



# **BEYOND BRIDGES: ISRAEL-PALESTINE SUMMER 2023**

**MAY 22 – JUNE 6, 2023**

## **PROGRAM SUMMARY**



Center for Transformative Education

This program is run in partnership between the Center for Transformative Education and the University of San Francisco.



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Rev. 12.16.22



Center for Transformative Education

Center for Transformative Education  
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Redwood City, CA 94062

[www.centerfortransformativeeducation.org](http://www.centerfortransformativeeducation.org)

December 16, 2022

Dear friend,

Welcome to the Center for Transformative Education! On the following pages you will find information regarding the summer 2023 Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine program (BBIP). We look forward to having you join this exciting, important, and transformative educational experience!

In peace,

Aaron J. Hahn Tapper, PhD  
Executive Director, CTE

Oren Kroll-Zeldin  
Director, Beyond Bridges:  
Israel-Palestine (BBIP)



## **Introduction – CTE and BBIP**

### *The Center for Transformative Education*

The Center for Transformative Education was founded in September 2008 as a new educational initiative offering educational programs that empower participants to help transform societies into their potential. Utilizing the expertise our educators have gained in the fields of experiential education, conflict transformation, and traditional teaching settings, and rooted in formal academic training and certifications, CTE's program goals are to educate participants about three core areas:

- Identity Formation
- Marginalized Groups
- Social In/Justice

In this pursuit, we examine multiple aspects of societies, including, but not limited to, analyses and engagement regarding social relations between and within communities. Ultimately, we strive to empower participants to practice just alternatives to the status quo.

CTE's educational models are rooted in western and local-cultural methodologies of working with groups in conflict, thereby creating a groundbreaking organic model of facilitation that can be used in any conflict setting. Previously we ran summer experiential programs in the Balkans as well as a facilitation training course implemented in partnership with the School for Peace in Wahat al-Salam/Neve Shalom, Columbia University, and the University of San Francisco. Currently, we are only running one summer experiential program—in Israel and Palestine. Called Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine (BBIP), summer 2023 is the fourth iteration of this trip.



### *Beyond Bridges: Israel and Palestine (BBIP)*

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most complicated conflicts in modern history. The BBIP summer program introduces the chronology and context of this conflict while exploring and analyzing the role of religion, nationalism, violence, non-violence, culture, and social and economic factors related to various stakeholders in the conflict. In this process participants engage in a variety of carefully designed hands-on activities that further their understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and raise their awareness of the potential for transforming this conflict. In this manner, BBIP programs combine rigorous academics and text study with experiential education and practical hands-on training, allowing participants to explore questions at the core of all conflicts.

This creates spaces for both personal and collective growth, helping participants gain new understandings of the roles they play in international conflicts, and how this relates to their political identities. Moving beyond the stage of practical peace agreements, or “beyond bridges,” we challenge participants to look at long-term solutions to end inter-communal conflict, transforming societies into their true potential.

### *BBIP - History*

In partnership with the Center for Global Education at the University of San Francisco, the Center for Transformative Education’s BBIP program was launched in summer 2010 with a pilot group of eight participants from three American schools: Swarthmore College, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the University of San Francisco. We ran similar programs in summers 2011 and 2012, with 16 students in each group. All three of these iterations ran for three-weeks, engaging participants in both the dominant Jewish Israeli and Palestinian narratives while simultaneously giving participants the opportunity to meet with individuals and organizations working to end, and even transform, this decades-old conflict. Summer 2023 is our fourth iteration of this summer program and offers a newly revamped two-week program.



## BBIP – Program Description

This program is unique in three fundamental ways:

1. *Comparative Approach* - We utilize the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as an entry point into re-examining and de-exceptionalizing conflicts around the world, such as the conflicts in the Balkans and Northern Ireland.
2. *Study Group* - We consider each participant to embody particular political identities. As such we not only engage with Palestinian and Israeli sites, speaker presentations, and academic texts, but also have students study themselves and their location in the world.
3. *Experiential Education* - We travel in Israel and Palestine, exploring this region with local Israelis and Palestinians. This gives participants insights and opportunities one cannot get from books alone.

