicit and pre-determined purpose for going to Israel. The student will usually be considerably busier than the spouse/partner. Without a clearly defined goal - be it learning Hebrew, touring Israel, earning money, or reading great novels - at the end of your own "Year-In Israel" you may feel as if you did not fulfill yourself or achieve very much.

This may be the time to develop new interests in art, calligraphy or sports by taking advantage of the numerous courses offered throughout the city. Consider taking courses from a wide range of classes in English at The Hebrew University on a full- or part-time basis. Credits may be transferable to universities in the United States.

Many spouses/partners stressed that it was very important to share the year with the HUC student and to try to participate in as many school-sponsored activities as possible. They also note that this is a difficult time for all relationships and that communication and compassion are needed even more than usual.

Your spouse/partner will be studying most of the day and you may find it difficult to be without your peer group. Spouses/partners have often formed a support network, organizing outings together, speakers and just getting together on a regular basis. In the past, spouses/partners said they found their "niche" within a month of arrival.

Other tips:

- Volunteering is another way to enhance your time in Israel. There are numerous volunteer agencies and organizations who can use your expertise. Take a few weeks during the summer to check out local organizations and see if you can take on a specific project which will give you satisfaction. Check with the Office of Student Services for help.
- Renewing your subscriptions to professional and personal interest magazines will help you stay in touch while in Israel.
- If you play an instrument, paint, sew, etc., be sure to bring your equipment with you. Best sellers and newly published books are expensive in Israel, you may want to stock up before you come.

Orientation

Spouses/partners are not required to attend the summer orientation. However, **they are encouraged** to come, particularly to the sections concerning social acculturation and orientation to Israel. The HUC Office of Student Affairs needs advance notification if a spouse/partner plans to attend the sessions.

For spouses and partners who can't come for the year:

It is very hard to sustain and nurture a long-distance relationship and it is just as difficult for the partner who stays behind as it is for the student who is in Israel. Students offer the following advice:

1. Check into the cheapest way to call, or use Skype or Vonage, See page 59 for details.
2. Send pictures of people you meet and places you go so that your spouse can get a feel for life in Israel
3. Some students invest in video-conferencing over the internet so you can talk to and see the other person
4. Spouses send auto "tape diaries" to each other to include them in daily life.
5. Try to get back to visit during at least one break
6. Try to have your loved one come visit you in Israel.

Ulpan Programs

Many spouses/partners advise learning some Hebrew before coming to Israel and then continuing in an ulpan when you arrive.

Spouses/partners of current students also recommend registering for an Ulpan which will help you to feel part of society more quickly. A Hebrew ulpan, twice weekly from 5:00 pm to 7:50 pm, is offered at HUC for new immigrants and the general public (subject to demand). Spouses/partners may enroll, at a reduced fee.

There are numerous options for studying Hebrew at other institutions in Jerusalem that can be explored upon arrival. The cost for a two-month ulpan in the summer is approximately \$500 (five days/week, five hours/day). Hebrew classes during the year could cost an extra \$500 to \$1000 (once/twice a week, two to three hours/day). Most public ulpan begin on the first of every month.

The Hebrew University offers ulpan classes from levels "aleph" to "vav," and regular university classes in English and Hebrew during the academic year. Those who wish to attend full-time for credit will have to pay full tuition through the School for Overseas Students of the Hebrew University. In this case, you must contact the American Friends of the Hebrew University (11 East 69th Street, New York, NY 10036; telephone: (212) 472-9800) for an application and information about scholarships.

Student Tiyulim

Spouses/partners are welcome to join HUC students on overnight *tiyulim* provided there is enough space on the bus. Accommodations are usually three to a room. Spouses/partners will be asked to pay approximately \$130 for each of the three yearly trips. The College reserves the right to set an age minimum for some *tiyulim*, and to disallow the participation of small children.

Family Health Services and Insurance

Private health insurance is available in Israel for families through the private company which offers the health plan to the HUC students. Policies generally cover full hospitalization up to \$50,000, office visits to private, approved physicians; x-ray and laboratory tests; medications (up to \$200) and personal accident insurance. Policies do not cover pre-existing conditions or any complications which may arise as a result of a pre-existing condition.. Payment is between \$1.00 and \$1.95 a day, based on age. You can purchase insurance policies through the health plan representative on campus. You can also contact the representative directly:

Amos Gilboa
972-3-638-6216
972-3-687-4534 (fax)
y_health@netvision.net.il

Employment

Most spouses and partners hope to be able to find work during this year in Israel. Keep in mind that it is unlikely that you will find a satisfying job in your field if you do not have a working knowledge of Hebrew. You will probably be restricted to jobs where your English or other, specific skills come in to play. If you

have relatives or contacts in Israel who can circulate your resume or arrange for an internship, by all means ask them to do so. Also bring resumes with you.

Arranging for a work permit before arrival in Israel, without having received a firm job offer first, is a time-consuming, bureaucratic experience. However, once you arrive and have a job, a work permit can be arranged within a few weeks with a letter from your prospective employer stating that you are needed for a specific position.

Finding a job will depend upon your own initiative and inventiveness. Be prepared to "hit the pavement." The best possibilities are as a private English tutor (\$15/hour or more), as an English teacher in an adult education class (\$15/hour or more but only if you have the qualifications), or in child care (\$10/hour). These jobs are usually advertised by posted signs in buildings, at bus stops, and in the newspaper. Other options: babysitter, waitress, secretary, or offering childcare in a hotel. Spouses/partners with experience in working with young children can find opportunities to work in English language play, music and story groups in and around Jerusalem.

In the past spouses have conducted workshops and story hours at the Israel Museum, have led aerobic, yoga and feldenkreis classes, one spouse clerked for a Supreme Court Justice, others found jobs with Birthright, the JNF and Otzma, another was a kindergarten teacher at a Reform synagogue. Use your contacts in the Jewish world to see if there are short or long term job opportunities for you. Previous students have found employment in telemarketing and research with a Jerusalem company called CSM.

This as well as other job opportunities can be found by subscribing to:
ISRAEMPLOY-subscribe@yahoo.com

Or do a little research through "www.jobnet.co.il", "www.marksmen.co.il", or other internet sites.

You may also consider a professional internship through the Tnuat Aliya - "Stagerim" program. Interns work in their professions and receive a monthly stipend. The stipend is not large but you can gain valuable experience in your field. For more information on this program Check out the website:
http://www.destinationisrael.com/works_internships.asp

HUC offers some part-time jobs (usually \$4.00/hour) in the library. Please apply after your arrival in Jerusalem to the Head Librarian. In addition, there may be a position open as a nursery school or kindergarten teacher (Hebrew required) or assistant in the Reform Movement Kindergarten on the HUC campus.

Families with children

First of all, *Kol HaKavod* to you and your children for embarking on a wonderful adventure! The year in Israel is stressful, but it can also be a wonderful experience. Parents from previous years agree that attitude is everything—if you approach the year with a can-do attitude, most children will follow your example and rise to the occasion. And a year with dozens of surrogate "aunts and uncles" (i.e., your HUC classmates), who will give them untold hours of attention, is an added bonus! (Some of your classmates are former youth group leaders and camp counselors—more fun and infinitely cooler than one's parents.)

Note: The US State Department advises that many governments have initiated procedures at entry/exit points to prevent international child abduction. These often include requiring documentary evidence of relationship and permission for the child's travel from the parent(s) or legal guardian not present. Therefore, whenever traveling abroad with children, it is advisable to have such documentation on hand, even if not required.

Some overall advice from one parent to another:

1. Know your goals for the year, and keep them manageable. This can be as simple as "I want my child to become fluent in Hebrew," (far easier for them than it is for us), or "I don't want him/her

traumatized by the experience.” Or, you may have specific academic goals for your child for the year (learning to read, mathematical skills, etc.). First figure out your family’s priorities for the year. This helps you filter your options when it comes time to choose a school, a place to live, and the millions of other choices you will make as you pick up your family and move them to Israel.

2. Know that the transition may be difficult and be prepared to advocate for your children with teachers and counselors.

3. Take advantage of Israel. Both through HUC *tiyulim* (families can accompany on most major trips) and through your own initiative, see what you can of Israel. The experience of traveling often provides children’s favorite memories of the year in Israel—and it is really the best part of your child’s Israel “education.” Don’t be afraid to take your child out of school for a day (like Fridays—when they are in school and you are not), rent a car, and get out of Jerusalem for the weekend. There are many places to visit—Tel Aviv, Haifa, Ein Gedi nature preserve, Eilat. If the mood strikes, Just Do It!

4. Hebrew, Hebrew, Hebrew. The more Hebrew you can give your child before coming to Israel, the easier it is for them. Consider hiring a native Israeli (such as a Hebrew School or Day School teacher in your area) to tutor your child before you come. Even if your children just learn the Aleph-Bet and a few phrases, it will help them have the “sound” of the Israeli accent in their ears. Once you get to Israel and are settled in, ask the principal of the local school for names of people who can tutor your child over the summer (\$10-\$15 per hour). Between tutoring and summer camp (see below), children can pick up enough Hebrew to make that ever-important first day of school less traumatic.

5. Humor! So much will happen this year that you can’t possibly imagine—whether it’s the 3 hours you spend on your first trip to the grocery store (it takes a long time to translate all those silly little necessities like laundry detergent!) or the down-to-the-last-minute teacher contract negotiations that threaten strike every year. If you haven’t learned how to roll with the punches, your year in Israel will teach you. Laugh at yourself, keep it all in perspective, and your children will learn to be flexible too.

