

# UAS Pocket Guide

## HUJI, Jerusalem



University  
Alliance for  
Sustainability

# General Information

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Jerusalem is a modern and swirling city in the Middle East with rich history; home to 800,000 inhabitants. Jerusalem's Old City is one of the most important places on the Earth for three religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Many historical sights, which are still very important places for religious communities, are in the Old City, a district separated from modern Jerusalem by the Damascus Gate. In Jerusalem's New City, you can experience the energy of a wonderfully multicultural and colorful crowd you have probably never been part of before.



Photo: Pixabay

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## Travel

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Israel is a rather small and utterly beautiful country with a very warm climate. Once you are in Israel, you cannot miss visiting the Dead Sea, and of course, Tel Aviv. Tel Aviv is home to breathtaking and sandy beaches, a great place to take some time off from your research, especially from the warm months of May to September. As a German citizen, you don't need to apply for a visa for Israel which makes it even easier to go there. In general, traveling from one city to the other in Israel doesn't take that long but the public transportation system isn't the best. Even in the city, traffic jams are common, trains don't really go to the suburbs, and during the weekend (in most cities) the public transportation doesn't run. As Saturday is the Jewish day of rest, most of the business shuts down for the day. Trains and buses do not run and most stores will be closed, with few exceptions. Tel Aviv is an exception, but outside Tel Aviv you will have difficulty getting around or buying anything on Saturday. In Jerusalem, which is home to a much greater number of religious people, this custom is strictly observed. The same goes for Jewish holidays, except for Yom Kippur, when every single business in Israel closed.

# Living

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As an exchange student, you might stay in a student residence, in a hostel or in a shared apartment for students, these are the best ways to experience the city and the university. As always, you should check out Airbnb but also ask your international student advisor for advice as the prices on websites such as Airbnb can be very high.

## Public Transport

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The university is relatively well connected to other parts of the city. Jerusalem is not that flat, so it is not the most bike-friendly city, but this depends on where you are staying. A single ride (bus or light rail) is 6.90 NIS (around 1.5 Euro) or you can buy a monthly/weekly/daily ticket. There may be student discounts. Tickets are bought at the station (light rail) or from the driver on the bus. Other means of transportation are taxi and sherut (for 7-8 people at the same price as a bus).



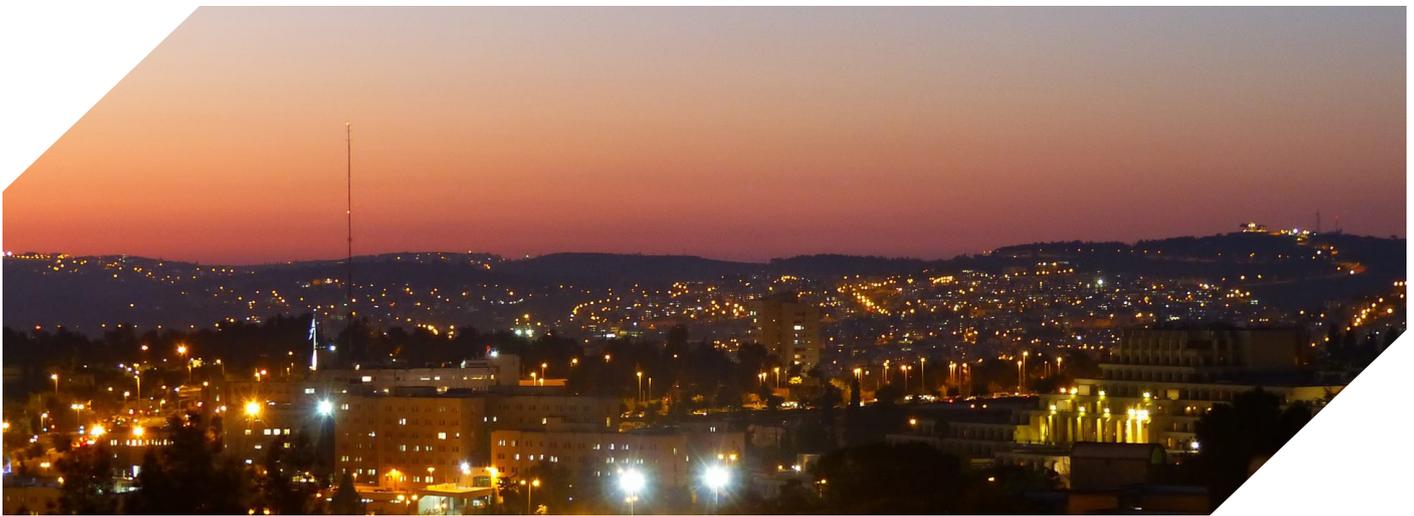
Mount Scopus, the main campus of HUJ // source: Facebook page of the HUJI.

