

2018 ISRAEL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW PROGRAM (“MISHPATIM”)

TESTIMONIALS

Note: This summer was the eighth offering of this program, created by Dr. Bryan Schwartz and delivered at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in cooperation with the Hebrew University Law School. The following student testimonials were written as thank-you letters to donors and sponsors who helped make the students' experiences possible.

Dear Sponsor/Donor,

I write this letter having nearly completed my international law studies within the Israel seminar “Mishpatim” program offered via the University of Manitoba to myself, and several other University of Calgary Law Students. What an experience!

Being able to come to Israel, a Middle Eastern part of the world entirely foreign to me, and to learn about the culture, politics, mentality and courage of such an impossible state, has been a life changing experience. I have been awed by the perseverance of the Jewish peoples throughout history to survive, the tolerance of the Jewish peoples to accept extreme diversity, even within their own religious identity, and to challenge the status quo in order to continually achieve a higher political, economic, and humanitarian status for themselves.

During the delivery of the course materials, I greatly respected the ability of our professors and guest lecturers to openly discuss the issues within which they felt Israel had both acted admirably, and the issues within which they felt Israel could improve, and appreciated their belief in their country's ability to improve and become a world leader in spite of previous mistakes.

I feel incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to rub shoulders with people that can only be described as optimistic, motivated, excited, and understanding. When I return to Canada, I do so with new friends, a new perspective, and new tools to assist me in better understanding all sides of a conflict, which I will make use of in my role as a future Canadian lawyer.

I am forever changed by this experience. Thank you so much for your sponsorship, without which I would not have been able to participate.

Laura McPhee
University of Calgary
Faculty of Law
2019 JD Candidate

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude for permitting me to attend the Summer 2018 University of Manitoba-Hebrew University Israel Program.

I particularly enjoyed the scope and breath of the program. It very well exposed the participants to the complexity of the legal, political and economic that beset this part of the world.

I especially enjoyed the teaching of Professor Bryon Schwartz and Professor Daniel Ohana. Their grasp of the issues and their willingness to answer all questions made learning this area of law a pleasure.

As such, I would ask that this letter be placed in their personnel file and be made a permanent record.

Again, thank you for allowing me to participate in this program.

Kenneth W. Heider, Attorney-at-Law

To whom it may concern,

I would like to thank those who donated to the 2018 Israel and International law program. The experience has been an extraordinary opportunity to experience Israel as a student, and a visitor to Jerusalem. The course, I felt, was well rounded and gave a succinct overview of the Israeli political climate, as well as the culture of the people living here.

Again, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude, my experience would not be possible without the donor's contributions.

Katherine Olson

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my sincere thanks to the donors of the Mishpatim program. I have learned a great deal both in and out of the classroom and this is an experience I will never forget.

With sincere gratitude and appreciation,
Kristin McDonald

Dear supporters of the 2018 Israel and international law program,

Thank you from the opportunity to learn abroad. This experience has been truly unique and enriched not only my professional life but my personal life too. Having had the opportunity to live in Israel rather than just visiting allowed me to experience the culture and way of life first hand. Rather than just learning about the law, I was able to experience it and see how Israelis contextualize the law. This experience was truly invaluable. Thank you again

Pamneet Brar

Dear Supporters of the 2018 Israel and International Law Program,

Thank you for the opportunity to study in one of the premier universities in Israel and enabling me to experience such a rich and diverse culture and country as Israel.

I enrolled in the program with little knowledge of the Israeli legal system and could not have asked for a better environment to learn and enrich my legal education. I have always believed that legal systems do not exist in a vacuum and that comparative studies are critical to a better understanding of our own legal traditions. This program afforded me the invaluable opportunity to compare Canadian and Israeli legal systems and to also understand the context and cultural underpinnings that led to the establishment of the Israeli state and its legal system.

More than the legal education that I received, this program was special because I was able to experience the culture and people of Israel and develop a personal connection with this country. I am so thankful that I was able to experience such a culturally vibrant country.

Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Sally Han

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Mishpatim International Law Program in Israel. I am so grateful for your generosity and selflessness, as it has allowed me explore the country of Israel and gain a deeper understanding of international law and the Israeli legal system. This opportunity has been a once in a lifetime experience and has been the highlight of my first year of law school.

Again, without your generous contributions, this program would not have been possible, so thank you!

Sincerely,

Lauren Yusim

Robson Hall Class of 2020

Dear supporters of the 2018 Israel International Law Program,

Thank you for your support of this program. It has been an excellent opportunity for everyone who participated.

I have learned so much here about not only the Israeli legal system, but also of the beautiful country of Israel and its people. I have been on a few exchange programs before, but this one stands out as the most valuable, both in terms of the depth and importance of the material covered.

Warm regards,

Catherine Rogers

Dear supporters of the 2018 Hebrew international law program,

Thank you for your support and generous donations which made this program possible.

I had the unique opportunity to learn about a complex country during a time of conflict. This greatly increased my interest in international law and politics.

I feel without this program I would not have been interested in learning about Israeli law in a law or international law in so far as it relates to Israel.

I also was privileged to learn from the multiple guest speakers first hand and from an Israeli point of view how Israeli law interacts with Jewish law and cultural standards here in Israel.

Apart from academic experience, this program provides invaluable personal experience as I learned how to better navigate a foreign country and adapt to different cultural standards and language barriers.

Again, I am so grateful and thankful to the sponsors of the program, as it has provided a unique and unforgettable learning and personal experience.

Regards,

Caroline Tess

To the generous families that made this program affordable for many,

I would like to say that myself as well as my peers are all very thankful for your generous contribution to our studies. I know for many, the contribution of donor families is what made this program possible and allowed many people, including myself, to see a part of the world which they likely would have never seen and learned material that would otherwise have remained completely foreign.

On top of getting ahead for my second year of law school, this program has been one of, if not the most interesting experience of my life and I have made memories that will last for a lifetime. Thank you very much for your contribution to this program, it is appreciated by many.

Andrew Derwin

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the donations to this program. The program has been an amazing experience that I will never forget, and I know that every student involved is so grateful for your donations. The course has been a great way to learn the history of Israel, both culturally and politically. It has been an eye opening experience, on that has allowed myself to understand the current issues that Israel and its citizens are facing today.

This program has been the highlight of my first year of law school and will undoubtedly be the highlight of my whole law school experience. The day trips that the school has taken our class on to the Knesset, Supreme Court, Holocaust Museum, Masada and the Dead Sea are ones that I will never forget.

Sincerely,
India Saxberg
Robson Hall, Class of 2020

Dear Donor,

I want to sincerely thank you for contributing to the Mishpatim program, and thereby enabling me - and many other students - to study law in Jerusalem.

The Mishpatim program is a true "eye-opener," in which students learn about the Middle-East in the only true way, i.e. by "boots on the ground."

Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Andrew P. Weber

Dear supporters of the 2018 Israel and International Law Program,

Thank you all so much for this opportunity to come to Israel and engage in the legal studies exchange program here at Hebrew University. I had always maintained a desire to come to Israel and learn more about the region, but I doubt I would have ever had the chance to do so or would have followed through with it had it not been for this program.

My time here was memorable for the valuable time spent with classmates and making new friends, as well as experiencing all that Israel has to offer - Jerusalem's history, the Dead Sea natural landscapes, and Tel Aviv nightlife were all unbelievable. It was also significantly valuable for how we were able to gain a better appreciation of the issues on the ground.

Again, thanks for supporting our time here - my classmates and I all appreciate it and could not have had this opportunity without your support.

הברך!
Pio Araneta

Dear Supporters of the 2018 Israel and International Law Program,

Thank you for the support of this program. Studying in Israel has been a remarkable cultural and academic experience. This program did a fantastic job of giving context to important international law conflicts while delivering a broad survey of different academic opinions. As a student interested in International Law, being able to listen to multiple Israeli guest speakers that are experts in Israeli international relations and legal studies shaped my understanding of very complex issues. Academics aside, the exchange program was a fantastic exposure to the culture we were studying. Being immersed in Israeli culture made the experience more profound and absolutely contributed to my overall understanding of the course. The option to travel around Israel on our days off was my favourite non-academic experience.