6. Fill your children’s days with activities as soon as possible after you arrive. Send them to daycamp when you first arrive. Do not wait to immerse them into Israeli culture until the official start of the school year.

Things to bring for your kids:

- Toys, storybooks, art supplies—“favorites”—even if it means paying for extra baggage (remember that you can ship books easily—you may want to buy a bunch of cheap paperbacks at your local library thrift shop or used book store and send them ahead).
- Immunization and Health records (no reason to immunize your child again automatically at the start of the school year). Have your doctor make a copy of your child’s health history and bring it with you. It really simplifies doctor visits.
- Comfortable, durable clothes (kids get really dirty at camp and school, and Israel is tough on laundry). Kids will live in shorts and lightweight tops the first few months they’re here. Texas or other Velcro-type sandals are ubiquitous. In the winter months, layers are the key, including outerwear. Remember that you walk everywhere (novel and not always popular with American suburban children) and during the winter it gets cold and rainy. Don’t forget those hats, scarves, gloves, and waterproof boots! Israeli diapers are available at the same price as US diapers and are just as good.
- Sturdy knapsack for schoolbooks. Kids carry a lot of books and supplies (classrooms are often small and crowded, with little storage space) back and forth. You may want to wait, however, and buy the backpacks in Israel (\$30-\$50 is typical), if your child would be happier with an “authentic” Israeli-style backpack. Note: If you like to pack your child’s food in an insulated lunch bag, bring one with you. They are difficult to find in Israel, although the ice packs are not.
- Medicines, both prescription and over-the-counter. Bring as much as you can with you, including children’s pain reliever (expensive) and cold medication (antihistamines are not available without a prescription). When classmates travel back to the states during the year, you can have

them bring you additional supplies if necessary. Also, you may find it helpful to bring a Fahrenheit thermometer.

Schools

There are a variety of school choices available in Jerusalem, and most parents recommend the “Israeli education experience” as the best method of absorption and adjustment. Some key criteria for evaluating the school choices available are: class size (40 students—yes, 40—is a typical class size), how much tutoring is available during the school week for non-Israelis, whether the classroom teacher can and is willing to speak English, and the number of other English-speaking children in the school (“any port in a storm”—it helps to have a few friendly faces you can hang with during recess). It gets to be a complicated chicken-and-egg process to hunt for an apartment and a school at the same time, but parents strongly recommend choosing where you live based on the quality of the neighborhood school. It is worth the effort to investigate neighborhood schools thoroughly upon arrival. Talk to the principals. School is still in session until the end of June, so you will be able to see the classes and teachers in action if you come early enough before your orientation starts. Apartments are plentiful—don’t worry about being able to find a good apartment wherever you choose to live—wait and find the school first. And don’t be shy about asking the HUC-JIR Office of Student Services and previous years’ students for their advice.

School districting can be a little complicated in Jerusalem. Once you have an apartment selected, you must go to the Municipal Office of Education to register your child. Your child will be assigned to the school closest to your apartment that still has room to accept pupils in that grade. Be sure to verify that the school you want has room for your child before you sign a lease. It may take a couple of visits to the Office of Education (and your best impersonation of good old Israeli assertiveness) to get this all sorted out, but it is worth the effort. Note: schools are being closed or redistricted each year—be sure to confirm from the source that the school you are looking at will still be available to you the following year.

Israeli public schools are “free,” but all students pay school fees (from \$200 to \$400 for the year—higher if your child attends a Tali school) and a registration fee (\$250—but sometimes the City forgets to collect this). Student-families buy their own textbooks and school supplies (approx. \$100 for year a year, depending on the school and what supplies you choose to buy).

Israeli schools operate on a 5 or 6-day week, Sunday through Thursday/Friday. Ask about this when checking out schools. Hours can vary by day of the week (Friday dismissal is earlier, around noon). The elementary school day (K-2) is usually over at 1:00 pm, and grades 3-6 may study until 1:00 or 2:00 pm. Each school and/or neighborhood community center usually offers a variety of after-school activities (“*chugim*”) or “latchkey” childcare programs, which generally run until 3:30 or 4:00. Since HUC classes can run until 6 pm, a spouse or babysitter will often need to be the pickup person. When researching schools, be sure to ask about availability of after-school programs. Registration for these activities generally takes place at the beginning of the school year (a chaotic system that everyone, nevertheless, survives). “Full-time” after-school care (5 days a week, Sunday-Thursday) is less expensive than its American counterpart, often including a “hot meal” for lunch.

“*Shvithah* means Strike”—Teacher contract negotiations often come down to the wire before an agreement is reached. Sometimes, the agreement is reached, literally, late into the night before school is scheduled to start the next morning. In recent years, strikes have delayed the opening of the year by a number of weeks. Have a contingency plan ready, and make sure you have someone to call the first morning of school who can understand the Hebrew-language news if you can’t understand if school is opening or not!

Some notes from parents about curriculum:

- Israeli math studies are more advanced than in America, so your child may need tutoring in upper grades to catch up.
- Israeli public schools teach Hebrew, English, Tanach, and holidays, but prayer and other religious practices stressed in American Jewish day schools are not parts of public (non-Tali) school life.

- If your child is just learning to read, expect the introduction of a second language to delay his or her reading in English. It may take a few months once you return to the States to catch up.
- Bring materials from your child's current school (or future school in New York, Los Angeles, or Cincinnati, if you know it) to work on at home during the course of the year. Don't feel you need to push too much academically, but this extra step will help you help your child stay on grade level for the re-entry back in America.

The Tali School System

There are special schools within the Israeli public school system called "Tali." These elementary schools (grades 1-6) differ from the secular schools in that non-Orthodox tefillah and religion are a part of their curriculum. There are two Tali schools in Jerusalem that may be options for HUC parents:

Tali Bayit V'Gan

This school is located in the Bayit V'Gan neighborhood (not in the vicinity of HUC-JIR). Unlike other local schools, you do not have to live in the neighborhood to send your child to this school and there is transportation available (but it will cost approximately \$60 a month per child). The Israeli Progressive (Reform) Movement has worked in conjunction with the Ministry of Education to develop part of the curriculum for the school. Many members of the HUC-JIR "family" and the local Reform community send their children here. Consequently, there is great demand for places in the school and priority is reserved for Jerusalem citizens; there is no guarantee that you will be able to secure a slot for you child at Tali Bayit V'Gan. As soon as possible, contact the principal at the school and the municipality in order to reserve a place. You will need to send complete details, such as age, birthdate, and grade that your child will be entering. Copy the HUC-JIR Office of Student Affairs on your correspondence with the school.

Contacts are:

Lea Sarni, Principal
Tali Bayit Vegan
fax 011-972-2-641-2359

Sarah Schwartz
Municipality Supervisor
fax 011-972-2-629-6612

Tali Frankel

The original Tali elementary school in Israel, developed by the Masorti (Conservative) movement, is also located at some distance from HUC-JIR, in a neighborhood called French Hill (Givat HaSarfati). French Hill is about a 20-30 minute commute by bus to HUC-JIR. Unlike Tali Bayit V'Gan, you must live in the French Hill area to send your child here. The pluses of living in French Hill are that it is a family-friendly, liberal neighborhood—lots of English-speaking families, both Olim and people here for just a year or two—and the school is accustomed to dealing with Americans. The minus is that you may be one of the only HUC students not living right around the corner from HUC. This will mean a daily commute and some creative travel on Shabbat (taxis, or bunking with classmates, since the buses don't run on Shabbat) when you want to be on campus.

If you can't secure a space in Tali Bayit V'Gan, but want the Tali experience for your child, Frankel may be an option for you. To see if there is room for your child, contact the principal as soon as possible:

Batia Bar, Principal
Tali Frankel
fax 011-972-2-581-5784; phone 011-972-2-581-7070

American International School

This is a secular private school which runs from 8:00 – 3:00, Monday – Thursday and until 1:00 on Fridays. It is costly - \$4,000 for Pre-K, \$7,700 for K and \$8,700 for grades 1-5, but the classes are very small and are taught in English. The children are from all religious and ethnic backgrounds although mainly diplomat and journalists children. Contact Susan Guggenheim at 011-972-2-679-9611.

Junior High and High Schools

Although non-Israeli primary school children are mainstreamed directly into the school system, older children benefit from intensive Hebrew studies before beginning to study in an Israeli framework.

The high school immigrant ulpan is a free ulpan/school for children ages 11-18, held six days a week, 8:15 – 1:30. For five months (beginning in September), your child will be taught Hebrew, Hebrew vocabulary for general school subjects, and quick introductions to Israeli school subjects such as Bible, Jewish History, etc. At the end of the five months, your child will be integrated into your neighborhood school at his or her grade level. Contact the principal, Yael by phone at 011-972-2-673-1293.

Another option for high school age students is to join the EIE (Eisendrath International Exchange) High School Program in Israel, sponsored by the UAHC. For information, contact Chana Hirshberg at the UAHC office in New York (212-650-4073, chirshberg@uahc.org).

A new website geared to English speaking teens who are moving to Israel is now on-line. The site, "Teen-to-Teen," offers articles, advice, and a chance to "talk" to other English speaking teens who have moved to Israel. Visit the site at "<http://www.ttt.org.il>"

Preschool

For children under two years of age, the best option available is to find a *metapelet* (babysitter) who will either take care of your child in your home, or one who takes care of children in her home. A *metapelet* charges NIS 1000-1400 per month (approximately \$250-350 US) for 25-30 hours a week, depending upon whether she takes care of your child alone or with other children, and whether she works at your house or her own.

