



A GUIDE FOR TECHNION ACADEMIC VISITORS

The Technion Center for International Academic Relations (CIAR) is delighted to welcome you to the Technion and we look forward to seeing you here on the Technion campus.

- ◆ The International Academic Relations office can be contacted at iar@technion.ac.il or at +972-(0)4-829-2964 or +972-(0)4-829-3532.
- ◆ The Social Coordinator is available to assist international visitors, and can be reached at WeTech@Technion.ac.il.
- ◆ Information on social activities for English speakers is available at <http://groups.google.com/group/TISUN> or by e-mail at TISUN@Technion.ac.il.

Preparation for Coming to the Technion

Visas

All questions and visa requests should be directed to the Technion Visa coordinator who can be reached at visas@technion.ac.il.

- ◆ Stays of up to three months can be covered by a tourist visa. Stays beyond three months require either another type of visa or an extension of the tourist visa to be issued at the Ministry of Interior in Israel.
- ◆ **Tourist B/2 Visa:** citizens of some countries may receive this visa at Ben Gurion Airport. Check prior to departure whether this applies to you.
- ◆ **Student and Visitor A/2 Visa:** students and academic guests can obtain this type of visa to stay in Israel for up to one year. This visa must be obtained through the Technion visa coordinator. A request form can be found at <http://ciar.technion.ac.il/download forms>.

Insurance

All students and academic visitors must arrange adequate health and accident insurance prior to arrival at the Technion. This is the visitor's responsibility.

- ◆ A local insurance agent is Mr. Amos Gilboa (mali@yedidim.co.il, phone +972-(0)3-6386216; Fax: +972-3-6874534).
- ◆ Property insurance, to cover any loss or theft of valuables during the visit should also be arranged.

Accommodation

Technion has a very limited supply of housing for academic visitors. Visiting students can sometimes receive dorms, and those who receive must still provide their own linen and kitchen ware, and must pay three months in advance. Other visitors should check online for housing off campus. To assist you, locations close to the Technion campus include Neve Sha'anani, Ramot Remez, Ramat Alon and Neshet or Ramot Yitzhak. Many visitors also live in Ahuzat or Hadar, where ample bus services are available.

Resources for Finding Long-Term Housing:

- ◆ **Craigslist** -- <http://haifa.craigslist.org/>. This is a general use portal; look for “Apt/Housing for rent”.
- ◆ **ISRALET** – short-term vacation apartments for rent -- www.isralet.com.

Resources Until You Find Long-Term Housing:

- ◆ You may want to discuss with your host options for short-term housing until you find a more permanent arrangement.
- ◆ **CouchSurfing**, a network that connects travelers with locals and can provide short-term housing -- <http://www.couchsurfing.org/>.
- ◆ **Forchheimer Guest House** on campus can be reached at +972-4-8292429 or 8292430. This needs the approval of your academic host.
- ◆ **B&B in Haifa** -- <http://www.tour-haifa.co.il/eng/modules/article/view.category.php/6>.
- ◆ There are also fully-furnished rental units in Tel Hanan (Nesher), with bus service to the Technion. For information contact Danny at +972-50-4716360 or Yitzhak at +972-50-3419999..

Electricity

- The electricity supply in Israel is 220 volts, 50 Hz (as in Europe). A transformer is necessary for most North American appliances.
- The plug outlets are three-pronged, and a plug-adaptor is necessary for foreign plugs (see http://www.megavolt.co.il/Tips_and_info/visitor.html).

Arriving in Israel and at Technion

Ben-Gurion Airport (<http://www.iaa.gov.il/Rashat/en-US/Airports/BenGurion>) is about 115 km from Haifa, with reliable train and taxi transportation.

- ◆ The Technion is in Neve Sha’an’an – a residential neighborhood on Mount Carmel.
- ◆ Train information in English can be obtained at <http://www.rail.co.il/EN/Pages/HomePage.aspx>.
- ◆ Taxis to Haifa (both shuttles and private taxis) can be found close to the train station.
- ◆ In Haifa, the station closest to the Technion is Haifa Hof HaCarmel. Bus service to the Technion is bus #11. Taxi service is also available to the Technion.

Transportation

Public transportation in Israel **does not** operate on the Sabbath (Saturday) and on Jewish holidays. Taxis operate all week. Within Haifa public transportation buses do not run on Friday evening but do operate on the Sabbath. Within the campus there are no buses on the Sabbath and on Jewish holidays.

- ◆ Information on internal-city and inter-city bus routes can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Egged_bus_routes_in_Israel.
- ◆ Monthly pass information can be found at: <http://www.egged.co.il/eng/main.asp?lngCategoryID=2686>.

Useful Information While at Technion

- ◆ **Technion Academic Calendar** includes 2 semesters, each 14 teaching weeks + 2 exam weeks: the Winter Semester (October – February) and the Spring Semester (March – July). There are two exam sessions, one immediately following the end of each semester; a second session (open to all students, either to improve a grade or to take a delayed exam) at the beginning of following semester.