Structurally speaking, for two weeks during the summer program participants travel together in Israel and Palestine while engaging in three distinct activities:

- A. *Presentations* – We meet members of various Israeli and Palestinian communities, including scholars, religious and political leaders, activists and organizers, and members of civil society. Examples of these presentations include:
  - Nationalism and Ethnicity in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza
  - Spheres of Political Life in Israel
  - Spheres of Political Life in the West Bank and Gaza
  - Communal Narratives and War
  - ‘Religious’ Jewish Israelis, Christian Palestinians, and Muslim Palestinians
  - The Role of the Media in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
  - Non-violent Activists in Israel and Palestine
  - Violent Extremists in Israel and Palestine
  - Introduction to Joint Israeli-Palestinian NGOs
  - Identity Politics and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
  - The Role of the United States in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
  - The Role of International NGOs in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

B. *Workshops* – We examine various themes in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and how they compare to patterns found in other conflicts (e.g., the Balkan wars and the Northern Ireland Troubles). Examples of these workshops include:

- Introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- Introduction to Comparative Conflict Analysis
- International Law and Conflict
- Violence and Non-violence in Conflict Areas
- Nationalisms and Nations
- The United States, the International Community, and Foreign Policy in Conflict Areas
- Religion and Conflict
- The Politics of Identity
- Narratives and Conflict
- Gender and Society
- Lessons Learned? The Balkan Conflicts, the Northern Ireland Troubles, and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

C. *Group Discussion Sessions* - Participants engage in facilitated sessions where they reflect on their backgrounds, socialization processes, and systems of knowledge production. This will not be a “group process”<sup>1</sup> but will be similar to classroom discussions that take place in university settings. This will also be an opportunity for students to explore what it means to be a ‘third party’ to a conflict as well as an opportunity to discuss thoughts and emotions as connected to this intense program.

Integral to the summer educational experience, and in particular our workshops, is our course reader, a reading packet comprised of two sections of scholarly articles: (a) Introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and (b) Comparative Conflict Analysis and Transformation. We distribute the reading list prior to the summer program as participants are expected to arrive in Israel and Palestine having already read the materials.

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<sup>1</sup> See Aaron J. Hahn Tapper, “A Pedagogy of Social Justice Education: Social Identity Theory, Intersectionality, and Empowerment,” *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*, Vol. 30, no. 4 (Summer 2013), 411-455; Aaron J. Hahn Tapper and Oren Kroll-Zeldin, “Paulo Freire and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The Pedagogy of a Social Justice Experiential Educational Program in Israel and Palestine,” *International Journal for Education and Social Justice (RIEJS, Revista Internacional de Educacion para la Justicia Social)*, Vol. 4, no. 1 (June 2015), 71-88.



## **BBIP – Sample Daily Schedule**

Here are a few samples of what a daily schedule will look like:

### *Day One*

8AM	Breakfast [Hotel, Jerusalem]
9AM	Group Activities [Hotel]
9:30AM	Depart for Tour of Bethlehem
5PM	Return from Tour
6PM	Group Dinner [Jerusalem]
7PM	Group Discussion/Workshop/Preparation for next day's trip (e.g., Jerusalem)

### *Day Two*

8AM	Breakfast
9AM	Group Activities
9:30AM	Depart for Tour of Old City of Jerusalem
4PM	Return from Tour
6PM	Dinner, students given per diem
7PM	Group Discussion/Workshop/Preparation for next day's trip (e.g., Jaffa and Hebron)

### *Day Three*

8AM	Breakfast (to go)/Depart for Tour of Jaffa/Group Activities (on bus)
9AM	Tour of Jaffa
3PM	Return to Jerusalem
3:30	Depart for Hebron for Special Activity
4PM	Special Dinner with BBIP Staff Member's Family
9PM	Return to Jerusalem



