

תנועת בני עקיבא העולמית
WORLD BNEI AKIVA

TORANI

HACHSHARA

תשע"ג

2012-13

Welcome to the world of Hachshara!

Bnei Akiva inspires and empowers Jewish youth with a deep commitment to the Jewish people, the Land of Israel and the Torah. Its members strive to live lives of Torah va'Avodah, combining Torah learning and observance with active contribution to the Jewish people and society.

For more than 80 years, our Hachshara programmes have played a part in shaping and training the future leaders of Bnei Akiva and Jewish communities around the world.

Your gap year is when you can devote specific time to Jewish learning, and Hachshara is designed to help you make the most of that time. And you'll find that being on Hachshara is a learning experience itself – you'll find out more about Israel, pick up Ivrit and grow as a person.

Our team

Bnei Akiva has a highly qualified administrative and educational staff in Israel, looking after the programmes and participants on a daily basis.

- Qualified resident leaders (madrachim) – among them, Israelis on their second year of National Service – accompany you, guiding and advising you throughout your year in Israel.
- The programme co-ordinator (rakaz) is responsible for the logistical and educational implementation of the programme. He visits you regularly and maintains close contact with the madrichim, your local Bnei Akiva, and your parents.
- Educational mentors – a young family – look after your welfare needs. As experienced graduates of Bnei Akiva, they help to guide you individually so that you gain the most out of your year.



Torani

is a year of learning Torah in some of the best learning centres that Israel has to offer.

During the times when you are not at Yeshiva or Midrasha, we'll provide a varied schedule of activities letting you really live and feel the pulse of the Land of Israel.

Various volunteer options, together with workshops about current Jewish and Israeli issues, will complement the educational goals of Torani.

You'll be more independent than you've ever been in your life, yet you can relax in the knowledge that your needs are being looked after.





Yeshivat Eretz Hatzvi

is in the Katamon neighbourhood of Jerusalem, and places emphasis on teaching the skills to enable students to become independent in their studies. Featuring prominently in the schedule are Gemara, Tanach, Halacha and Machshava classes. While the curriculum is devoted to Limmudei Kodesh, the Yeshiva is sensitive to issues that students face during their growth process in Israel, and that they will encounter in their subsequent university years.

www.yehatzvi.org



Yeshivat Hakotel

overlooks the Western Wall, and aspires to give students the opportunity to learn Torah in an Israeli yeshiva environment, fostering a true love of Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael and Torat Yisrael through intense learning and interaction with Israeli students. With an extensive staff, the Yeshiva offers multi-level Gemara classes, Halacha, Machshava and Tanach shiurim, as well as special guest lectures on varied topics.

www.hakotel.org.il



Midreshet Harova

is located in the heart of the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, and is one of Israel's leading seminaries. The Midrasha offers an ideal setting for students to achieve spiritual and intellectual growth in a religious Zionist framework. The open intellectual environment, combined with the wide variety of teachers, is particularly attractive to the creative student interested in exploring a range of ideas and approaches.

www.harova.org



Midreshet Yeud

in Jerusalem is ideal for girls who are equally motivated to learn Torah and to grow spiritually through giving.

There are classes three days a week, studying texts and discussing contemporary issues, complemented by two days of giving back to Israeli society, volunteering with a variety of chessed organisations. These include hospitals, homes for the disabled, schools and soup kitchens.

www.midreshet-yeud.org.il



Enhancing your year in Israel

Preparing to Lead

We believe in the importance of developing Jewish leadership around the world. You'll be introduced to leaders of the past, inspired by leaders of today, and gain practical skills to help you be the leaders of the future. By the end of Torani, you'll be prepared to be a leader in Bnei Akiva and in the wider community.

Out of the Ashes

The Holocaust Seminar will look at the Shoah from many different angles, including the relationship with the foundation of Israel, how survivors were treated in Israel, the partisan forces, and roles of the Zionist youth movements during the time of the Shoah.

