



# Michigan Jewish Institute Study Abroad Program Informational Booklet

**MJI  
STUDY  
ABROAD  
2008-2009**

## WHAT IS MJI?

The Michigan Jewish Institute (MJl) is a senior four-year Jewish college, accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) to award Bachelor's degrees and certificates.

MJI provides excellent academic baccalaureate and associates degree-granting programs that combine an arts and sciences foundation with multiple concentrations in computer sciences, business and Judaic studies - in a warm and welcoming Jewish environment.

Supporting objectives of the Bachelor and Associate Degree Programs include in part:

- To provide in-depth education in applied disciplines such as Business Information Systems, Computer Information Systems and Judaic Organizational Leadership. This is achieved by a carefully chosen, up-to-date and balanced curriculum in these and other offered disciplines
- To equip students with relevant theoretical and practical backgrounds so that upon graduation they can be integrated into the business/industrial workforce and immediately begin making their contributions. This is achieved by ensuring a constant stress on real world applications by instructors who are experienced in their fields of expertise, and by maintaining state-of-the art educational resources, computer hardware and software labs
- To make the learning environment effective and pleasant. This is achieved by means of small classes and enthusiastic personal contact between teaching faculty, administration and students
- To provide a well rounded and balanced education through required studies of the liberal arts and sciences. This is achieved by means of a carefully crafted General Education core curriculum
- To graduate students who have acquired moral values and integrity and are cognizant of our great Jewish ethical and moral traditions. This is achieved by providing mandatory courses in such areas as ethics and philosophy

Founded in 1994, MJI has been graduating ever-growing numbers of Applied Judaic Studies, Business and Information Systems professionals with multiple language and other skills, including: JAVA, Oracle, C++, ASP, HTML, Visual Basic, Grid Computing and others. We are pleased to report that many of our graduates have been placed in *choice* career employment or have gone on to graduate and professional schools for additional training.

A partial list of organizations that have employed MJJ graduates includes:

Chrysler Corporation	CDI	PPOM
Compuware	Absoft	Thompson Associates
Gale Research	ADVAL	Jewish Federation - Detroit
AutoPro Tech. Recruiting	MS Title Reseach	Sanders Consulting IT Serv
UPS	Henry Ford Health System	Many Others

The Institute offers instruction that keeps abreast of changing technologies and is personalized to meet the student's needs. MJJ also offers assistance to those who have completed courses and programs of higher education at other institutions, domestically and abroad, and serves all segments of the general and Jewish communities.

MJJ admits students to its degree programs without unlawful discrimination based on race, religion, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability/handicap, national origin, height, weight, or other protected classifications, granting all the rights, privileges, programs, utilization, benefits and other activities generally accorded or made available to students at the Institute.

# STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

## **A Worldview:**

The Michigan Jewish Institute Study Abroad Study Program was designed to permit our students to spend a year or two of intensive, postsecondary study abroad.

Michigan Jewish Institute recognizes the value of intensive Torah study and enrichment of core values provided within the scope of the Study Abroad program curriculum. MJI also acknowledges that a significant portion of Study Abroad study is dedicated to Jewish law, history, philosophy and pedagogical approaches and the Hebrew language and literature. Thus, students participating in the Study Abroad program enjoy an enriching and valuable experience and, by the conclusion of the program, they complete a number of courses of study, which are directly transferable to MJI's general education and Judaic Studies core curricular requirements.

It is well understood today by many business and academic leaders that students from the U.S. who have an opportunity to study abroad gain an understanding of a culture and language not their own. Perspectives mature and intellectual horizons expand. According to Keith Geiger, Director of Academic Programs at the U.S. Information Agency,

“The world is getting smaller, and if we think more students from other countries must come to the United States but we don't need to go abroad to learn their cultures and speak their languages we're sending the wrong signal.” (*Chronicle of Higher Education*, December 11, 1998.)

That American students should spend some time abroad during their college years is a sentiment that is also shared by the U.S. academic community.

“One would wish that they all could spend a full year abroad because we know that that has the greatest impact. But, what we are now trying to do is get students abroad at an earlier point in their college career than has been the norm.” (John A. Markham, University of California, Study Abroad Program Director.)

Upon their return to the States and the collegiate environment, many MJI students are able to immediately begin their studies at the sophomore level (or junior level for those spending two years abroad), having completed the equivalent of two - four semesters of general and concentration studies while abroad. Moreover, they appear to have a deeper understanding of their continuing education's importance in a global economy.

