

Student Name: _____ Passport: _____

Country: _____ Email: _____ Date: _____



AICAT – ARAVA INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL TRAINING

AICAT was established in 1994 with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Interior Office.

AICAT is located in southern Israel, in the heart of the Arava desert. Despite the arid soil, extreme weather, and limited natural resources – the Arava is the spearhead of modern Israeli agriculture. The success of the farmers in the Arava to turn the desert into an area that is a world leader in agriculture attracts students and researchers from all over the world who come to learn their secrets.

Since 1995, AICAT has had over 20,000 graduates who return home with new knowledge, skills, inspiration, and motivation to change their lives and the communities they live in.

INFORMATION ABOUT AICAT

Each year, AICAT accepts over 800 students, aged between 19 to 28 years old, from Asian and African countries to join our program: a multitude of nationalities, cultures, and religions with the same interest and goals.

The program spans up to one agricultural season, lasting up to ten months from August to June. During this time, students will reside on farms throughout the Arava region, where they will have the opportunity to learn advanced agricultural techniques directly from local farmers.

The farmers will be their mentors and each student will carry out a research project in the farm where they are based. The farmer will provide the students with accommodation and all the needed facilities.

GOALS OF AICAT

- Provide advanced agricultural knowledge and practical training that can be applied by our students and will assist them to improve farm management and yield outcomes.
- Participation in the building of human capital in developing countries by exposure of students to advanced agriculture knowledge and techniques.
- Creating and teaching of high-level study curriculum of applied agricultural and business academic knowledge.

ACADEMIC STUDIES

Studies take place at the AICAT campus in Sapir, where students study in groups of up to 50 people and a group leader. On the days they study, students travel to and from the campus by specially arranged transport paid for by AICAT.

The AICAT academic program is made up of four components:

- Agricultural Studies
- Agribusiness
- Food Security & Climate Change
- Professional Development and Personal Growth

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RESEARCH PROJECT

During their time at AICAT, each student will participate in a scientific research project. Each group will have a project supervisor who will help and guide them throughout the project.

The research project will be done in small groups of 2 to 4 students, from the same farm and the subject of their project will be chosen by the students together with the farmer and the project supervisor. The farmer will provide the land and all the tools required during the project.

The supervisor will hold two to three monthly meetings with the groups and guide the students through the process and methodology of their project until the final presentations of their research. The research project links the academic studies and the practical experience the students gain on their farms.

BUSINESS PLAN

During the lessons on Agricultural Entrepreneurship, the students will learn how to plan, write and submit a full business plan. Upon the completion of the class, the students will present the plans to their peers and lecturer.

PROFESSIONAL TOURS IN THE ARAVA REGION - INCLUDED IN TUITION FEE

Each student will participate in three or more of the following educational tours:

- Aquaculture tour to an ornamental fish farm
- Plant Protection Tour including pest control, R & D research, beekeeping & honey production
- Orchard Tour of grapes and mango farms
- Arava Open Day at R & D Center - tours of the experimental crops and of the exhibitions of cutting edge agriculture technologies and machinery
- Sustainable agriculture tour and workshop - Kibbutz Lotan in Southern Arava

TOURS OF ISRAEL - INCLUDED IN TUITION FEE

All students will get the chance to learn about Israel through tours led by certified tour guides.

- One day tour of historical Jerusalem
- Two day tour to the north of Israel and its historical sites
- One day tour of the Dead Sea

OPTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL TOURS

During the student's time at AICAT, students are given the opportunity to participate in additional tours, which are not included in the cost of the study program - such as educational tours outside of the Arava region, visits to religious sites, or winter trips to the snow.

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DIGITAL WALLET

Each student will receive a "Digital Wallet Account" - from which the students will pay all their tuition fees and flight fees directly to AICAT via standing order. The farmers will deposit the student's salaries, by the 10th of each month, directly into the digital wallet - allowing the student to have full control of their financial management.

Students upon arriving in Israel will receive a Cellcom Talkman SIM card, including a call and data package guaranteeing no delays in the setup of their digital wallets.

There is a one time fee for opening a "Digital Wallet Account" of 59.90 shekels which includes:

- An Talkman Cellcom SIM Card with an Israeli phone number that can receive calls and messages without loading the SIM card
- Up to 3500 minutes calls and 1500 messages within Israel per month (maximum 50 messages per day).
- 150 GB Data Package for internet use - with no charge for using selected popular applications such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and Messenger

After finishing the package, the SIM card can be reloaded or can be switched to another company.

TUITION FEES

Tuition is **11,500 NIS** including VAT, which will be paid in monthly payments.

The students will receive, in writing, the full details of these payments during their Orientation Day on their first day at the AICAT campus.

