IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ISRAEL VISA PROCESS
AS OF 2014

The Israeli Ministry of Interior has recently tightened student visa requirements for persons who wish to attend any school in Israel. This affects students who are applying to study at Jerusalem University College for a semester or longer.

For some years, students planning on attending JUC for one semester or more have had to have a Israeli student visa (A-2) affixed in their passport prior to entering Israel. Effective immediately, the process to secure this visa must begin in Jerusalem.

- JUC staff will apply for student visas for incoming semester students through a multi-step process with the Ministry of Interior in Jerusalem.
- This will require that JUC receive visa application information from each student, including passport information and data about visits that the applicant may have already made to Israel, at the same time that the student applies to JUC.
- It also means that the fee for the visa will be paid in Jerusalem. We have added this fee to the list of required fees that can be found at the front of the JUC application. (Gordon College will include the payment for this in application fee paid on the student’s behalf).
- After the student visa is granted by the Ministry of Interior in Jerusalem, notice will be sent to the Israeli Embassy or the Israeli Consulate that is responsible for city of residence of the applicant. The student will then have to contact that Embassy or Consulate in order to have the visa affixed in his or her passport.
- Please note as well that the student visa will cite the name of the school as it is legally known in Israel (Institute of Holy Land Studies), rather than Jerusalem University College.

This has prompted us to need to have application deadlines so that we can pursue the lengthy visa application process here in Jerusalem in a timely manner.

- For students entering JUC in the fall semester, the application deadline is June 1
- For students entering JUC in the spring semester, the application deadline is December 1

While most of the work regarding these new regulations will be done by the JUC staff in Jerusalem, it also requires timely diligence by the students. We have made some changes to our application forms that reflect these new regulations, and also posted basic information on our website at http://www.juc.edu/long/applicationlong.asp

All of this is part of a systematic move by the Israeli Ministry of Interior to tighten up visa, visitor and immigration policies across the board.