

Dear Students

Shalom and welcome to Israel and to Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

We hope your studies in Israel will be successful, enriching and rewarding.

The first few days will be busy with learning your way around campus and the city of Beer-Sheva, starting your Hebrew course (*Ulpan*), meeting the staff members and more. Most of these matters will be addressed during your orientation sessions on your first weekend in Israel. We will be available personally to assist you in getting started.

Upon your arrival, you will be facing a new culture and society, as well as challenged by a new language. This booklet will provide answers for any general and initial issues. For immediate issues which are not covered, please feel free to turn to any of our staff members. We will do our best to address the matter as soon as possible.

Any change can be difficult and overwhelming at first. We are here to help you along the way and provide you a great experience!

We welcome your questions and suggestions.

Sincerely,

THE OSP STAFF

OSP Staff

The **OSP Administrative Director** is responsible for the development and coordination of the academic program to ensure its high quality. The director also takes part in assisting students in finding internships and selecting their courses.

Students are welcome to schedule a meeting with the director through the **OSP Administrative Secretary**, who maintains all student records, insurance, banks and payment information. The secretary is also responsible for student transcripts and informing them of any mail, faxes and packages.

All questions and issues regarding Hebrew classes should be directed to the **Coordinator for the Hebrew *Ulpan*** and Hebrew language programs.

The OSP office is located in building#72, on floor 5½, room 566.
In case of emergency, please call the OSP office: 08-646-1144.

Student Counselors

During your stay here you will be accompanied by 2 counselors who will assist you in different aspects.

Head counselor's responsibilities include the following:

- ▶ Trips (hikes and excursions)
- ▶ Advice and assistance in planning your own trips in Israel.
- ▶ Emergencies (especially health problems).
- ▶ Holiday activities.
- ▶ Coordinating activities with other students and programs in Israel.
- ▶ Extracurricular lectures.
- ▶ Coordinator to the JNF, Hillel and other special programs/groups.
- ▶ Volunteering.
- ▶ Adopting Israeli family (at your request).

Dorms counselor's responsibilities include the following:

- ▶ All issues concerning the rooms, room-mates, keys and so on.
- ▶ Social activities.
- ▶ Dorm activities.
- ▶ Check-in/out at the dorms: assigning rooms, bedding and equipment.
- ▶ Office responsibilities.

The counselors are here to help, advise, guide and direct you in any possible way. They wish to make your stay here as easy and comfortable as possible!

Table of Contents

BGU and Student Services

- 6** A Brief History of BGU
- 6** Gisburg-Ingerman Overseas Student Program
- 7** Finding Your Way around Campus
- 8** Services on campus
- 8** The library
- 9** Cafeterias on Campus
- 9** Computer and Internet Facilities
- 11** Student Association

OSP programs and services

- 12** Deposits
- 12** University Housing
- 13** Housing Regulations
- 14** Medical Insurance
- 15** Drugs and Discipline
- 15** Visas
- 15** Mail
- 16** Trips
- 16** Volunteering
- 16** Adopting Families

Living in Israel

- 18** Security Guidelines
- 19** Weekends
- 19** Currency
- 20** Thinking Metric
- 22** Public Transportation
- 23** Phones Information
- 24** News Services

Living in Beer-Sheva

- 26** Government Offices
- 26** Banks
- 26** Transportation
- 27** Religious Services
- 28** Shopping
- 29** Night Life and Food
- 29** Culture
- 30** Book Stores

6

12

18

26

BGU and Student Services

1 A Brief History of BGU

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was established in 1969 with the aim to bring development to the Negev, a desert area comprising more than sixty percent of the country. The University was inspired by the vision of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, who believed that the future of the country lay in this region.

Today, Ben-Gurion University is a major center for teaching and research, with campuses in Beer-Sheva, as well as in Eilat and Sede Boqer, where Ben-Gurion lived in his final years and is buried. More than 18,000 students are enrolled in the Faculties of Engineering Sciences, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, Business and Management.

BGU is part of the global community, with researchers sharing internationally their expertise in such fields as hi-tech, bio-tech, medicine, arid zone agriculture, solar energy, water resource management, nanotechnology and more. The University anticipates exciting challenges in innovative fields of research and hopes to bring new opportunities to Beer-Sheva and the Negev while continuing its pursuit of academic excellence and expanding its contribution to the community.

2 Ginsburg-Ingerman Overseas Student Program

The Ginsburg-Ingerman Overseas Student Program (OSP) at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) invites you to take the road less traveled and experience Israel as never before. As an international student at BGU, you will study Hebrew language, in addition to choosing from a variety of courses taught in English that are designed to enhance and connect with your experience in Israel.

To complement your academic studies, you will be encouraged to participate in volunteer service, which will deepen your knowledge and exposure to Israel and its people.

You are welcome to choose to live in dormitory apartments with Israeli students, providing you with the opportunity to practice your Hebrew and forge a genuine connection with Israelis.

You will also explore Israel on trips organized by OSP, where you will learn about the country's history, landscape and diverse traditions. Finally, as a student at BGU, you will become a part of the University's vibrant student body and gain a deep understanding of Israeli life on the inside.

