K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

Studying in Israel

A guide for international students & families — how Israeli higher education works, the A/2 student visa, English-taught programs, research strengths, funding, and the rules.

K12 ACADEMICS

Find Your Community

2026 EDITION

ABOUT K12 ACADEMICS

The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH & TECH, ENGLISH PROGRAMS

Israel offers **world-class research and technology universities (Hebrew University, Tel Aviv, Technion, Weizmann), a growing set of English-taught programs, and a famous "Start-Up Nation" innovation ecosystem**. Non-EU students study on an **A/2 student visa**. Because regional security conditions change, **check your government's current travel advisory before committing**. This guide walks the process in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal, immigration, or travel-safety advice. Israeli rules, tuition, and funds change, and **regional security conditions vary and change — check your government's current travel advisory and the latest situation before committing**. Confirm all details with the Israeli Council for Higher Education, the Israeli mission, and your university.

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STEP 01 OF 10

Understand Why Students Choose Israel

WHAT TO KNOW

Israel offers **world-class research universities, strong science and technology (the "Start-Up Nation"), a growing range of English-taught programs, and deep cultural and historical significance** — with strong university-industry links.

BY THE NUMBERS

World-class research	English programs	Industry links
+ tech/innovation	growing (grad)	internships & jobs

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Israel's **research and tech strengths** against the regional security context (check your travel advisory) — for science, engineering, and innovation, its universities are globally leading.

GOOD TO KNOW

Israel's **"Start-Up Nation"** ecosystem gives strong university-industry links, especially in tech and science.

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STEP 02 OF 10

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Leading universities include the **Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, the Technion (Haifa), Ben-Gurion University, Bar-Ilan, the University of Haifa**, the research-focused **Weizmann Institute**, and private **Reichman University**. English-taught international programs are common, especially at graduate level.

BY THE NUMBERS

Hebrew U / TAU	Weizmann	Reichman
+ Technion	research (grad)	private, English

HOW TO HELP

Choose by field and level — the Technion/Weizmann for science and tech, Hebrew U/TAU for breadth, Reichman for English-taught programs — and check the language of instruction.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most **international programs are taught in English**, especially at graduate level — confirm your specific program.

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STEP 03 OF 10

Get the A/2 Student Visa

WHAT TO KNOW

For study over three months you need an **A/2 student visa**, applied for at an Israeli embassy/consulate **after admission**. It's valid for one year and renewable. You'll submit an acceptance letter, proof of paid tuition, a bank statement, insurance, a birth certificate, and (often) medical and police clearances.

BY THE NUMBERS

A/2 visa	1 year	Documents
study over 3 months	renewable	acceptance, funds, insurance

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **A/2 visa** at an Israeli mission after admission, with your acceptance letter, funds proof, and insurance — it's valid one year and renewable in Israel.

WATCH OUT

Even if the consulate marks your A/2 as "multiple entry," it may not be — your university can help arrange a multiple-entry permit after arrival.

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STEP 04 OF 10

Apply to Universities

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to universities** (a common window is **January–May** for the following year). Provide transcripts and English proof (TOEFL/IELTS) for English programs; some require an entrance test (e.g., NITE). A **one-year prep course (Mechina)** is available if you don't yet meet the level.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly	English	Mechina
Jan–May window	TOEFL/IELTS	prep year option

HOW TO HELP

Apply **directly** to your chosen universities (often January–May), with transcripts and English proof — and consider a Mechina prep year if you need to build up first.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some programs use the **NITE** entrance test — check your program's requirements, and ask about a prep course if needed.

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STEP 05 OF 10

Plan for Tuition & Scholarships

WHAT TO KNOW

Tuition for international students runs roughly **$8,000–15,000/year** (range ~$3,000–18,000). Funding includes **Israeli government study grants (e.g., ~$5,000)**, university scholarships, and program-based funding (such as Masa Israel programs). Research master's/PhD positions may include stipends.

BY THE NUMBERS

Tuition	Govt grants	+ university
~$8k–15k/yr	~$5,000	scholarships

HOW TO HELP

Budget the tuition (~$8k–15k), and pursue Israeli government study grants, university scholarships, or program funding — research degrees may include a stipend.

GOOD TO KNOW

Research **master's/PhD positions can include stipends** — worth targeting for funded graduate study.

