



YEAR COURSE

YOUR YEAR - YOUR FUTURE



About Young Judaea

The year was 1909. Tel Aviv, the first modern Hebrew city, had just been founded on the sand dunes north of the ancient port of Jaffa, and the first kibbutz – Degania – was established on the shores of the Galilee. A multitude of Zionist movements were becoming passionate about a new era – a time of strengthening the land of Eretz Israel, exploring new avenues of Jewish culture and tradition, and the unity and cooperation of Jewish people around the world.

This was the year that Young Judaea was born, with the aim of advancing the cause of Zionism, furthering the mental, moral, and physical development of Jewish youth, and promoting pluralistic Jewish culture and ideals.



“GOING ON YOUNG JUDAEA’S YEAR COURSE IN ISRAEL WAS
ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS I’VE MADE IN MY LIFE”

- DAVID TAYLOR





About Year Course

Young Judeaea's Year Course is the oldest gap year program in Israel, offering participants the opportunity to live in Israel for nine months and gain up to 30 college credits. Together with academic studies, participants strengthen their independence, maturity, and positive value systems, building the skills to thrive and succeed in college, both socially and academically.

Since 1956, our mission at Year Course has been to lead and pioneer Zionist, Judaic, pluralist, activist and leadership education to inspire within our participants a sense of belonging and commitment to the Jewish people and state of Israel. Whether Year Course is your first, or one of countless, experiences with Young Judeaea, these nine months are packed with opportunities for engagement, exploration, adventure, and understanding.

Discover an Israel that you haven't seen, connect with your peers and your history, learn the language, culture, and complexity of Israel, all while earning up to a full year of college credit! Make friends from around the globe, volunteer, engage, explore, and aim to give back as much as you gain from this experience.

Breaking Down Year Course

Year Course contains three primary components: A volunteering element in Tel Aviv-Yafo, an academic semester in Jerusalem, and Special Interest Period which takes place in various locations. Approximately half the Year Coursers begin in Tel Aviv-Yafo and half in Jerusalem, switching mid-way through the year.

**“YEAR COURSE WAS THE BEST YEAR OF MY LIFE. I
DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED MY HEBREW AND HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT MANY HISTORICAL SITES THAT I
HAD ONLY READ ABOUT BEFORE. I MET SOME OF MY BEST
FRIENDS WHO I TALK TO ON A REGULAR BASIS.
I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER WITH MDA WHICH
WAS THE MOST FULFILLING VOLUNTEERING I HAVE DONE.
YEAR COURSE IS AN UNBELIEVABLE EXPERIENCE, I
RECOMMEND IT TO EVERYONE.”**

- JONNY LEFKOWITZ

Jerusalem Academic Semester

Jerusalem - rich in history, culture, and tradition, and the heart and soul of the Jewish people! The capital and political center of Israel, Jerusalem is the ideal location to host our academic semester. Our participants study and enrich their knowledge of Israel's history, by having the unique opportunity to live, learn, and be inspired by the magic of Jerusalem's 3,000-year-old history, and yet, as ancient as Jerusalem is, it is also thriving, modern, and ever evolving - much like our participants on Year Course.

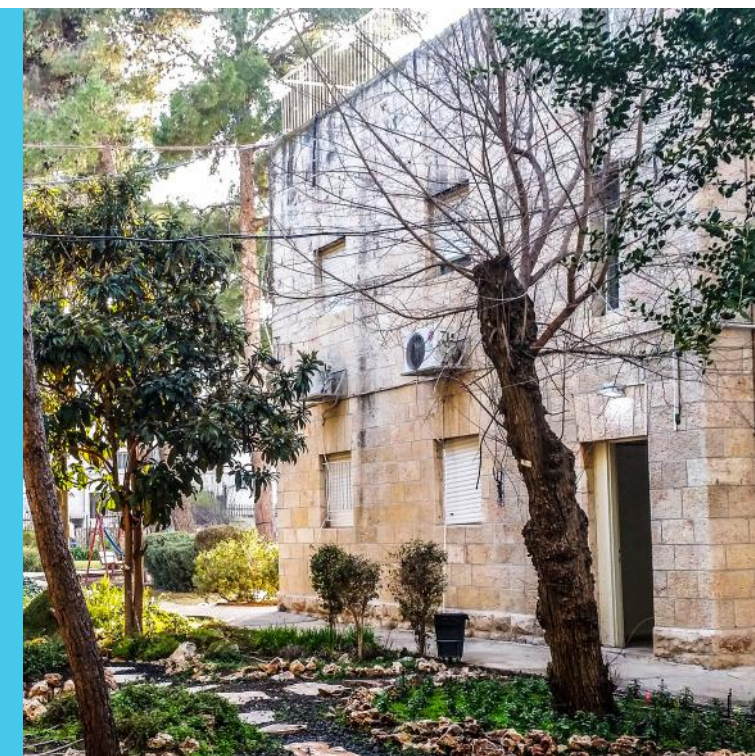
During this semester, participants explore Israel's complex political and social issues, Jewish history, Judaism, and art through classes, workshops, and tours. Classes are offered in partnership with the American Jewish University in Los Angeles, which is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Different types of courses include:

- Siyurim (Excursions)
- Hebrew Language Classes
- Judaic, Zionism, and Israel Studies
- College Writing

Apartment Living at Beit Ar El, Baka, Jerusalem

During the Jerusalem Academic Semester, participants share apartments on our beautiful campus located in the Baka neighborhood. Quaint and popular, Baka is mostly residential while still close to downtown. Within walking distance to shops, cafés, parks, and public transportation, our students have everything at their fingertips.



Tel Aviv-Yafo Volunteer Semester

An important tenet of Young Judaea philosophy is tikkun olam (repairing the world). Our Volunteer Semester provides participants with this essential and rewarding experience of giving back to our communities.

There are various placement options, such as teaching in a school, volunteering in a soup kitchen, or training to be a first responder paramedic with Magen David Adom! Participants can also challenge themselves in Marva, a 2-month IDF boot camp. The ultimate Israel experience, Marva pushes Year Coursers to test themselves while experiencing the beauty and challenges of Israel through the eyes of the IDF.



Co-Op Living at Beit Hillel

The most cosmopolitan city in Israel, known for its culture, nightlife, and social action – we could not dream of a better place for our Volunteer Semester than Tel Aviv-Yafo. A city with endless possibility, activities, and vibrant history, it's an exciting location to also give back to the community and further strengthen the bond to Israel.

Participants live in a co-op building in the Montefiore neighborhood of Tel Aviv, just a short trip to the beach. With such nearby places as Rothschild Blvd, one of Tel Aviv's most beautiful and iconic streets, Habima, Israel's national theater, Sarona Market, and Azrieli Shopping Center, there is never a shortage of activities in the heart of Tel Aviv-Yafo!

Whether in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv-Yafo, participants are sure to have whatever they need close by, with access to laundry machines, gyms, libraries, stores, parks, cafés, and synagogues.



Special Interest Month

During the last month of Year Course, we give our participants the opportunity to create their own Israeli Adventure by offering the option to design their own curriculum. It's one thing to be part of and follow a program, and it's another to make it your own! Whether they prefer to do a different activity each week or commit to an internship for the month, our participants have options that will provide them with new skills, boost their resumés, and feed their wanderlust.

Some options include:

- Backpacking Israel's famous Sea-to-Sea Hike, spanning from the Mediterranean to the Galilee.
- Shadow a Member of the Knesset. Learn directly from the members themselves about politics in Israel.
- Intern with an Israeli company. As "THE Start-Up Nation," our partner companies have a wealth of knowledge and expertise to share with those interested in learning about business initiative and entrepreneurship.
- Spend some time at the beach and learn to surf from some of the best instructors in Israel and the world!

AND SO MUCH MORE!

“LIVING IN ISRAEL FOR THE YEAR WAS FUN BUT ALSO MEANINGFUL. I DISCOVERED NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, HIKED THE COUNTRY, AND IMPROVED MY HEBREW. THIS PROGRAM IS GREAT FOR ANYONE WHO IS LOOKING TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT AFTER HIGH SCHOOL AND WANTS TO HAVE A MATURING, THOUGHTFUL, AND FUN YEAR.”

- NICKI AVIEL



Sample Course List

Jerusalem Term

- The Zionist Idea
- The Jewish Idea
- The Jerusalem Idea
- Information and Communication
- Psychology of the Self
- Hebrew Class
- Torah Yoga/Jewish Meditation
- Jewish Elective
 - Jewish Art
 - Hebrew Bible
 - God Talk
 - Jewish Sociology

Tel Aviv Term

- Hebrew Class
- Contemporary Issues in Israeli Society
 - The Tel Aviv Idea
 - Minority Communities

International Community

Year Course provides a true international experience. Participants have the opportunity to live with Israelis and Jews from around the world, along with Israeli members of the Tzofim (Scouts) and a group from the UK through our sister organization, Federation of Zionist Youth (FZY).