3 Finding Your Way around Campus

The Main Campus, where most of your studies and activities will take place, is "Marcus Campus". It houses most of the administrative and academic departments of the university, classroom buildings, computer facilities and the "Student Center Building" (Bet *HaStudent*) which has **four-levels**:

Basement level	Academon- school supplies, electronics and computer equipment.	052-676-3366	Sun.-Thu.: 8:30-20:00 Fri.: 8:00-13:00
	Photo shop	08-627-0177	Sun.-Thu.: 9:00-18:00 Fri.: 9:00-14:00
	Study hall		
	Lost and Found		
Ground floor	Bank Hapoalim	08-620-2222	Sun., Tue., Wed.: 8:30-13:15 Mon., Thu.: 8:30-13:00, 16:00-18:30
	HaTzrif- university gift shop		Sun-Thu.: 10:00-16:00
	Menza Cafeteria		
	Student Union service office	Fax services, registration for activities	
1 st floor	Student Association offices		
2 nd floor	Dean Office, Hillel House, Study Hall		

4 Services on campus

Post Office	Behind "Lemongrass" coffee shop.	08-627-8735	Sun.–Thu. 8:00-15:30
Synagogue	basement of building #28	052-844-7591 (Rabbi Gil)	www.bgu.ac.il/bjews/index.php
Security	Building #33	08-646-1555 (on campus 61555)	24/7, secure across campus and dorms
Tzomet Sfarim book store	"Diller" building 74# (next to Aroma Café).	08-648-2582	Sun-Thu. 8:00-20:00 Fri. 8:00-14:00
Negative cinema- run by the Student Association	Building #26, 2 nd floor		www.bgu4u.co.il/site.aspx?SiteId=8
Issta Travel Agency	next to Building #90 (near McDonald's)	08-620-7600	Sun-Fri. 8:00-18:00
Sports Center	Across the street from the dorms. The center includes: - Swimming pool (indoor & outdoor) - Tennis & basketball courts - Sauna - Gym*	08-647-2740	Office open: Sun-Thu. 9:30-17:30

* Additional fee and medical form are required for the use of the gym. The medical form from the OSP application you already filled out will suffice. If you wish to become a member in the gym you should pay the fee at the sport center office and bring the medical form with you.

5 BGU Library

Opens: Sun-Thu. 8:30- 19:45, Fri. 8:30 - 12:45.

Zalman Arane Library is located on campus near BGU main entrance.

Your student card serves as a library card. If books are not returned on time there is a daily fine. Please be careful not to lose your student card, as you are responsible for any books taken out with it.

This is the website of the Library:

www.bgu.ac.il/aranne/

To enter click the rotating letter "Alef" (א).

6 Cafeterias on Campus

All cafeterias on BGU campus and the Soroka Hospital are kosher.

Menza- university cafeteria: meat and vegetarian meals	Student Center building- ground floor
Karnaf: salad bar, soups, muesli and sandwiches	building #28- ground floor
McDonald's	next to building #90
Elite Coffee Bars: cold drinks, cakes and sandwiches	located at different strategic spots around campus (buildings #90, 32, 72)
Aroma: café and restaurant (with separate meat and dairy kitchen)	Diller building (#74)- bottom floor
Lemongrass: Thai food and snacks	building #32
Dalali: Humus and Falafel restaurant	building #72 - ground floor (3)

You can find different restaurants outside and around the campus (try around gate 90).

7 Computer and Internet facilities

To use the computer facilities, you must enter your user-name and password, which you received from the OSP office along with this guide.

Computer stations providing e-mail and Internet access as well as Office software are located in the following buildings on campus:

Building	Classroom	Building	Classroom	Building	Classroom
33	104	74	101	90	002
	105		102		003
	119	39	006		004
	120	Gimel Dormitories	75		009
	303	16	40	98	112
	310		41		004
72	443		42	17	007
	125		48	54	002
55	102		52		
	104				

Use the following link to check computer availability in the various rooms:

<http://gezer.bgu.ac.il/compclass/comp-class.php>

While in the computer rooms, never leave your bags and other valuables unattended. No drinking, eating or smoking is allowed in the rooms.

10

11

Printing and Xerox services

Each student should purchase a copy card for making photocopies and printing. Copy cards can be purchased in the Library and in the Student Center next to the printers.

Xerox services that do not require a copy card are available on the ground floor of the library. Be sure to have small change.

Files sent from any computer on campus can be printed in any of the printers located across the campus. Note that unless you change printing properties, files are automatically printed as 'duplex'.

Photocopy machines and printers can be found in the following locations, in addition to different hallways around campus:

1. Library
2. Student Center (photo copy machines are in the basement and printers on the ground floor).

3. Buildings #33 (basement- both) and #32 (photocopy machines on the second floor).

Printing and photocopying in the OSP office is not possible.