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## BBIP – Important Dates

December 16, 2022	Information packet and application forms posted on-line. Completed applications will be reviewed in the order they are received (i.e., on a rolling basis) until CTE has a maximum of 16 students.
March 1, 2023	Last day to submit \$500 non-refundable deposit without incurring a penalty. <sup>2</sup>
March and April 2023	Two mandatory pre-program orientation meetings (held on USF's Campus; specific dates to be determined). Detailed information on this required component of the program will be solidified in the beginning of 2023.
May 22, 2023	BBIP officially begins. Students depart SFO on Monday, May 22 and arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport (Tel Aviv, Israel) on Tuesday, May 23.
May 23, 2023	After all students have cleared customs, students will be bused from the TLV airport to Jerusalem for the formal start of the program. Students will stay at the same hotel, in Jerusalem, for the entire two-week program.
June 6, 2023	Students depart for Ben Gurion International Airport on Monday evening, June 5. The flight leaves in the early morning of Tuesday, June 6 and arrives in SFO the same day. BBIP officially ends.

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<sup>2</sup> For more information on the various ways to make this payment, see "How to Submit the \$500 Deposit," found below.





## BBIP – Academic Credits

By participating in the summer 2023 BBIP program students will receive four academic credits through the University of San Francisco. The per credit costs will be determined by USF and posted on-line at the end of 2022. Whether or not a participant wants or needs academic credit, because the program is run as a course offered through the University of San Francisco all participants are required to pay four academic credits to go on the summer 2023 BBIP program, no matter their “student status” (i.e., including those participants who have already graduated from a university). Participants cannot “audit” this course to bypass the required tuition costs.

## BBIP – Who Can Apply?

The summer 2023 BBIP program is open to anyone over the age of eighteen regardless of profession or nationality.<sup>3</sup> Undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled at the University of San Francisco will be given priority over non-USF students. Thereafter, currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students at American-based schools will be considered. In addition, we accept students not currently enrolled in a university, whether such individuals have never taken a college course, are university alumni, or are retired from a previous profession and currently engage in lifelong learning programs. Any student who is not currently enrolled at USF needs to complete a Visiting Student form, which can be found on-line through [www.usfca.edu/visitingstudents/](http://www.usfca.edu/visitingstudents/). This applies to all non-USF participants, whether currently enrolled in another university or not, whether an undergraduate or graduate student.

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<sup>3</sup> All travelers seeking to enter or depart Israel are subject to strict immigration and security screening. This may include prolonged questioning and physical searches. Ultimately, travelers may be denied entry or exit. All student participants should read the “Entry, Exit, and Visa requirements” on the [U.S. State Department website](https://www.state.gov) to familiarize themselves with the complexities of entry and exit into Israel. If you have questions or concerns about visa requirements, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss your individual circumstances. NOTE: (1) Those holding United States citizenship will receive a visa to Israel upon arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV). (2) Non-U.S. citizens must check with the appropriate embassy/consulate for visa requirements and, if required, apply as soon as possible. F-1 students must obtain a Travel Signature from USF’s International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) before leaving the U.S. (3) The University of San Francisco is not responsible for any decisions made by foreign embassies or consulates regarding approval/denial of visa documentation and/or immigration clearance.



## **BBIP – Fees/Costs**

The costs to participate in the summer 2023 BBIP program include a Program fee + roundtrip (r/t) flight + 4 credits. We also strongly encourage but do not require students to purchase travel insurance. More specifically:

### 1a. Program fee\*

- Each student is eligible to receive financial assistance through the Dee Swig Scholarship and the Germanacos Fellowship. Students do not need to apply for either one.<sup>4</sup>
- Thanks to these two generous funds, students are only required to pay a \$500 non-refundable deposit toward the program fee and r/t flight.
- Additional costs will be charged to students applying after March 1, 2023.

### 1b. R/T Flight

- The cost for a roundtrip airline ticket from SFO to TLV is included in the program fee.
- USF has already purchased these tickets. Students must go to/from Ben Gurion International Airport, located in Israel, on this specific flight.