## **A religious and educational view:**

In addition to recognizing accredited colleges and universities abroad and throughout Israel, Michigan Jewish Institute routinely evaluates schools offering a religious learning

environment to assure students that the Study Abroad program will meet both their religious and academic requirements.

MJI executive staff work with potential host schools wishing to sign articulation agreements and MJI representatives visit many of them from time-to-time. MJI maintains a roster of approved host schools, which are acceptable destinations for students admitted into the program.

**PARTIAL LIST OF YESHIVOT AND SEMINARIES CURRENTLY MEETING MJI STANDARDS FOR THE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM:**

<b>Programs are in Israel unless otherwise indicated</b>		
Afeikei Torah	Hadar Bais Yaakov	Ohel Chana - <b>AUSTRALIA</b>
Ateres Bnos Yerushalayim	Hebrev University	Ono College
	Heichal Lubavitch	
Baer Miriam Seminary		Pinmayut
Bais Chana Tzfas	Kesher Institute	P'ninim (Seminar Yerushalayim)
Bais Chaya Mushka - <b>CANADA</b>		
Bais Rivkah	Machon Bais Yaacov	Seminary Chaya Mushka (Machon Alte)
Bais Yaakov Shoshanim	Machon Bnos Menachem - <b>CANADA</b>	Seminary Yerushalayim
	Machon Bnos Yehuda	Shaalavim
Bar Ilan University (not all depts.)	Machon Geula Seminary	Shoshanat Yerushalayim
BMC Seminary - <b>CANADA</b>	Machon Sara Schnirer	
Bnos Chava-Nevey	Mayanot Institute	Tiferet Bnos Yaacov
Bnos Yaakov Yerushalayim	Mesilos Bais Yaacov	
Bnot Torah Institute	Michlelet Moreshet	Yeshiva Ner Yaacov
	Midreshet Harova	Yeshiva Or Dovid
Chassidic Rabbinical College	Midreshet Rachel	Yeshiva Shaarey Yerushalayim
Chochmas Lev (in process)		Yeshiva Tiferet Yerushalayim
	Nachlas Bais Yaacov	Yeshivat Ohr Yerushalayim
Darchei Bina Seminary	Nachlas Har Chabad	Yeshiva Tomchei Tmimim - <b>CANADA</b>
Derech Ohr Somayach	Netsach	Yeshiva Tomchei Tmimim - <b>ISRAEL</b>
	Neveh Zion	Yeshivat Sha'alvim

Since host schools and other programs are added or deleted from time-to-time, please contact the Michigan Jewish Institute for information on schools that may have been added or deleted since this partial list was published.

## PROGRAM BENEFITS:

- MJI assists you with your short and long term academic planning
- Students receive a cross-cultural experience not otherwise possible, stateside
- Achieve a broadened and global perspective while expanding your intellectual horizons
- Receive academic credits accepted by many U.S. colleges and universities
- Virtually no loss of time in pursuing career oriented baccalaureate and more advanced degrees
- Depending on your status, MJI may be able to help you receive financial aid for your Study Abroad Program and subsequent college education
- Accomplish your educational goals in less time than you thought possible

## APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES:

All applicants for the Michigan Jewish Institute Study Abroad Program must complete a number of steps:

1. Students are expected to independently determine their acceptability to their school of choice, abroad (host). Most Yeshivot, Seminaries and other postsecondary schools evaluate student applicants during the winter months prior to the intended academic year of study. Please see your high school counselor (for Freshman Study Abroad programs) or your college academic counselor (for post-Freshman Study Abroad programs) for assistance in selecting an appropriate host school and beginning its application process.
- 2. You must contact a MJI advisor to determine if your chosen host school is eligible for MJI's current Study Abroad Program.**
3. To insure your acceptance into a choice host "Study Abroad" program, you should complete the MJI application process and be accepted as a full time MJI student no later than June 1 prior to the academic year desired for the Study Abroad Program.

A complete MJI admissions request includes:

- Completed MJI application
- Evidence of graduation from High School or equivalent (GED) or other proof of high school completion or signed statement by student affirming high

school completion. Students providing complete high school transcripts will be given preference in the admissions process over those submitting other proofs.

