 UNIVERSITÄT LIECHTENSTEIN	ABSCHLUSSBERICHT Zuerkennung eines Zuschusses für einen ERASMUS Studienaufenthalt Studienjahr	Universität Liechtenstein
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von *[Name]*
 an der Gastinstitution Bezael Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem
 zu senden an die Universität Liechtenstein, International Office
 Postadresse Fürst-Franz-Josef-Strasse
 9490 Vaduz
 gesamter Studienaufenthalt von [24.09. 2017] bis [06.02.2018]

Der schriftliche Abschlussbericht umfasst zwei bis drei A4-Seiten und muss zusammen mit den anderen Dokumenten (Aufenthaltsbestätigung, Berichtsformular) spätestens 30 Tage nach Beendigung des Auslandsstudiums per Post geschickt werden.


Inhaltlich sollte der Abschlussbericht u.a. auch folgende Themen berücksichtigen:

- Unterbringung, Umfeld
- Einführung in der Universität
- besuchte Lehrveranstaltungen, absolvierte Prüfungen/Arbeiten
- Kontakt mit anderen Studierenden, Dozenten, Einheimischen...

Date: 17.02.2018

The journey to Israel started with the round of applause when I landed in Israel. It's the culture of the people in Israel to clap after the successful fight landing. The local language of communication is Hebrew and Arabic. Due to British rule and many tourists English is also accepted for local communication. The Bezalel Academy is located in Jerusalem with the main campus on Mount Scopus. Before the introduction week you get an opportunity to learn Hebrew language for 20 hours which can be carried forward for the entire semester. More than 40 Erasmus students participate in exchange program at Bezalel each year. Most of the student are in the Faculty of Design. Eight exchange student are reserved for Architecture and Urban Design. The Department of Architecture and Urban Design is located at the Bezalel building and The Hansen Compound respectively in the city centre.

The faculty of Urban Design program are mostly professional architects and planner teaching at the academy. The student in the Master's program are not only from the Architecture background but also from History, Philosophy, geography, street and graphics arts. This mix helps in bring new approaches. The studio is set as labs with intensive research and work carried out during the semester. The lab is divided into two parts eventually leading to two different research. The two cities we dealt with in the semester were Tel Aviv and Petah Tikva. The Tel Aviv Lab was about making an urban code of the city. How do you perceive the city. The outcome was a book which will be published by the university at the end of the year. In the Petah Tikva lab the research was about densifying the city with radical approaches. Since the exchange enables you to enter in the first semester the work output by the different students is not balanced due to different background. I would recommend to take the urban design program for exchange only in summer

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semester also due to the fact that the labs are much more in-depth to social issues and the department collaborates with the other universities each year.

Along with the studios student takes up a seminar which takes you to in-depth research in one of the topics of urban design. The seminars available are history and political theory, planning during British mandate, Urban Nature. At the end of the seminar you have to submit an academic paper. All the courses are in Hebrew. You can ask professor or students for translation. They are helpful to carry out in English if possible. Along with the department courses you can also take courses from other faculty like visual communication and industrial design. There are also special courses only for exchange students conducted in English. The university and the people of Jerusalem are friendly.

My flatmate was also an architecture student studying at Bezalel. The studios at the architecture department consist of 18-20 students with at least 4 different options. The structure is similar to urban design with seminar courses and studio. The studio runs for the whole semester. Different studio focuses. The focuses of the studio are on digital architecture, sustainability, housing, urban planning. The student are very friendly and open minded.

Finding an accommodation is a big problem in Jerusalem. There is huge shortage of places to stay and there are no dormitory from the university provided. The average rent would be around 2000 – 2200 shekel (500 euro). The living cost is almost equal to that in Switzerland. The insurance payment is per day basis. It cost 1.5\$/day. Shuk (market) in the city center is the hot spot. You can get fresh vegetables and meat daily. Army men and women waking on street, buses and café is a normal scene in the daily life. Shabbat, a weekly festival of Jewish people takes place from Friday evening till Saturday evening. This festival forbids the use of electricity. All the transportation and shops all around Jerusalem is shut down.

Jerusalem has many historical layers and people from many background. The place is peaceful for daily living but things can quickly turn sour. The Israeli Palestine problem is an international issue. The core of the problem lies in Jerusalem. The wall built separates the east and the west Jerusalem. Every week silent protest are a part on the street. During the month of November 2017, after the announcement by the president of US to move the American embassy to Jerusalem resulted in riots on the street. The classes were cancelled for a week. Jerusalem is not recognised as a part of Israel by the UN as it was occupied after the war of 1967 by Israeli army. Jerusalem is a complex city with many layers. It is interesting to open these layers and understand the city, interact with people from both the sides.