### 2. Academic credit:

- The summer 2022 cost for undergraduate students to take a 4-credit course was \$1,310/credit for a total of \$5,240. USF will solidify the per credit cost for summer 2023 courses by December 31, 2022.

### 3. Travel Insurance

- We strongly recommend that students purchase travel insurance to cover the costs of a potential cancellation and if you must personally withdraw from the program for any reason whatsoever (e.g., unforeseen financial hardship, family emergencies, new job opportunities, illness, visa denial, or any other extenuating circumstances beyond your control). To address the financial risk, the most comprehensive trip cancellation benefits are found in a policy that provides coverage for “Trip Cancellation “and “Trip Interruption for Any Reason.” Typically, such protection plan coverage must be purchased within

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<sup>4</sup> See below for the requirements each student is required to fulfill to become a Germanacos Fellow.



15 days of placing your non-refundable deposit on your Program and confirming your enrollment. For quotes or to purchase a Trip Cancellation Protection Plan you may use a provider of your choice. One option can be found [here](#). You are not required to purchase this or any other travel insurance plan; yet we strongly encourage you to do so.

**TOTAL REQUIRED COST PER STUDENT: \$500 + 4 credits**

### **BBIP – How to Submit the \$500 Non-refundable Deposit**

You can submit the deposit in one of the following methods:

1. In-person

Students can make in-person payment by visiting Student Financial Services, located on USF's Main campus, Lone Mountain, Room 203. Checks should be made payable to the "University of San Francisco." Make sure to put your student ID number and "Summer 2023 Study Abroad – BBIP" on the memo line of the check.

2. Mail

Checks can be mailed to USF Student Accounts, LM 200, 2130 Fulton St., San Francisco, CA 94117. Checks should be made payable to the "University of San Francisco." Make sure to put your student ID number and "Summer 2023 Study Abroad – BBIP" on the memo line of the check.

3. If you have questions regarding making payment online or other ways to make payment, please contact the Office of Student Accounts at 415.422.2571 or [StudentAccounts@usfca.edu](mailto:StudentAccounts@usfca.edu).

**IMPORTANT:** Whether you pay in-person or online, upon submitting your deposit you must retain a copy of the receipt or deposit transaction as proof of payment, which needs to be uploaded to your application.



## **BBIP – Scholarships**

### *Dee Swig Israel Scholarship Fund*

Each student is eligible to receive a significant scholarship toward their program fee. Per the directives of this scholarship fund, it can only be used for USF students. If a student withdraws from the program, it must be reimbursed in full. Recipients will sign a document testifying to this agreement.

### *Germanacos Fellowship*

Each student is eligible to receive a significant scholarship toward their program fee, including full financial coverage for the cost of their r/t flight. Per the directives of this scholarship fund, it can only be used for USF students. If a student withdraws from the program, it must be reimbursed in full. Recipients will sign a document testifying to this agreement.

The Germanacos Fellowship is specifically designed for BBIP students to enhance their community engagement in the academic year immediately following the summer program. Based on their learning and personal experiences on BBIP, the Germanacos Fellowship empowers students to work from within to create positive change. During the duration of the Fellowship, students will have direct access to USF faculty and community partners—specifically, but not limited to, those directly involved in the summer BBIP program—as they make sense of their educational experience in Israel and Palestine and engage more meaningfully with social justice issues in their own communities.

The Germanacos Fellowship has two main components:

1. *Community Engagement Project* – In conjunction with USF faculty and/or BBIP staff, each Germanacos Fellow will design and implement a Community Engagement Project rooted in conflict transformation, social justice, and/or human rights. This project will focus on either the students' campus or home community. The Fellows have creative license to design, build, and implement a project that they believe will have meaning in their community. This said, we encourage fellows to focus on the



educational experience as well as the role that their own social identities play/ed in shaping their understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and other social justice issues.

