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**April 6, 2012**

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**Official Websites:**

<http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>

<http://arabic.jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>

<http://gaza.usvpp.gov>

<http://arabic.gaza.usvpp.gov>

**Social Media:**

[www.facebook.com/UsConGenJerusalem](http://www.facebook.com/UsConGenJerusalem)

[www.twitter.com/USCGJerusalem](http://www.twitter.com/USCGJerusalem)

[www.youtube.com/UsConGenJerusalem](http://www.youtube.com/UsConGenJerusalem)

**To subscribe to our Weekly Mailing list, please send an email to [UsConGenJerusalem@state.gov](mailto:UsConGenJerusalem@state.gov)**

**Thank You!**

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**Consul General Rubinstein Celebrates U.S. Support for Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem**



American Consul General Daniel Rubinstein: “March is International Women’s Month and, as such, we have held numerous events highlighting the achievements and potential of women. But, as the women who have used this hospital can tell you - every single day here at Holy Family Hospital is Women’s Day.

This hospital has used the assistance it has received from the United States and other donors to become a true Center of Excellence in maternal and newborn health which provides high-standard medical care for women and infants in the southern part of the West Bank. Holy Family plays an essential role in improving the lives of women by offering state-of-the-art care for high-risk pregnancies and premature babies.”

## [BWF Bazaar Showcases Palestinian Women Entrepreneurs](#)



On March 27, the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem partnered with the Businesswomen Forum (BWF) as sponsors of “The First Annual Bazaar for Palestinian Businesswomen and Entrepreneurs,” which showcased local handicrafts produced by Palestinian women entrepreneurs from throughout the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The bazaar was organized as part of the Consulate’s commemoration of Women’s History Month in March, bringing together more than thirty artists, merchants, designers, and manufacturers of goods, including traditional Palestinian embroidery, hand-made soap, jewelry, food products, ceramics, silk, and stone- and glass-ware.

Businesswomen from Gaza (members of the BWF) were also there, marking their first participation in a BWF-Consulate General event. The U.S. Consulate General’s Cultural Affairs Officer, Cynthia Harvey, welcomed the audience, emphasizing the importance of supporting women small business owners, and encouraged them to expand their businesses in the future. In addition, Ms. Harvey emphasized the U.S. Government’s commitment to promoting women and empowering them in all sectors, including a vital economic sector that will allow them to be active contributors to the Palestinian economy.

### [See Also:](#)

[Girl Scout Techies](#)

[مؤسسة إعلام نسائية تمكن الفتيات وتمنحهن صوتاً مسموعاً](#)

[U.S. Cultural Exchanges Empower Women](#)

[تمكين النساء من خلال برامج التبادل الثقافي الأميركية](#)

[Watch and Engage: White House Forum on Women and the Economy](#)

[حركة كشافة الفتيات تحتفل بالذكرى المئوية لتأسيسها مع عين على المستقبل](#)

# Education and Visas

## “Study in the USA” College Fair

On March 28, as part of the U.S. Consulate General’s ongoing outreach to students to encourage university study in the U.S., Consulate General staff participated in a Mini College Fair held at the Friends’ Boys School in Ramallah. Representatives from five American academic institutions presented at the fair, including Berkeley College in New York City, Minot State University in North Dakota, Delaware County Community College in Pennsylvania, University of South Florida, and the University of Michigan-Flint. More than 200 high school students, teachers and parents attended the College Fair.



The U.S. Consulate General’s Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer Erin Mai gave opening remarks on the importance of the international education experience for both American and Palestinian students. She also spoke about the U.S. university system, as well as described the variety of educational exchange opportunities funded by the U.S. Government. Consular Officers from the U.S. Consulate General followed Ms. Mai with information on the student visa process.