Making these connections gives our participants a deeper understanding of the melting pot that is Israel. Living with Israelis their own age makes Israel real on a personal level. Participants gain invaluable insight from interacting with real families and the connections they make, adding a new dimension to their experience in Israel.

Specialty Tracks

Please note that the Speciality Tracks and International Trips listed below could change due to factors outside of Young Judaea’s control.

Not only does Year Course allow you to customize your year by choosing classes and programs, we also offer specialty tracks and add-ons that give you the chance to truly make this year your own!

Specialty tracks give you the opportunity to form an intimate group of like-minded friends within the larger Year Course community, and to enjoy extracurricular activities related to topics of your choice. You’ll meet with experts, participate in workshops, take in lectures, and go on trips related to your track.



Business Track

On Young Judaea’s Year Course Business Track, you will gain an insider’s look into the business world by meeting professionals with in-depth knowledge of the Israeli Start Up scene, visiting a wide range of companies and belonging to a group who are just as driven as you are!

Past Business Track highlights include:

- Meeting with leading hi-tech industry professionals;
- Visiting a variety of Israel-based global businesses, such as Intel, Google, Astra-Zeneca, Soda Stream, and more;
- Participating in business workshops to learn project management, giving the perfect pitch, and developing business ideas with different types of entrepreneurs;
- Visiting Israeli centers of business and finance such as Bank HaPoalim, Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, and the Israel Diamond Exchange;
- Overnight trips to the North and South of Israel to enjoy what the boutique tourism industry has to offer, and much more!

Business Track participants will participate in weekly enrichment activities throughout the year, as well as two overnight trips, and are eligible for two extra college credits.



Tiyul-Outdoors Track

Year Course Tiyul-Outdoors Track offers a unique opportunity for you to explore the land of Israel up close. During the program you will travel throughout the country, get to know the extraordinary nature of the land, and connect with your friends and Israel through challenging outdoor experiences.

Past Tiyul-Outdoors Track highlights include:

- Hiking in the different environs of Israel and exploring the exceptional; characteristics and landscapes;
- Learning about the various types of plants, flowers, and animals unique to each area of the country;
- Challenging yourself on Israel’s most beautiful hikes;
- Spending nights sleeping under the stars;
- Learning important outdoor skills such as camping, navigation, outdoor cooking, and more!

The Tiyul-Outdoors Track will go on approximately six to seven hikes in addition to the regular Year Course hikes.

Medical Track

The Young Judeaea Year Course Medical Track is an interactive educational program coupled with hands-on experience (for those who choose to volunteer with Magen David Adom). Meet leading health professionals, work with Israeli paramedics, participate in tours and workshops, and find out what it takes to save others.

Past Medical Track highlights include:

- Learning about what it takes to become a top medical professional from Israel's best;
- Experiencing Israel as a world leader in medical practice, research, and technology;
- Becoming familiar with humanitarian issues and aspects of Israel and Jewish contemporary life;
- Studying Jewish medical ethics and seeing their effect in Israeli hospitals; participants are also eligible for two college credits.
- Participating in weekly enrichment activities throughout the year, as well as two overnight trips.

* A basic level of conversational Hebrew (you will need to pass a Hebrew oral test prior to the beginning of the program) is required for participating in the MDA volunteering portion.



Arts Track

The Arts Track of Year Course is designed to give you maximum exposure to the vibrant visual and performing arts scene in Israel through an array of visits, tours, and experiences within the community of Jewish and Israeli artists, while encouraging you to grow your own artistry. You will have the opportunity to meet with some of Israel's leading artists as well as up-and-coming talent, and to develop your skills and gain a better understanding of all aspects of the classical arts, including voice, dance, and theater, along with painting and sketching.

Past Arts Track highlights include:

- Participating in workshops, including glass design, pottery, improvisation, photography, etc.;
- Meeting artists and learning about their crafts: ceramics, print, photography, and other exciting fields;
- Visiting Israel's leading galleries and museums to explore contemporary Israeli art.
- Seeing Mayumana (Israeli Stomp!) and learning body drumming straight from the source;
- Visiting Ein Hod, and artists' village next to Zichron Ya'akov
- Seeing Israeli rock concerts and dance performances

Prior experience with visual or performing arts is recommended, but not required, to participate in this program. Those who want to explore the field just for fun, those who want to challenge themselves while sharpening their artistic abilities, and those considering a possible future in performing or visual arts will be a perfect match for this program!