This experience would not have been possible for me without your support. Thank you.

Alana Hannaford

Dear Supporters of the 2018 Israel and International Law Program,

My time in Israel has been a whirlwind learning experience. It's been incredible to learn so much and so quickly about Israeli law and society and to see in person the actual different people of Israel and how the law interacts with them.

I've never been exposed to a world where religion was so inherent in every aspect of society and law so I have definitely learned a lot more about this world. It was also very interesting that our time here

aligned with the US embassy move from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and be in the same city as it happened to feel the atmosphere and discuss how tightly connected law and politics are. Additionally, I've also found it interesting to learn of the mandatory military service except for certain groups like the Haredim and how the service helps to shape Israeli culture and society.

Although the visit was very sad, I think it was very important that we visited the Holocaust museum. My favourite part was visiting the Dead Sea because it was an incredible experience and a goal that I've had since I was in elementary school.

Thank you so much for this opportunity that I otherwise would not have been able to have.

Sincerely,

Victoria Truong

Dear supporters of the 2018 Israel and International Law Program,

Thank you so much for making this program possible. This experience has been incredibly fulfilling and would not have been possible without your generosity. An opportunity to study in a country such as Israel is truly priceless and with undoubtedly have a lasting and profound impact on my development as an individual and as a lawyer. Being exposed to the legal system of another country helps us gain perspective and approach future problems in a different light. In addition, the ability to learn from exceptional educators and guest lecturers made this experience very surreal from an educational perspective.

Sincerely,

Adam Vander Linden

Dear supporters of the 2018 Israel and International Law program,

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Israel and International Law program, which has given me so much this summer. When I did my Taglit-Birthright trip last summer, I fell in love with the country and when I learned about the opportunity to take a class on Israeli law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, I was incredibly excited to seize the opportunity to return to Israel and learn about its legal system. In class, we students exposed to compelling topics by professors and guest speakers whose lectures have given me incredibly valuable insight into the situation on the ground with respect to Israeli economy, politics, society, culture and international relations. Without this program, I never would have been given the opportunity to visit and learn about such landmarks as the Knesset or the Israeli Supreme Court or lesser known knowledge hubs like the tech startup incubator we visited in East Jerusalem. What I have learned in the past three weeks has contributed greatly to my identity as a young Canadian Jewish person and I am also sure that what I have learned will impact my practice as a lawyer. As a student at McGill University, where students study both common law and civil law, it is especially interesting to learn about another mixed jurisdiction. Thank so much for supporting this program and helping expose students to everything it has to offer.

Best,
Sophie Doyle

Dear Supporters of the 2018 Israel and International Law program,

Thank you very much for your support of this program. I was honoured to have been a part of it. My perspective on issues surrounding Israel and Palestine and its neighbours has been broadened, and I have learned a lot about internal issues and the law in Israel.

My favourite lectures were those discussing Ultra-Orthodox Jews (such as by Gilid Malach) and I will be looking further into other issues discussing such as counter-terrorism as my interest was sparked. The field trips were also amazing- the chance to go to Masada and the Dead Sea was an amazing moment for me that I will never forget.

I hope to use this course in my future career whether I work in corporate law with people of different backgrounds or if I am a human rights lawyer or work in public law.

I cannot thank you enough for your support. This has been a life-changing experience for me and I am very thankful for these 3 weeks of learning.

Best regards,
Colleen Bonnyman

Dear Supporters of the 2018 Israel and International Law Program,

My name is Laura Antymniuk. I was a participant in the 2018 exchange to Jerusalem, where we studied Israeli Law and Society. I wanted to express my gratitude for the subsidy provided to students, as it made this opportunity accessible to me. Without the subsidy, I am certain I would not have been able to afford to attend. My main interests are in Constitutional Law and Refugee law, and this course has solidified my commitment to practicing in these areas exponentially. I have seized every moment of my time in the Middle East, and have travelled throughout the country and beyond in order to gain an honest and holistic understanding of the Jewish Nation State. Thank you for all you have done, and the opportunity you provided me and my peers. I hope you continue this program in the years to come, so others such as myself can experience Israel for all it has to offer.

