



The Olive Tree Initiative's third student group to travel to the Middle East since the group was founded, pictured above before embarking on their journey. Photo courtesy of Social Sciences.

- Founded in 2007, OTI has raised more than \$350,000 to fund their dialogue and experiential education work
- OTI has been highly lauded for their efforts; awards and honors received include:
 - U.S. Summit for Global Citizen Diplomacy and State Department recognition as a Top Citizen Diplomacy Program
 - Inaugural UC Office of the President Award for Outstanding Leadership
 - UCI Anteater Award for Best International Organization
 - Paul Delp Peace Award
 - Orange County Human Relations Commission Community Leader Award
 - UC Irvine Living our Values Student Team Award

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The Olive Tree Initiative is a religiously and ethnically diverse group of UCI students who promote education and dialogue on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Each year, a group of OTI students travels to the Middle East where they hear perspectives from academics, religious authorities, community leaders, politicians and activists who live in the region. The mission of the journey is to gain knowledge beyond second hand information and mainstream media reports and to bring what they learn back to the campus and community.

investigate

Throughout the year, OTI hosts events on and off campus in synagogues, churches, mosques, retirement communities and community centers to share their experience. The group hosts weekly campus dialogue sessions, monthly community forums and an annual education week and UC-wide student leadership summit.

innovate

OTI now has active groups operating on UC campuses in Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and Los Angeles with additional branches in the works at other UC campuses and universities nationwide. OTI's work served as the foundation of the new UCI undergraduate certificate program in conflict analysis and resolution which offers students academic credit for work leading up to and following their Middle East trip. The program's first graduates are already working at NGOs and in politics in the Middle East and the U.S. The students also inspired an annual experiential learning community trip to the Middle East.

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