The completed application, including official transcripts and any other records necessary for admissions consideration, must be filed with the Office of Admissions prior to the beginning of the desired semester.

In order to aid the Admissions Committee with their decision process the applicant is urged to send in any pertinent material such as:

- a. Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores (MJI School Code **#1505**) and/or American College Test (ACT) scores (MJI School Code **#2023**);
- b. Personal references;
- c. School honors and achievements.

Subsequent to admission into MJI, students are strongly urged to arrange for a face-to-face meeting with a MJI advisor to plan short and long term academic goals. MJI will contact the student's selected host school abroad to verify the student's admission into an acceptable academic program. MJI will also arrange for the proper transfer of credits from the host school to MJI as each semester abroad is completed.

4. To insure proper processing and timely receipt of financial awards, students applying for financial aid through MJI should also complete and provide to MJI the following materials, no later than June 1 prior to the academic year desired for the Study Abroad Program (March 1 if applying for financial aid from the State of Michigan):

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)\*
- A signed copy of your most recent Federal tax return (yours **and your parents** if under age 25)
- Income Verification Worksheets, copies of which are available on the MJI website at [www.mji.edu](http://www.mji.edu)
- Applicants who are not citizens of the United States must also provide copies of passports, refugee papers and any other documents showing eligibility to be in the US as a student and any eligibility for financial aid

\*To complete your application in the quickest and most efficient manner, MJI's Office of Financial Aid strongly recommends that all applicants complete their FAFSA forms "on-

line” by registering for a personal FAFSA PIN number and completing the FAFSA form which are available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Your application for financial aid cannot be processed without **all** the materials outlined above. Incomplete and therefore delayed applications can result in failure to receive some or even all of the aid to which you may be otherwise entitled.

### **TUITIONS:**

Tuition schedules and other fees can be obtained through the MJJ admissions office and vary depending on the foreign school that the student attends. Students enrolled in MJJ’s Study Abroad program may apply for many but not all of the financial assistance programs offered to MJJ students. Please call the MJJ financial aid office at 248-414-6900 (in the U.S.A. you may call toll free at 1-888-INFO-MJJ) ext.102 for further details.

### **TRANSCRIPTS AND GRADES:**

Students may participate for a maximum of two academic years (60 semester credit hours) in the MJJ Study Abroad Study Program. Although studying abroad, all students are enrolled as regular students in one of the academic programs offered by MJJ. Please see the current *Michigan Jewish Institute Academic Catalog and Student Handbook* for details on all available academic programs. Study Abroad students are therefore subject to all the rights and obligations of both MJJ and the host school. The MJJ Academic Catalog/Handbook may be downloaded from the MJJ website at [www.mji.edu](http://www.mji.edu) or by contacting MJJ at 248-414-6900 (in the U.S.A. you may call toll free at 1-888-INFO-MJJ) ext. 103.

Generally, students register for MJJ equivalent courses at the host school and these are entered on MJJ registration forms as well. At the conclusion of course work abroad, grades and credits are transferred to MJJ. Grades received from the host school are included in the computation of the student’s GPA at MJJ as described in the college catalog.

***Students are strongly urged to obtain permission from a MJJ academic counselor before taking courses at the host school that are not directly equivalent to MJJ courses. Failure to obtain such permission could result in non-equivalent courses being rejected for transfer to MJJ. This could also result in a loss of financial aid and a required return of funds to the funding sponsor already paid on behalf of the student.***

Grades earned during the study abroad must follow the American system (with letter grades A to F). In order to be considered a full time student by MJJ, a student must take at least **12 American credit equivalents** (and equivalent to MJJ courses) each semester while abroad. Often times, “credits” reported by foreign schools are based on

classroom periods and not American semester hours. Such classroom period records will be converted to American semester credits via formal articulation agreements between MJI and the host schools. Students should be aware that conversion to American credits can result in a reduction of the number classroom periods reported. Semester hours recorded on the MJI transcript may be only two-thirds to one-half the classroom periods reported by the host school.