Best Regards,
Laura Antymniuk

Dear supporters of the 2018 Israel and international law program,

Thank you for your contribution to our tuition for the Mishpatim program. This course has been more than just a valuable academic experience; it has been a unique dive into Israeli culture. By attending classes and various guest lectures, taking field trips to the Knesset and Supreme Court, touring the various start-ups in Tel Aviv, and spending free time visiting national historic sites and museums, I have gleaned more than I ever expected upon arriving in Jerusalem.

This program offers a unique perspective of the various complexities facing Israel and its neighbours. The more I learn, the stronger the realization becomes that the political and legal problems facing Israel cannot be solved simply, must be assessed critically, and viewed from every different angle.

I look forward to applying what I have learned throughout this course to the rest of my legal education.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely,
Cassidy Newfield

Thank you for all the support you provided so that I can attend the international law exchange program with Israel possible. I had never had the opportunity to visit Israel, but my grandparents and sister had, speaking very highly of their experiences and recommending I take this opportunity to do so. They were correct in their predictions that it would be an incredible experience for me.

I had a basic understanding of some of the international, security, and legal issues facing Israel due to having studied the country during my undergrad. This class has been a far greater exploration of the topic and I have learned a great deal. I was tremendously interested in the topic and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet with some incredible people who shared their knowledge and personal experiences of these issues. I will never forget what I have learned and seen here.

Besides my education, having been staying in Jerusalem during this particular time in history has been fascinating. I will be highly recommending next year law students attend this for the tremendous opportunity it was presented regardless of any possible tension that may exist in this city and country. This has been an unforgettable experience I am so grateful I got to experience.

Thank you very much for your assistance and generosity,

Trevor Sicotte

Dear Supporters of the Mishpatim Program,

I would like to send my sincere thanks and gratitude for your support of the Mishpatim Program. Without your generous donation I would not have been able to have participated in such an amazing program.

I chose to participate in this cultural exchange through the University of Manitoba Law Faculty and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to learn more about Israeli culture and society. Through participating in a past exchange in Iceland I knew that actually living in a country and learning through their universities is the best way to get a first-hand understanding. These past three weeks have been a wonderful experience that enabled me to not only learn through engaging lectures and guest speakers, but to also explore Israel on my own.

I would not have had the opportunity without your generous support.

Sincerely,

Meghan Payment

Hello,

My name is Julian Dobre. I'm a law student from the University of Calgary doing the UManitoba program at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The program was enlightening in so many ways. Learning about Israeli law, Israel as a startup nation, and the conflict in Palestine has been the chance of a lifetime. In particular, we got to see the issues specific to Israel through a very nuanced lens. The most important lesson I learned from my exchange is that the conflict in this part of the world is not as black-and-white as I was lead to believe. It's not too easy to say anymore that "I'm pro-Israel," or "I'm pro-Palestine." In truth, it is far more complicated than that - the truth is somewhere in the middle. What is important is to have accurate information and to approach this conflict without bias. This program did a great job of fostering an environment where such analysis is possible.

I came into this program expecting a pro-Israeli narrative. In reality, the information was presented in a way that often made Israeli look less-than-fortunate: with criticism, optimism for the future, and oftentimes regret. They did a great job of presenting us the information and letting us come to our own conclusions.

The program struck a great balance between lectures, guest speakers, and field trips. Half of my time here was in a classroom; the other half was exploring the country. My long weekends were spent traveling to all the major cities and landmarks, including Haifa, Tel Aviv, the Dead Sea, and to the major Jordanian sites, like Amman, Petra, and a jeep tour through Wadi Rum. My lifelong dream of seeing the dessert has been fulfilled!

I appreciate the chance to visit a part of the world that I would likely never have the chance to see on my own. The program is very enlightening and I shall be recommending it to everyone I can.

