



# CIE NEWS

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A Newsletter for the Center for International Education at Rider University

## International Student Highlight: Layla Alkhaleefah – Saudi Arabia

Away from home, an international student might feel blue or homesick. Fortunately, I don't, and many of my international friends don't either. In fact, we like it here for various reasons. One reason is that the student population is comparatively small at Rider, which indeed enhances both the quality and the quantity of communication between students and faculty. Moreover, Rider has a strategic location. It is close to both New York, which is famously known, and Philadelphia, which is full of American history. The cafeteria has a wide range of food and drinks. We find it convenient enough, although it would be great if Arabic food was served there once a week. We do crave food from home. Our food is tied to our identity and memory. Speaking of home, what I miss about home the most is family and friends gathering in places to which I am emotionally attached. However, what I miss about home should never interfere with my education or the life I am having here. I, along with my fellow Saudis, am enjoying every day here in the United States.



## International Community Upcoming Events

March 9	Mentor Reunion Camden Aquarium
March 19	ELI Orientation Commuter Lounge 8 a.m. to noon
April 10	International Alumni Event

## Learn Arabic!

إذا غامرت في شرف مروم فلا تقنع بما دون النجوم.

English translation:

“If you reach for the highest of ideals, you shouldn't settle for less than the stars.”

Al-Mutanabbi (915-965)

## Region Highlight—The Middle East

Students studying abroad in the Middle East experience a world unknown to many in the United States. The region is steeped with history that has shaped the world's religions and cultures. It is also home to stunning architecture that has been influenced by the unique environmental attributes.



In Israel, students soak in the history that led to Judaism, Christianity and Islam. In Turkey, students bear witness to the beloved architectural monuments such as the Hagia Sophia of the Byzantine Empire or the Obelisk of Theodosius that was taken from Egypt. Students studying in Amman, Jordan can travel south to the ancient ruins of Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

With programs also in Morocco and Egypt, Rider offers a variety of study abroad experiences in the Middle East to students who are interested in studying off the beaten track.

## Top 10 Reasons to Study in the Middle East

1. UNESCO's World Heritage sites at each study abroad host country.
2. The Middle Eastern hospitality: figs and tea!
3. Learn Arabic and Hebrew.
4. Gain a greater understanding of the economic giants of the world.
5. Explore the beauty of the desert on a camel!
6. Sleep under the stars.
7. Explore the history of Christianity, Judaism and Islam.
8. Enjoy the discos of the Arabic world.
9. Explore, volunteer or internship opportunities.
10. Stand out from the rest—study abroad in the Middle East!





## Student Highlight - Aaron Herman

Of all the things that I get asked about when I tell people that I studied abroad at the University of Haifa in Israel, by far the most common question is “why?” My answer to this is different every single time, and for good reason. I chose Israel to travel to because it honestly is like one whole world shrunk down into an area about the size of New Jersey. Whether you are hiking through the mountainous Golan Heights in the north, trekking the Negev desert, or lounging on by the Red Sea in Eilat, there is always something new wherever you go.



The culture of Israel is by far my favorite aspect. Wherever you go, there is a consistent mix of people and beliefs. Jewish, Arabic, Druze, and Christian cultures are all within the walls of Jerusalem, and this provides for amazing contrasts between different beliefs. Most importantly to me, there were all different kinds of food, which I never shied away from. As soon as you think you've found the best falafel ever, you step down a few back alleys and stumble onto some hole in the wall which has an entirely new style of it, and it is like you are discovering a whole new food.

Above all else, the highlight of my study abroad experience was the long-lasting friendships I made. My group of friends consisted of Germans, Japanese, Dutch, Israelis, Palestinians, and of course, Americans. Being exposed to so many different



viewpoints and perspectives, I think, has had a permanent and positive effect on my life. I wouldn't trade my time spent abroad in Israel for the world.

## Programs in the Middle East



Al-Ahliyya Amman University (AAU) is located in the capital of Jordan. AAU offers various levels of Modern Standard Arabic. Amman is one of the most diverse cities in the Middle East and is a hub for culture, education, business, and tourism. International Studies Abroad (ISA) also offers a program at Moulay Ismail University in Meknès, Morocco. UNESCO declared the medieval city a World Heritage site in 1996.

Institute for Study Abroad (IFSA) Butler offers programs in Israel, Egypt and United Arab Emirates. Hebrew University is Israel's oldest and most prestigious university, and it is located in the heart of ancient, intriguing Jerusalem. Courses are taught in English, but Intensive Arabic and Hebrew courses are offered for all students. IFSA-Butler offers programs at four universities in Egypt: Ain Shams, Alexandria, Cairo and Helwan Universities. Students can also study at the American University of Sharjah (AUS) in United Arab Emirates.



The CAPA Istanbul Program allows students to take a range of courses in the social sciences, humanities, and the arts while also studying the Turkish language.

The program provides students with an opportunity to study at a Turkish university while also encouraging them to explore the city of Istanbul.

## Study Abroad Events

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|-----------------|---|
| <b>March 26</b> | <b>Scholarship Session: Fall Students</b><br>11:30 to 1 p.m., BLC 257 |
| <b>April 1</b>  | <b>Fall Application Deadline</b>                                      |
| <b>April 12</b> | <b>Pre-departure Orientation #1</b><br>3 to 5 p.m., SWG 115           |
| <b>April 26</b> | <b>Pre-departure Orientation #2</b><br>3 to 5 p.m., SWG 115           |

