

SIS Summer Abroad 2009:

**Israel and Palestine:
An Applied Workshop
on Civil Society,
Politics, and Conflict
Resolution**

May 31—July 29

SIS Study Abroad: Discover More. Enrich your Experience.

SCHOOL of INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON, D.C.



SIS Summer Abroad 2009
Israel and Palestine:
An Applied Workshop on Civil
Society, Politics, and Conflict
Resolution

May 31—July 29

Seminar & Internship Guide

School of International Service
American University

Apply Now!

Applications are accepted and reviewed on
a rolling basis but must be received by
March 16, 2009 for priority consideration.
See page 8 for more information.

Israel and Palestine: An Applied Workshop

May 31—July 29, 2009

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Introduction

The traveler to Israel and the Palestinian territories walks through history: from windswept crusader castles to ports where seamen, pilgrims, and famous travelers once stood; from desert landscapes once home to traveling tribes, great armies, and merchants in camel caravans to sheikhs' tombs with whitened domes, silent monasteries, and ancient synagogues, mosques, and churches decorated with exquisite mosaics.

But the idyllic landscape and rich history mask a region fraught by conflict. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an ongoing dispute between the State of Israel and the Palestinian people, which can be characterized as a dispute between two national identities with claims to the same area of land. Core issues in the conflict as seen by both sides are the future of the remaining Israeli settlements built in the Occupied or Disputed Territories, the right of return for Palestinian refugees and their descendants, and the status of Jerusalem, as well as the refusal of some Palestinian groups to recognize the Israel's right to exist and Israel's reluctance to allow the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. International efforts to broker an agreement—for example, the Camp David Summit in 2000, the Road Map for Peace in 2002, and the meeting of Arab and Israeli leaders in Annapolis in 2007—have yet to produce a lasting peace.

Israel's blockade on Gaza since 2007, the violation of a four-month-old truce by Gaza militants in late October 2008, and the subsequent raid by Israeli troops have again brought this conflict to the forefront of the international agenda.

The SIS Summer Abroad 2009 Program in Israel and Palestine includes a seminar course, internships and travel. These features of the Program offer windows on the many facets of Israeli and Palestinian politics and society. Students have a range of choices in selecting local internship opportunities. The Program instructors and staff will offer students guidance and support for their activities to enhance the educational value of the program and help provide a safe and comfortable experience. In addition to academic activities, participants will have opportunities to travel in Israel and neighboring Jordan, taking advantage of area's wonderful cultural and historic resources.

Program Description

This Program offers a unique and life-changing opportunity for those wishing to obtain hands-on experience working in the Middle East. The experience allows students to apply their skills and passion in daily activities that acquaint them with the intricacies of life in Israel and the Palestinian territories. The Program consists of three components:

- (a) A **core seminar** led by the Program Director that includes a series of lectures and discussions by prominent Israeli and Palestinian academics, politicians, government officials, and non-governmental activists on critical issues facing the region;
- (b) **Internship opportunities** throughout Israel and the West Bank that provide students with first-hand experience working for organizations that deal with various aspects of Israeli and Palestinian society, culture, politics, economics, and conflict resolution;
- (c) **Site visits and field trips** that give students opportunities to explore culture, community, civil society, and other aspects of life in Israel, Palestine, and Jordan.

Through the seminar, internships, and field trips, the students in the Program explore a variety of themes focusing on politics and conflict resolution, including:

- Role of conflicting historical narratives
- Conflict dynamics
- Roots of violence
- Role of culture
- Nationalism, ideology, and religion

- Mythology, identity, and history
- Role of external parties, including NGOs
- Conflict resolution, transformation, and peace building
- Role of economics, business, and trade in conflict resolution
- Meaning of sustainable development
- Identity and land
- Professional culture in Israel and Palestine

Core Seminar, 3 credits, June 1—June 9

This seminar introduces students to the underlying dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Participants learn firsthand about some of the ongoing conflict resolution efforts and the interaction between peace building and political, economic, and social development. Learning is approached through an interdisciplinary pedagogy, where political agreements are presented as necessary but viewed as insufficient conditions for credible peace-making and genuine economic transformation. Therefore, students are given the opportunity to interact directly with stakeholders, including actors in NGOs, the private sector, educational institutions, governments, and international organizations. Academic requirements are provided in the syllabus at the start of the program.