I thank you for the support you have given me,

Julian

I want to thank each one of you for making the Israel and International Law course possible for students to participate in. This opportunity has allowed me to travel to Israel for the first time, and opened my eyes to the rich heritage and beautiful country, as well as giving me an opportunity to study a topic that I otherwise would not have had the means to study. The Mishpatim program has been a wonderful experience, allowing us to learn outside the classroom through guest lectures, tours of the Knesset and Supreme Court, and site visits to the Dead Sea and the Masada.

This course has given us the opportunity to experience not only a new culture, but to also learn in a new environment from individuals with different perspectives on a vast array of topics. The guest lecturers offered various viewpoints allowing us to critically analyze various situations and difficult topics that were presented in appropriate manners. Overall, this has been an incredible and unforgettable experience that I would not have been able to enjoy had it not been for your continued support. I truly hope this opportunity continues to be available to students in the future as this is a personal highlight of my legal education.

Best Regards,
Katharyn Burczynski

Dear Supporters of 2018 Israel and International Program,

Thank you for your generosity and support. This experience was not possible without your kind gesture.

I really appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this program. It helped me to expand my horizon and opened my eyes about Jewish culture and Judaism. I also gained more perspectives and understanding about the Israeli and Palestinian conflicts. This experience is invaluable to me.

Ivy Yang

Dear supporters of the 2018 Israel International Law Program,

Thank you for your generous contribution that allowed me and so many of my classmates to experience the program and all that it has to offer. Learning about Israeli society and its legal system firsthand, rather than simply reading about it in a textbook at home has made for an incredibly enriching few weeks here in Israel. It is so important for law students to be exposed to the legal system of more than just their home country, as it delivers an expanded view of the law's intricacies and allows for a greater appreciation of the current legal system and the history behind it. Additionally, learning about Israel's societal structure has allowed me to draw the connection between society and how greatly it can shape the law.

Aside from the course itself, studying in Israel has allowed me to visit an incredible country that I likely would have not traveled to otherwise. Experiencing Israel's wonderful food, culture, and scenery with my friends and classmates is something I will never forget, and will be eternally grateful for.

Sincerely,

Danelle Rougeau Suchy

Dear donors:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the financial support you have provided, without which I wouldn't have been able to attend the Mishpatim program at Hebrew University here in Jerusalem. Throughout the course of the program, I've been fascinated with how complex Israeli law and society is. The introduction we've been given to these issues has fostered a curiosity and I intend to keep learning more about the country/region.

The field trips were a great way to see different aspects of Israeli society and enjoy the beautiful country as well. A highlight for me was meeting Justice Ednaki Sebhat Haimowitz. She is an inspiring woman.

Thank-you again for your generous donations.

With gratitude,

Omelia Tedesco-White

I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your generous support in enabling myself and my classmates the opportunity to study abroad in Israel. It has been an unparalleled experience to be given the chance to explore Israel in the context of this course while learning about the complexities of the Israeli legal system and the broader contentious issues of which I had little understanding prior to this course. I feel that I am now leaving with a more robust understanding of the current legal and political concerns in Israel.

In my time in Israel I was able to explore Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Eilat, along with the Dead Sea and Masada which are personal highlights. I recognize that none of this would have been possible without the support and contribution of the donors. I believe this program is a great opportunity and experience for law students and I hope that future years of Robson Hall students will have the chance that I did to travel and experience Israel.

Best,

Danielle Fulford

Dear Supporters of the 2018 Israel Program,

Thank you so much for your generous support of this wonderful program. Without your contribution I would not have been able to attend the Israel exchange program. This experience has been an amazing one and I have learned so much in my time in Israel. I have also had the opportunity to travel while in Israel and learn about this unique place. Being immersed in the Israeli culture has been the best way to learn about it and living abroad for these last few weeks has been incredible and eye opening to what it is like in Israel.

This program has offered so much to the students enrolled in it. From engaging guest speakers to field trips, I feel that I got exposed to so much over the course of the program. My favourite parts were our trip to the Dead Sea and visiting the Knesset. I have gained more of an interest in international law because of this course and will continue to explore this area of the law. The guest speakers also taught me so much and I enjoyed hearing about their experiences. While being in Israel I've also had the opportunity to explore on my own and see more of the country, travelling in Israel has been a great experience that I wouldn't have had without your support of the program.