2. *Post-Trip Meetings* – Germanacos Fellows are expected to attend two post-trip group meetings. During these meetings, fellows will continue the group learning that started during the summer program, meet with local social justice activists, and report back to the group about the progress of their Community Engagement Projects.

### *Center for Global Education Scholarships*

There are a limited number of scholarships available through the Center for Global Education, which are primarily reserved for the most deserved students in terms of economic need. For more information, please contact Sharon Li, the Senior Director of the USF Center for Global Education, at [lis@usfca.edu](mailto:lis@usfca.edu).

### *Additional Scholarships - Suggestions*

As for other scholarship opportunities, such as those that can be used toward the cost of tuition, we recommend that students investigate these possibilities as early as possible. Please note that many of the scholarships found online are for people with particular social identities and/or specific backgrounds (e.g., Californian, Hispanic, Jewish, etc.).

Please note that in previous years students have been successful in using crowdfunding platforms to appeal to family and friends in their own community to support their study abroad trip.



### **BBIP – What does the Program Fee cover?**

The Program fee covers all ground transportation related to the program (including travel to/from Ben Gurion International Airport but not travel to/from SFO), three meals per day, all entrance fees for program-related visits, and hotel accommodation for the entirety of the program.

### **BBIP – Sleeping Accommodations**

Throughout the program students will stay in tourist-class accommodation located in Jerusalem (e.g., previously we've had 3-star hotel accommodation). Generally, students will be placed in two-person rooms. BBIP will abide by the rules established by USF regarding the genders of one's roommates.

### **Withdrawal**

If a student chooses to withdraw from the program—for any reason—they must notify the BBIP Director immediately in writing (it is permissible to send an email from the applicant's personal email address that CTE has on file). The request to withdraw from the program will be effective as of the date that written notification is received by the BBIP Director. Students may not officially withdraw from the course through a telephone conversation, though it is permissible, and even encouraged, to first unofficially withdraw in person or via a telephone conversation and thereafter send in written notification to complete the official withdrawal.

A student who withdraws from the program will be responsible for any expenses incurred on their behalf prior to the date of withdrawal from the program, an amount to be determined by CTE and USF. All these expenses are non-refundable. If a student pays for additional Travel Insurance, they might be covered for such a withdrawal; there are various coverages based on what plan the student purchases.

Finally, note that the scholarship funds provided by the Dee Swig Israel Fund as well as the Germanacos Fellowship will also need to be reimbursed in full if a student



withdraws from the program. This policy holds for any scholarships received from USF's Center for Global Education, as well.

### **Program Cancellation**

If USF must cancel the program, whether prior to the start date or during the program itself, enrolled students will be notified in writing. Specifics will be given at that time.

### **BBIP Program Staff**

As of December 2023, two members of USF will be taking students on the summer 2023 iteration of BBIP: Professor Oren Kroll-Zeldin and Rabbi Camille Shira Angel. Kroll-Zeldin will serve as Director of BBIP-S23 and Angel will serve as Chief Executive Officer of Creativity, Comfort, and Care of BBIP-S23. We will also have two local educators and a private driver who will serve as additional staff members. Check back soon for updates.

**Professor Oren Kroll-Zeldin** holds a PhD in Cultural Anthropology and Social Change from the California Institute of Integral Studies where he also received an MA in Cultural Anthropology and Social Transformation. He is the Assistant Director of the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice at the University of San Francisco, where he teaches courses on Jewish culture, identity and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and serves as the associate director of Hebrew San Francisco: Ulpan, a three-week intensive Hebrew language program, and Arabic San Francisco, a three-week intensive Arabic language program, both offered each summer at USF. Additionally, he is the co-founder and lead curator of Mapping Jewish San Francisco, a new digital humanities project of the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice that takes a collaborative approach to examining the complex history and unique religious, cultural, and political identity of the Jewish San Francisco Bay Area. In 2017, he received the USF Distinguished Adjunct Teaching Award.