“THROUGH THIS PROGRAM, WE ARE LEARNING HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE LEADER, HOW TO GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT THERE, AND HOW TO BEST CONVEY YOUR MESSAGE”

- ARIELLE ZOKEN



Sports Track

The Sports Track of Year Course is designed to enable participants to develop their personal level of fitness while enjoying various types of group sports, as well as partaking in a wide range of sports activities.

This track includes an array of visits, tours, and hands-on sports experiences, weekly enrichment activities throughout the year, and two overnight trips.

Past Sports Track highlights include:

- A gym membership for the duration of Year Course;
- Meeting Israeli Olympians like Gal Friedman (gold medal windsurfer) and professional athletes like Tal Brody (Israeli basketball legend);
- Training with professionals and athletes to learn about new fields;
- Experimenting with extreme sports like kite surfing, rock climbing, mountain biking, pole vaulting, and more;
- Cheering on the local teams at live soccer matches and basketball games;
- Competing in the Jerusalem Half-Marathon

Special Packages

Shabbat Package

Shabbat Package

Delight in an exuberant Simchat Torah in Tsfat with joyful dancing through the ancient streets and synagogues of the city. Eat Shabbat dinner with warm and welcoming families around Israel. Hear a captivating concert on Motzei Shabbat. Participate in meditation workshops and delve into lively discussions about Judaism. Take a hike on Shabbat and discover different parts of this beautiful country. Find out what Shabbat is like on a kibbutz. Join a special seminar about Jewish law and debate topics like gender equality, technology, and more. Shabbat Package participants enjoy approximately five extra weekend seminars throughout the year.

Examples of seminars from past years:

- Simchat Torah in Tsfat
- Ein Gedi on the coast of the Dead Sea
- Shabbat in the Golan Heights
- Shabbat on the banks of the Kinneret



Discover a Jewish community virtually unknown to the world – China

Meet with young Jews living in Beijing, see the old synagogue in Shanghai, visit the Israeli consulate and learn about Israel’s diplomatic relationships, all while taking in the traditional sights, sounds, and flavors of Chinese culture and history. Weave your way between two people’s surprising journey together as you uncover the history of Chinese Jewry.

Past Highlights include:

- Walk along the Great Wall of China
- Visit the Beijing Moishe House
- Meet with young business leaders at IBM/Lenovo
- See Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City
- Shabbat dinner in Shanghai with locals



