

# US students tour Israel to fight disinformation

The visitors from 24 campuses toured the areas affected by Hamas's Oct. 7 massacres and the northern border.

## JNS STAFF



U.S. students visit Be'eri, Israel on Aug. 8, 2025. Courtesy of Hasbara Fellowships and IsraelAmbassadors.com.

**(Aug. 17, 2025 / JNS)** Students from 24 U.S. universities toured Israel last week as part of a program using firsthand testimonies to help counter misinformation about Israel. The students attend universities including UCLA, Duke, UC Berkeley, and the University of Michigan.

On their 10-day visit, the participants of the Hasbara Fellowships and IsraelAmbassadors.com delegation met politicians, visited the grounds of the Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas massacre, met with a former hostage and toured Israel's northern borders for an on-the-ground understanding of the reality there under the ceasefire with Hezbollah.

“This is not a sightseeing trip, it’s a hard-core 10-day pro-Israel activist mission,” said Michael Eglash, co-founder of IsraelAmbassadors.com. “These students will go back to their campuses in a few weeks with the knowledge and content to be effective activists for Israel. They will refute the lies and propaganda against Israel on campus as proud Zionists,” he added.

Ohad Ben Ami, who was held by terrorists in Gaza for 491 days, urged the group to “raise their voices” and “remind the world that Israel’s hostages must be freed.”

Sam May of the University of Texas said: “With so much misinformation being spread and pressure to make Jewish visibility and support for Israel shameful, learning the truth firsthand matters now more than ever.” He added he was “looking forward to returning to campus with a clearer perspective and the tools to fight against antisemitism.”

Antisemitic incidents on college and university campuses rose last year more steeply than in any other location, according to the annual report on antisemitism by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). In 2024, ADL recorded 1,694 antisemitic incidents on college campuses, which is 84% higher than in 2023, and accounts for 18% of all incidents recorded that year, a larger proportion than in any previous audit.

The visitors toured the Nova Festival site, Sderot’s destroyed police station, and the Tkuma “car graveyard,” comprising vehicles destroyed at the Nova festival grounds. They also visited the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron and other sites of significance for Jewish history.

The visit’s schedule included a communications summit featuring Middle East expert Khaled Abu Toameh, a Senior Distinguished Fellow at the Gatestone Institute and a Fellow of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and JNS contributor.