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Opportunities for Your Students

Spring greetings from Hebrew University's Rothberg International School!

We are excited to announce a **new alumni initiative**, highlight **summer opportunities in the sciences**, and bring you a closer look at our **new Birthright Israel Study Abroad** program and Coexistence in the Middle East program. Please feel free to forward this email to students, academic departments, and administrators who might be interested in learning more about HebrewU – and thank you in advance!

Best,
Keri

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New RIS Alumni Initiative

HebrewU's Rothberg International School (RIS) is excited to announce a new alumni initiative that will introduce a range of **social- and career-networking opportunities** for alumni, as well as a line of **RIS merchandise** to promote school spirit!

RIS has long been dedicated to its strong alumni network. Now, Provost Noam Shoval has recognized an opportunity to expand the school's existing programs and provide more ways for alumni to engage with one another. For starters, RIS will launch a **digital network where alumni can share** memories, experiences, and job postings, and find other alumni in their geographic area.

"International students have gone through an experience unique to them," explains Tovah Davis of the RIS Marketing Department. "They may have a need or want to share those experiences with their peers. Since they are coming from all over the world, an organized, virtual network is one of the better ways for them to keep in touch."

RIS also plans to add more alumni **reunions and events**, as well as a **career-mentorship program** that matches current students with successful alumni in their field. "RIS students will benefit from being connected to alumni



Summer Opportunities in the Sciences

This summer, RIS is giving students in the sciences, engineering, and medicine more opportunities than ever to study and gain **hands-on research experience** in Israel.

In **collaboration with Notre Dame University** in Indiana, RIS will offer two new introductory courses in life sciences this summer in the areas of human physiology and cell biology or genetics. The courses are designed to fit US pre-medicine syllabi, enabling American undergraduate students to **study abroad while completing medical school requirements**. "Most study abroad programs do not offer these type of courses," explains Shachar Yanai, director of the Division of Undergraduate Studies at RIS. Yanai adds that he believes these courses will fill a void for pre-med students, as well.

In addition, the **Summer Science Internship program** will return this summer for its second year. Interns in this program spend 40 hours per week conducting research in **Israel's state-of-the-art laboratories**, supervised by internationally respected scientists. Students earn academic credit as well as a valuable international perspective on scientific research. Internships are offered in 22 fields of study, including molecular biology, physics, psychology, ecology, and

who are more advanced in life and their careers and can advise them in decision-making,” Davis says.

[Connect with RIS alumni](#)



Spotlight: Birthright Israel Study Abroad

RIS is pleased to offer a number of study abroad courses in conjunction with Birthright Israel, which supports Jewish adults ages 18-26 who wish to visit Israel and discover their heritage. In addition to our summer and winter session Birthright Israel courses in **Israeli Multiculturalism** and **Science and Technology**, we have added a new course in Archaeology for summer 2018.

HebrewU's Birthright Israel Study Abroad programs are unique in their **combination of academics and immersive experience** – students travel the country, earn academic credit, and gain an in-depth understanding of Israeli culture in the short span of two weeks.

“It is hard to put into words what a **meaningful experience** I had on this trip,” says Hannah Meisels, an alumna of the Israeli Multiculturalism course. “It was important for me to experience Israel through multiple lenses – my own American lens; Israeli, Palestinian, Ethiopian, LGBTQ, and Arab lenses – and this program provided ample opportunities for us to not just learn about these groups, but spend time in their homes and hear their stories.”

Our Birthright Israel courses offer something for everyone. Israeli

bioengineering. The program is open to graduate and senior undergraduate students.

[Explore our summer courses](#)

[Learn more about the Summer Science Internship program](#)



Spotlight: Coexistence in the Middle East

From December 27, 2017, to January 10, 2018, a group of students traveled throughout Israel as part of our Coexistence in the Middle East program. The course provides a **deeper understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and potential solutions** from a wide array of perspectives.

The program shines a light on the present, past, and future of coexistence through discussions, lectures, and travel. Students **meet with religious leaders, peace activists, and government officials** – from Israeli diplomats to a former Palestinian minister. Students also explore holy places, like Temple Mount and Church of the Holy Sepulcher, as well as sites of conflict, like the security fence at the West Bank and the borders with Lebanon and Syria.

“The program ... delivers the message that we should always listen to different narratives to **form a balanced view without prejudice**,” says Hang Xu, an alumnus of the program.

For many students, the most powerful aspect of Coexistence in the Middle East is the opportunity to engage directly with

Multiculturalism takes students on a journey of exploration and connection through the country's diverse communities. In Science and Technology, students interested in STEM and business fields learn and network within Israel's exciting start-up scene. In addition, this summer's new Archaeology of the Bible course includes a **five-day archaeological dig** – a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"Life-changing is an understatement," says Sydney Edelson, another alumna of the program. "The knowledge, exposure, and awareness I gained during this trip are assets that will add value to all of my future experiences."

HebrewU's Birthright Israel programs are now accepting summer applications. Airfare is covered through Birthright Israel, and we encourage students to combine these courses with other RIS summer opportunities.

[Birthright Israel Study Abroad: Israeli Multiculturalism](#)
[Birthright Israel Study Abroad: Science and Technology](#)
[Birthright Israel Study Abroad: Archaeology](#)

people in the midst of the conflict. American student Cormac Kelly notes, "It is here that the program goes from being education to being enlightening."

Student Stephne Behrend agrees. "[It was] a deeply impactful experience," she says. "I believe that **I have come to view the conflict with much more empathy** for both sides."

Registration is now open for the Coexistence in the Middle East summer session, one of the most popular summer programs at RIS. The program is also available in the winter session.

[See details on Coexistence in the Middle East programs](#)
[Apply for the 2018 summer session](#)

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