Using the public printers:

1. Login to the computer with your user name & password.
2. Use any computer program and save your paper on the desk top when it's ready (remember- it will be erased when you log off).
3. Open your document on the desktop, go to file- print- name of printer [New BW-students' public printer (richo 2045)].
4. Your document will be sent to ALL the public printers on campus, and will be saved in its memory for the next 48 hours.
5. Go to any of the public printers around campus.
6. Insert the printing card with the logo facing up. Your credit will be shown then.
7. Make sure it has enough money for printing your paper - if not, take it out and reload it on the first floor or in the library.
8. Type your "fake I.D number" (written on your student card).
9. Choose the document you want to print from the list (use 2 and 8 buttons to go up

and down) and press star (*) to print.

10. Wait for the printer to print - please be patient - it might take a few seconds depending on the document size (if it takes more than that - try another printer).

11. If you want to cancel or finish your printing and take your card out press (#).

Using the public copy machines:

Insert the printing card with the logo facing up. Your credit will be shown, push the green button to copy. To take out the card, push the red button.

Please try to print double sided if the machine has the option.

Don't pull out your card when you finish copying or printing- Always press (#) or the red button, otherwise you will be charged extra.

8 The Student Association (the "Aguda")

BGU Student Association (tel. 08-647-2360) represents the entire student body and is located on the second floor of the Student Center. The Student Association negotiates every academic year for new services and is responsible for a variety of student services and activities such as:

- ▶ Student sponsored on-campus cinema ("Negative").

- ▶ Fax services.
- ▶ Entertainment (shows, concerts).
- ▶ Extracurricular activities (fitness and sport classes).
- ▶ Personal accident insurance.
- ▶ Representation on the University disciplinary board.
- ▶ University welfare services.
- ▶ Off campus housing services.
- ▶ Participation in Student Council elections.
- ▶ Representation on Appeal Boards.

OSP Students are full members of the BGU community. As such, you are members of the Student Association. You may participate in all activities organized by the association.

Check out the Aguda site: www.bgu4u.co.il (You can also reach it through the BGU website under campus life).

There is also an unofficial student site which has a lot of interesting forums, useful information and articles: www.bgu.co.il

OSP Programs and Services

1 Deposits

- ▶ Students joining the program, who have not come through the NY offices, must see to all registration and payment issues in person at the OSP office, before receiving their student-card.
- ▶ Payments may be made in cash, credit card or check.
- ▶ A cash/check deposit must be left at the OSP office for each semester, to be returned upon leave, providing there are no standing payments still open.
- ▶ Any standing debts will detain receiving your study transcript.

12

13

2 University Housing

Students are housed in the Meonot Gimel dorms, located within walking distance of the main campus entrance. You are welcome to use the dorms' many facilities:

- ▶ **Music room**
- ▶ **Bicycle storage room**
- ▶ **Study halls**
air conditioned, open 24/7
- ▶ **Computer labs**
public printers and Xerox machine
(student card required for entering)
- ▶ **Supermarket**
Sun-Thu. 7:00- 21:00, Friday 8:00-14:00

▶ The Yellow Shelter

Social activities throughout the year (includes a ping-pong table)

▶ Laundromat

Coin operated laundry: approx. NIS 8 per load. Dryers: approx. NIS 7 per 30min

Dorms Superintendants (av bayit)

Feel free to turn to the superintendants for any maintenance issues. The dorms counselor is also available for those matters. The superintendants can be found in their office located on the ground floor between buildings 85 and 86, or reached by phone- 054-677-5563 (Motti) or 073-216-1679.

Brief Description of Housing

The dorm rooms include a table and chair, closet, bedside lamp, night stand and single bed. Students must supply their own linens, blankets, cooking utensils and dinnerware.

Note: Israel's electric current is 220v, 50 cycles. Do not plug an American 110v electrical appliance into an outlet without a proper transformer.

Shabbat (Weekends)

Every Thursday the name of the person in charge of urgent problems will be posted on the bulletin board. Outside the super's. If the dorms counselor is in the dorms on Shabbat, you can turn to him/her, while tak-

ing into consideration the hours you choose to do so.

Access to activity rooms

You can get keys to the different activity rooms from the dorms counselors' room (bldg. 85\157) by depositing your student card. Return the keys at the end of the use of the room. If none of the counselors are in the room, leave the key in the mailbox next to the door and you'll get your student card back later.

Internet

You will be able to connect to the internet in your room. In order to do so, you have to take a form from the dorm's counselor and pay (in cash) at the post office. After paying, go with the form to window 17 at building 62, where your form will be signed. The last step is to go to the *Av Bait* for a cable.

3 Housing Regulations

► Students are responsible for the overall cleanliness of the housing accommodations and the state of all room contents. You are expected to keep common areas clean and respect the rights of others in terms of quietness and privacy.

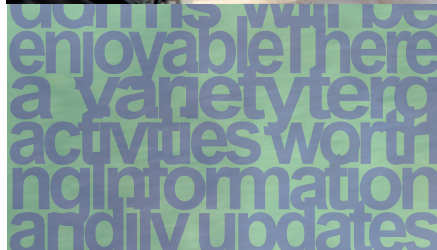
► Students who lose their room-key will be charged for a replacement.