# Getting started at HUJI

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In the first year of the UAS program, there were only students involved who had their own researches so there are no personal experiences for the course registration process. Liora Haver and Jane Turner from the International Office will be happy to help you with this.

If you would like to apply as a visiting research fellow, you should also contact the supervisor you would like to work with, prior to your arrival, thus you can be registered as an exchange student. Your supervisor may be your main contact and professional guide during your stay, he or she can recommend a variety of useful events and networking opportunities related to your research field. As a research fellow you will be probably be offered a work desk in a common working area, usually reserved for visiting researchers. Regardless of whether you would like to do your research there or to take courses, it is better to bring your own laptop in case you are considering not bringing it. Wi-Fi, free printing and online databases are easy to access. Other common working spaces are the main library and common computer rooms, but don't forget to take your student card with you otherwise you won't be able to use these facilities.



View of the campus // source: Facebook page of the HUJI

## Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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Mount Scopus (Hebrew: Har HaTzofim הר הסיפוצה), the main campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is located in the north-eastern part of Jerusalem, and it contains the faculties of humanities, social sciences, law, the Jerusalem School of Business Administration, the Bearwald School of Social Work, the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, the Rothberg International School, and the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies. For foreign students, it might take time to navigate and find places because there isn't great English signage. For this reason, you can find English language guidance on their website and a campus map. The Hebrew University is one of the best academic institutions in Israel, and is usually ranked among the top 100 universities in the world. If you would like to get a first impression of the university online, follow its Facebook page or Instagram account.



Mahne Yehuda // source: Facebook page of the market

## Jerusalem Specialties

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Israel is the perfect place to go if you are into eating good food. Many kinds of food you probably have already tasted somewhere before, like on the way from Schlesisches Tor to Warschauer Str., you can now try them from the most authentic places, made from fresh ingredients: falafel, hummus, shakshooka. Food in supermarkets can be expensive, but this also depends on the neighborhood. Street markets, such as the Mahne Yehuda, are better places to find a great variety of cheap food. Small restaurants and food stalls are scattered all over the city. There are cafeterias on campus, and you can also find some cafes and cheap restaurants around the campus. The restaurants are usually better than cafeteria food. Average prices in these restaurants are around 15-30 NIS (4-7 Euro). If you are a vegetarian or a vegan, don't be afraid, you will find plenty of choices easily. There are many more places to eat, such as more fancy restaurants, but they can be pricy, around 9-15 euro for an average meal.

If you have already been to the Old City, you should visit the city center located in the modern part of Jerusalem or visit Deer Park, in the Gazelle Valley, which offers gazelle spotting and bird watching in a natural environment. The park has been open since 2015 and is free to enter. For more information, visit the park's Facebook page (Hebrew). Emek Refaim is also a great place to visit. It is a very lively area, located in the German Colony neighborhood of the city, full of jewelry shops, fashion boutiques, cafés, restaurants, bakeries, craft vendors and ice cream parlors. The best day to check it out is on the more busy Fridays.

Tel Aviv is the party capital of the country, with many bars and clubs, however you may be surprised to learn that it is illegal to drink alcohol in public in Jerusalem after 11pm.

If you are still looking for ideas what to do in Jerusalem or in other parts of Israel, here are a couple of websites which might be useful: Fun-in-Jerusalem, the travel section of the magazine called Israel21c, or the I-googled-Israel. Regardless which amazing program you are interested in, there are no poor choices. It's better to go in prepared to have a great time in Israel.



Mahne Yehuda // Source: Facebook page of the market

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