

Oranim and MIT Collaborate on Eye Opening Israel Seminar

Students from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) encountered diverse voices within Israeli society that they had never heard before thanks to a five day seminar facilitated by Oranim International School.



American university students are often exposed to a one-sided and simplistic view of Israel. The MIT Israel Seminar showed students that Israel is much more complex and multi-faceted than what is portrayed in the media and in their schools.

Thirty students from MIT, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, participated in the Israel Seminar for Global Leadership in July as part of their three-month internship program in Israel. This five day seminar, facilitated by Oranim International School, helped student develop a deeper and more complex understanding of Israeli society and culture and how it impacts the workplace.

Successful Eight Year Collaboration with MIT

The success of the seminar was due in large part to the long standing productive collaboration between Oranim College and MIT. This was the eighth year that Oranim College has coordinated and evaluated this seminar for MISTI (MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives).

Diverse Narratives

Students appreciated the opportunity to hear diverse narratives and perspectives, including Israelis from minority groups, the military, and high-tech. Like all educational tourism programs run by the Oranim International School, this program focused on face-to-face meetings and meaningful interactions with Israelis.

Highlights of the seminar included: meeting with Iman Kaddah, an Arab Israeli, in her home village of Majd El Krum; a discussion with an IDF officer about the geopolitical situation on the northern

border; and a lecture by Dr. Rachel Korazim, an international Jewish educator, on the impact of the Holocaust on Israeli culture and identity. Students wrote that they returned from the seminar with a “broader perspective” and a “more nuanced view” of Israeli society that they will bring back to their home communities.

Students also learned about high-tech and Clean Tech in Israel through visiting the Mekorot-Sapir Water Facility and meeting with Eran Feldhay, M.D., CEO of Trendlines, an innovation commercialization company.

Read more about Oranim International School’s educational tourism programs for international students [here](#).