► Animals are strictly forbidden in the dorms. Please stay away from any stray cats around the dorms; they are not immunized. Do not pet any street dogs or cats - they might have rabies.

► Check out: Check out time is between 8:30am- 2:00pm.

The room must be empty of all personal belongings and clean.

Note! Students leaving rooms unclean or containing any damages will face extra charges and a possible detainment of their transcript approval.



We hope your stay at the dorms will be enjoyable. There is a variety of interesting activities well worth attending. Information and daily updates regarding the activities will be sent via email- stay posted!

4 Medical Insurance

► Ben-Gurion University requires all students to carry comprehensive medical insurance. We recommend *Har'el Insurance Company*- this insurance offers a comprehensive health insurance policy specially designed for overseas students. Students must disclose all pre-existing medical problems. The Israeli general policy does not cover pre-existing conditions. If you have a pre-existing condition, coverage may be arranged in advance. For specific information about this please contact Mr. Amos Gilboa at y_health@yedidim.co.il

► The Israeli policy is valid only in Israel, but offers additional health insurance coverage for travel outside of Israel. There is no deductible.

► Your insurance is valid only through the OSP semester. If you wish to stay in Israel after the end of the OSP semester, you must arrange that with the insurance company.

Please Note: All after-hours medical services might ask for payment up-front. Show both your cards and clarify that you should *not* have to pay. If they try and force you to pay, call Amos directly at 052-325-0975

In Case of Emergency

turn to the Emergency Room at Soroka Hospital or any other hospital in Israel

Definition of an Emergency:

- Any situation that is deemed life-threatening
- Fainting/Lack of Consciousness
- Break or Fracture
- Penetration of a foreign body (into the eye, etc.)
- Accidents (Car, burns, etc.)

Ambulance

Should only be ordered (by calling **101**) in case of a life-threatening situation. All requests for payment should be forwarded (after you paid) to *Har'el* at room 114 in the Student Center on Sunday 9:00-12:00. You will get the money back approximately within 8 days.

If you are out of Beer-Sheva:

Call *Har'el* insurance 1-800-414-422 or 03-754-7020 and ask for the nearest clinic.

You can also ask for at-home doctor visit- please call the *Har'el* Hotline at 1-800-414-422 (it can take about 2 hours for a doctor to arrive).

Your insurance is only **valid in Israel** and doesn't cover Gaza or the west bank (beside Jewish cities in the west bank). In case of emergency it will cover parts of Sinai, but you should make sure that it covers your specific destination.

Students who wish to travel abroad during the year will be required to obtain a separate health insurance policy ('Blue & White').

For further information, please read the *Har'el* pamphlet or contact *Har'el*.

5 Drugs and Discipline

Students are expected to abide by the regulations of Ben-Gurion University while on campus or in University-operated dormitories. These regulations, as well as Israeli law, prohibit the importation, possession or use of any type of illegal drug or narcotic. Infraction of this rule on or off campus may lead to immediate expulsion from the university, or other disciplinary action, and create serious problems with the legal authorities of the state of Israel.

6 Visas

► **A-2 (Student or Post-Doctoral Student):** Valid for one academic year. Can be extended for the period of a student's studies up to one additional academic year. This visa is granted as per request of the institution (This will probably be your kind of visa for the period of your stay at BGU).

► **Re or Multiple Entries Visa:** If you wish to leave the country for abroad, and you are holding an A2 or B1 visa, you should ask for a multiple visa.

For further information, see the Visas section on the Hospitality Unit website:

www.web2.bgu.ac.il/global/Hospitality/

For information regarding the various applications and requirements, please see your counselors.

7 Mail

Your mail should be sent to the OSP office:
Ginsburg-Ingberman Overseas

Student Program
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
P.O. Box 653 Beer-Sheva
84105 Israel

Come and check for mail every once in a while in the office.

E-mail: You will receive an email account from the OSP office. Your email is:
'your user name'@bgu.ac.il.

Your password is the one that you got from the OSP.

To check your e-mail you can log in to any computer on campus, the home page is the BGU main page. Press *e-mail* Access and login.

Please keep your password secret and do not let others use your email account.
The main means of communication with the OSP staff is by email- make sure you check it at least once a day.

8 Trips

Getting to know Israel is an integral part of your study experience. Traveling across Israel, meeting different faces of society and visiting Israel's many cultural sites- these activities will be integrated into your programs, and will be often joined by Israeli students.

16

The activities are scheduled for each semester and include around four daily trips and one weekend. These trips do not include excursions during *ulpan* or study tours.

17

MASA students must attend all trips in order to receive their scholarship.

Information on upcoming trips will be sent via e-mail three weeks in advance. Registration is done up to ten days before the trip, using the bulletin board in the office or via e-mail.

There are no last minute cancellations!

Other trips/ walkabouts may be added at your own expense.

Most of the academic courses included in your program include study tours. Students registered to these courses must attend the trips as part of the course syllabus. Other students may join on the basis of a free spot, but must pay for their participation.