For children 2-4 years of age, there are excellent *ganin* (preschool programs) throughout the city that cost approximately \$150 per month. The best way to find a *gan* is to look for one in the neighborhood where you would like to rent an apartment. Har El Reform Congregation has an excellent pre-school. Contact Cantor Evan Cohen at cantorev@netvision.net.il

There is a nursery kindergarten, Gan Haim, for 4-5 year olds on the HUC-JIR campus affiliated with the Israeli Reform Movement. The monthly tuition fees are \$165 (until 1:00 pm) and an additional \$95 until 4:00 pm. Space fills quickly, so if you would like to register your child, please let the Office of Student Services know by letter or fax as soon as possible. As with the Tali school (above), HUC-JIR cannot guarantee that your child will be admitted to Gan Haim.

Special Needs

Children with disabilities may need special attention that is not offered in the Israeli school system. Unless your child is in a special-needs program, there will probably not be a special class or special tutoring available. For further information, write to or call the following organizations:

NITZAN, for the Advancement of Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities
14 Allenby Street, Tel Aviv
Telephone: 02-510-1154/1158

HILLEL, Parents of Children with Mild Learning Disabilities
PO Box 23131, Jerusalem
Telephone: 02-586-5247 or 566-8588

ALMOG, Association for the Development and Improvement of Services for the Handicapped and Retarded in Israel
JDC Hill, PO Box 3489, Jerusalem
Telephone: 02-566-1231

Summer Programs and Activities

Summer day camp programs are available through the YMCA (directly across from HUC-JIR), the Society for the Protection of Nature, and Ramah. There are also summer programs offered in almost every neighborhood school or community center, which can be an excellent way for your child to meet other children nearby. Although it is possible to register your child upon arrival (the YMCA camp, for example, usually has plenty of room), some camps (such as Ramah) fill up quickly, so you would want to contact them before you arrive.

Summer HUC classes run until around 1:00 pm, but there are regular afternoon activities, so keep this in mind when considering extended day for your child.

Some recommended camps are:

Gan Haim Day Camp—Located on the HUC-JIR campus, affiliated with the Reform Movement

Kindergarten Ages

Session: July through Mid-August

Cost: not yet determined

Contact the HUC-JIR Office of Student Services **immediately** if you are interested in enrolling your child.

YMCA (across from HUC-JIR), telephone 02-569-2692

Session I: July; Session II: Late July-August

Ages 3-5, Hours 7:45-1:00 Sunday –Thursday (Friday until 12:00)

Ages 6-12, Hours 7:45-1:00 Sunday –Thursday (Friday until 12:00);

Extended Hours: 1:00 to 4:00 Sunday-Thursday (includes lunch)

Cost (Summer 2000 prices): NIS 990 (\$225) per session for short day, NIS 1295 (\$520) for long day

Hint: Ask for your child to be in a mixed Hebrew-English group. S/he will learn Hebrew, but still be able to communicate with counselors and some of the children in English.

Ramah (Conservative Movement), tel 02-679-0243, fax 02-679-2060

Grades 1-6 (English speaking with Hebrew encouraged)

Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 8:00-1:45 (Friday until 1:00)

Weekly basis throughout the summer

Visit their website for application and prices: www.ramah.org.il

Health

Make sure that your child has all required immunizations before departing for Israel, including a current tetanus shot. Many pediatricians also recommend a Hepatitis shot for both you and your child (about \$50, not usually covered by health insurance). The schedule of immunizations is different in Israel, so determine in advance which immunizations your child will need. Also discuss with your pediatrician the matter of polio vaccinations, as well as any special needs your child may have.

Due to environmental differences, expect that your child (and you!) may easily catch colds or stomach ailments after you arrive. This is normal. Drinking lots of water will help.

Insurance

Insurance for children is available from the same private health provider who works with HUC students. Premiums are approximately \$1.50 a day per child. Check with the agent before you arrive to discuss special concerns such as pre-existing conditions and prescription drug coverage. Some families choose to continue their coverage from the US for their stay in Israel.

In general, doctors at the Wolfson Family Medical Center (where many HUC-JIR students and families go) are friendly, English-speaking, and easy to work with.

For more information on Health Insurance, see that section, page 41.

Some additional words of advice from HUC-JIR parents:

- There are many parks, museums, a zoo, and inexpensive attractions in Jerusalem for children. Take advantage of them!
- Buy clothes and shoes a little big—children grow during the year, and some things can be hard to shop for!
- Your classmates and their spouses will offer to babysit. Take them up on it! Seriously—they will enjoy your children, your children will enjoy your classmates, and you need a break once in a while!
- During the early part of the summer and/or school year, your child may come home exhausted, elated, depressed, cranky, or a combination of all of these. Do not panic! Remember that they are also homesick and experiencing culture shock. Let them know that you are experiencing the same things. Children will adapt, so emphasize the positive—they will be fluent in Hebrew, they will be ahead of their US classmates in math, time goes quickly, and Israel is a great adventure.
- Take advantage of public libraries. Beit Ha'Am has a good English Children's Library. Your child's school may also have an English-language library where you can borrow books.
- During the summer, there is a big book fair at the City Center, where local bookstores sell books at a discount. This is an excellent opportunity to buy your child some Hebrew-language books. Consider buying some of their old favorites, such as *Green Eggs and Ham* or *Goodnight Moon*, in Hebrew, and then read them together! You both will practice your Hebrew!
- Forward children's magazine subscriptions, or have a relative collect back copies to mail to you.
- Plan to buy school notebooks and supplies in Israel—they differ from American supplies. You will get a list of what to buy once your child is enrolled in school.
- Getting to know other families with children in Israel (outside the HUC-JIR student body) will make an okay year into a wonderful year. It can be hard to meet people at first, but building that parent network makes everybody's year a smoother and more rewarding experience. Get involved in school and day care as early as possible - it's the best way to make friends.
- When looking for an apartment, check out "family" neighborhoods so there will be other families with children in the building or on the block. Again, remember that housing is plentiful in Jerusalem, so if you need to wait until you are here to find a school for your child, don't worry that you won't find a good apartment. You can live comfortably in a temporary apartment or bed-and-breakfast, and then find an apartment in the neighborhood that is best for you in terms of schools and family life. Some families plan to bring the children over later in the summer, allowing them to find housing and schools before settling in the children.
- Be aware that buildings often don't have elevators for strollers and other large kid-related equipment.
- Israel is a very child-tolerant country. There are really no restaurants that are too formal for children (nothing in Israel is very formal), and they are happy to accommodate special requests for picky eaters. The same person who will jostle past you to get on the bus will help schlep your baby carriage up the steps. Israel cherishes its children, and you'd be surprised at what a difference it makes in how you experience your time in Israel as a family.
- If you're not used to city-living without a car, keep in mind car seats can be an issue in taxis. You may want to consider bringing a compact or convertible car seat of some kind.
- Israeli schoolchildren are far more independent than their American counterparts. From about grade 2 and on, children keep their own "*yoman*" (diary) with daily assignments and messages to parents. Expect the supervision of children to be quite different too—your child may be unsupervised in the classroom before the bells ring, or after the children are released from school. Be prepared for things to feel very different—from the size of the classes, to the physical equipment at the schools, to the

quality of education and childcare that you will be offered. On the positive side, your child will come back from the Israel year with improved organizational skills and confidence.

- Consider fulfilling your community service requirement by volunteering at your child's school! This helps you know your child's teacher, know what her day is like at school, and practice all the really important Hebrew that you won't learn in Ulpan—jump rope songs, Pokeman trading, and school-yard culture. It is a humbling and rewarding experience.
- Bring a digital camera with you. Grandparents and friends want to see how your children are changing during their year away! And don't forget to bring along the e-mail addresses of your child's close buddies. An occasional e-mail helps alleviate the homesickness, and it's much faster than regular mail.
- Remember that you are more than just a student, you are someone's Mom or Dad (or Husband or Wife.) Keep your outside responsibilities in mind when you sign up for optional activities. Postpone your religious service requirements until later in the year, when you've had time for everyone to settle in. Don't stretch yourself too hard to take a higher Hebrew level if it means you have so much homework that you can not enjoy your family and experience time with them in Israel. On the whole, HUC-JIR is understanding of your family responsibilities—the occasional sick child, parent event at school, etc. Get the notes from a classmate, and let yourself be a parent. The year in Israel is a special opportunity to ease back into life as a student without the outside commitments such as teaching and student pulpits that await you stateside. Take advantage of the opportunity.

Some special considerations for single parents:

- Your school day will be longer than your child's, even with after-school care. Israeli teenagers (grades 8-9) are quite responsible. Consider finding a local student who will pick up your child from his or her after-school activity, walk him home, and hang out until you get home. The going rate during the 2005 school year was about 20 shekels an hour (\$4.50). They can even help your child with Hebrew (or translate the English-language board games you thought were such a great idea!)
- Your first HUC responsibility, summer orientation, includes long days and evening activities. Make friends fast with the spouses of your classmates and do what you can to find childcare. It will be hard on both you and your child, but you will probably want to do everything you can not to miss these first important programs.
- Consider convincing a friend or relative to travel with you at the beginning of the summer for a couple of weeks. They get to visit Israel, and you have an extra pair of hands to help you get everyone settled. If you can arrange it, it makes it a lot easier on your child, who then doesn't have to be dragged along on every errand (the Municipality Office of Education is just not a fun place to hang out) or be left with an unfamiliar babysitter in an unfamiliar place.
- As it was stateside, your "plate" will be very full. Build your support networks early—other parents (especially liberal Jewish Americans, who will be glad to help out someone studying to be a rabbi, cantor, or educator), babysitters, after-school care, etc. And when your child is settled, make sure to build in some time for yourself. Get that babysitter once in a while "just because"—to spend time with friends, to take a walk, get a manicure, whatever makes you recharge your jets. You've juggled a lot of balls to get yourself here, now give yourself permission to enjoy it!