**The Michigan Jewish Institute strongly recommends that those students considering dropping out of MJI and attending another college (“destination” school) after completing their MJI Study Abroad Program contact an admissions advisor at the “destination” school to determine which Study Abroad credits may or may not be accepted. MJI can make no warranty about the transferability of Study Abroad host school credits to schools other than MJI. (Please review the [MJI Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#) for a complete discussion on Transferability of Credits.)**

## **MEDICAL CARE:**

Good health is everyone’s goal and in virtually every instance, students availing themselves of the MJI Study Abroad Program are generally in good health. Unfortunately, there are no guarantees that the health status of all students will remain the same for an entire academic year. Accidents happen and sometimes students fall ill. It is in everyone’s best interest that all students receive the best medical care while they study abroad. MJI recommends that all applicants for the Study Abroad Program contact their prospective host schools to learn more about the medical coverage available at those schools.

In considering the medical programs made available overseas, please keep in mind that most American health insurance plans no longer cover **routine** medical care while abroad. Typically, your own local health insurer will cover **only emergency** treatment while away from its service area. If you should decide against purchasing a comprehensive medical policy made available through or recommended by your host school, then most likely, you will be personally liable for many of the medical costs you might incur. These could include: doctors’ and other specialist/professional fees, x-rays, lab work, prescriptions, etc. MJI strongly recommends that you contact your current health insurance agent or your employer’s benefits manager to determine your level of medical coverage when overseas. ***MJI accepts absolutely no responsibility for the health status, medical care or treatment of any students.***

## **A WORD ABOUT SAFETY IN TROUBLED TIMES:**

A recent symposium on safety issues for Schooling Abroad recommended that **students and their parents** who may be thinking about attending study abroad programs consider the following issues.

## 1. Where is the Host Program Located?

- a. Has the U.S. Department of State issued any Travel Warning or Advisory? See State Department website: [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov); then click on "Travel Warnings."
- b. Are other U.S. institutions continuing their study abroad programs at that location?
- c. Consult with MJI Study Abroad counselors, faculty and administrators who may have information that will aid you with your decision.

## 2. Who is Actually Sponsoring the Host Program?

Is the host school part of a larger institution or if the directors abroad are employees of another institution, have you investigated the steps the other institution has taken to safeguard the health and safety of students, and how they will communicate with designated U.S. based family members on a regular basis?

## 3. Is There Adult Supervision?

Is 24-hour contact available at the host school?

## 4. Where Are the Students Living and Studying?

- a. Are the students living in an environment for Americans only? With families? Other?
- b. How do students get to and from the host school? The less daily travel involved the safer.
- c. How much local travel is permitted? The less permitted or required, the better.

## 5. Is it clear to the Students (and Parents) that attending the Host Program is **completely voluntary**?

- a. Do you understand that completion of a *study abroad program* is **not** a prerequisite to fulfilling MJI degree requirements?

- b. Are students permitted to leave the host school if they feel unsafe?
- c. If necessary, does the host school have arrangements for allowing students to leave in the middle of the program?
- d. If the student leaves the Study Abroad program early, will accommodation be made for tuition credit by the host school?
- e. Are parents and/or students required to sign a MJI release? **Yes!**  
Please see the required form at the end of this brochure.

**6. Are You Prepared to Get Out of the Host Country, Fast?**

- a. Do you have a resource in the host country to evacuate the student fast?
- b. Do you know how to contact the American Embassy in the host country?

**7. What does insurance coverage provide?**

- a. Are there relevant exclusions?
- b. Do you have sufficient coverage? See Medical Care section, above.

**8. What Is Your Plan for Communicating with Students?**

- a. Will you be communicating frequently with students, by e-mail or otherwise? You should know where students are at all times.
- b. Do you have contact information for host school directors and other host faculty or staff?



## STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM RELEASE FORM

If I am admitted to The Michigan Jewish Institute Study Abroad Program (MJi), I understand and accept that MJi will assist with arrangements for instruction and may offer advice on transportation and lodging overseas. I understand that MJi is providing these services only as a convenience to participants and that, accordingly, **MJi accepts no responsibility, in whole or in part, for delays, loss, damage or injury to person or property of any nature whatsoever**, caused to me or others prior to departure, while traveling, or while residing abroad. Neither shall MJi be responsible to any person or entity for any of my acts or omissions.

**I agree** to release, indemnify, and hold harmless MJi from and against any claim which I, the participant, my parents or guardian or any other person may have for any losses, damages, or injuries arising out of or in connection with my participation in a MJi recognized study abroad option.

**I have read and understood** this release form and the accompanying MJi Study Abroad Informational Booklet (made available to me in hard or electronic copy and also available on the MJi web site at [www.mji.edu](http://www.mji.edu) )

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian if minor student  
(Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date