9 Volunteering

BGU is very socially oriented and many of its students take part in various volunteer activities around campus. Most of the work is done within the different Beer-Sheva communities. As part of your stay in Israel, your program includes 2-4 hours of recommended volunteering a week.

A variety of volunteering options is available and will be explained at the volunteering panel.

If you have any special ideas or request for specific volunteering, your counselors will be more than happy to assist in contacting the various organizations.

10 Adopting Families

Students who wish to spend a weekend or holiday with a family in Beer-Sheva or anywhere else should contact their counselor.

very so, a lot of them many
derits, take part in va
volunteer activities ar
campus. Most of work is
within the different cor
nities part of your stay
rael your program inc



Living in Israel - General Information

1 Security Guidelines

The Ginsburg-Ingerman Overseas Students Program follows the guidelines of the American Embassy for security issues.

- ▶ Always consult with staff.
- ▶ Keep yourself informed of developments.
- ▶ Know where you are going.
- ▶ Travel with friends.

18

Our aim is to reduce the risk of you being involved in a security incident.

19

Whenever you take a trip outside of Beer-Sheva, be sure that someone in the group knows where you are, we want accountability for every student, especially in the event that there is a security issue. If you are outside of Beer-Sheva and there is a security incident, please notify staff by phone. Have your security card of important numbers with you at all times.

Jerusalem: You may visit Jerusalem, but some parts of it are considered unsafe, such as the Arab *Shuk* which begins at the Jaffa Gate and leads to the Dome of the Rock. Avoid crowded areas in Jerusalem. Traveling to the west bank and Gaza is prohibited. Furthermore, your insurance does not cover any accident or any other event in those geographic areas.

Travel outside of Israel: While classes are in session you need to fill out a travel

request form in the office and make sure that your insurance policy covers you (or else take out special travel insurance for the trip). Please stay in touch with family to update them on your whereabouts and your well-being.

Hitchhiking is strictly forbidden.

Public places: It is customary to open and check all bags and purses at the entrance to most public places, such as the university (where you also show a student card), shopping malls, cinemas, etc. Please comply with security checks which are for the benefit of all of us.

Do not leave your bag unattended at any time. Unattended bags are considered "suspicious objects" and are dealt with by the police bomb squad. You are also cautioned not to leave your belongings unattended even for a few minutes (not even in the university). If you see an unattended object, do not touch it. Call the police (telephone 100) or the university security unit. For any question, regarding either routine or special event, call the campus security unit (24/7) at 08-646-1555. Be sure to introduce yourself as a BGU student and talk slowly.

For more information- the Home-Front internet site: www.oref.org.il

2 Weekends

Israel weekends officially start early afternoon on Friday and end on Saturday night.

► Shops: Most shops and businesses are open 6 days a week (Sunday through Thursday and Friday until 2:00 p.m.). You can find small shops that are open during the weekend (*pittuzia*).

► Government offices are open 5 days a week (Sunday to Thursday).

► Transportation: There is no public transportation on Friday night, Saturday and Jewish holidays. Several cab companies operate on weekends.

3 Currency

The New Israeli Shekel (NIS) is the official monetary unit in Israel.

Bank notes circulate in denominations of 20, 50, 100 and 200 NIS, and coins of 1, 2, 5 and 10 NIS, 10 and 50 agorot (NIS1 = 100 agorot). Change is rounded off to the nearest ten agorot.



Thinking Metric

Liquid Measures

American (Standard Cup)	Metric Equivalent
1 cup= ½ pint= 8 fl. oz.	2.37 dl.
1 tbs.= ½ fl. oz.	1.5 cl.
1 tsp.= 1/8 fl. oz.	0.5 cl.
1 pint= 16 fl. oz.	4.73 dl.
1 quart= 2 pints= 32 fl. oz.	9.46 dl.
British (Standard Cup)	
1 cup= ½ pint= 10 fl. oz.	2.84 dl.
1 tbs.= 0.55 fl. oz.	1.7 cl.
1 tsp.= 1/3 fl. oz.	0.6 cl.
1 pint= 20 fl. oz.	5.7 dl.
1 quart= 2 pints= 40 fl. oz.	1.1 liter
1 cup= 16 tablespoons	
1 tablespoon= 3 teaspoons	
1 liter= 10 deciliters= 100 centiliters	

20

21

Solid Measures

American/British	Metric Equivalent
1 lb.= 16 oz.	453 grams
2.2 lbs.	1000 grams= 1 kilogram
1 oz.	28 grams
3½ oz.	100 grams

Oven Temperatures

Centigrade	Fahrenheit
Up to 105 degrees C.	Up to 225 degrees F. (cool)
105- 135 degrees C.	225- 275 degrees F. (very slow)
135- 160 degrees C.	275- 325 degrees F. (slow)
175- 190 degrees C.	350- 375 degrees F. (moderate)
215- 230 degrees C.	400- 450 degrees F. (hot)
230- 260 degrees C.	450- 500 degrees F. (very hot)