Hints for bringing Pets:

It can be very comforting to bring your pet to Israel but make sure you go through the proper procedures. You must have documentation of a rabies vaccine given more than 30 days before your flight but less than 1 year old. Your vet must check the animal within 10 days of your flight and send a form to your state USDA - Veterinarian office, for an official stamp.

For travelling:

Cats: Buy a carry-on travel bag. Tranquilize your cat and bring her on board with you with as much extra cat food as possible. Request bulkhead seating so you'll have room for your cat on the floor.

Dogs- Fly direct or with as little layover as possible. Line the kennel with all your blankets and dog toys. Attach extra food to the kennel by tying it into an attached plastic bag. You can also attach a bottle of water. (This is for the workers during layover or just in case) Get your dog used to the kennel weeks before with treats!

Only Swiss Air or El Al will fly animals in the summer due to the heat regulations. Make animal reservations directly with the airline (not through a travel agent) at the same time that you make your flight reservations. Confirm repeatedly – regulations change

Once in Tel Aviv, rejoice and have a great reunion! Having pets in Israel is a blessing!!!

PACKING AND SHIPPING

Believe it or not there are a variety of opinions on how to pack for your year in Israel. Most current students would like you to know that almost anything you need can be bought here for reasonable, if not inexpensive, prices. Other students suggest that you bring anything you think you might need and pay for the extra baggage.

Ultimately, we have chosen to present a compromise. The information below contains a pricing comparison table and general guidelines to follow when packing for your year in Israel. A checklist follows on p. 48, which should be of some help. Keep in mind that these are only guidelines, and your personal needs may vary.

COSTS IN ISRAEL – price listed as US dollars

Haircare

Revlon Flex shampoo	\$3.25
Head and Shoulders shampoo	\$4.75
Pantene pro-v shampoo	\$4.75
Loreal feria haircolor	10.75
Casting haircolor	10.00
Wellaflex shampoo	\$8.00
Natural formula gel	\$5.00
Finesse conditioner	\$3.25
Pantene pro-v mousse	\$5.50
Loreal studio gel	\$7.00
Smoothing gel	\$7.00
Fx gel	\$7.00
Natural formula** hair creme	\$6.00

Personal hygiene

Carefree panty shields-72 ct	\$6.00
Always(ultra) panty shields	\$5.50
Playtex tampons-20	\$6.00
Tampax tampons-30	\$8.00
Durex condoms-6pk	\$8.00
Lifestyles condoms-12pk	\$5.00

Batteries, film, tapes

Duracell 4pk AA	\$3.75
Duracell 2pk DD	\$5.00
Duracell 4pk AAA	\$5.00
Kodak Gold 200 36ct	\$6.25
Kodak Gold 100 36ct	\$6.00
Kodak gold ultra 36ct	\$6.50
Fuji 100 36 ct	\$5.00
Cassette tapes	\$1.25

Deodorant

Gillette clear gel 4 oz	\$8.00
Gillette aerosol	\$9.00
Right guard	\$6.25
Mennen speed stick	\$4.75

Fa solid 50ml	\$5.50
Fa spray 200ml	\$4.75
Lady speed stick	\$4.75

Cosmetics

Qtips(generic)*** 72ct (No Qtip brand available)	\$1.25
Cotton balls 100ct	\$2.75
Cosmetic squares 240ct	\$4.49

Band-aids bx--3m asst	\$4.00	Gillette mach iii blades 8ct	\$12.50
Vaseline	\$5.00	Contact lens solution	
Dove 55gr	\$6.50	Aeosept	\$19.75
Johnson baby oil	\$5.75	Renu—multiplus	\$21.50
Dove aerosol 103gr	\$5.50		
Vaseline intensive care 500ml	\$5.00	Dental care	
Johnson baby powder	\$7.00	Colgate plax rinse	\$4.75
Careline nail polish	\$5.50	Colgate toothpaste	\$2.86
Neutrogena lip moisturizer	\$7.00	Colgate total toothpaste	\$5.00
Neutrogena deep clean Cleanser	\$8.75	Aquafresh toothpaste	\$3.00
Nail polish remover	\$4.00	Colgate toothbrush	\$3.25
Sally Hansen nail polish	\$5.49	Oral B toothbrush	\$4.50
Revlon nail polish	\$7.75	Oral B floss	\$5.00
Loreal nail polish	\$9.47		
Nivea cream 200ml	\$10.75	Ricola coughdrops-bag	\$2.25
Gillette satin care Shavecream	\$6.00	Energy bars (Each) ** =Israeli brand	\$0.75
		Quaker granola bars(bx)	\$4.00

ALL PRICES QUOTED ARE FOR REGULAR SIZES OF THE PRODUCTS

GENERAL PACKING GUIDELINES

Clothing

Jerusalem is beautiful, sunny, warm, and dry from March/April through October/November. Most students live in lightweight pants or shorts and t-shirts through these months. The winter months, however, are cold, rainy, and windy! Although the temperature rarely falls below freezing, it feels colder because of the wind chill factor. Also, most buildings have stone floors and are not as well-insulated or heated as in North America. Many apartments are not heated at all during the daytime hours until the late afternoon, so it is essential that you bring plenty of warm and "layerable" winter gear. This includes a real winter coat, a rain poncho or raincoat, waterproof boots, thermal wear, thick socks, warm gloves, warm pajamas, and warm slippers. Most students recommend rain pants too, even though it seems "dorky". This advice is especially true if you come from a warm environment and do not handle cold well.

Clothing in Israel, as in America, can be found in a range of quality and price. However, styles and sizes in Israel are different from North America and may not be comfortable or appropriate for all students. Larger sizes and tall sizes are much more difficult to find in Israel. If you wear size 14 or larger, don't plan on finding lots of appropriate clothes in Israel. Jeans and khaki pants can be very expensive. Jerusalem tends to be conservative and though women will feel comfortable in pants, bring "longish" skirts and dresses for Shabbat and visits to religious neighborhoods. Tank tops and shorts, though acceptable in the coastal area are often inappropriate in Jerusalem. T-shirts and cool lightweight pants and shirts are better. Be sure to bring some dressy clothes for special occasions – you'll want to dress up sometimes and there are plenty of dry cleaners.

Professional laundries wash, dry, and fold for about \$9 - \$10 a load. Not only are there few places where you can conveniently wash your own clothing (unless you get lucky and rent an apartment with a washer), but doing that does not always save money. The laundries are reliable, but very tough on clothes. Bring lots of socks, underwear and plain white t-shirts – they will be washed out by the end of the year. Wash-and-wear clothes are highly recommended. Many students rent washing machines for the year.

Also bring some clothes and shoes/sneakers you will not mind getting dirty or ruined on field trips. (especially comfortable walking shoes – heels aren't good for slippery Jerusalem stone).

Cantorial students should bring concert and performance clothes. Concert blacks are not necessary, but women should have a black skirt and white blouse and men should bring black pants and a white shirt. Dresses or blouses and skirts, pantyhose, and thick tights are recommended for women. Men should bring dress shirts/sport coat and slacks, and necktie. Women should also have clothing appropriate for visiting orthodox synagogues- longish skirt, long sleeve or ¾ sleeve blouses, higher neck line.

Bedding and Linens

If your apartment does not have bedding it is advisable to bring towels, pillowcases, and flat sheets (as mattresses in Israel are sized differently.) Again there is some disagreement as to the cost of linens in Israel. Buying bedding in the shuk will certainly be less expensive than at department stores. You can purchase down or cotton comforters in Israel, but they can be expensive. If you have room, bring your own.

Medications, Toiletries and Cosmetics

It is recommended that you bring a year's supply of any medication or birth control pills that you normally take. You will need to discuss this with your doctor, as some prescriptions cannot be filled in such large amounts. Pharmacies are conveniently located throughout Jerusalem if you have the option of filling the prescription here. If you have someone send you prescription medicine by mail, it may be taxed for customs.

American brands of cosmetics, if available, are very expensive in Israel. It is recommended that you bring the cosmetics you think you will need or if you are “addicted” to a specific brand of shampoo, etc.

Most toiletries, on the other hand, are available and reasonably priced. Students generally recommend bringing: contact lens solution, vitamins, deodorant, cologne, and shaving cream as they are more expensive in Israel. Please use the price comparison chart on the previous pages to determine what toiletries to pack.

Israeli laws pertaining to the use or possession of narcotic drugs are extremely severe and firmly enforced. Punishment for using or possessing even small quantities of "light" drugs (marijuana, hashish) can be a heavy fine, a jail sentence, and permanent expulsion from Israel. This will also jeopardize a student's continued tenure at HUC-JIR.