Zionism Today

An in-depth journey into Israeli society where you will explore the challenges that exist in the country today, and understand what Zionism meant to previous generations. You'll meet people from all shades of the spectrum. Politicians, the media, the army and other connected organisations will present their take on life in Israel.

The Kibbutz Experience

Before Pesach, you'll have an inside perspective on an alternative Israeli lifestyle. Working alongside kibbutz members, preparing for Pesach, you'll share duties in the factories, kitchen, dining hall or childcare facilities. This period culminates with the group Seder night – a highlight of the year – where you'll share stories, customs and songs from around the world.

Celebrating Shabbat together

Shabbat Ha'irgun

Shabbat Ha'irgun is the highlight of the year for members of Bnei Akiva in Israel – and you'll be joining one of the local branches of BA to share in the celebrations, and getting to know your Israeli counterparts. Shabbat Ha'irgun in Israel is the culmination of a month of celebrations, which includes a special ceremony at which the new shevet name is revealed.

Shabbat Hachshara

Torani isn't the only Hachshara programme. There are loads more from all over the world! On Shabbat Hachshara, everyone joins together to enjoy Shabbat. There will be around 300 people from every continent, and while you might not all speak the same language, you'll all have one thing in common – you are all part of Bnei Akiva.

Group Shabbatot

Every few weeks, Torani will reunite to spend Shabbat together. We choose the venues carefully so that you'll enjoy Shabbat against a backdrop of some of Israel's most beautiful settings. You'll sing, share Divrei Torah, and enjoy meals together – all while seeing much more of Israel.

Yeshiva and Midrasha Shabbatot

Shabbat at your Yeshiva or Midrasha is an integral part of your year experience, and will strengthen your bond with your rabbis and the other students. From time to time, your Yeshiva or Midrasha will have a Shabbat away, and you'll be inspired by your teachers as well as by the location.



Your questions answered

Why Hachshara?

Hachshara is the Bnei Akiva programme! It sounds obvious, but you rely on Bnei Akiva to support and help you whilst in Israel and you can trust us to create a programme tailored to people from a Bnei Akiva background. Hachshara is geared towards what you, individually, want from your year in Israel and allows you the security and enjoyment of being part of a group sharing the same experiences.

Which programme should I go on?