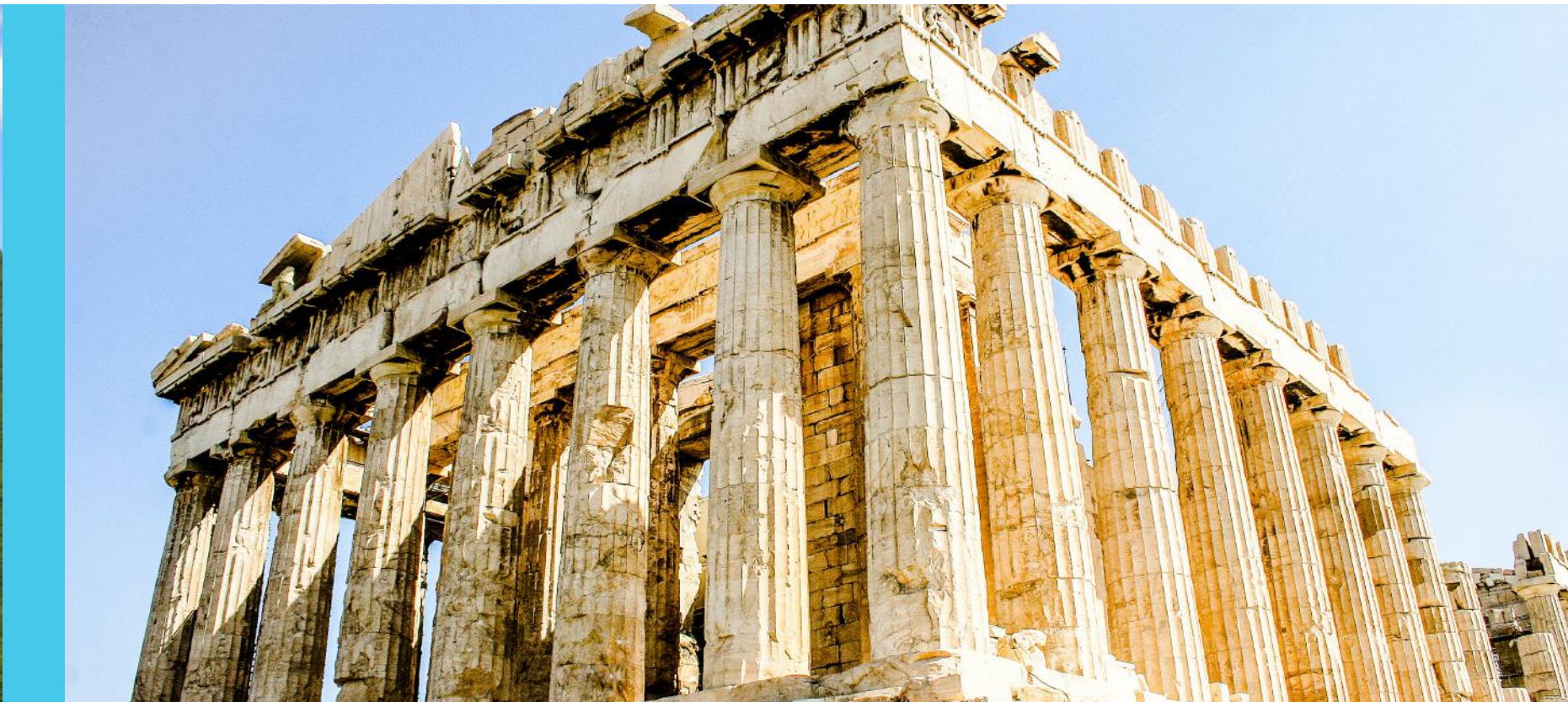
Year Course Olami - Greece Package

Year Course Olami - Greece

On the Year Course Olami Trip to Greece, we follow the remarkable story of Greek Jewry while travelling Greece’s dramatic mountains, sandy beaches, Hellenistic culture, and history. We will take in the tranquil atmosphere and taste the country’s Mediterranean-flavored culture, while travelling its beautiful landscapes.

Past Trip Highlights include:

- Hike up Mt. Olympus
- Take a tour of the famous Acropolis and the Theater of Dionysius
- Visit Athens Stadium and Hadrian’s Arch
- See the Thessaloniki White Tower



Year Course Olami - Morocco Package

Year Course Olami – Morocco

On the Year Course Olami Trip to Morocco, we focus on the experience of the Moroccan Jews who have lived under Muslim rule since the 7th century and created a unique and rich heritage. We visit Casablanca, Morocco’s largest metropolis and one of Africa’s major economic centers, stroll around the colorful markets of Marrakesh, take in the breathtaking views of the Atlas Mountains, and gain an insight into the exotic Moroccan Jewish culture.

- Past Trip Highlights include:
- Take a tour of Casablanca
 - Shop for souvenirs around the Marrakesh markets
 - Tour the Jewish Quarters of Meknes and Fez
 - Visit the Atlas Mountains
 - Visit the Royal Palace and the Mausoleum of Mohammed V



Year Course Olami Package - Kuma / Poland

Kuma, the Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf Hadassah/Young Judaea Holocaust Studies Program, is an optional one-week journey to Poland that offers Year Course participants unique opportunities to learn and understand about this complex time in our history.

- This enriching and meaningful experience has three main goals:
- To explore the rich heritage of Eastern European Jewry, and to find its relevance in our lives today;
 - To explore the events surrounding the Holocaust through a Zionist lens and bear witness to the tragedy of the Shoah;
 - To understand our responsibility as young Jews today in the world in which we live, and to look towards the future.

Year Course Olami Package - Tikkun Olam / Rwanda

Live, learn, and volunteer at the Agahozo Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda!
Agahozo Shalom was founded by Year Course alumna Anne Heyman z”l, in order to provide 500 Rwandan orphans and youth-at-risk with a home and education. Anne believed in the power of tikkun olam (repairing the world) and aimed to replicate Israel’s successful system of youth villages for orphans in Rwanda.

Learn: As part of Tikkun Olam Rwanda, you will delve deeply into Rwanda’s complex history of genocide and healing, learn about its rich culture, and study Jewish texts related to activism and social justice during intense preparatory sessions in Israel throughout the fall. While in Rwanda, you will continue to study these topics through learning sessions and hands-on experiences throughout the country.

Volunteer: Before embarking on your trip, you and your peers will raise funds for the village by leading fundraising events and inviting your family and friends to contribute to the cause. Once you arrive in Rwanda, you will volunteer at the village farm and kitchen, tutor students in English, lead workshops, and participate in after school activities, such as art, music, dance, photography, sports, and more. You and your peers may also work on a large hands-on project for the village, such as a mural or garden, throughout your stay.

