

Experience report of the stay at the partner university

Max. 2-3 pages in German or English. Use complete sentences (no keywords).

Mobility Program	Erasmus + mobility program
Partner University	Bezalel Academy of fine arts
Studyprogramme visited	Architecture
Semester	Summer semester 2019
Name and e-mail optional	

Overall impression Description of the stay abroad in 4-5 sentences	<p>Semester was full of new experiences, at the university and outside of it. Study approach and mostly during developing the project dealing with local building culture, climate or political environment helped me to gain new knowledge. Beside studies, traveling around the country, meeting new friends, hiking in the desert, swimming in the dead sea or enjoying Mediterranean Sea beaches was another great part of the semester.</p> <p>Cozy working environment at the Architecture department is perfect place to study. This tiny building offers many nice spots for working, at studios, library or in the courtyard.</p>
Immigration / arrival entry formalities, visa	<p>Visa application procedures was much faster than expected. Sending and receiving documents by post was the best part of it. Though I heard many stories about annoying and long arrival and passport control procedures at the airport in Israel, the check took only 40 minutes for me. Besides, I am allowed to stay two more weeks after semester end. I will use this time for traveling around the country.</p>
Room searching/stay Helpful contact information	<p>Fact: It is hard to find a room in Jerusalem.</p> <p>Usually student's dormitory is already fully booked couple of months before the semester start, and in the waiting list regular students are priorities. Additionally, as Architecture department is at least (in case of no traffic) 20 minutes driving distance from the dormitory, I focused searching room in the city centre.</p> <p>I was getting many offers from international office, which is really helpful, though it's still hard to find adequate one.</p> <p>It took me almost a month till I find my long term stay option. Before I change 2 sublet rooms. Though, I still can't complain as I get new friends during that time. Finally, I find nice room in the city centre, 4 minutes walking distance from the department.</p> <p>There are few helpful pages on Facebook:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secret Jerusalem 2. Apartments for Rent in Jerusalem / Rechavia / Nachlaot / Baka / Talbiya 3. Apartments/roommates in Jerusalem 4 יד יבית אפארטמנטס ילשור יבית אפארטמנטס in jerusalem
Public transport Train, bus, accessibility of the university	<p>Luckily accessibility of the university was really comfortable since I was living walking distance from it. Though, the best transport to move around Jerusalem is light rail, goes along Jaffa street, main street of Jerusalem, and connects almost every neighbourhood. It's fast and accurate in time. Though, I can't say the same about buses, usually It arrives at least 4-5 minutes later, even more at the rush hours, because of the heavy traffic.</p> <p>From personal experience, best way to move around the city is walking. Jerusalem is small and dense; I have a feeling that almost everything is walking distance from each other, besides, it is the best way to explore and enjoy individuality of Jerusalem streets.</p>
Preparation for the studies	<p>There is no official presentation for studios as we have it here in Liechtenstein. We only</p>

