

**The Arab-Israeli Neighborhood  
June 1-15, 2020**



**Mission Statement**

The Darrow School Study Abroad Institute provides first rate, credit-bearing academic courses abroad whereby participants engage with communities worldwide and employ design thinking towards innovating solutions to actual problems.

**Who**

Qualifying students of any high school aspiring to earn course credits through a unique, hands-on, learning experience focusing on solving real-world problems through collaborative design. Open also to Education professionals, alumni, and families. No background on the subject is necessary. As global citizens and [active learners](#), we address actual needs in the international community by personally connecting across cultures to solve real world problems through collaborative design thinking.

Independent high schools are welcome to affiliate with the [Darrow School Study Abroad Institute](#) and to offer its courses directly to their students.

**What**

Course participants will travel to Israel and the Palestinian Territories to negotiate and draft a peace agreement between prominent Israeli and Palestinian think tanks. We will mediate between influential research centers that directly advise their respective governments on policy matters. Discovering this ancient land and immersing ourselves in its diverse cultures are both sweet and essential to our mission. We will tour the region, closely examine current peacemaking models, meet grassroots activists, interact with ordinary folk, and attend college seminars on geostrategy and conflict resolution. A variety of fun, recreational activities are of course part of the experience.

Participants will become intimately familiar with, and appreciative of, the full cast of characters and the theater upon which they act. Accordingly, we will be exposing ourselves to a range of political and religious ideologies influencing the region. However, this is not a typical tourist excursion, nor is it affiliated or aligned with any religious or political advocacy organizations.

#Participants:	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-17
Cost:	\$4800	\$4300	\$3900	\$3700	\$3500

Includes: Academic program, airfare, housing & meals, ground transportation abroad, guided excursions, activities, entrance fees.

Excludes: Required books (see course [syllabus](#)) and personal items such as note-taking material, laptop or tablet, electric outlet adapters-converters, and general personal expenses.

## When

**June 1-15, 2020.** We depart immediately following commencement weekend at most independent boarding schools, and return to the U.S. before the public school year concludes. The course is not restricted to students of boarding schools.

## Where

Israel & Palestinian Territories, excluding the Gaza Strip (for security reasons).

The campus of Alexander Muss High School in Hod HaSharon, Israel ([AMHSI](#)) will be our home base, with its dormitories, dining hall, and academic facilities reserved for us.

## Why

The Arab-Israeli conflict continues to bedevil the region and has vexed mediators for decades. Moreover, as students transition from high school to college campuses, advocates from all sides will be competing for their hearts, minds, wallets, and votes. Project Based Learning insists that students innovate solutions through community engagement and collaborative design thinking. Regardless of whether the issues are ultimately resolved, the principle objective is to equip participants to make educated decisions by cultivating lasting, nuanced, and experiential understandings of this complex, multifaceted topic.

Moreover, in an age where our hyperconnected world is being exploited by weaponizing manipulative misinformation at an unprecedented speed and scale to foment and exacerbate societal divides, the cultivation of empathetic and problem solving mindsets to prevail over vilification and belligerence is a powerful and lasting countermeasure.

## How

1. Email all inquiries to [Edwin Hirschfeld](#), Director of [SAI](#)
2. Download and complete the application
3. Attach deposit
4. Send to:           Darrow School Study Abroad Institute  
                          110 Darrow Rd.  
                          New Lebanon, NY 12125

## FAQs

**Is it safe?**

Yes, absolutely. Understandably, news headlines may cause apprehension among prospective participants. However, here are some important points to consider: **Safety and security is the number one priority.** We monitor the situation in the Middle East on a constant basis and the program would be postponed or cancelled if we felt that we could not properly ensure participant safety and well-being. This has never happened to date despite previous flare ups over the years. The majority of violent incidents that have taken place have occurred in particularly tense areas of the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. Policy dictates that we do not go to Gaza (or its borders) and to restricted areas of the West Bank. We will travel in the Palestinian Territories in the West Bank which are deemed safe for tourist travel and lodging. If violence flares during the program we will of course make all necessary adjustments. Safety is enhanced by the fact that we are in a structured environment. We use our own vehicles, not public transportation. Group leaders carry cell phones and can be reached at all times.

**Are scholarships available?**

Advancement efforts have been launched to raise scholarships which will be announced upon availability. Despite such a possibility, there are no guarantees that scholarships will be available, and applications should be submitted with the assumption that program costs will be unsubsidized.

**Can I extend the return flight or depart to a 3rd destination after the course?**

Yes, at the arrangement, expense, and notice from a parent or legal guardian prior to the conclusion of the course. No supervision, guardianship, or services of any kind will be provided after the course concludes.

**Will my participation and grade be recorded on my transcript?**

The course meets the curricular and instructional time requirements of most secondary education institutions. Participants will receive a course grade upon completion which will appear accordingly on the transcript pending approval of the institution they are currently enrolled in. Participants should confirm with their schools in advance of enrolling in the course.

**Must I be affiliated with The Darrow School to participate?**

No. This course is open to all students, faculty, and staff from all educational institutions pending they meet qualifications specified on the Program Application.