Internships, 3 credits, June 10—July 23

The Program places students in internship positions in organizations in Israel or the Palestinian territories. The Program Director maintains relationships with many organizations in the region and offers students the opportunity to intern through one of its established partnerships. Program staff works with students in the months preceding departure to ensure that students are matched with positions that will be challenging, intellectually stimulating, and personally fulfilling. Therefore, students find that the positions vary according to both their interests and the availability of positions.

Examples of Internship Organizations

The following list provides examples of where students have been placed in previous years of the Program:

- The Peres Center for Peace, Tel Aviv
<http://www.peres-center.org>
- Amnesty International, Israel Section, Tel Aviv
<http://www.amnesty.org.il>
- Panorama Center, Ramallah
<http://www.panoramacenter.org/>
- Palestinian Authority Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ramallah
- Rabbis for Human Rights, Jerusalem
<http://www.rhr.israel.net>
- Palestine-Israel Journal, Jerusalem
<http://www.pij.org/>
- Towns Association for Environmental Quality, Sakhin
<http://taeq.org/?lang=en>
- The Regional Council for Unrecognized Villages in the Negev, Beer-Sheva
- Mossawa Center, The Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens in Israel, Haifa
<http://www.mossawacenter.org>
- Arab Association for Human Rights, Nazareth
<http://www.arabhra.org/HRA/Pages/Index.aspx?Language=2>

Site Visits and Field Trips

Students enjoy visits to several of the historic and cultural sites of Jerusalem, as well as a weekend excursion in Jordan – including the Dead Sea, Amman, and Petra, one of the New Wonders of the World – where the group reassembles at the conclusion of the internship portion of the program. In Jordan, students engage in

an intensive debriefing seminar to reflect on their experience, make oral presentations, and attend concluding seminars before returning together to the United States.

About Israel and Palestine

The State of Israel lies at the meeting places of continents and history, and embodies a rich web of cultures. Its population includes many different peoples, both religious and secular: Arab Muslims and Arab Christians, Druze, Bedouins, Circassians, Samaritans, and Jews from 70 Diasporas from Eastern and Western Europe, North Africa, Asia, and North and South America. The people are settled all over the country in the Negev, Arava, Galilee, and coastal plains; in moshavim, kibbutzim, vivacious cities, and quiet villages busily engaged in industry and commerce, farming, and scientific research. All of these cultures, peoples, and religions create a rich tapestry of tradition, beliefs, and customs that encapsulate the holy and the secular, the past and the present, the east and the west.

Program Schedule and Registration Options

April/May:	Pre-academic and pre-departure meeting dates TBA
May 31:	Group flies out together from Washington, D.C. to Tel Aviv
June 1—June 9:	Core Seminar in Jerusalem
June 10—July 23:	Internships
July 26—July 29:	Field trip and debriefing session in Jordan
July 29:	Group returns together to Washington, D.C.

Students must participate in all components of the Program for a total of 6 SIS credits and must travel with the group from and to Washington, D.C.

Program Personnel

Program Director

Professor Yehuda Lukacs is Associate Provost for Global Education and Director of the Center for Global Education at George Mason University. He also teaches international relations and history. He has taught at SIS and the University of Maryland at Baltimore County and was a Visiting Professor of International Relations at University College Cork, Ireland. Prof. Lukacs has published several articles and books dealing with contemporary international relations and Arab-Israeli affairs. He has been leading groups of students to the Middle East since 1990 and has been the director of this particular program for the past four years.

Program Co-Director

Professor Nancy Oretskin is the Director of the U.S.-Mexico Conflict Resolution Center and a Professor in New Mexico State University's College of Business Administration and Economics. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in Business Law, Contemporary Legal Issues, Business Negotiation, and Conflict Resolution. She has published articles on mediation and alternative dispute resolution and co-edited *Commercial Mediation and Arbitration in the NAFTA Countries*. Prof. Oretskin has co-directed this program with Prof. Lukacs for the past three years.