### See Also:

[Study Abroad Can Change Your Life — and Your Country](#)

## [The U.S. Consulate General and Ajyal Radio Team Up on “Ask The Consul” Radio Program](#)

As part of the U.S. Consulate General’s continued efforts to raise public awareness regarding overall consular services to Palestinian applicants and American citizens on best practices for applying for U.S. visas; travel to the U.S.; and American citizen services, the Consulate partnered with Ajyal Radio, the most influential radio station broadcasting out of the West Bank, to solicit “frequently asked questions” from the public on a special Facebook page designed for the new “[Ask the Consul](#)” program. Vice Consul Jeremy Berndt gave a 30-minute interview in Arabic during which he responded to questions tackling the process for filling out immigrant and non-immigrant visa applications, family reunification procedures, passport renewals, etc. Listen to the program [here](#)!



## **eJournal USA: Growing Up Green**

This issue of *eJournal USA* explores how young people are leading the way to a cleaner, greener, more sustainable future. From launching their own environmental organizations to developing alternative energy resources, today's youth have what it takes to make the world a better place. See articles below and click the title to see all the articles.

### **Youth Today Lead Today**

*Astrid Nicole Ng*

Youth are leading the way to a sustainable future by creating innovative solutions to global problems.

### **Top 10 Reasons to Go Green in 2012**

*Road to Rio+20*

This is the year for young people worldwide to campaign and act on local and global sustainable development issues.

### **Sustainable Societies Start with Youth**

*Ashley Rainey Donahey*

As the world grows older, young people are working to ensure a brighter, greener future for generations to come.

### **From Waste to Warmth**

A team of teenagers is turning wasted cooking oil into an alternative energy source for needy families in Rhode Island.

### **Sharing a Ride Reduces Traffic and Pollution**

Young entrepreneurs in Mexico encourage commuters to share rides to save the environment.

### **Indonesia's Sahabat Alam, Protecting the Earth**

Fifteen-year-old environmental activist Adeline Tiffanie Suwana proves one person can make a difference.

### **Lighting Up Rural Innovation in India**

Two young entrepreneurs use tractors to help rural students study after dark.

**See Also:**

**[NASA Offers Virtual View of Global Climate Change](#)**

**[Video: Bike for the Environment](#)**

**[Video: One Act](#)**

**[Video: Water Purity Beeswax Indicator 2012](#)**

**[Video: Beyond Waste Challenge](#)**

**[Video: Green Roof 2012](#)**

**Photo Gallery: [A Changing Planet](#)**

**[مؤشر شمع النحل لتحديد نظافة المياه في يوم الأرض 2012](#)**

**[يوم الأرض: قوالب وقود من قشور الفول السوداني](#)**

**[إحياء يوم الأرض عام 2012 بسقوف خضراء](#)**

## Visa Processing Fees to Change on April 13, 2012

Effective April 13, 2012, the Department of State will adjust visa processing fees. The fees for most nonimmigrant visa applications and Border Crossing Cards will increase, while all immigrant visa processing fees will decrease.

The Department is required to recover, as far as possible, the cost of processing visas through the collection of application fees. For a number of reasons, the current fees no longer cover the actual cost of processing nonimmigrant visas. The nonimmigrant visa fee increase will support the addition and expansion of overseas facilities, as well as additional staffing required to meet increased visa demand.

Although most categories of nonimmigrant visa processing fees will increase, the fee for E visas (treaty-traders and treaty-investors) and K visas (for fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens) will decrease.

### **Nonimmigrant Visa Processing Fees**

Type of Visa	Previous Fee	New Fee
Tourist, Business, Transit, Crew Member, Student, Exchange Visitor, and Journalist visas	\$140	\$160
Petition-Based visas (H, L, O, P, Q, and R)	\$150	\$190
Treaty Investor and Trader visas (E)	\$390	\$270
Fiancé(e) visas (K)	\$350	\$240
Border Crossing Cards (age 15 and older)	\$140	\$160
Border Crossing Cards (under age 15)	\$14	\$15

Because of a reallocation of costs associated with immigrant visas, all categories of immigrant visa processing fees will decrease.