Weights and Measurements

1 mile	1.609 kilometers
1 yard	0.914 meter
1 foot	30.48 centimeters
1 inch	2.54 centimeters
1 square mile	2.59 square kilometers
1 imperial gallon	4.546 liters
1 liter	1.76 pints
1 pound (lb.)	0.454 kilograms
1 ounce (oz.)	28.35 grams
1 kilometer	1094 yards= 3, 281 feet
1 meter	39.37 inches
10 centimeters	3.94 inches
1 kilogram	2.205 lbs.
100 grams	3.502 ounces

Clothing Sizes

Men

Shirts

Israel & Europe	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
England & USA	14	14.5	15	15.5	15.75	16	16.5	17

Sweaters

Israel & Europe	44	46	48	50	52	54
England	34	36	38	40	42	44
USA	S		M	L	X-Large	

Women

Dresses, Suits, Shirts, Coats

Israel & Europe	40	42	44	46	48	50
England	12	14	16	18	20	22
USA	10	12	14	16	18	20

Blouses, Sweaters

Israel & Europe	38	40	42	44	46	48	
England		32	34	36	38	40	42
USA		30	32	34	36	38	40

5 Public Transportation

Egged buses offer relatively inexpensive public transportation to all parts of the country. Students holding an International Student ID card or a BGU student card may receive a 10% discount on most intercity bus rides.

Tickets may be purchased at the Egged ticket office at the Central Bus Station, or upon boarding the bus (cash only).

Metropoline bus system reaches fewer cities and also offers student discount.

Egged Information Center www.egged.co.il	03-694-8888 or *2800 from all telephones	Sun-Thu.: 7:00am.-9:00pm Fri. & holiday eves: 8:00am - 3:00pm Sat. night: 1/2 hour after Shabbat ends- 11:00pm
Metropoline Information Center www.metropoline.com	*5900	

The prices listed are subject to change:

Beer-Sheva - Tel Aviv NIS 14.50 (approx. 90 min. trip)

Beer-Sheva - Jerusalem NIS 30 (direct line- 90 min., non-direct- 2 hr.)

Inter-City Taxi (Sherut) Service

Sherut taxi service, in which a passenger pays a flat rate (in cash) for an individual seat in the taxi, operates regularly between Beer-Sheva and different major cities. The *Sherut* stops at the regular bus-stops on the main street (Rager st.).

Train service

Beer-Sheva has two train-stations:

Beer-Sheva Central (Mercaz): located near the central bus-station and the Negev mall.

Beer-Sheva North (Tzafon-HaUniversity): located very close to BGU *Gimmel* dorms.

Trains do not operate on Saturday and Jewish holidays. A train from Tel Aviv to Beer-

Sheva is available Saturday nights after Shabbat.

Information Center: Tel.: 03-611-7000 or *5770 from all telephones:

Sundays–Thursdays: 6:00AM–11:00PM.

Fridays: 6:00AM–3:00PM.

Saturday evenings: From 1/2 an hour after Sabbath until 11:00 PM.

You can also check the train website: www.rail.co.il

For information on all means of public transportation in Israel:

www.otobusim.co.il

6 Phones Information

Making Local and International Phone Calls

To contact you from abroad, one must dial: +972-8 (Beer-Sheva area code) + local phone number. To dial the office one must dial: 00-972-8-646-1144

Area Codes in Israel

- 08 – Beer-Sheva and the entire Negev, from Ashkelon to Eilat
- 02 – Jerusalem
- 03 – Tel Aviv and Gush Dan
- 04 – Haifa area
- 09 – Sharon area (Kfar-Saba, Ra'anana, Natanya, etc.)

Cellular Phone Information

Israel Phones

For our students' safety, security and well-being, we require that all students participate in the IsraelPhones Cellular Network Plan, which provides uniform, networked cellular phones for our entire program, as well as for many other Israel year programs.

Israel Phones Services:

- ▶ Itemized bills will be sent to your email on a monthly basis (in English).
- ▶ Toll-Free Customer Service: *IsraelPhones* provides you with toll-free local Customer Service numbers in the U.S., UK, Canada and Israel.

▶ Repairs and Replacements with Door-to-Door Service.

▶ FREE Incoming calls and incoming text messages in Israel from anywhere in the world.

▶ 500 minutes FREE per month- To call other *IsraelPhones* customers within your cellular network

▶ Choose your own rates: multiple rate plans where you receive a pool of *IsraelPhones* Minutes to landlines in the country of your choice and Israel cell phones/landlines – all for less than 10 cents per minute.

▶ Local Number Offer: Stay in touch with your child by dialing a local phone number from the U.S., Canada or the UK that rings directly on the Israeli cellular phone for only a monthly fee of \$3 and 14.9 cents per minute.

▶ Discounted "Home" Number: Your child can call one designated number from Israel to the U.S., Canada or the UK for only 7.9 cents per minute (available with pay-you-go rates)

▶ Text Messaging Packages: Select from 4 packages of monthly text messages to all cellular carriers in Israel.