Our Partner: GMU and the Center for Global Education

Throughout its brief history as a free-standing institution, George Mason University (GMU) has not shied away from questioning the traditional underpinnings that typically define higher education. This critical approach combined with an entrepreneurial spirit has ensured GMU's growth and development over the last 35 years. In that relatively short time, the University's Center for Global Education has established itself as an extension of the University's emphasis on teaching, scholarship, and global citizenship.

Facilities and Logistics

Students stay in a tourist-class hotel in Jerusalem for the duration of the core seminar. During the eight-week internship, students are placed in hotels, apartments, or homestays with families depending on their internship assignment and location.

Who Should Attend

The Program invites applications from students from all majors and disciplines **from American University only**. Graduate and advanced undergraduate students with interests in comparative political systems, history, education, human rights, international communication, international politics, Middle East area studies, international security, and peace and conflict resolution are invited to apply.

Students not currently enrolled at AU should apply through the GMU Center for Global Education. Contact information is available through <http://globaled.gmu.edu/>.

Program Orientation

Students are required to attend a two-part orientation program at American University and George Mason University. The first component of the orientation focuses on cross-cultural issues and AU registration and other logistical issues. This meeting is held at AU in mid-April. The second segment of the orientation, which is held at GMU in May, includes both pre-academic and logistical information. **Both meetings are mandatory.**

In the Fall 2010 semester, SIS will hold post-program events for all students who participate in SIS Study Abroad programs. Students who attend this Program will be expected to participate.

Program Fees

Students enrolled in the program pay tuition for each course for which they are registered at the prevailing American University tuition rate. For graduate students, this is \$1,178 per credit hour (or \$3,534 per course); for advanced undergraduates, this is \$918 per credit hour (\$2,754 per course).

Students also pay a program fee of \$3,900. This fee covers the orientation program, round-trip airfare from Washington, D.C. to Tel Aviv, round-trip airfare from Tel Aviv to Amman, double-occupancy lodging for the duration of the program, program-related group site visits and field trips, visa fees to Jordan, ground transportation to and from academic sites, mandatory international health insurance, travel guidebooks, and some meals.

Participants are responsible for most meals, any and all visa and immigration documents, and all personal expenses. A suggested amount of \$1,000-\$2,000 is recommended for students' personal use and spending.

Visa Information

Students are solely responsible for obtaining any and all visas or other immigration documents to enter Israel. SIS supports students in this endeavor and assists with necessary letters or other documents as needed. For more information on entry requirements, the Israeli Embassy recommends that students consult the following website: http://www.israelemb.org/consular_Visa.html

As of February 8, 2008, citizens of the United States do not require a visa to enter Israel, but must travel on a round-trip ticket and have a passport valid for at least six months beyond duration of stay and proof of sufficient funds. A visa is not required for U.S. citizens to visit Palestine. The U.S. Department of State recommends that students have at least two blank visa pages available in their passports. More information

from the Dept. of State can be found at the following website:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1064.html

Medical Information

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that travelers consult a health care provider 4-6 weeks prior to traveling abroad. It also recommends that travelers make sure their routine vaccinations are up-to-date. No special vaccinations were required for entry to Israel as of November 3, 2008. For more information on vaccinations and travelers' health issues, consult the CDC website at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinationIsrael.aspx>

Nuts and Bolts of Enrollment

Applications

As SIS is partnering with GMU to bring AU students this exciting opportunity, the application process requires two steps:

- (1) SIS application (written);
- (2) GMU data collection form (on-line).

Once accepted into the program by SIS, students will be directed to a web portal to fill out the GMU forms. **AU students may not apply to the Program directly through GMU.**

As the first step, students must complete and return all parts of the SIS application, which can be found in the final pages of this program brochure. **No incomplete applications will be accepted.** Completed applications should be delivered to the SIS Office of International Programs (address on page 9) by **March 16, 2009** for priority consideration.