This exchange program is an amazing one and thank you so much for your support. Without it myself and many of my classmates would not have been able to participate in this exchange.

Sincerely,
Shaylan Cottick

Dear supporters of the 2018 Israel and International Law Program,

Thank you very much for supporting the 2018 Israel and International Law Program. Your support has enabled me and many other students to take advantage of this wonderful program. I personally have always wanted to visit Israel and this program offered a very enriching opportunity to come to Israel and learn about the legal achievements, issues and challenges faced by the State of Israel. I especially enjoyed learning about the legal issues relating to the Israel-Arab conflict as well as the religious and ethnic diversity of Israel. Learning about how Jewish law has affected Israeli law was also a very interesting

topic featured in the course. This program has also allowed me to visit several different sites and locations within Israel which I have found immeasurably valuable.

Thank you very much again for your support. This program has been an amazing experience for me, one that I will forever remember. As I continue my legal education, I have no doubts that this program will serve to broaden my understanding of the law and different legal issues faced around the world. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Paul Reimer

Dear Supporter of the 2018 Israel and International Law Program,

Thank you for your contribution to the program. Without your generosity I could not have afforded the incredible experience that the course has provided me. I come from relatively humble means and when I heard of your donation the trip became a realistic possibility for myself.

The course has been eye opening and has provided me with valuable insight into a different culture. The country of Israel from Haifa to Eilat gave to me countless experiences, that I shall not soon forget. The physical beauty of Israel was rivaled only by the beauty of the people.

I believe the experience I have gathered through the course materials and extracurricular activities will stick with me through my future endeavours. Seeing how different cultures live and strive presented me with valuable contrasts to the Canadian way of life, which was all I had ever really known. Better understanding how others live helps me to better understand human interaction both home and abroad.

Thank you again for making this opportunity a reality for me.

Sincerely,

Bradley Erratt.

Dear Supporters of the 2018 Israel and International Law Program,

Thank you for your support. Prior to my participation in the program, I had very little exposure to Israel's history and the issues it presently faces. Theoretical concepts of international conflict and social policy became much more tangible during the experiential parts of the program. The comparative aspect of the curriculum has provided me with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Canadian legal system.

It would have been considerably more difficult for me to have such a significant life experience without your support. The program has provided my legal education with a valuable new perspective.

Sincerely,

Dale Beynon

University of Manitoba

Dear supporters of the 2018 Israel and International law program,

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for your support in providing students like myself the opportunity to attend the program in Israel.

This program has allowed me to learn so much about the world and in particular the country of Israel. The lessons learned from this experience will have a lasting effect on how I view the world.

Regards,
Jarrod Sundmark

Hello,

My name is Kellie Stashko and I participated in the University of Manitoba-Mishpatim course this May. I absolutely loved the experience and truly feel as though I learned something valuable throughout this experience. It really opened my eyes and has given me a greater understanding of the world at large.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all those responsible in ensuring that this was an opportunity available to me. I appreciate it very much and this program was one of the best experiences of my life. I certainly will recommend this program to my fellow incoming law students at the University of Manitoba.

Thank you very much,

Kellie Stashko

Dear Supporters of the 2018 Israel and International Law Program,

Thank you for your support of the 2018 Israel and International Law Program. I am very appreciative to have had the opportunity to participate in the program this year. My participation would not have been possible, had the financial burden of attending an international program not been lessened as a result of your generous support.

Through the program, I have had the opportunity to expand my knowledge of how the state of Israel functions, the role that Israel play internationally, and of the challenges faced by start-up businesses.

Further, I have gained an increased interest in Comparative Law, and hope to further this interest by enrolling in the Comparative Law course that is offered at the University of Manitoba at some point within my degree. This interest was sparked due to gaining an increased understanding of the logic underlying the operation of Canada's legislative and judicial system through comparison to Israel's system.

The perspective provided on Israel's system has highlighted the importance of being able to critically analyze both our own system, and others in the international arena. Through critical analysis of this manner, it is possible to acknowledge a system's strengths as well as areas and ways in which to improve.

Thank you again for your support and making this opportunity possible.

Best regards,
Nicole Graham