Oren served as director of the Beyond Bridges: Israel-Palestine program in summer 2012 and has led numerous study trips to Israel/Palestine. He is an experienced



facilitator for groups in conflict and was trained by the former director of the pre-eminent School for Peace in Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salaam (Oasis of Peace). His facilitation work brings together people from diverse backgrounds and focuses on issues relating to identity, power, privilege, conflict, and social justice. Oren's writing has appeared in numerous journals, books, and online publications including *Jerusalem Quarterly*, *Tikkun*, *International Journal of Education for Social Justice*, and *+972 Magazine*.

**Rabbi Camille Shira Angel**, an adjunct professor in the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice, is USF's first Rabbi-in-Residence. Angel received her rabbinic ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and is the author of articles including "Crafting a Liturgical Mirror," in the wonderful new anthology *The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality*, and "Ruach Acheret-Ruach Hakodesh: Different Spirit-Sacred Spirit" in *Torah Queeries: Weekly Commentaries on the Hebrew Bible*. She was the spiritual leader of the queer flagship Congregation Sha'ar Zahav from 2000-2015, where she edited and contributed to a radically inclusive prayer book, *Siddur Sha'ar Zahav*. Her primary interests lie in being a mother and a loving companion while balancing the weight of the world and attempting to make forward progress on all matters concerning equality and justice—personal, communal, national, and global.

## CTE Staff

**Aaron J. Hahn Tapper** is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Center for Transformative Education. At the University of San Francisco since 2007, he holds the USF Mae and Benjamin Swig Professor in Jewish Studies and is the founding Director of the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice. An educator for more than two decades, his primary academic interest is the intersection between identity formation, social justice, and marginalized groups.

Aaron completed his PhD in the Religious Studies Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he studied the History of Religions, the Sociology of Religions, Nonviolence and Religions, Politics and Religions, and Modern Islamic Movements. His Dissertation focused on the relationship between power, the sociopolitical context of Israel and Palestine, and Jewish and Islamic religious law (*halachah* and *shari'a*, respectively). He also received an MTS from Harvard Divinity





School, where he focused on World Religions, and a BA from Johns Hopkins University, where he majored in Psychology.

In 2003 he founded Abraham's Vision, a conflict transformation organization that ran educational programs within and between the Muslim, Jewish, Palestinian, and Israeli communities, for whom he served as Co-Executive Director through May 2013. Currently, he is the Executive Director of the Center for Transformative Education, an educational initiative aiming to create empowering educational programs to transform societies into their potential, which he co-founded in 2008.

Aaron has lived and studied abroad in a number of places, including Bir Zeit, Cairo, Fes, the Hague, and Jerusalem. Academically fluent in multiple dialects of Hebrew and Arabic, he has received numerous awards and fellowships for his work, including the Harvard University Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, and the Wexner Graduate Fellowship.

He has co-edited two volumes—*Muslims and Jews in America: Commonalities, Contentions, and Complexities*, with Reza Aslan (2011) and *Social Justice and Israel/Palestine: Foundational and Contemporary Debates*, with Mira Sucharov (2019)—and written *Judaisms: A Twenty-First-Century Introduction to Jews and Jewish Identities* (2016). During the 2013-14 academic year, Aaron was a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Australia. Affiliated with the University of Melbourne and Monash University, he traveled around the country conducting research on how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (sometimes referred to as the "First Peoples" of Australia) have received former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's political apology, delivered in February 2008. He is currently writing a book on this research, comparing the situation of Australia's First Peoples with that of Native Americans.