Components of the application are as follows:

- Participant Application and Information Form
- Internship Interest and Application Form
- Personal Statement
- Résumé/C.V.
- Transcript
- Academic Advisor Approval Form

Admission and Acceptance

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis but must be received by **March 2, 2009** for priority consideration. As part of the review process, the Program Director or the SIS Office of International Programs may invite students to meet with them to discuss the submitted application. Enrollment is limited to 10 students.

Once admitted to the Program by SIS, students receive notification via e-mail. At that time, students will be required to submit a non-refundable deposit of \$250 to SIS, which will be credited to their student account, to secure their place in the Program, and then directed to the GMU web portal.

Registration

Once the non-refundable deposit of \$250 is received, students will be registered for the appropriate courses by the SIS Office of International Programs. Once registered, students will be billed through the AU Office of Student Accounts for the program fee and course tuition.

Withdrawal Policy

In the event that a student elects to withdraw from the Program, s/he must notify the SIS Director of International Programs immediately in writing. The request to withdraw from the Program will be effective on the date that written notification is received by SIS. Students may NOT drop the Program courses on-line or through his/her academic advisor. **A student who withdraws from the Program will be responsible for any expenses incurred on his/her behalf prior to the date of withdrawal from the program; these expenses are non-refundable.**

Students needing to withdraw from the Program after having accepted an offer of admission must contact the SIS Director of International Programs *in writing* at rbellinger@american.edu.

Tuition refunds in this program do not follow the standard refund policy as outlined in the American University Schedule of Classes. No refunds are guaranteed after the program start date and depend upon the terms of any/all contracts between American University and affiliates of this Program.

Payments

Students are required to pay the program fees (tuition and program fee) in full a minimum of seven days before the start of the program. Students will be dropped from the course by the Office of the Registrar if payment is not received by that time. If this happens, a reinstatement fee of \$100 will be added to the outstanding balance, all of which must be paid in advance for re-registration.

Program Cancellation

In the event that SIS has to cancel the Program prior to the start date, enrolled students will be notified in writing and will receive full refunds for tuition, program fee and deposit.

Additional Information

Visiting Students

This program is open to AU students only. Students not currently enrolled at AU should contact the GMU Center for Global Education. Contact information is available through <http://globaled.gmu.edu/who.html>.

International Students

Students who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States may be required to obtain immigration documents from AU to enter or re-enter the United States as a function of their participation in the program. For information regarding visa status, benefits and limitations, international students should consult with the office of AU International Student and Scholar Services, or the appropriate office on their home campus. More information for AU international students is also available online at www.american.edu/other.depts/iss.

Alumni Audit

The alumni audit option is not available for SIS Summer Study Abroad Programs.

Deadlines

Due to the logistics involved in planning this program, the application process begins immediately. Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received, and students will be admitted on a rolling basis. Applications received after the program is full will be put on a waitlist. Applications should be received by **March 16, 2009** for priority consideration.

Contact Information

Return completed applications to:

SIS Summer Abroad Programs
School of International Service, SIS 301
American University
4400 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20016
Fax: 202.885.2494

Questions? Please contact the SIS Office of International Programs at sissum@american.edu.

SIS Abroad: Discover More. Enrich your Experience.



Application Instructions and Checklist

Instructions:

1. Download and read thoroughly the Program Guide, available from the SIS Study Abroad website, <http://www.american.edu/sis/sisabroad>.
2. Complete the Participant Application and Information Form and the Internship Interest and Application Form.
3. Compose your personal essay and print out a copy. (Please see below for details.)

Instructions for Personal Statement:

Provide a concise statement (300 words) describing your motivation for participating in the program, how an internship in Israel or the West Bank will enhance your personal or professional goals, and what you hope to gain from the experience. Include any relevant information from your background.

4. Print out an unofficial transcript from AU, or request an official one from the Registrar.
5. Print out your résumé/C.V.
6. Meet with your academic advisor to gain approval for your participation in the program; complete the Academic Advisor Approval Form.
7. Return all application materials by **March 16, 2009:**

SIS Summer Abroad Programs
School of International Service, SIS 301
American University
4400 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20016
Fax: 202.885.2494

Please note that incomplete applications will NOT be accepted.