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STEP 06 OF 10

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa you must prove funds for at least the first year — commonly around **$5,000–15,000**, shown via a bank statement (often for three months), a scholarship letter, or a sponsor's affidavit — plus health insurance. Confirm the exact figure with your Israeli mission.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds	Bank statement	+ insurance
~$5,000–15,000	~3 months	required

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** for the first year (bank statement, scholarship, or sponsor affidavit) and **health insurance** — confirm the exact amount with your Israeli mission.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **exact funds figure varies** by consulate and circumstances — confirm before applying.

7 STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Programs are taught in **Hebrew or English** (many international programs, especially graduate, are in English; some offer French). You prove English via **TOEFL/IELTS**. For Hebrew-taught study, an **Ulpan (intensive Hebrew course)** helps; some Hebrew aids daily life either way.

BY THE NUMBERS

Hebrew or English	English	Ulpan
many programs	TOEFL/IELTS	Hebrew course

HOW TO HELP

Confirm your program's language, prove **English (TOEFL/IELTS)** for English programs, and consider an **Ulpan** for Hebrew — useful for daily life.

GOOD TO KNOW

An **Ulpan** (intensive Hebrew course) is the standard way to build Hebrew — many students do one before or alongside studies.

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STEP 08 OF 10

Prepare for the Move (& Check Advisories)

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, sort **your visa/permit, insurance, banking, and housing** (dorms are cheaper but fill fast; Tel Aviv/Jerusalem cost more than Beersheba/Haifa). Crucially, **monitor your government's travel advisory and local guidance**, since regional security conditions can change.

BY THE NUMBERS

Visa, insurance, housing	Costs	Advisories
first tasks	Tel Aviv/Jerusalem pricier	monitor throughout

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin (**visa, insurance, banking, housing**), and **keep monitoring travel advisories and local guidance** — regional conditions can change during your stay.

WATCH OUT

Monitor your government's travel advisory and university guidance throughout your stay — conditions can change.

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STEP 09 OF 10

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Work options are **limited**: undergraduate A/2 holders generally **cannot work**. **Master's, PhD, and post-doctoral** students may work as a **research or teaching assistant in their field** (part-time); adding a work permit requires a new visa (arranged in Israel, not via the embassy abroad).

BY THE NUMBERS

Undergrad	Grad	Work permit
generally cannot work	research/TA in-field	requires new visa

HOW TO HELP

Understand work is **limited**: undergrads generally can't work, while grad students may do in-field research/teaching assistant work — plan to fund your studies accordingly.

WATCH OUT

A **work permit requires a new A/2 visa** (arranged in Israel, for eligible grad students) — it can't be added via the embassy abroad.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

Israel's tech sector offers a real post-study pathway: **high-tech companies can employ graduates** who completed a degree in Israel in fields like **electrical/electronics engineering, computer science, and software**. Build networks and skills during study, and confirm the current work-visa route.

BY THE NUMBERS

High-tech	Fields	Confirm
hires graduates	EE, CS, software	current work route

HOW TO HELP

Leverage Israel's **tech sector** (which can employ graduates in EE/CS/software), build networks during study, and confirm the current post-study work-visa pathway.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **high-tech employment route** targets graduates in engineering, computer science, and software — plan toward it if that's your field.

QUICK REFERENCE

Studying in Israel: The Essentials

A snapshot — rules and regional conditions change, so confirm with the Council for Higher Education, your mission, your university, and your government's travel advisory.

The system

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, the Technion, Ben-Gurion, Bar-Ilan, University of Haifa, the Weizmann Institute (research), and Reichman University; English-taught international programs, especially at graduate level.

The visa

Study over 3 months needs an A/2 student visa, applied for at an Israeli mission after admission (valid one year, renewable), with an acceptance letter, proof of funds, insurance, and medical/police clearances.

Tuition & funding

~$8,000–15,000/year (range ~$3,000–18,000); Israeli government study grants (~$5,000), university scholarships, and program funding (e.g., Masa); research degrees may include a stipend.

Money & language

Prove first-year funds (~$5,000–15,000; bank statement ~3 months) plus insurance; Hebrew or English programs (TOEFL/IELTS; NITE for some); Ulpan for Hebrew.

Work & safety

Undergrads generally can't work; grad students may do in-field research/TA work; a high-tech route hires graduates. Monitor your government's travel advisory and local guidance throughout.

YOUR ISRAEL JOURNEY STARTS HERE

Find Your Community.

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