Customer service number: 1-800-721-111
To order your phone, please complete the online order form at
www.israelphones.com/bgu.htm

Returning Israeli phones

Students have two options:

1. Leave the phone at the OSP office.
2. Leave the phones at the post office at the airport:

The post office at the airport is open Sunday through Thursday from 07:00am to midnight and Friday from 07:00am to 13:00pm. The post office is located in the mall before security and passport control. You just need to say they are returning the phone to *IsraelPhones*.

24

The post office has pre-addressed envelopes and you will receive a tracking number. The cost of \$7.50 is charged directly to their IsraelPhones account; you do not pay at the post office.

25

► Channel 1 (Channel 11 on cable) – a daily TV news summary in English at 18:20 hours; Fridays 16:30 hours and Saturdays 17:00 hours.

► Many English language news services, such as CNN, CBS, Sky and others, broadcast several times daily on cable.

7 News services in English

Newspapers: The Jerusalem Post/ Ha'aretz/ Herald Tribune are published in English every day except Saturdays. The special weekend edition is available Friday mornings.

Check out their website: www.jpost.com and www.haaretz.com

Radio: The first network (Reshet Alef) radio frequency (AM 576), offers daily broadcasts of the news in English every morning at 7:00am (15 minutes) and every evening at 5:00pm.

TV news:

► IBA NEWS (ISRAEL BROADCASTING AUTHORITY)

many of various young
activities around campus.
most of the work is
done within the different



Living in Beer-Sheva

1 Government offices

Note: Always ensure you have a good photocopy of your document(s) for a government agency and the original(s) available for comparison, if asked. It may also be advisable to have an extra passport photo with you.

Ministry of Interior (Misrad HaP'nim)

In charge of visas, ID numbers

Tel: 08-623-4211/2

Kiryat Hamemshala

(Government Office building)

Office hours:

Sun. & Thu.: 8:00-12:00

Mon. & Wed.: 8:00-12:00, 13:30-14:30

www.mfa.gov.il

26

2 Banks

27

Beer-Sheva is served by several commercial banks with overseas branches in numerous countries. Their staff will be happy to advise you with updated financial information. Most of the main banks are located in the Old City of Beer-Sheva, and they have branches in every neighborhood. Check the hours posted at the bank entrance as business hours vary from bank to bank.

3 Transportation

The local bus system in Beer-Sheva is *Metrodan*.

Buses run daily, Sun.-Thu. 5:00am. - 11:00pm.

There is no public bus service in Beer-Sheva during Shabbat. Buses stop running on Friday approximately one hour before Shabbat begins and start running again on Saturday evening shortly after the end of Shabbat.

Tickets can be purchased from the bus drivers.

Recommended ticket options:

Ravkav- This card allows you to ride all Beer-Sheva inner city bus lines, and can be loaded at any time upon request from the driver. A form for purchasing the card is included in your orientation package.

Information sheets on intercity routes can be obtained at the information booth in the Central Bus Station or on the *Metrodan* website: www.metrodan.com (only in Hebrew).

The following bus lines have a regular stop outside the student dorms:

#4, 5, 16- stop at the Government Office building and reach the Central Bus Station, near the Negev mall.

Bus lines running along the main street (Rager): #7, 8- direct to the Central Bus Station.

Taxi (Monit) service

Several taxi companies in Beer-Sheva work on a 24-hour basis, some including Shabbat. A taxi (*monit*) may be ordered by phone, or may be found at the hospital entrances. The following taxi companies operate on Saturdays.

Star Taxi ("Kochav")	08 – 610-6060
Avia Taxi	08 – 644-4444
Mati Taxi	08 – 641-7171
Masada Taxi	08 – 627-5555

Religious services

Synagogues

There are several synagogues in Beer-Sheva. Every neighborhood has at least one, usually more within a short distance. You do not have to be a member to join a service. During the high holidays most synagogues are well attended. There are Ashkenazi, Sephardic, Indian, Hungarian, Romanian, Persian, Iraqi and Tunisian synagogues scattered throughout the city as well as an Ethiopian synagogue.

Conservative congregations- "Eshel Avraham"

Reform congregation- "Bet Noam"

Please ask the counselors if you need directions to any of these options.

Synagogues near you:

- ▶ BGU main campus- located in the basement floor of bldg. #28.
- ▶ Soroka Hospital Campus- located on the ground floor of the old hospital building (near the pharmacy).

Christian Services

A welcoming Christian community offers Bible study groups. Informal gatherings are held on Saturdays or Sundays. Services are often held in English to accommodate all nationalities.

A Ygg]Ubic and Evangelical Gatherings

Tel: 08-627-7022

15 Ha'avot Street

(On the corner of Trumpeldor st.), Old City.

Gatherings: Saturdays 17:30, Tuesdays 19:00

Mosques

Tel-Sheva Mosque

Bedouin Village of Tel-Sheva (6 km from Beer-Sheva near Omer). Opening hours are the regular hours for prayer. Special taxi service is available at the south side of the daily market (*shuk*) to the Tel-Sheva Mosque, for approx. NIS 5.00.

