

OEL 307 - Entrepreneurial Spirit in Israel

Overseas Experiential Learning - Israel provides students with the conceptual tools and learning experiences to develop a deeper understanding of the **entrepreneurial spirit** exemplified by Israelis, through a combination of **experiential learning**, e-learning, classroom activities, and participation in a 12 day overseas trip to Israel.

We had the opportunity to visit various locations in Israel, ranging from Universities to museums to religious tourists location. We even had the opportunity to visit the Palestinian refugee camp itself, which allowed us to receive onsite first person experience at those areas, and experience different facets of the Israeli culture as part of the experiential learning framework.

In comparison with conventional university learning framework, **Experiential learning** adopts a **bottom up approach** that is more immersive and interactive. This allow the students to learn as we go and we would actively question and seek answers for our queries. This trains the students to use the resources available and adapt to our surroundings to maximise our learnings.

During the trip, some of the hurdles we experienced includes limited time and location, as we can only see and experience the environment based on where we were brought to, which could limit our own experience and POV.

We also overcame cultural differences and stepped outside our comfort zone to interact and talk to the local Israeli. It is very important for us to be very intentional in getting to know the Israelis that we spoke with.

Experiential learning allow us to challenge our existing understanding and assumptions of “object, objective and theme” and made us question our preconceived ideas. The framework encouraged us to empathise and put ourselves in the shoes of the Israeli during our interaction, to understand how their personal experience, history and culture influence their thought process and behaviour.