RETURN FLIGHT TICKETS

AICAT will organise and purchase on behalf of the students, return flights to their home countries.

To ensure that the student will have sufficient funds for their return flights, AICAT will collect, from October onwards **FIVE (5)** equal payments of **400 NIS** (a total of 2000 NIS) **in addition** to the tuition fee towards the cost of their return flights.

Once AICAT has purchased the tickets, the difference between the collected 2000 NIS and the cost of the return ticket must be paid by the student. (The cost of the tickets will vary according to the destination and date of the flight). If the tickets cost less than 2000 NIS, students will be refunded the difference.

AICAT AGREES THAT TUITION FEES & RETURN FLIGHT TICKETS WILL NOT BE PAID IN ADVANCE BUT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE STUDENTS AS A LOAN, TO BE PAID BACK BY THE STUDENTS BY STANDING BANK ORDER ALLOWING AUTOMATIC MONTHLY PAYMENT FROM THE STUDENT'S BANK ACCOUNT TO THE AICAT FOR THESE EXPENSES.

IT IS THE STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THEIR BANK ACCOUNT HAS ENOUGH FUNDS TO PAY THE ABOVE AMOUNT

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MEDICAL INSURANCE

- All students are covered by medical insurance, from the date of arrival to Israel until the end of the program and departure back home. The student will pay a third of this payment, as allowed by law, which will be deducted from their monthly salary and the farmer will pay the remaining amount.
- Insurance covers: emergency care, all ambulatory treatment: visiting a physician and treatment if needed, hospitalization if referred by a physician, and subsidized medications (according to the coverage for every citizen in Israel).
- **Treatments NOT covered:** Dental treatment, pregnancy, glasses, pre-existing illness, Specialist non-urgent treatment (such as plastic surgery for example)
- All students must be in good health upon arrival in Israel and must provide a medical certificate of their health, issued not more than 45 days before arrival in Israel, by a recognized hospital or medical institute
- AICAT has the right to refuse admission to students who do not pass their medical exam, and students who suffer certain medical problems - such as colourblindness, infectious disease and chronic illness will not be able to join the program.

TERMINATION OF THE PROGRAM PRIOR TO COMPLETION

AICAT has the right to terminate any student participating in the program as a result of the following:

- Violations of the Israeli law.
- Severe violations of the program student code of conduct (see following page) and or disregarding the staff's instructions regarding to their actions while at AICAT.
- Repeated absences from school days or work at the farm.
- Any kind of violence, gambling, drunkenness, use of drugs, etc.
- 48-hour absence from the farm or aicat program without a satisfactory explanation.

In these events, the student will have to pay AICAT their remaining tuition fee and the cost of their return flight tickets.

STUDENTS RIGHTS

Regarding labor regulations, see the attached explanation page: **"Rights Leaflet For Foreign Trainees In The Agricultural Sector Within The Framework Of The Foreign Ministry's Program" ("Zchuton")****

AICAT students stay in Israel is limited to agricultural education according to AICAT farm placement. Any other occupation, without any limitation, including during vacations, is forbidden.

***All rights are subject to change in accordance with any changes or updates in Israeli laws. Any conditions that appear in the Rights documents, that go beyond what is required by Israeli law, will not be necessarily granted.*

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STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Below is a list of basic regulations that we request are followed during the training program:

STUDIES

- Each student will be assigned to a group and group leader throughout the program.
- The group leader's role is to coordinate between students and the AICAT office. They are the direct address for all their student's needs, questions, or problems, and will report to the AICAT student coordinator, who is responsible for the student's welfare.
- The school day begins at 08:30 and ends at 16:00 - Lunch is from 12:00-13:00
- Students are expected to attend class and complete all assignments. Absence without a satisfactory explanation may result in the termination of the program.
- Class attendance is an individual student responsibility and students must be in attendance for the full day of study to be marked as present.
- Use (talk, play, write, etc.) of a cellular phone during class is prohibited.
- To receive a completion certificate, one must have at least a **90% attendance rating**.
- Recommendation letters will only be given after the students have graduated from the program, and in accordance with AICAT guidelines.

CAMPUS

Students are requested to follow the campus rules

- Keep the classroom and the student center clean and tidy.
- No smoking inside any of the campus buildings.
- No eating within the classroom.

TRANSPORTATION

- It is the student's responsibility to board the bus on time, according to their study schedule
- Proper behavior on the buses is obligatory.
- No smoking on the bus.



PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

- Alcohol and drunkenness are prohibited.
- All drugs and the sale and distribution of them are strictly prohibited and a violation of Israeli Law.
- Gambling is strictly prohibited
- Any forms of solicitation.