School/Apartment Supplies

School supplies in Israel are European style (ie 2-hole punch paper and notebooks, not 3!) and a lot more fun than in the States. Everything is in Hebrew, in cool colors and you can spend a little or a lot! There are plenty of places to buy them as well—DON'T WASTE PRECIOUS SPACE BRINGING SCHOOL SUPPLIES! Craft and Fine Art Supplies are also available here, and are reasonably priced. Backpacks are very popular in Israel and you will be able to find them in a variety of styles and prices. TIP: buy one with a water - bottle carrier. However, water bottles are NOT easy to find in Israel, so bring a Nalgene or two if you like to carry one around with you.

Small shops near the shuk and Ben Yehuda Street, as well as the Mall, carry all kinds of kitchen and bath items. Pots, pans, dishes, all kinds of plasticware (plates and cups, etc), tablecloths, silverware, hairdryers, toasters, coffeepots, microwaves---everything you need is sold here—and can be found reasonably priced if you shop around.

Converters and Adapters

First of all, the electricity situation is complicated, and www.magellans.com is a very good website for information or call 1-800-962-4943 for a representative. Also, students have found it helpful to call the companies that make the products and ask for the necessary equipment to use them abroad. Here is our attempt to explain it all:

Voltage: Every appliance that needs to be plugged in is either single or dual voltage. This information can usually be found on or near the plug. If it only has one voltage, in the states, this would be 120 volts 60 Hz, and this voltage will NOT work in Israel if you plug it in without a **step-down transformer** (to be explained later). If it is dual voltage, it should say 100-240 volts 50/60 Hz, and will work when plugged into an Israeli outlet, using an **adaptor**.

Adaptors: An adaptor functions to change the plug shape so that you can plug an American appliance into an Israeli outlet. Basically, it is just changing the shape of the prongs. You can only use an adaptor if your appliance is dual voltage. It is a good idea to buy a bunch of these in the states (available through Magellan's), although they are also available in Israel. Also note, adaptors can be either 2-prong or 3-prong (Computers require a 3-prong adaptor).

Converters: A converter allows you to change Israeli electricity (220v 50 Hz) to American (120v 60 Hz). However, converters are recommended **only for short-time use**, and thus are **not a good choice** for your non dual voltage appliances.

Step-down Transformer: This is a big heavy box that allows you to change the electric current coming out of the Israeli wall at 220 volts 50 Hz down to 120 volts 60 Hz, and is **highly recommended INSTEAD of a converter**. The step-down transformers come in different amounts of wattage, and

basically can handle up to 30 watts less than they say they can. So, for example, if you buy a 300 watt step-down transformer, it can support up to 270 watts of appliances. Where do I find out how many watts an appliance uses? Well, you can look right after the volts and Hz numbers on or near the plug, and it should have a number with a "W" after it. You can plug multiple appliances into a step-down transformer using an American power strip. Make sure you add up the wattage of everything you will be plugging into the transformer, so you know which step-down transformer to buy. It is recommended to bring an American power strip, which you can buy at any office store, or also at www.franzus.com (This site also has helpful information regarding all electricity issues). However, you can easily buy the step-down transformer here in Israel, and it's heavy so this option makes more sense. You will need a 3-prong adaptor to plug in the step-down transformer into the Israeli outlet.

MP3 players/recorders, small appliances, "portable music"

As stated above, it is best to bring small appliances that operate on dual voltage (100-240V 50/60 Hz). If you cannot find dual voltage items in your city, try Essex Electronics or B&H in New York. In Los Angeles, try Mid-Valley Electronics in Encino. For music, the best option is an iPod (which is dual voltage) or another MP3 player, so you can have all your music with you without lugging lots of CDs. You can buy inexpensive speakers in Israel. If you are buying speakers in the states, the fold-up portable ones are great for traveling.

Computers/Printers

Computers are dual-voltage (110/220) and thus operable in Israel. Students have found laptops to be very useful and convenient and they can be plugged into a campus printer. Inexpensive printers are available in Israel. Make sure you bring all documentation in case of problems. The "Davka Writer" (for PCs) and "Mellel" (for Macs) is useful for Bible and Liturgy classes. Bring all back up CDs (Windows, Office, etc.) in case of problems.

Students this year were relatively split down the middle between Macs and PCs. Students with Macs say that although fewer companies in Israel support Macs, they are more reliable, last longer, and get fewer viruses. If you already have a Mac, make sure that it is capable of creating a VPN connection (either that you have OSX or by downloading the program "tunnelbuilder") and set up your internet with Netvision in Israel. Virtual PC is also helpful as many Jewish software programs only run on a PC. People with PCs can more readily find support for their computers in Israel.

Computers should not be shipped, but only taken as carry-on luggage. Sending a computer by Fed-Ex will result in high customs duties.

Sports Equipment

Students recommend that you bring any sports equipment—including cleats—that you might want to use during the year. Students have participated in flag football and softball leagues. Tennis, basketball, and swimming facilities are also available at little or no cost. Additionally, there are a number of health clubs/gyms near HUC that range in price and facilities.

Hobbies

Israel is not a society that stresses hobbies but you can find materials for knitting, sewing, and other pastimes for reasonable prices.

Magazines

Most popular magazines are available in Jerusalem, but they can be very expensive. It is recommended that you forward your magazine subscriptions to Israel—even though it may take up to three months to be delivered.

Music and Musical Instruments

There will be a number of songleading opportunities throughout the year. Feel free to bring music, guitars and other portable musical instruments (remember: carry instruments on the plane to avoid damage.) In the past, HUC students have played informally on Ben Yehuda Street, and in local bands, to earn a few shekels, to raise money for local charities and to have fun. There will be ample opportunity for students to songlead or participate in *Se'udah Shlisheet* events, for children in the Reform kindergarten, in campus-wide festival meals and events (for example, HUC Beit Cafe and Cabarets), etc. Be sure to bring a soft case for your guitar.

Cantorial students should note: An MP3 player with recording capabilities (Look into the iTalk for the ipod or something like it.) or if you haven't moved to MP3 technology, bring a tape-recorder/player and high-quality tapes for cantorial classroom recordings and assignments. Although there are four pianos available on campus, cantorial students advise that an electric keyboard is a must (Try to buy one from a current student). In addition, it is recommended that you bring any Jewish music (liturgical and non-liturgical) that you may find useful for solo performance. Bring your favorite anthology of Jewish songs, anthology of Lieder and Arias, and any music you have been using for services at home as well as "fun" music (pop, Broadway etc.). If you have been singing a Schubert, Schumann, Wolf, etc. song cycle, bring the music with you.

Cameras

Digital cameras are becoming a "must". You will want to take and send pictures home as well as update your own web-page and the HUC class page. www.flickr.com is a great website for posting your pictures.

Vonage and Skype:

Rather than using regular phone service, students have found that the cheapest way to regularly call North American phone numbers is through a technology called "Voice over IP" or VoIP—which uses the internet to make the phone connection and avoid the "normal" regulated phone companies. You will need some special equipment AND a special phone company to make it work. But at a cost (as of January, 2006) of less than \$25/month for **unlimited** service it's a deal.

To use VoIP, you must sign up with an "internet phone company" in the States. The most common companies used this year are Vonage and Skype (though there are other companies). With Vonage, it is recommended that you set up the service **prior to leaving** the States, because they will have to ship you some equipment **which you must take with you to Israel**. You can reach them either at www.vonage.com or 1-866-243-4357.

Vonage vs. Skype: What's the difference?

Here's how **Vonage** works. They send you a "Vonage box," which is basically a router with phone jacks in it. It is helpful to ask for one that is dual voltage so as to avoid having to use a step-down transformer (see section above on this topic, p.58) when in Israel. You will plug your vonage box into your modem, or into a wireless router (although you can get a vonage box that functions as a wireless router as well), and you will plug a cordless phone into the vonage box (most cordless phones bought in the states are not dual voltage, so you will need the step-down transformer, or you can buy a phone in Israel). As long as the internet is working, this phone will then function just like a normal landline with an American phone number (you choose your area code). You pay \$24.99 a month for unlimited calls in and out to North American area codes. International calling is an additional charge that varies depending on the country. See www.vonage.com for more information.

Here's how **Skype** works. You sign up for Skype online for free, and you can chat with other Skype users via computer for free. You just need headphones and a microphone or a combination of those two in a headset. You can pay \$38/year for a "Skype-in" number which allows people without a computer (or without Skype) to call your computer using a regular phone, and also allows you to have voicemail. Also, "Skype-out" allows you to call regular phone numbers in the U.S., Canada, and Europe (plus other common destinations) for about \$0.02 a minute. There are varying rates for other countries. See www.skype.com for more information.

Bottom line: Skype is cheaper, and many students this year found it easier, but while using it, you are attached to your computer, so if you want to walk around your apartment with a phone, then Vonage is a better option. Students have been extremely pleased with both, but some found Vonage more difficult to set up.

In order to use either of these services you need a broadband connection in Jerusalem—either DSL or cable. Just be prepared to be a little frustrated in setting up the internet. You'll get it working, but it might take some patience. Let's just say you might be humming the on-hold songs for a while.

DSL is provided over a telephone wire connection, so your apartment will need to have a landline (some apartments have them already set up and some do not). There is only one telephone company in Israel: BEZEQ. You get your DSL modem from BEZEQ (probably for free!) who'll be your connection provider and then you have to select an ISP (Internet Service Provider) and there are quite a few of them. For a list, go here:
http://www.bezeq.co.il/Cultures/en-US/WOW/WOW_HighSpeed_Internet/General+Information/Internet+Providers.htm?LinkType=posting.