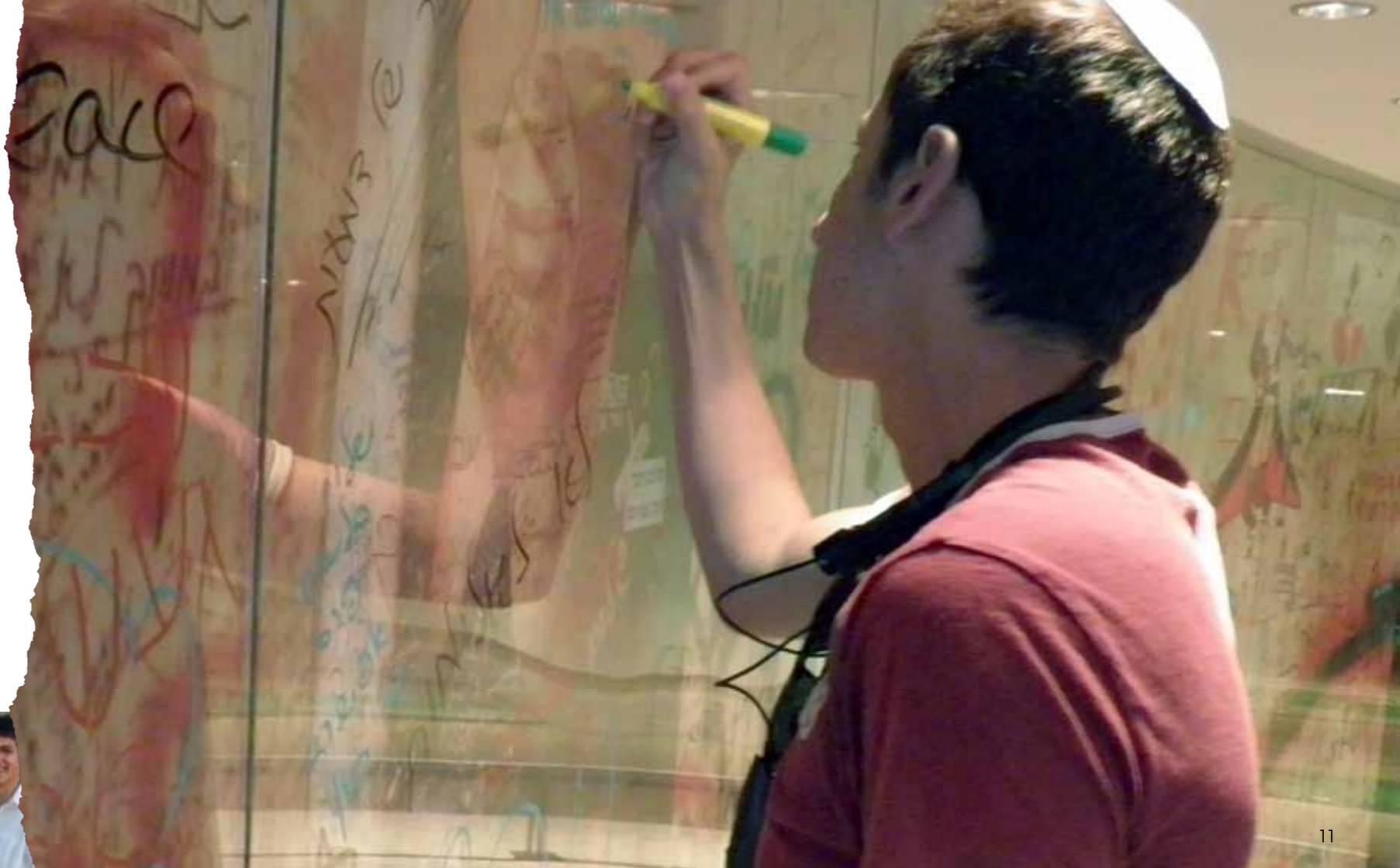
It is a challenge deciding how to spend a gap year. You should weigh up what you're hoping to get out of your year and decide which programme best suits your aims. If you wish to discuss your options with us, or ask any questions, we're always happy to help. If there's anything you'd like to ask the current Hachshara, we'll be happy to put them in touch with you.

Will I see my friends on other programmes?

Yes! There are times when the different Hachshara groups are together, even though your real group relationship will be with those on your own programme. You'll also have ample free time and free Shabbatot to make your own plans and arrange visits to those on other programmes and at other Yeshivot and Midrashot.

What will the learning be like?

You've almost certainly never learned in the way you will on Hachshara, but don't worry. First of all, most people will be in the same boat. As long as you are motivated and do as much as you can, you will be able to look back at your year with pride and with the knowledge that you realised your potential. It's not only the amount of time spent learning but what you learn in that time that is important.



In their own words



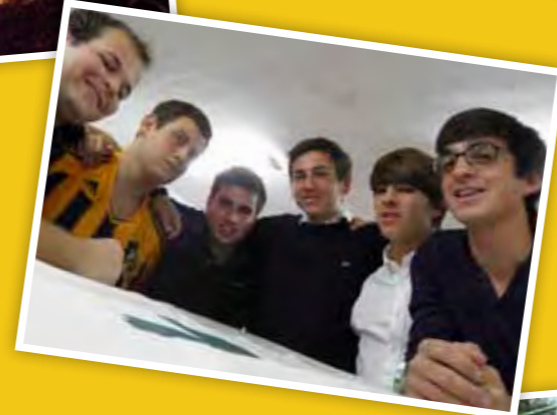
"I'm living, learning and loving Israel, and on Torani I'm meeting people from all over the world!"

