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**Arava Alumni Presentation Guide**

This guide is designed to help you organize your presentation about the Arava Institute.

The goal of your presentation should be to get students excited about all that the Arava Institute has to offer! Remember to pass out a sign-up sheet so students can request additional information.

**Introduction**: What is the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies?

* The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies is an environmental academic and research institute, located in Israel. It offers semester and yearlong study abroad options for undergraduates.
* The Arava Institute is the ***only institution*** that brings together students from Israel, Palestine, Jordan, the US, and other countries for up to two years.
* The Arava Institute’s mission is to prepare future young leaders from around the world to cooperatively solve the Middle East’s environmental challenges.

**The Academics:**

* **The Arava Program** is a one or two semester undergraduate study abroad program
	+ Students maintain a full course-load in environmental studies including environmental ethics, policy and economics, ecology, and sustainable development.
	+ Students also participate in a weekly peace-building and leadership seminar where they talk about issues of race, religion, identity, and the current political situation
	+ At the Arava Institute, students explore the environmental and cultural complexities of the region through educational field trips in the surrounding desert landscape and urban centers.

**A Multicultural Environment:**

* At the Arava Institute, students participate in the most open, honest, and groundbreaking dialogue happening between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East.
* At the Arava Institute, students are immersed in an extraordinary community committed to challenging societal norms by transcending political and social boundaries.
* At the Arava Institute, students grapple with the many narratives that comprise the history, politics, and culture of Israel.

**Your Experience:**

**The basics:**

* Describe what drew you to the Institute
* Describe your favorite thing about living with students from different backgrounds
* Describe your favorite class

**Describe an average weekday:**

* Classes
* Lunchtime in the dining hall
* Your independent project, if applicable
* Evening activities

**Describe hands-on experience at the Institute:**

* Field trips
* Your independent project, if applicable

**Describe extracurricular activities:**

* Hiking, sports, traveling
* Culture Night
* Various holidays

**Take Away:**

* What impacted you most about your experience?
* Why would you encourage others to look into studying abroad or interning at the Institute?

**Q&A:** *See attached FAQ document for answers to common questions*