For a **CABLE** internet connection, the cable is primarily for internet, though you can get it for TV too for an extra cost, and then you can probably get some kind of "deal"—just like in the States. Like DSL, you first get a connection provider (in this case HOT--
<http://www.hot.co.il/home.html>, or Netvision if you have a Mac) and then you'll have to select an ISP. Unfortunately, HOT's web site (www.hot.co.il) is in Hebrew. Once you get an English speaker at one of these companies, they are usually very helpful.

OK, you've gotten your Vonage account set up and they have sent you the telephone "appliance" or "Vonage box". What else do you need? If you have multiple computers, you might want to get a router, because the modem the internet companies give you only will connect to one computer at a time. You will need a device called a router which are made by many companies and include Linksys, Netgear, D-Link. They are pretty much the same and should be equivalent in price—around \$60 in the US, and maybe less—if you buy them at stores like Best Buy, Office Depot, Staples, CompUSA, etc. Of course you can get them online for substantially less. These are all "4-port" units and should be plenty for your setup, **unless** you plan to attach more than 4 devices, one of which would be the Vonage box (Then you could get the 8-port option).

Buy your router **in North America**, as they are much more expensive in Israel. Test it before you go to Israel. Plug everything in **before you come to Israel** to a working broadband connection, and test that the lights come on and that you get a dial tone **before** you haul it all to Israel. The Vonage boxes are cheap and there is a rather high "mortality rate". You certainly don't want to get to Jerusalem only to find that your equipment is "DOA"—dead on arrival. Additionally, you will need at least three (3) Ethernet cables, unless you plan on getting a wireless router. You will need one to connect your computer to the router—probably with a longer cable, and you will want shorter ones to connect the router to the modem and the router to the Vonage box. The modem should have its own cable, but be safe—take some with you. You will also need a phone to connect to the Vonage box. Again, to simplify things, buy it Stateside and take it with you. A cordless phone makes a lot of sense, so you won't be "tied" down to the location of the Vonage box.

If you choose Broadband DSL (rather than cable), go to a Bezeq office and sign up and they'll give you a modem. Get at least the same number of filters as there are phones ON the line where the DSL will be. If you can't get to a Bezeq office, call them and they can ship the modem and filters to you, but it takes about 2 weeks. **DO NOT LEAVE WITHOUT THE FILTERS or a splitter which should come with the modem. The filters are required for the DSL to work on your phone line.** Have them give you a list of ISPs. When you get home call the ISPs and find out which one gives you the service you like at the price that works for you—or talk to your fellow students.

To call Israel from North America, dial 011 + 972 + city code (drop the zero) + number. So to call 054-694-0872 from North America, you would dial: 011-972-54-694-0872. In Israel, you

keep the zero. To call North America from an Israeli phone, you dial 013 + 1 + area code + number. To use a pay phone, you need a calling card.

CONNECTION DIRECTIONS FOR VONAGE BOX WITH DSL

For DSL to work correctly—whether in Israel or the US—***you must install filters EXCEPT*** on the jack where the modem will be plugged in. ***That*** jack will have a splitter plugged in first. The phone side gets filtered and the side that goes to the modem does not. : “Make sure you read the instructions that come with the modem”.

The modem, router, telephone and Vonage box will all need to be plugged into an electrical source. This is where the transformer and power bar come in. Plug the transformer into a socket using an adapter and then plug in your power strip to the transformer. All of the devices mentioned above that use US plugs can be plugged into the power bar.

If you get frustrated, just know, you’re not alone. We all figured it out in the end.

NOTE: Students recommend that you buy what you think you will need from current students – this will save you lots of time, hassle and money when you first arrive and don’t have a clue as to where to go to buy things. (See classified ads p. 64)

A PARTIAL PACKING CHECKLIST

As stated before, this is only a general list. Please adapt this list to your needs, but keep in mind that it is generally easier to take items out of your luggage than it is to find a French press coffee maker should you want one at the last minute. And don't forget, you can buy just about everything in Israel.

Clothing

- jeans and winter slacks (at least 4 pairs)
- walking shorts (women in short-shorts may be harassed)
- wash-and-wear shirts and blouses (long and short sleeved)
- t-shirts
- sweatshirts (preferable with hood)
- sweaters (lots - including a few **really** warm ones)
- lightweight jacket
- heavy coat
- raincoat (a warm one - it only rains when it's cold)
- rain pants (gore-tex if you can afford it)
- scarf
- gloves
- thermal underwear
- underwear and regular socks (lots - laundry gets bruised easily in Israel)
- warm, thick socks, stockings
- warm pajamas
- bathing suits
- sun hat
- warm bathrobe
- dress shoes
- a few pairs of comfortable walking shoes, (rubber non slip soles for winter)
- a few pairs of sneakers (they are very expensive in Israel)
- warm slippers (for those cold ceramic or stone floors)
- waterproof boots or shoes (i.e., duck-shoes/boots)
- hiking boots
- longish skirts/ dresses for Shabbat
- dressy clothes, both summer and winter, for Shabbat and services - at least 4-5 outfits

Small appliances

- flashlight
- travel alarm clock (battery-operated)
- MP player with recording attachment (to record ulpan class, listen to Torah trope and liturgy)
- CD player
- battery-operated radio (always good for emergencies)
- small speakers (for apartment listening)
- camera
- iron (220V)
- shaver (be sure to bring the proper plugs)
- hair dryer (220V)
- small hand-mixer (220V)
- electric keyboard (220V)
- LOTS of batteries or a battery recharger (220V) and rechargeable batteries

In the Kitchen

- non-metric cups and measuring spoons
- oven thermometer
- recipes and cookbooks, especially vegetarian (even if you aren't a vegetarian!)
- food items you can't live without, e.g. "ethnic spices"
- small food chopper

Sports Equipment

- running shoes and/or sneakers
- workout clothes
- aerobic dance tapes
- jump rope
- tennis or squash racket
- frisbee, basketball, baseball equipment, etc.
- boardgames or card games

General Items

Although almost everything you may need is available in Israel, students have recommended you bring the following items:

- sheets, comforter cover
- sleeping bag (to be used as comforter)
- big bath towel
- calculator
- umbrella
- sunglasses
- extra pair of prescription glasses, contacts
- suntan lotion and/or sunscreen
- soap, lotions and makeup brands "you can't live without"
- fahrenheit thermometer (especially when accompanied by children)
- skirt hangers
- pocket knife
- knapsack - for books and overnight trips
- durable backpack for 3-4 day trips
- canteen or water bottle – insulated (important for hikes)
- full year's supply of film
- a photo album or pictures of family and friends
- stamps from your country (to send letters more quickly - people frequently fly back)
- resumes (for summer or year-long jobs after your year in Israel)
- magazine subscriptions
- hot water bottle
- medications, prescriptions and cosmetics
- favorite OTC cold medicine
- contact lens solution
- Vonage box

Helpful hint: Be sure to register your electronic equipment and get an international warranty before you leave the States.

The Danny Rechler Student Computer Center in the HUC-JIR Abramov library provides ten IBM compatible terminals with word processing and other capabilities and two laser printers attached for student use. Students need to supply their own software and diskettes. Note that the Computer Center is closed from Thursday night to Sunday morning.

For a list of books to bring to Israel see Page 16.

As this year's class discovered, the following items do not seem to be available in Jerusalem so if they are "essential" to your well-being you may want to bring some with you, or have someone visiting you bring them along.:

- face cloths- wash cloths
- Body Shop products
- Skittles, jelly beans, Nerds
- Grape jelly
- Ranch dressing

- Twist ties for plastic bags
- Insulated lunch bags
- Power Bars
- Q-tip brand swabs
- cookie sheets
- baking chocolate
- Crisco
- Ziploc Bags
- Trapper-Keeper Folders
- Crystal Light sweetener

Helpful hint: Be sure to register your electronic equipment and get an international warranty before you leave the States.

GENERAL SHIPPING ADVICE

With any shipping option, it is important that you do not ship items that you will need upon arrival in Israel (i.e. medication, passport-sized photographs); bring them with you in your carry-on luggage. In addition, you may wish to bring some warm clothing if your shipment is scheduled to arrive after September, when the weather turns cooler. Using large duffel bags instead of suitcases may enable you to bring more with you.

Students strongly recommend:

- bringing all baggage with you as overweight baggage rather than shipping. Take that third bag and pay the overweight charges.
- avoiding the use of packing/shipping stores (such as Mailboxes Etc.) due to bad experiences of students
- using FedEx only if absolutely necessary—its very expensive and you will be charged customs duties
- If you choose to send your winter clothes by parcel post, allow 2-3 months for delivery and be sure to mark it as USED CLOTHING – other wise you will be charged high customs duty in Israel.

Methods of Shipping

Throughout the year, all mail can be sent to you at the following address:

c/o Hebrew Union College
13 King David Street
Jerusalem ISRAEL

However, if you ship large packages to the HUC address you will need to pick them up at the central post office, which may not be the closest to your apartment.

Shipping by Sea - It takes 2 - 3 months for baggage sent by sea to arrive, so plan accordingly. It can also take up to a month to clear trunks and have them delivered to you in Jerusalem.

If you are sending a trunk by sea, please note that there is a minimum charge for baggage up to 9 cubic feet, which is generally more than the baggage of one student, so you can save some money by shipping together with another student or two. Baggage sent by sea will arrive either in Ashdod or in Haifa and may be cleared through customs via an agent and delivered to your home. If several students have the same agent and clear their baggage together, the price may be reduced. Bring the Bill of Lading with you (do not pack it in your shipped baggage) so that you are not unnecessarily delayed in retrieving your belongings.