Segev Shalom Mosque

Bedouin Village of Segev Shalom.

5 Shopping

BIG shopping plaza and the "ONE Plaza"	Two American style large strip malls. BIG and One Plaza (across the street from BIG) have a variety of stores and products to choose from including many well known brand names such as Office Depot, ACE Hardware, Home Center, Toys 'R' US, in addition to clothing, footwear, furniture stores and a Superpharm pharmacy. They are easy to reach by car, taxi or bus number 14, and are 20 minute walk from the dorms.
Hanegev shopping mall	The largest shopping mall in Beer-Sheva, located near the Central Bus Station. The complex contains department stores, clothing and shoe stores, drugstore, photo-shop, cinema, cafes and a food court. An ATM machine is located on the lower floor, near the food court.
Kiryat HaMemshala shopping mall	Located in the government office building, near the court house (not far from the Central Bus Station). The center offers various restaurants, shops and boutiques.
Shaul HaMelech 80 Shaul hamelech st., 08-643-8088	Clothing shops, hardware stores, a post office, drugstore and fast food outlets. Mondays, 8:00-19:30- clothing flee market for clothes, footwear and household items. The mall is closed Friday nights and Saturdays.
Avia shopping mall Mivtza Yoav st. 08-644-2706	Shops, services, supermarket, fast-food outlets. Cinema operates on weekends.
Open-air market (Shuk)	Near the Old City of Beer-Sheva. All city buses reach the shuk (except bus #16). Generally, the best fresh fruit and vegetables can be purchased in the shuk. Good buys on household articles and staples such as rice, flour, spices and nuts are also to be found, along with baked goods, fresh meat and fish. The shuk is open daily and closes late Friday afternoon.
Monday's clothing shuk (flea market)	Colorful and relatively cheap clothing market, located across the street from the vegetable market (other side of Rambam st.). Operates on Mondays.
Friday morning Arts and Crafts	Located at the pedestrian center of the Old-City, near Bank Hapoalim main office.
Bedouin market	Traditional Bedouin market. Open on Thursdays from early morning until mid-afternoon (If a Jewish religious holiday falls on a Thursday in a given week, the Bedouin shuk is held on the Monday prior). The Bedouin market sells clothing and small household items, gifts, textiles, spices and other interesting Bedouin artifacts. It is a major tourist attraction. Easy to get to – just take any city bus to the daily market, and walk south for 10 minutes. Bargaining is a cultural requirement in this shuk.

6 Night Life

Beer-Sheva provides a variety of student pubs and clubs within the city. Many of the pubs are located in close proximity to the university and are advertised regularly on campus. The OSP staff will be happy to assist and provide you with a current list of pubs.

Food

There are many restaurants and fast-food chains to choose from in Beer-Sheva. Not all are kosher. A tip of around 10% is customary at restaurants with table service, if not included in the bill. Many of the student pubs are also restaurants.

Kosher restaurants and food stores must display a kashrut certificate from one of the certifying authorities at the entrance to the restaurant or food store. If you are concerned about kashrut, verify the status of the restaurant upon entry. Sometimes, the food is kosher, but the restaurant cannot have a kashrut certificate because it is open on Shabbat.

7 Culture

THE ISRAEL SINFONIETTA

Tel: 08- 623-1616

Located beside the central branch of the Beer-Sheva public library
Corner of *HaMeshachrerim* Street and *Rager*.

The Israel Sinfonietta based in Beer-Sheva has grown from a chamber orchestra into a small symphonic orchestra acclaimed both in Israel and abroad. The Sinfonietta has permanent professional musicians of the highest level. Tickets may be purchased for individual performances or on a subscription basis. Student reduction available on subscriptions.

LIGHT OPERA GROUP OF THE NEGEV

(LOGON) - An English language amateur musical theater group. LOGON performs in early spring on major stages throughout Israel. Productions range from Gilbert and Sullivan operettas to Broadway musical hits. LOGON offers the visiting student an opportunity to meet a cross section of Israeli society. Auditions and rehearsals are open to everyone starting in September. Contact: Prof. Mike Quastel (646-0680) or Dr. Ed Spitz (646-0346)

8 Book Stores

Ashan Hazman- second hand book store, rock shows, alcohol drinks est.

Tel: 077-764-4218

86 Ringelblum Street (next to gate 90).

Business hours:

Sunday to Thursday: 10:00 - 24:00

Friday: 10:00 - 2 hours before shabat.

Saturday: end of Shabat- 24:00

"Steimatzky":

HaNegev mall, Kiryat HaMemshala shopping mall, Avia mall.

www.steimatzky.co.il

"Mini Book" (second hand book store)

Tel: 643-3396

93 Histadrut Street (Old City)

Beer-Sheva

Business hours:

Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays:

09:30 - 13:00 and 16:00 - 19:00 Tuesdays and

Fridays: 09:30 - 13:00

minibookbeersheva@yahoo.com

"Tzomet Sfarim":

In BIG Center, HaNegev mall and on campus.

www.booknetshop.co.il

30

31



notes

notes