### **Immigrant Visa Processing Fees**

Type of Visa	Previous Fee	New Fee
Immediate Relative and Family Preference Applications	\$330	\$230
Employment-Based Applications	\$720	\$405
Other Immigrant Visa Applications	\$305	\$220
Diversity Visa Program Fee	\$440	\$330
Determining Returning Resident Status	\$380	\$275

The proposed fees were published in the Federal Register today, and will take effect in 15 days. To view the interim final rule, visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Comments will be accepted until 60 days after publication. At that time, the Department will consider the public comments, and the published final rule will include the Department's response to any comments received.

Fee information may also be found on the Bureau of Consular Affairs website, [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov), and on the websites of U.S. embassies and consulates.

[The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem Announces the 2012 International Writing Program](#)

**Deadline: *Today, April 6, 2012***

The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) is pleased to announce the International Writing Program (IWP) for 2012. In partnership with the University of Iowa, this program offers a ten-week residency in Iowa City that brings together a wide range of international and U.S. writers to examine current trends in literature. IWP provides a unique intercultural experience for established writers who have achieved literary distinction in their own countries, as well as for rising stars who have demonstrated literary talent, broad appeal and/or an interest in contributing to the creative writing culture in their home countries. The residency in Iowa City will tentatively begin on August 25, 2012, and end on November 13, 2012.

The international writers will spend ten weeks in residence at the University of Iowa in Iowa City presenting their work to local audiences, working with translators, and participating in university level classes and workshops. This aspect of the program will help participants bring their countries' literary works to a wider audience and learn more about U.S. literature. The 2012 program will feature increased opportunities for writers to participate in optional collaborative projects with artists from other disciplines, including theater and dance. The residency will also include field trips to attend literary events. Participants will travel for a total of 10 days within the United States to meet with local writers and collaborate with artists in other fields.

**Application Deadline and inquiries: Please submit your CV and a 10-15 page writing sample in English or English translation by *today, April 6, 2012***

[The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem Announces the 2013 Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant \(FLTA\) Program](#)

The U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) are pleased to announce the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program for FY 2013.

The Fulbright FLTA Program is a nine-month non-degree program that provides young teachers of English an opportunity to refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency, and extend their knowledge of the society and culture of the United States. FLTAs work as teaching assistants for their native language (Arabic) to U.S. students, thus strengthening foreign language instruction at U.S. colleges and universities. Fulbright FLTA participants also interact with their host communities in conversation groups, extracurricular activities, and community outreach projects. Fulbright FLTA participants must return to their home countries upon completion of the program.

**Deadline: July 30, 2012.**

## International and Regional News

[Secretary Clinton After Meeting with Syrian National Council](#)

[مقتطفات من تصريحات وزيرة الخارجية كلينتون يوم 27 آذار/مارس 2012 حول سورية](#)

[Secretary Clinton Announces \\$12 Million More in Aid to Syrians](#)

[تقديم معونات أميركية إضافية للسوريين بقيمة 12 مليون دولار](#)

[Secretary Clinton, Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister on Iran, Syria](#)

[تصريح لوزيرة الخارجية كلينتون عقب اجتماعها مع المجلس الوطني السوري](#)

[Ambassador Rice After U.N. Security Council Briefing on Syria](#)

[تصريحات السفيرة رايس بعد المؤتمر الصحفي لمجلس الأمن الدولي حول سوريا](#)

[Fact Sheet on Additional U.S. Humanitarian Aid for Syrians](#)

[بيان حقائق لوزارة الخارجية حول تبادل المعلومات للمحاسبة في سورية](#)

[Secretary Clinton on New U.S. Assistance to Tunisia](#)

[بيان حقائق عن المساعدات الإنسانية الأميركية الإضافية للشعب السوري](#)

[U.S., Tunisia Enhance Trade and Investment Ties in Tunis Talks](#)

[وزارة المالية الأميركية تسلط ضوءا على القمع في سورية](#)

[وزيرة الخارجية كلينتون تعلن عن مساعدات أميركية لتونس](#)

[Briefing on U.S. Sanctions on Iranian Oil-Related Transactions](#)

[تعزير العلاقات التجارية والاستثمارية بين الولايات المتحدة وتونس](#)

[White House on Situation in Sudan](#)