

Short Study Program Report



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School: Tel Aviv University

Name of program: DBI (Doing Business in Israel)

Program date: Dec 30th, 2018 – Jan 7th, 2019

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VISA PROCESS

I am a domestic student, holding PR of Canada. Depending on the passport you hold, visa requirement varies. Always refer to the official website of Israeli embassy for visa issues. Attached is a website link.

<https://embassies.gov.il/toronto/ConsularServices/Pages/Visas.aspx>

For those who need a visa, DBI program coordinator will issue an invitation letter for you. The documents can also be found from the link above. A/2 Student visa should be applied. It cost me CAD\$33 plus mailing fees. It took me about two weeks to receive the correct visa. I applied for A/2 but was granted a B/2 visa. I called the Consulate in Toronto and was told it's a mistake. A A/2 visa was reissued to me. Always indicate a multiple entry visa in your application in case you want to plan some tours to neighbouring countries during the free weekend.

INSURANCE

As a full-time student, you should be covered for the basic travel insurance. If you have Canadian credit card, you should also have some basic coverage such as baggage lost. Host university did not require an insurance. You are advised to purchase additional travel insurance covering your stay in Israel costing me about CAD\$40.

My baggage was delayed for five days. I am still in the process of demanding compensation from my credit card insurance to reimburse the purchases of clothes and toiletries.

As a travel tip, when you pack your check-in baggage, always assume it will be delayed or lost. Don't pack anything valuable inside and be mentally prepared for the loss or delay.

MONEY ISSUE

You can pay most of the expenses by credit card. You can also withdraw local currency from ATM. Most of the taxi accepts payment by credit card. But it's better to have some USD cash at hand before departure. You can exchange to Israeli Shekel at the airport or exchange stores on the street. The rate is about 1USD= 3.7 NIS.

ARRIVAL/AIRPORT

Please arrive at the airport at least 3 hours prior to departure time. Security checks are very strict before departure and upon arrival. Additional check points exist, and numerous

security questions will be asked. Be patient and cooperative! Israeli border will not stamp on your passport but issue an entry slip instead.

Airport pickup is not arranged by the host. You can take a taxi, costing about USD40-50 from Tel Aviv airport to hotel. No public transportation on Friday and Saturday. Sunday is the first working day of the week in Israel.

ACADEMICS/TEACHING

The program can be split into three components with roughly equivalent hours:

- 18 in-class hours with lectures and case analysis joined by professors, guest speakers and entrepreneurs. Relaxed teaching style.
- Corporate visits in Haifa and Beer Sheva
- Cultural tours in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa

45 students came from 11 business schools such as Kellogg, Duke, Rotman, HKUST, etc. both part-time and full-time. Kellogg has the largest group of 13 followed by HKUST of 8 students. Other students came from Sydney, Singapore, Japan etc.

There is four pages case analysis paper due in the middle of this program and another 6 pages due two weeks after the program.









INTERNATIONAL SERVICES

Before the start of the program, you will be provided a full agenda detailing the accommodation, classes, activities and travel info. On the first day, an orientation tour of the campus will be organized. The coordinators will be with you most of the time and assist you when needed.

HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS

The program fee includes accommodation in Artplus Hotel, a twin room with two single beds. If you don't want to share the room, additional USD1000 will be charged. The hotel is well located, 2 minutes walk to the beach and 30 minutes drive to Tel Aviv University. But the room is small. If you want to spend a few more days before or after the program, you can choose to stay in the same hotel or find other options.



COSTS/EXPENSES

Most meals are covered in the program fees except for two free nights and one free weekend. Hotel's breakfast is awesome. A day tour to Jerusalem is also included at the last day of the program. A voluntary day tour to Masada and dead sea will be organized with additional cost of USD110-130. Generally, the cost of living in Tel Aviv is much higher than Toronto.

My budget for this program: program fee USD2300+ flight ticket USD1000+other expenses USD700. So, USD 4000 should be budgeted with extra cost if you plan to visit Jordan or spend extra nights.

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

It's an unforgettable experience to meet MBA students from different parts of the world in such an intriguing place. The program is well structured with a mix of in-class lectures, corporate visits and culture activities. Absolutely worth the time and money!



