Instructors
- What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?
  Much more involved with the students and the classroom. They provided a more intimate atmosphere.

- Could you call them by their first names?
  Yes, most of them preferred to be called by their first names but not all.

- Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?
  No, some liked to meet with students outside of class or to hold events to get to know the students.

- Were they available for help during office hours?
  They had availability with office hours, or by appointment. They were pretty flexible.

Courses
- Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?
  I didn’t find them more difficult, but I found the teaching approach to be different, so that took a little getting used to.

- Was the grading system similar to UCSB?
  It was similar in terms of having the A, B grading units, but the scores differed.

- How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?
  The course structure really depended on the class, you could have just a midterm and final, or just a big paper and a final, etc.

- Did you have oral and/or written exams?
  For Hebrew, there were some oral exams, but otherwise, regular classes were mostly written.

- Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?
  The final exam schedule was set, and only in specific cases could students take them early or later.

- What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?
  We met with an advisor before and in the middle of each term to touch base. I found that very helpful. And teachers were very willing to meet with students who might have needed extra help.

- Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
  A lot of my classes required large papers where I chose my own topic which was very different than what I had been doing at UCSB, so for me I did find that I needed to take more of an initiative to get those done.

- Was classroom participation expected?
  Participation was expected in most classes because they were so small, but it wasn’t always required.
- **How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?**
  The classrooms were smaller as well as the class sizes, and courses were more lecture based so there was not a real need to buy books or readers.

- **Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?**
  Classes were Sunday-Thursday and they ranged from 8 am to 8 pm. They were usually twice a week for an hour and half.

- **What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?**
  The class culture was very intimate and comfortable. Because most of the classes were so small, being punctual was important. The official rule was no eating or drinking in class but most teachers didn’t mind as long as you weren’t disruptive.

**Language**

- **In which languages were the courses offered?**
  English, Hebrew

- **What language did you take your courses in?**
  English

- **If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.**

**Host University**

- **How large is the university? Student enrollment and approx campus size (smaller than UCSB)? Is it an urban campus with many tall buildings or just a few building?**
  The university is smaller than UCSB, it seems bigger than it is. The Rothberg School was all in one building so it was easy to maneuver between classes. Because we were separate from the regular campus I am not sure of the actual student enrollment size. The campus has a lot of buildings and outdoor scenery.

- **Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?**
  Local students usually lived at home or off campus. There were no dorms on campus, only down the street.

- **If not located in the city center,**
  - **How far or close is it to the city?**
    About a 10-15 minute taxi ride or 20 minute bus ride.
  - **What type of public transportation could you take – cost?**
    You could take the bus for about $2, and now they have a tram.
  - **Could students take cabs -cost?**
    Yes, the price varied depending on where they needed to go. To downtown, it was no more than about $10 (which you could split between 4 people).
  - **How long would it take to get to the city center?**
    About 20 minutes.
- **Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?**
  There are, they just have to look out for them and be proactive.

- **Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?**
  There is a bookstore on campus, I usually just used books in the library.

- **Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?**
  There is a computer lab, but I strongly recommend bringing a laptop.

- **What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)**
  There is grocery stores, cafes, and a few restaurants.

### Housing

- **What types of accommodations are available to UC students?**
  For this program, the off campus dorms are the only housing option.

- **How close are they to campus?**
  The dorms are a 15-30 minute walk to campus, depending on how fast you walk.

- **How did you find your housing?**
  It was required by EAP.

- **Where did you live and with whom?**
  I lived in one of the apartments in the dorms with other American students.

- **If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?**

- **Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?**
  They were nicer than IV because they were fairly new, but there were no appliances other than the refrigerator and the stove, (no oven). Not nicer than the UCSB dorms.

- **Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?**
  Yes, because we had a set fixed rate for utilities. I am not sure how much it was because we did not pay monthly. (It was included in the EAP fees).

- **How/who did you pay for housing?**
  I paid EAP and the housing was part of the program so it was settled with the university.

### Food

- **What was the food like?**
  The food was great, it is Middle Eastern cuisine, but you can find most types of foods.

- **Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**
  I ate most of my meals at home because I made it, but otherwise at restaurants or the cafeteria.

- **How much was an average meal?**
You bought your own food, so it really depended. Maybe 10-40 NIS (~$3-$12)

- **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**
  All times. Most people ate lunch between 12-2, and dinner between 7-9.

- **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**
  Not at all.

**Travel/Safety**
- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?

- Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
  Yes, very much so. Tips on safe traveling would be the buddy system and knowing where you are allowed to go and not to go. Always be aware of what part of the city you are in and to act accordingly.

- Describe the public transportation in your host country?
  The public transportation is fairly dependable and safe.

- Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?
  It was not difficult to travel to neighboring countries depending on where you want to go. Also because of the current situation, one must be aware of the latest news and travel warnings.

**Host City/Country**
- What was the weather like?
  I found the weather to be similar to California’s.

- Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?
  Jerusalem was like northern California. It had a warmer summer, but it still had a rainy winter.

- What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?
  I visited a lot of the ancient sites; one of my favorite things was Hezekiah’s tunnel, an underground water tunnel.

- How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?
  Very international, most people spoke English, and it is a tourist destination for people from all over the world.

**Culture**
- Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.
  - **Time & punctuality**
    More relaxed and not as important (not including school or jobs)
  - **Eye contact & staring**
    Eye contact was the same.
  - **Relationships**
- More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?
  Not more formal, but in religious areas women and men have specific dress codes.
- Alcohol consumption
  There is a more relaxed, low key, local bar atmosphere in Jerusalem, while clubs are more common in Tel Aviv.
- What culture shock did you go through?
  The most culture shock came to customer service and waiting in line. You have to be pushy.
- Other?

Banking
- Were credit cards widely accepted?
  Visa was accepted at most places.

- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
  No I didn’t.

- If you did not open a local bank account, was it easy to withdraw money from the ATM? Which banks were popular & had low ATM fees?
  -Yes it was very easy. The ATM fees were all fairly low. Bank Leumi and Hapoalim were the most popular with low fees.
- Were there ATMs on campus?
  - Yes there was one in the main entrance area, it had a fairly low ATM fee.