- ◆ Formal **Language of Instruction** is Hebrew, with a limited number of courses available in English. Textbooks used are typically in English. Advanced knowledge of Hebrew is required for classes; knowledge of English is required for textbooks.
- ◆ A campus map can be found at: <http://t3.technion.ac.il/docs/Technion%20Map.pdf>.
- ◆ Almost all Technion academic activities run between Sunday and Thursday.
- ◆ Office hours are generally 08:00 – 15:30, but individual offices may define different hours.
- ◆ Friday and Saturday are weekend days, with little or no academic activity.
- ◆ Saturday (Shabbat or Sabbath) is a day of rest in Israel, so most shops and transportation services are closed. The Jewish Sabbath and Jewish holidays start before sundown on Friday (or the Eve of a holiday) and end after sunset on Saturday (or the day of the holiday).
- ◆ Sunday is a regular working day in Israel, and public services and shops are open.
- ◆ A bank – Bank Leumi (tel: 04-8293011) – is located below the student union building. Close by, walking distance off-campus, is Bank HaPoalim (tel: 04-8325117).
- ◆ The Technion post office is located below the Central Library, across from the Student Union Building, and open Sunday – Thursday 08:00 - 15:15.

Social Activities

The Technion Student Union offers many social and cultural activities. Information can be found at: http://www.asat.org.il/HTMLs/page_575.aspx?c0=13709&bsp=12373).

International visitors to the Technion – including students and post-docs – are invited to become members of ASAT. To become a member you must a) register with the CIAR Student Exchange Coordinator at studex@technion.ac.il, and b) send a 4x3 cm passport photo, your full name, student ID number and hosting faculty to cards@asat.org.il.

Eating

- ◆ Cafeterias, snack bars and fast food kiosks are situated in many of the Technion buildings and are available during the work day.
- ◆ The Swimming Pool cafeteria is open in the evenings (until 22:00) and on weekends.
- ◆ In the nearby neighborhoods - Ziv and Ahuza – there are coffee shops, restaurants and bars that are open all week and on weekends.

Laundry

- ◆ All Technion dorms have washing machines that are available for use by all international visitors. The discount, however, is given only to dorm residents. Pay for use can be done by credit card or through pre-paid purchase at the student Union, at the ASSAT bookstore. Pre-payment will provide users with a personal code to enter at the beginning of each use. Unfortunately, all operating instructions of the machines are available only in Hebrew. We are working to repair this, but until then, ask someone around for initial assistance.

Shopping

- ◆ A small minimarket on campus (in the Rifkin Dormitory Village) sells basic goods.
- ◆ A book store (Michlol) on campus (across from the student union building) sells stationary goods, and small personal goods.
- ◆ A larger supermarket is within walking distance (10-15 minutes) or a short bus ride away.

- ◆ A full shopping mall (The Grand Canyon - <http://www.grandcanyon.co.il/>) is a little further away. Opening hours vary and should be verified ahead of time.
- ◆ The Student Union Building, located in the center of the campus has several coffee shops as well as gift and clothes stores.

Communication

- ◆ Cellular phones are extremely popular in Israel. Phones can be rented or bought at the airport, or can be brought from abroad.
- ◆ The dorms are equipped with internet connections, and much of the campus has wireless access.
- ◆ Most campus Departments offer computer labs for student use.

Emergencies

- ◆ A campus medical clinic (including a doctor) is situated below the Central Library (next to the post office).
- ◆ Haifa Police can be reached by dialing 100 from any phone.
- ◆ For Medical Emergencies dial 101 from any phone. Haifa has three excellent hospitals and many medical clinics.
- ◆ Campus security can be reached at 04-8294242 or 04-8293590 or internal extension 4242 or 3590 from any campus phone.

Sports

Technion campus offers extensive sports facilities, including a fitness center, an Olympic swimming pool, tennis and squash courts and a basketball court. For information or registration at the Sports Center call 04-8292278.

- ◆ A Technion ID Card is required to purchase membership for use of the sports facilities.
- ◆ Use of the tennis courts and fitness center requires a one-time annual or per-use fee.
- ◆ A doctor's certificate (from a doctor who is familiar with your medical history) stating that you are in good health and able to use the fitness center, is required to work out in the gym. If you want to use the sports facilities it may be a good idea to bring such a certificate with you, from a physician who knows you.

Religious Services

- ◆ The Technion synagogue holds regular daily and weekend services. For information on prayer times and study groups call 04-8292459.
- ◆ There are several synagogues within walking distance (15-20 minutes) off campus in Neve Sha'anán.
- ◆ A list of churches and mosques in Haifa can be obtained from the Haifa Tourist Office (see above).
- ◆ Haifa is the world center of the Baha'i faith, whose striking landmark is the splendid **Baha'i Shrine and Gardens** (<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/israel/haifa-bahai-shrine-and-gardens.htm>).

Useful Links

- ◆ **Israel Tourist Information:** http://www.goisrael.com:80/Tourism_Eng
- ◆ **Haifa Tourist Office:** <http://www.tour-haifa.co.il/eng/> (Tel: 04-8535610).