Josh Pyzer



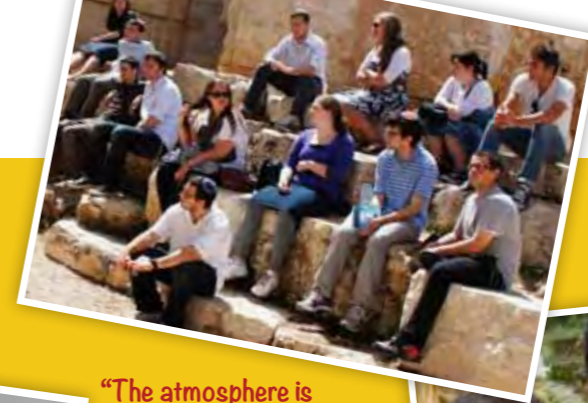
"A huge thank you for giving Sophie the most wonderful year ever! She has grown in independence, in her love for Israel, and in her love for learning. The wonderful memories will live with her for ever."

Alison and Andrew Mazin



"The atmosphere is amazing, and being with BA maintains the British bonds that I might have missed, while also creating new friendships with people from across the globe."

Neal Kesztenbaum



"Torani has been such a fantastic part of Benjamin's year in Israel. Its success is clearly down to all the work and enthusiasm that you have put into it and to the time that you have taken to look out for each of the participants."

Sharon and Ian Silverblatt

"Thank you for making Emma's year in Israel such an amazing experience. Torani definitely added an extra dimension to her year, doing such wonderful things which she would not have otherwise done. We can really see the benefits of Torani!"

Karen and Jonnie Dorman



"There's nothing like learning about the Jewish story in the place where it all happened. I'm gaining so much from the year, even when I'm not in the Beit Midrash."

Shira Hill



How to apply

Application process

Apply online at www.hachshara.org. This website will also have the latest information about our programmes. Once you have begun the application process, you can sign back in as many times as you like to continue the application. A medical form, which has been signed and stamped by a doctor, must accompany the application.

Cost

The cost of Torani is set by the individual yeshivot and midrashot, and payment is made directly to them. It includes tuition, as well as the Bnei Akiva (Torani) seminars, tiyulim and group Shabbatot. There is an additional administration charge of £750 made to Bnei Akiva UK which covers the cost of flights and any pre-Hachshara seminars.

The payment plan will be discussed in private meetings with a representative of the yeshivot and midrashot. Please be aware that all costs are subject to change based on the exchange rate and participation levels.

Interview

After we receive your application, you'll be invited for an interview with a representative of the yeshiva or

midrasha. Your interview allows them to get to know you a bit better and assess your suitability for Torani. It will also give you the opportunity to ask them any specific questions you may have.

Bursaries

Hachshara is a Masa-recognised programme. Masa is a project of the Government of Israel and the Jewish Agency for Israel, which has a Scholarship Fund that will give assistance based on financial need. Please read the information carefully and apply online at www.masaisrael.org.

The Yoni Jesner Foundation offers scholarships to assist students wishing to spend a year in Israel. Visit www.yonijesner.org for details.

There are also various trust funds in your community. For details of these, and of the bursaries available from Bnei Akiva, please speak in confidence to Sharon Kenley on 020 8209 1319.

University applications

The value of gap year activities is widely acknowledged and most universities will allow you to apply for deferred entry. It is a good idea to include details of your proposed gap year in your personal statement to support your application.



TORANI at a glance

Ellul	Yeshiva/Midrasha Torani Opening Shabbat
Tishrei	Succot Seminars
Cheshvan	Yeshiva/Midrasha
Tevet	Shabbat Ha'irgun
Shevat	Shabbat Hachshara
Adar	Shabbat HaGevura
Nissan	Kibbutz Shoah Seminar
Iyar	Yeshiva/Midrasha Torani Closing Shabbat
Sivan	

All information in this booklet is subject to change.



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There is no Torah like the Torah of Eretz Yisrael