

Before Your Semester or Year in Israel: Financial Aid & Course Registration Tips to Know Before You Go

Graduate students have a lot to juggle in your academic, personal, and professional lives as you prepare to study abroad in Israel for a semester or a year. We hope these tips help make the planning process easier when it comes to financial aid and course registration.

Financial aid and federal student loan refund checks:

- **Applying for aid for the time you are in Israel:**
 - By March 1 of the year before you go abroad: you must reapply for financial aid for next year. The application includes the Hebrew College Application for Financial Aid and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). We cannot base any financial aid decisions on incomplete applications. Applications received after the March 1 deadline will still be considered, but there may be less institutional money available for distribution.
 - August 15: The deadline for loan request forms if students want loan funds disbursed at the start of the fall semester.
 - Students (U.S. citizens, permanent residents of the U.S., or eligible noncitizens) may request a federal loan at any point during the fall or spring semesters, even while you are in Israel.
- **Tuition charges:** You will not see tuition charges on your Campus Café account until **after** you have registered for the fall semester. See “Class Registration” below.
- **Collecting loan reimbursement checks:**
 - Hebrew College will notify you when your loan funds have been applied to your account, as per usual. During that 14-day period, you may change your mind about borrowing, and the loan money will then be returned to the federal government.
 - If the funds we received from the government exceed your tuition and fees for the current semester, we will prepare a check for you for the balance to be used for rent, etc.
 - **BEFORE YOU GO:** You must authorize a family member or friend to pick up, or receive via mail, your loan reimbursement check and deposit it in your U.S. bank account. Hebrew College cannot wire funds overseas or be held responsible for storing your checks in your absence.
 - **Verify with your bank in advance** if your proxy can deposit a check into your account. Most banks require the proxy to be authorized on the student account in order to deposit checks, especially if you want to have the check deposited via a bank app. Your proxy could also sign the check, fill out a deposit form, and mail it with the check to the bank address. **Find out what your bank allows BEFORE you head overseas!**
 - **Send your proxy’s name, email and mailing address, and phone number to Mayan Baram, Student & Financial Services Assistant, at mbaram@hebrewcollege.edu.**
- **Financial aid questions?** Contact Mia Tavan, Financial Aid Coordinator, at mtavan@hebrewcollege.edu.

Class registration:

- Hebrew College will register students for “**INT777-1: Israel Study Abroad for Rabbinic Students,**” a six-credit course at the beginning of each semester that you are abroad.
 - You will then register your courses at Pardes, and when Pardes sends us your registration information, we will apply it to your account. The “INT777-1: Israel Study Abroad for Rabbinic Students” course will be removed from your transcript since it is a placeholder at the beginning of the semester to ensure you may move forward with any financial aid and loans.
 - **You are expected to regularly attend class and *beit midrash*, if relevant, and be an active participant, as confirmed by the course faculty at the end of the semester.**
 - Please see the Satisfactory Academic Progress section of the [Hebrew College Academic Catalog & Student Handbook](#), an important component to ensure you stay on track for your degree and qualify for financial aid, if applicable.
- **Registration Questions?**
 - Contact Bob Gielow, Registrar, at bgielow@hebrewcollege.edu, and Mayan Baram, Student & Financial Services Assistant, at mbaram@hebrewcollege.edu.