Air Freight - Air freight usually takes only a few weeks to arrive in Israel, but it may be expensive. Air freight can cost approximately \$3.00 per pound (shipments over 100 pounds from New York to Tel Aviv). For shipping strictly personal effects over 100 pounds, many companies offer a lower rate. Thus, you may wish to ship with another HUC student in your area.

Items sent by air freight must be picked up at Ben Gurion Airport. One concern regarding shipping is

the bother of picking up belongings when they arrive. To avoid this, you can hire an agent who, FOR A FEE, will clear your belongings through customs at Ben Gurion Airport or at Haifa Port and deliver them directly to Jerusalem or to your home. Also, keep in mind that no matter how well you plan, you may still have to pay customs duties, even on your personal effects. Also, students have reported paying a receiving fee of \$30 to an Israeli shipping firm (requiring travel to their office in Tel Aviv) as well as a storage and handling fee of \$20. When calculating costs, be sure to include the above mentioned fees, traveling costs to and from Ben Gurion Airport (including possible car rental) as well as the value of your time. **Because of these factors, most students advise bringing in extra baggage and paying overweight fees or shipping by parcel post.**

Helpful hint: Bring with you (**DO NOT SHIP**) appliances, cameras, tape recorders, etc., in order to avoid any problems with Customs.

Parcel Post - Another option for getting extra clothes to Israel is via surface parcel post. Although shipping by mail takes 6-12 weeks, it is inexpensive. Make sure the boxes are sturdy and well reinforced. **Mark the boxes clearly - "Used Books" or "Used Clothing" and "No Value."** Israel Customs will let you clear parcels customs free ONLY if packages contain used clothing or books. This method is convenient because boxes are delivered to the post office in Jerusalem nearest to the address printed on it. It is also the least expensive type of shipping. However, some students have had to wait months to get their packages and there is no way to trace a lost package. You may have to pay customs duties and/or negotiate fees with customs authorities. Consult your local post office for the latest rules and weight limitations. Items sent parcel post are NOT INSURED so be sure to send only items that are replaceable. Do not send items "express." This service is expensive and does not significantly affect delivery date.

Helpful hint: Do not order items from a mail order house to be shipped to you in Israel (e.g. Land's End). You will have to pay full customs duties. Have things shipped to you in North America and bring them with you. Inform family and friends that if they send gifts, to mark the package "no value" and remove tags, otherwise you will have to pay customs duties.

Books can be sent at the "bundle" rate, which is 50% cheaper than the regular book rate. Books are bundled into a mail sack and delivery time is between 4-6 weeks. Check with your local post office.

It is very important not to overestimate the value of your package on the packing slip or insure the package for more than it is worth as you may incur unnecessary charges and delays at Customs.

Customs

Upon arrival, electrical appliances, video cameras, musical instruments, computers etc., which you bring into Israel, may be subject to duty. (It is not necessary to declare cameras, etc., if they are for personal use, and you intend to return to the States with them.) If you bring in appliances or merchandise worth up to \$250, you may go through the "green line" at Ben Gurion Airport and bring your merchandise into the country without paying custom duties. Otherwise, you may have to go through the "red line" and declare your merchandise. Custom officials may register your merchandise on your passport and may require a large dollar deposit, which can be charged to a VISA card. The deposit will be returned to you when you leave the country, provided you leave with the items and produce your original deposit receipt. This applies to large items like electric keyboards and home or laptop computers as well as smaller items like radios, tape recorders, binoculars, etc.

If the above-mentioned items are not made in the United States, you may want to register them with United States Customs before your departure in order to prevent paying duty upon return.

Students in the class had no trouble with customs in the airport, and were not asked to declare or register anything.

Lost Baggage

If your baggage is lost when you arrive, and you do not yet have a permanent address, have it sent to Hebrew Union College, 13 King David Street, Jerusalem, telephone 02-620-3333. HUC is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday through Thursday.

Transportation from the Airport

From Ben Gurion Airport, you will be able to get to Jerusalem by taking a *sherut*, a 10-seater mini van which you share with other passengers. When walking out of the airport, look for the signs for transportation to Jerusalem. The rates for transportation from the airport are government controlled and are posted at the airport terminal. The *sherut* should cost roughly 45 NIS per person (approximately \$10), and will take you straight to your door or hotel at no extra charge. Tips are not required unless you want the driver to carry your baggage to your door. You can pay the driver in dollars rather than change money at the airport. The van departs when it is full, usually just a few minutes. But if it doesn't fill up right away, your driver might want to leave the airport without a full van, and will ask you if you want to split the cost for the empty seats with the other passengers. You don't have to agree, it's your choice. If you have a lot of luggage, you may be charged an extra fee. A private taxi from the airport is considerably more expensive, about 220 NIS (approximately \$50).

WELCOME TO JERUSALEM!

Registering at HUC

After you arrive in Jerusalem, come as soon as you can to the Office of Student Services at HUC. The office is open Sunday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. We will activate your health insurance, give you a registration packet and a detailed orientation booklet which will include information on apartment hunting, important phone numbers, acculturation advice and "how-to" tips. We remind you to check with us before signing a lease on an apartment.

Interns

Each year, a few upperclass students serve as summer interns in Jerusalem. These interns study at the state side and Israeli campuses and have been selected to welcome you and to counsel and help acclimate you to your first year at HUC. Together with the rest of the HUC staff, the interns will be available to help you through the maze of your first days and weeks in Jerusalem. The interns also guide the students with a series of practical workshops on basic Jewish practice during the summer semester. They also look after registration, hours will be posted on the student bulletin board.

You must bring the following when you register:

- The completed forms from your registration packet you received from the Office of Student Services.
- Two xerox copies of the photograph page in your passport as well as the page containing your Israeli entrance visa, as well as that of your accompanying spouse and children (there is a copy machine in the HUC library). Make sure your name appears on all documents given to us.
- Five passport-size photographs (approx. size 3 1/2 cm x 4 1/2 cm)

Helpful hint: Passport size photos are much cheaper in Israel and photo shops and photo vending machines are readily available.

Registration will take approximately one hour.

SPECIAL NOTES:

It is common for newcomers to the area to suffer from dehydration. You will not perspire as much as you are used to, due to the high altitude and low humidity, and thus, you may forget to drink. It is a wise idea to buy a bottle of mineral water to carry with you at all times, and continuously drink and refill it. The tapwater in Israel is safe to drink.

The sun is quite strong in Israel. Newcomers are urged to wear a hat at least until they become acclimated. Sunscreen protection is desirable, especially for those with fair skin.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Magen David Adom - Health Emergency/Ambulance Tel: 101
7 Mem-Gimel Street (near the Central Bus Station)

Hadassah Hospital

Mount Scopus (Emergency) Tel: 581-8111
Ein Kerem (Emergency) Tel: 642-7427

Harel Insurance (Emergency) Tel: 1-800-414-422

Although you will be provided with a medical insurance plan, students with any pre-existing medical condition or previous injury are **strongly** urged to continue their current health insurance plans. The HUC plan does not cover pre-existing conditions or pregnancy. Private insurance plans are also available in Israel (see "Health Services and Insurance" 41 for more information).

LIFE IN JERUSALEM – OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

Extra-Curricular Activities Planned by the Office of Student Affairs:

- Kabbalat Shabbat and Holiday Dinners with the College faculty staff
- Jerusalem Home Hospitality - students are invited for Shabbat dinner at the homes of Progressive Jewish families in and around Jerusalem
- Congregational Hospitality - Reform congregations in Israel host students for a Shabbat
- Volunteer Work on Reform Kibbutzim (or non-Movement Kibbutzim) during vacations
- Meetings with Leaders of Progressive Institutions in Israel and with Israeli Rabbinical students
- Meetings with Rabbis, Cantors, and Educators on Sabbatical and participation in study sessions

Extra-Curricular Activities Undertaken by Students:

The following voluntary groups are student initiated and encouraged by the administration:

- *Va'ad HaStudentim* (Student Council), channels student concerns to the administration, plans student activities, and represents the students in many other matters.
- *Tzedakah* Collective informs the student body on *tzedakah*/social action issues and raises money through special events to aid needy groups and individuals in Israel. These activities have included a Cabaret/Beit Cafe, Chanukah Toy Drive, Food drive and Blood Donor Drive.
- Student Newspaper/Website containing editorials, educational pieces, personal reflections, announcements and humor - written, edited, and produced entirely by students.
- Daily "*Minyanim*" are led and coordinated by students. Students have organized both morning and afternoon prayers.

Security

The HUC staff in Jerusalem is committed to the safety and well-being of our students. During initial registration and orientation, students will be briefed about safety and security issues. Periodical security updates will be held throughout the year, as the situation warrants.

The HUC campus is protected by security guards at all entrances and on patrol on campus. Please cooperate with the guards who check all students, staff and visitors entering the College grounds.

All students are expected to lease or purchase cell phones for the year so that we can always keep in touch. You will receive assistance during registration on how to rent a cell phone. You can also order a phone in North America to be ready for you when you arrive. If you want to investigate this option, call Shlomo Benzaquen at "TalknSave"- toll free from USA/Canada 1-877-246-7143 or www.talknsave.net/huc.asp for more information. (HUC provides this option as a service and does not recommend or take responsibility for the company)

A roommate, friend, or HUC staff member should know your whereabouts at all times. This applies to late nights in the city as well as trips within or outside of Israel. Students who leave the country for any reason, must leave an itinerary and emergency numbers with the College. And call or e-mail your family to let them know you will be out of touch for a few days!