<p>Course registration procedure, language certificate and transcript of records</p>	<p>got small texts describing studios but it is not enough. Therefore, it took me time to orientate in the beginning, what I did was going from studio to studio asking teachers and students to give small input about the studio topics.</p> <p>After having the general overview about courses and studios the registration itself was not a big deal anymore: We made a list of courses and a studio choice on the paper and bring it to the office. I got my first studio choice.</p>
<p>Information about the university Location, size, infrastructure</p>	<p>The main campus and the dormitory of the university is located at Mount Scopus, hill on the east Side of Jerusalem, watching over the desert on the east and city of Jerusalem on the west, but I went there only few times as Architecture department is located separately, in the city centre. It is close almost to every important spots of Jerusalem such as old city, Jaffa street-famous pedestrian street, Mahane Yehuda market-most famous market of Israel, the Israel museum, Independent park and Sacher park-one of the biggest parks of Jerusalem.</p> <p>The department itself includes two small buildings, three floors height each. Has a nice front and back yard, nice shaded spaces for spending study-off time, but also is adapted for group or individual works as you can find work tables and plugs for computers and it looks like kind of outdoor office.</p> <p>4th and 5th years studio rooms are in the front building, but also administration office on the ground and library on the first floor. Library at the department is small, but it is just a small part of the main one in the main campus at Mt Scopus, were almost every required book can be found. Personally, for me, department's library is the best workspace, cozy, quiet and what is the most important in Jerusalem – NOT hot.</p> <p>In the other building there are studio rooms for first, second and third-years students, auditoriums and workshops. Workshops are well-equipped, though, long lines for laser cut and CNCs are quite annoying as we had to make a reservation at least a week before.</p> <p>There is no cafeteria in the department, but 3 nice cafes and few more street food places just next to it, some of them offering student discounts.</p>
<p>Language course visited at the university Course content, benefits</p>	<p>Unfortunately, University only offers Language course 2 weeks before the semester starts. I could not get there that early therefore I had to skip it. Would be much nicer if it is during the semester, then I would definitely participate.</p>
<p>Studies at the university Course content, credits, exams</p>	<p>Studio Project was about finding a new function of the central bus station in Tel Aviv. This huge building from 90ths is one of the most hated buildings of the city. As it badly influences surrounded Neighborhoods the project was partly urbanistic.</p> <p>Beside the studio I choose three other classes, Technology, learning to see(street photography) and Making of Jerusalem.</p> <p>Technology course includes two small goup projects and it is based on pure technological point of view, less conceptual.</p> <p>Photography and Making of Jerusalem is offerend special for exchange students and is focused more of understaining the city in a visual, architectural, historical, political and social way.</p> <p>In the end we had an essay to write for Making of Jerusalem and do a presentation for the rest of the courses.</p> <p>In total I earned 14 credits. One credit at Bezalel is equal of 2 Ects.</p>
<p>Support at the university Student counseling, International Office, Buddy, student contacts</p>	<p>International office was quite supportive in terms of finding accommodation and giving general overview on the university, though administration was quite unorganized as we had to find out many details by ourselves. Hopefully local students are helpful so it was not a big deal in the end.</p>
<p>Budgeting Cost of living, study materials,</p>	<p>Generally speaking, cost of living is quite high in Jerusalem, not too far what we have in Liechtenstein. Adequate monthly rental for the single room in the shared apartment is 1700-2000 shekels which is around 450-500 euros. As mentioned above, for architecture</p>

<p>money transfers</p>	<p>student, I would recommend living in the city not in the student dormitory as prices are quite similar.</p> <p>For groceries Mahane Yehuda market is the best, anything can be found there and there are some cheaper spots and the locals gladly can help finding them. Budgeting for food can be very different depending on person's eating habits.</p>	
<p>Life / Leisure Places to meet, sports, culture</p>	<p>There are many things to do for spending free time in Jerusalem. First and most important it's a old city. It never gets boring as it is so dense and complex, every time I go there new spots would come out. Though, during the day it is always full of tourists, that is why strolling in the old city at night, when streets are almost empty, is completely different experience. In the muslim quarter steet food is much cheaper and better compare to the rest of Jerusalem.</p> <p>There are many other spots to go, such as Hansen House in German colony, where local musicians free concerts can be found, Israel museum, Sacher park, Independent park.</p> <p>At night, Cassete bar and cafe Bastet in the city centre are the best for meeting friends and having a glass of beer. Great to visit Hamiffal, cultural center with great workspace in Mamilla neighborhood.</p> <p>Jerusalem has two levels, one is street level and then roof top level, where many things can be explored. Rooftop cafes, parties, flee markets and so on.</p>	
<p>Comparison of universities What is better / worse at the partner university than at the University of Liechtenstein</p>	<p>Bezalel's administration part is less organized then here in Liechtenstein.</p> <p>Sometimes language barrier was an issue. For example, at technology class, first 30 minutes was always an input in Hebrew from professors, therefore exchange students with no Hebrew knowledge would always go 30 minutes later and skip that part.</p>	
<p>Photos Impressions of life, studying, environment</p>		
<p>Photos Use of photos allowed for promotional purposes?</p>	<p>Ja <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Nein <input type="checkbox"/></p>