## Travel to Israel and Palestine (according to the US Dept. of State)

### *Security, visa, and other important travel considerations*

- Student participants must read all of the information found on the webpage of the U.S. Department of State—[here](#)—including all relevant links.
- All travelers seeking to enter or depart Israel are subject to strict immigration and security screening. This may include prolonged questioning and physical searches. Ultimately, travelers may be denied entry or exit. All student participants should read the “Entry, Exit, and Visa requirements” on the [U.S. State Department website](#) to familiarize themselves with the complexities of entry and exit into Israel. If you have questions or concerns about visa requirements, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss your individual circumstances. NOTE:
  - Those holding United States citizenship will receive a visa to Israel upon arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV).
  - Non-U.S. citizens must check with the appropriate embassy/consulate for visa requirements and, if required, apply as soon as possible. F-1 students must obtain a Travel Signature from USF's International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) before leaving the U.S.
  - The University of San Francisco is not responsible for any decisions made by foreign embassies or consulates regarding approval/denial of visa documentation and/or immigration clearance.
- Please ensure that your passport has at least six months validity from the date of travel (i.e., May 22, 2023); in other words, one's passport should be valid through at least November 22, 2023. Although the Israeli government does not require that a passport be valid for six months from the date of entry, airlines routinely do check this and have declined boarding to travelers on this basis. *If your passport is set to expire prior to November 1, 2023, begin the passport renewal process immediately.*
- All accepted students will need to attend two pre-program orientation meetings to be held on the USF campus in March/April 2023. This is a mandatory requirement. No exceptions will be made.



## Health Information (according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regularly updates their suggestions regarding travel to Israel and Palestine. For more information see:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/israel>.

## University of San Francisco

### *USF Mission Statement*

Since 1855, the University of San Francisco has dedicated itself to offering a daring and dynamic liberal arts education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. As a community, we empower and hold accountable our students, faculty, librarians, staff, administrators, alumni, and community partners to be persons for and with others, to care for our common home, including the native lands on which our campuses reside, and to promote the common good by critically, thoughtfully, and innovatively addressing inequities to create a more humane and just world.

We seek to live USF's mission by nurturing a diverse, ever-expanding community where persons of all races and ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, genders, generations, abilities, nationalities, occupations, and socioeconomic backgrounds are honored and accompanied. We are committed to educating hearts and minds to cultivate the full, integral development of each person and all persons; pursuing learning as a lifelong humanizing and liberating social activity; and advancing excellence as the standard for teaching, scholarship, creative expression, and service. Inspired by a faith that does justice, we strive to humbly and responsibly engage with, and contribute to, the cultural, intellectual, economic, and spiritual gifts and talents of the San Francisco Bay Area and the global communities to which we belong.

### *USF Core Values*

At USF, we value three things in particular: *cura personalis*, being people for others, and diversity in all its forms.



### *Cura Personalis*

Come to USF and practice *cura personalis*, or care for the whole person. We believe that your mind, body, and spirit deserve equal attention and consideration

*Mind:* Of course, your intellectual pursuits matter to us at USF. But there is more to your mind than what you learn in the classroom. Come keep your mental health as robust as your intellectual growth with counseling and psychological services, academic success coaching, and peer mentoring and support.

*Body:* Break a sweat. Get your feet wet. Join a team. Make friends at Koret Health and Recreation Center. Join our Outdoor Adventures program and do hikes, ski trips, beach yoga, and more. Check out our Health Promotion Services and gain access to a health clinic, free nutrition appointments with a dietetic technician, student health insurance, and other resources to keep you in tip-top shape.

*Spirit:* Reflect and refresh on a retreat with University Ministry. Volunteer across clubs and programs all over campus. Serve our surrounding community with your service learning requirement, working with neighbors to solve real problems. If you're on a spiritual journey, we are here to support it. If you're not, we're still here—to support *you*.

### *People for Others*

At USF, social service is as important as professional success. When you leave USF with a calling to serve others—in your career, in your community, in your life—you are proof that we are living our mission.

*Service Learning:* An essential part of your undergraduate curriculum, USF's service learning courses address social needs both locally and globally.

*Living-Learning Communities:* Want to explore social issues in a deeper, more connected way? Join a living-learning community, where you'll enroll in a common set of courses and live together in a residential setting.



*The Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good:* The center provides service learning and government experiences that inspire you to promote the good of all society's members.

*Diversity*

Whatever your creed, culture, color, country, identity, and orientation, you are welcome at USF.

<https://www.usfca.edu/who-we-are/reinventing-education/our-mission-and-values> [downloaded 12.13.22]