Do not leave your own belongings unattended. Always carry them with you or ask someone to watch them for you. Otherwise your belongings may be regarded as suspicious objects.

If you see an unattended object, do not touch it. Ask people standing in the area whether it belongs to any of them. If no one claims it, direct people in the vicinity away from the object and prevent people from

approaching. Then notify the police. If you are on a bus and see a suspicious object, follow the same procedure and notify the driver.

Whether male or female, do not hitchhike and do not tour the Old City alone. It is strongly recommended that students do not walk or jog alone in thinly populated areas

You are urged to always lock up your valuables when leaving your home. This includes your passport and cash. HUC has a safe that is accessible through the Office of Student Services. However, HUC does not assume responsibility for items deposited in the safe. Do not leave your wallet/purse unattended in classrooms.

Important Safety Telephone Numbers

Police	100
Magen David Adom	101
Fire	102
HUC Campus Security	620-3454/5/6 (or simply 454/5/6 from any campus extension)

A Note to Female Students

Standards of dress in the Middle East are, generally speaking, more conservative than in North America. "Short-shorts", spaghetti straps and bare shoulders, which may seem rather conventional back home, may attract unwanted attention. The recommended response is to ignore it; a verbal response could be regarded as provocative.

Gay Life

In Jerusalem there is a center for gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered people called "The Open House". While not especially visible there is a gay social scene in and around Jerusalem. There is also a Jerusalem office for the Israel Effort for AIDS.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mail Service

Letters sent either from North America to Israel and vice versa take about 10 days (sometimes 7, sometimes 14, once 21). People are often going back and forth to North America and may take mail with them. Large packages often take longer, sometimes 4-8 weeks. When you send or receive packages, you must go to the Post Office to do this, which can often be frustrating. If you do not live near the HUC campus, you should have packages sent to your home address so that they arrive at the neighborhood post office and not the main branch. The Post Office does not deliver packages to your home or school for security reasons.

To mail anything from Israel, avoid the post office and go to the receptionist at HUC-JIR who can sell stamps, weigh envelopes, and put them in the outgoing mail box. The receptionist can also arrange for FEDEX deliveries for letters or small packages to the States. Cost is \$18.00 for a 3-4 day guaranteed delivery and is surely the most convenient method.

Many people use the school as their primary mailing address since someone is always available to sign for packages. Other students use their apartment address and have had no problems all year. A tip on addressing: to avoid routing through US cities that have similar zip codes, list the zip code FIRST and then Jerusalem, Israel (ex: 94101 Jerusalem, Israel).

Telephone Contact

To place a call to Jerusalem from outside of Israel you must dial:

011 (international code)-972 (Israel code) 2 (Jerusalem code) and the seven digit number

To place a call to a cell phone from outside of Israel you must dial:

011 (international code)-972 (Israel code) _ (two digit cell code (no 0)) and the six digit number

In emergencies, during HUC school hours, you may be contacted through the HUC Switchboard (call person to person): 011-972-2- 620-3333.

Faxes may also be sent to the HUC fax: 011-972-2-625-1478

Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Sunday-Thursday Closed: Friday, Saturday, and Holidays

Helpful hint: Israeli standard time is U.S. Eastern Standard Time + 7 hours.

We recommend that students and their dear ones compare telephone costs in Israel with costs in the United States or Canada. You will probably find that a call from Israel to North America using Israeli providers is cheaper than a direct-dialed call from North America.

To call the US or Canada

(carrier code – 012, 013, or 014) + 1(international code) + (area code) + phone number

To call within Israel

To call between land lines within the same city: dial the number without a city prefix

To make interurban calls on land lines: dial city prefix (eg. 03 for Tel Aviv) + phone number

To call land lines from a cellular phone: dial city prefix (e.g. 02 for Jerusalem) + phone number

To call between cell phones: dial the cell phone prefix (e.g. 050) + phone number

E-Mail Services

The Danny Rechler Computer Center in the Abramov Library offers students access to e-mail services through the HUC Internet system, during school hours, at no additional charge.

Many students choose to open a private account, for email access from their apartments, with an American provider or an Israeli provider. If you pick up America Online in the States before you come to Israel you can set up your account in the U.S., and in Israel you will only have to change your connection number. In addition to regular monthly charges, AOL has international surcharges for use from Israel; contact the companies in the States to inquire. You will be billed on your American credit card.

To set up an account through an Israeli provider (which may be cheaper), call Netvision (www.netvision.co.il), Golden Lines or Jerusalem OnLine (972-2-532-7027 – www.jrol.com) when you arrive. You will need either Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Explorer. Ask about student rates.

Last year, the email addresses that most students found worked the best were Yahoo and gmail.

Answering Machines

Israeli phone lines offer voice mail services. Students advise not bringing an answering machine.

Cell phones

Cell phones are relatively inexpensive and very popular in Israel. You can arrange for a cell phone in Israel while still in North America or you can arrange for cell phone service through an Israeli provider (Orange, Cellcom or Pelephone) once you arrive. To order a phone before you arrive, you can call Shlomo Benzaquen at "TalknSave"- toll free from USA/Canada 1-877-246-7143 or www.talknsave.net/huc.asp for more information. (HUC provides this option as a service and does not recommend or take responsibility for the company.)

Many students sell their cell phones to incoming students (see the "Classified Ads" page 74).

QUESTIONS QUESTIONS QUESTIONS QUESTION

We hope that the information included in this handbook will help to prepare you, as much as possible, for your year in Israel. But, there are always questions that arise so feel free to contact the Office of Student Services after you have thoroughly read the handbook a few times.

The students from this year's class have recently been in your shoes. They understand how you feel leaving family and friends, and are already experts in the art of living in Jerusalem and in Israel. The students have volunteered to answer questions, concerns and give advise on anything and everything about this year.

Please email Nancy Lewitt at nle Witt@huc.edu with a listing of the students email addresses.

CLASSIFIED ADS

This is a list of items for sale by current HUC students. Incoming students interested in any of these items should contact the sellers directly. Hebrew Union College assumes no responsibility for guarantees made by the seller and is not responsible in any way for transactions.

FINAL CHECKLIST

Before your departure for Israel:

- Complete required and recommended reading (p. 15)
- Check validity of your passport (if you or your parents are Israeli citizens, call the nearest Israeli consulate to clarify your status) (p. 13)
- Apply for Israeli student visa (p. 13)
- Complete and send in all financial aid documents (p. 35)
- If necessary, arrange for temporary housing upon arrival (p. 33)
- Email an HUC student in Jerusalem about housing (p. 19)
- Email HUC students in Jerusalem with questions, things to buy (p. 72)
- Purchase your plane ticket (note days not to arrive) (p. 12)
- Send advance letter to Office of Student Services (p. 14)
- Get six (6) passport-sized photographs (vending machine pictures are adequate) (p. 13)
- Make arrangements for money to be available to you for your year's expenses (p. 38)
- Apply for credit cards (p. 39)
- Get a tetanus shot (p. 14)
- Investigate shipping options (p. 65)
- Buy mandatory and recommended books (p. 16)
- Buy mandatory and recommended music (p. 16)
- Buy dual-voltage appliances, or converters (p. 58)
- Buy any clothing you will need (p. 63)
- Buy medications, cosmetics, kitchen and general items (p. 63)
- Tell friends and relatives to write to you using the HUC address (p. 65)

REMEMBER TO BRING THIS BOOKLET WITH YOU

FROM OUR CLASS TO YOURS...

- Trust the process, come with an open mind.
- Use your Hebrew no matter how bad you think it is.
- There are plenty of apartments in Jerusalem. Get an apartment close to campus.
- Try to find a roommate outside HUC.
- Buy a Cinemateque pass when you get here.
- Travel a lot—in and out of Israel.
- Shop at the shuk.
- You can get anything you'll need here.
- Summer is hot and winter is cold and rainy – pack for both.
- Arrange for family and friends to visit you.
- Bring football cleats—for the flag football season and baseball gloves for the softball season.
- Check out *Merkaz Hamagshimim* for activities with non-HUC English speakers
(<http://www.merkazhamagshimim.org.il>)
- Don't worry about failing ulpan—do your work and you'll be fine.
- Re-read the Year in Israel book frequently
- Read Haaretz headlines daily online.
- Go to as many different types of synagogues as possible.
- Make this your HOME for the year – you aren't going on a NFTY summer trip.
- Push yourself to try new things.
- Relax – the things I worried most about were the easiest.
- Invest in cable—but don't stop watching the Hebrew shows also.
- Donate blood here.
- Consider keeping a kosher kitchen.
- Talk to as many Israelis as you can.
- When classmates offer to bring stuff back to/from the States, take them up on their offers.
- Respect the varied backgrounds with which your classmates come to HUC.
- Your enjoyment of this year is dependent on how much you put into this year.
- Work hard at HUC, trusting that these people have put a lot of thought into what they're providing for us this year, and be sure to take whatever time you need to take of yourself and see the country.
- Before choosing roommates discuss and decide; quiet times, kashrut, Shabbat observance, guests, cleaning, use of common space, Passover cleaning/kashrut
-
- Keep a sense of humour and remember to take a deep breath once in a while.
- Remember this is only advice not "torah m'Sinai".
- But definitely e-mail us and don't worry

We survived and enjoyed! You will too!