Checklist:

- Participant Application and Information Form
- Internship Interest and Application Form
- Personal Statement
- Résumé/C.V.
- Transcript
- Academic Advisor Approval Form



Participant Application and Information Form

Student Information

Last name: _____ First name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

AU ID #: _____

Gender: Female Male Date of Birth: _____

Current Mailing Address (Valid until Month/Day/2009) | Permanent Mailing Address

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Passport Information

Passport number: _____ Passport expiration date: _____

Country of Citizenship: _____ Place of birth: _____

If non-US citizen, visa type: _____

Academic Information

Status: Undergraduate Graduate Field: _____

Current cumulative GPA: _____ Expected graduation date: _____

Note: Students who are on academic probation are not eligible to apply.

List any coursework you have taken which may be relevant to the program:

_____	_____
_____	_____

Have you been subject to judicial sanction at American University?

Yes No

If yes, please provide in a sealed envelope a statement which explains the circumstances and outcome. All disclosures will be kept confidential.

Health Information

Do you have any medical conditions or physical limitations that SIS should be aware of?

Yes No

If yes, please provide in a sealed envelope a statement which explains your condition. All disclosures will be kept confidential.

Is your insurance provided through AU? Yes No

If not, provide information here:

Provider name: _____ Policy number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Affidavit

By submitting my application and the supporting documentation, I certify and agree to the following:

- 1) I certify that the information I provide throughout this admission process is accurate and complete;
- 2) I confirm that I have read and understand the information in the Program Guide;
- 3) I confirm that I am in good academic standing at American University;
- 4) I confirm that I have no pending disciplinary case or discipline record which I have not disclosed in the application. I understand that the existence of a pending discipline case or a disciplinary record may prohibit me from participating in a SIS Summer Abroad Program. I authorize SIS to consult with the Judicial Affairs and Media Services (JAMS) at American University;
- 5) I will notify SIS of any changes to my information, including my status related to discipline and academic standing at American University;
- 6) I grant the University permission to use any photographs, audio, and/or videotapes of me and quotes taken from me in connection with a SIS Summer Abroad Program for any educational, marketing, and other purposes related to the business of American University;
- 7) I understand that, if accepted, it will be my responsibility to obtain all visas and/or immunizations necessary for admission into the country of the Program;
- 8) I will, if accepted, attend all pre-departure and post-program meetings associated with the Program;
- 9) I understand that, if admitted, I will be required to submit a non-refundable deposit of \$250 and that I will be billed through Student Accounts for the remainder of the program fee and course tuition. I also understand that if I accept an offer of admission and then need to withdraw from the Program for any reason that I cannot do so on-line or through my advisor but must and will contact the Director of International Programs in writing.

Signature of applicant

Date



Internship Interest and Application Form

Student Information

Last name: _____ First name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

AU ID #: _____

Undergraduate Graduate Field: _____

Internship Selection

Please review the Internships section of the Program Guide on page 5 *before* completing this section.

1. Please indicate your preferred geographic location for the internship:

Israel, city (if known): _____

The Palestinian Territories Any location

2. Please explain what **type of work** you would like to be engaged in during your internship:

Research Project Administration
 Report/Publication Community Fieldwork

3. Please explain briefly **what you would like to learn** during your internship:

4. Please provide additional comments as necessary:



Academic Advisor Approval Form

Student Information

Last name: _____ First name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

AU ID #: _____ Grad Undergrad

Program Information

Semester: Summer 2009

Title: Israel and Palestine: An Applied Workshop

Course(s) and Credits: SIS 303/603 Israel and Palestine: An Applied Workshop (seminar) 3 credits
Please check all that apply. SIS 303/603 Israel and Palestine Research Project (internship) 3 credits

Advisor Approval

Is the student, representing him/herself, SIS, and the University, ready and able to participate in a study abroad program?

Yes No

If no, please provide a separate statement which explains your answer.

In the box below, please specify how the course(s) will be used toward the completion of the student's academic program:

The above-mentioned student has met with me and IS IS NOT cleared to participate in in the aforementioned SIS Summer Abroad Program for the semester specified.

If the student does not enroll as indicated above, an updated clearance will be required.

Student signature Date

Advisor Signature Date