PRACTICUM

Students stay in Israel is limited to **agricultural training according to AICAT farm placement**. Any other job, without any limitation, including during any vacation time, is forbidden.

AT THE FARM

- All students must follow the farm procedures and regulations as presented by the farmer
- All work procedures and regulations must follow the law and safety regulations.
- Every farm has its own daily work schedule – the students are required to follow it.
- The farmer will transfer salaries to the students "Digital Wallet" by the 10th of each month
- Taking time off from work must be coordinated with the farmer beforehand.
- Students must inform their group leader if they plan to leave the Arava to travel.
- Any illness must be informed to the farmer as soon as possible. Ask the farmer for a doctor's or clinic appointment. Inform your group leader and ask for assistance if there is some difficulty communicating with the farmer.
- All equipment provided by the farmer will be returned when the project ends in good condition. Selling or giving away farm yield or equipment is not allowed.
- Any problem you encounter on the farm (work, money, social) please contact your group leader for advice or meet with the AICAT student coordinator in the AICAT office.
- Any transfer of the student between mentors will be with the approval of the center and the director and in accordance with the procedure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The student is responsible for their belongings - therefore it's not recommended to leave cash in the rooms. The farmer is NOT responsible for any money or item lost or stolen.

I understand the above conditions and will following them accordingly

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Signature: _____ Date _____

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ARAVA INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE TRAINING ADVANCED AGRICULTURE STUDIES PROGRAM 2023 - 2024

STUDENT STATEMENT

Full Name: _____ Passport Number _____

Place of study _____ Date: _____

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT:

- The training program is from August to the following June, (an agricultural season in the Arava), after which, I commit to leave Israel, and return to my country.
- I have not participated in any similar program in Israel before.
- During my stay in Israel I commit, to behave according to the training program's rules, according to student code of conduct within this document. I am aware that if I do not behave according to the rules, the training program's management has the right to terminate my participation in the program and send me back home.
- All the details regarding the costs of participating in the training program, including expenses in my country, expenses of AICAT and the cost of the return flight tickets were clarified to me as stated above in this document and I understand and accept them.

EXPENSES BEFORE DEPARTURE

- I understand that it is my responsibility to cover the expenses before departure from my country, such as one-way flight ticket to Israel, passport and full medical check-up etc...

EXPENSES IN ISRAEL

I understand that it is my responsibility to cover the following expenses through monthly payments which I will receive, in writing, the full details of these payments during their Orientation Day on their first day at the AICAT campus.

- Tuition Fee: 11,500 NIS (Vat included)
- Cost of Return flight ticket

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____



ARAVA INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE TRAINING ADVANCED AGRICULTURE STUDIES PROGRAM 2023-2023

RIGHTS FOR AGRICULTURE STUDENT IN ISRAEL:

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT:

AICAT has given the full information on my rights as an student of agriculture in Israel - which can be found here at <https://aicat.co.il/fsr/> - and by signing below i acknowledge this.

I also understand note some of the rights set forth in the "Rights leaflet" **are under dispute due being in excess** beyond those granted to an employee according to Israeli labor laws - including:

- **Convalescence pay:** According to law, an employee is entitled to convalescence pay only after completion of 12 employment month at the employer;
- **Severance pay:** According to law, an employee is entitled to severance pay only after completion of 12 employment month at the employer;
- **Annual bonus:** According to law the right to an annual bonus is established after completion of 6 employment months, while an hourly paid employee is entitled to a bonus in the amount of 4 NIS per each working day;
- **Subsistence allowance:** An hourly paid employee is entitled to subsistence allowance in the amount of 4 NIS per working day;
- **Holidays:** According to law, an employee is entitled to payment of holiday fees only after completion of 3 working months;
- **Leave:** According to law, an employee who was employed by the employer during part of a calendar year (January - December) is entitled to 12 leave days only if he has completed 240 working days during that year. If he worked less than 240 days during such calendar year, he is entitled to a pro-rata number of leave days according to the number of his working days.

In light of the above, the trainees' entitlement to **these rights is under dispute**, and there is a possibility that the rights specified above or any part thereof will not be granted to the trainees.

By signing this document you declare and confirm that you know and understand the possibility that you will not be entitled to receive the above rights or any part thereof or that you will be entitled to same only in a partial manner; that notwithstanding the above you have chosen to participate in the training program, knowing that it is possible that such rights will not be granted to you; and that you will have no demand or claim against the training center regarding this matter.

By signing below I also confirm that I am:

- Between the age of 19 to 28
- Have a background in agriculture
- Have a good command of the English language
- Have no criminal record
- Am physically and mentally fit
- Have not participated in a similar program in Israel

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Signature: _____ Date: _____