Travel: You will visit the country’s most beautiful and significant sights: the Akagera National Park where you will have the chance to see giraffes, zebras, hippos and more; Lake Kivu where you will hike in Rwanda’s famous green hills, swim in the clear lake, and learn about the local fishing community; Kigali where you will visit the Genocide Memorial Museum and learn about this painful event in Rwanda’s history; and local markets where you can see Rwandan crafts and fabrics and taste local tropical fruits.



“IT’S HARD TO PUT SUCH AN INCREDIBLE AND MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE INTO WORDS - I MADE A VERY LAST MINUTE DECISION TO NOT GO TO COLLEGE AND TAKE A YEAR TO FIGURE OUT WHAT I WANTED. YC PRESENTED SO MANY AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES I KNEW I COULD NOT FIND ANYWHERE ELSE. BETWEEN THE PEOPLE, THE TIYULLIM, THE IMMERSIVE LEARNING. I WAS ABLE TO BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT AND CONFIDENT FROM THAT YEAR ALONE. EVER SINCE I CAME HOME THIS PAST MAY, I CAN HONESTLY SAY MY ONLY FOCUS HAS BEEN HOW I CAN MAKE MY WAY BACK TO ISRAEL.”

- NATALIE SPECTOR

Year Course – Additional Information

The Year Course application is similar to a college application: we request an official high school transcript, an autobiographical essay, and two letters of recommendation. The application is online through our website.

Info Sessions / Speak to a Year Course Alum

Throughout the year, Young Judaea sends staff around the United States to host informational sessions about Year Course. This gives you the opportunity to meet in person, learn more about the program, and have all your questions answered. Please let us know if you're interested in putting a session together in your community!

Want to hear about the Year Course experience first hand? We'll connect you with an alum - contact our office for more information at yearcourse@youngjudaea.org

Alumni

Joining Year Course gives you the opportunity to become part of over 10,000 alumni around the globe. Once a Judaeen, always a Judaeen, and this has proven true throughout the 60+ years of Year Course!

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- ARIELLE ZOKEN

Religious policy

Young Judaea is a pluralist organization and that philosophy holds true with Year Course. Over the years, Year Course has had participants from all across the Jewish spectrum. Though we do not conduct t'fillot, there are plenty of local synagogues and are happy to provide information about the many options or connect you to the synagogues and communities of your choosing. Some years participants organize weekly Shabbat activities, and the Shabbat atmosphere varies with the personality of any given group: sometimes they go to services more often, sometimes it becomes common practice to host each other for Friday night dinner complete with blessings and traditions.

All activities run by Year Course staff are Shabbat friendly. Any food provided by Year Course staff for activities is kosher by local hechsher, and all Year Course kitchens are equipped for kashrut. It is entirely possible to keep kosher on Year Course and there are a variety of ways that we make this possible in a pluralist environment.

Chofesh & Free Time

Participants have a winter break, which is traditionally toward the end of December. They also have a spring break during Passover, and typically students travel within Israel or abroad during these breaks. They are welcome to use their Year Course room as a home base during this time if needed. If they are planning a trip outside of Israel during their break, parents will need to fill out a Travel Release Form and email it back to our Enrollment Center.

During their daily and weekend free time, most participants take advantage of the opportunity to further explore their city or travel to another.

Scholarships

Hadassah

Young Judaea and Hadassah bring combined efforts in offering need-based scholarships to Year Couse applicants. Two rounds are held before the start of the program, one in mid February and the other in early April. You may apply for one of these rounds online through our website.

MASA

MASA is an organization funded by the Jewish Agency for Israel and the government of Israel to help fund people who want to go on Israel programs. You can apply for their grants and needs-based scholarships through their website: www.masaisrael.org

Community Sources

Jewish Federations, synagogues, Jewish Community Centers, and other community organizations have provided numerous scholarships for Israel programs. Should you require financial assistance, we encourage you to seek out and contact these funding sources early, as deadlines do exist.

“ON YEAR COURSE, I WAS AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER WITH MAGEN DAVID ADOM FOR A SHORT PERIOD. MDA WAS NEVER SOMETHING I SAW MYSELF BEING ABLE TO DO. I KNEW I WANTED TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN ME, BIGGER THAN ANYTHING I HAVE EVER BEEN INVOLVED IN, SOMETHING WORTHY OF NOT JUST ME BUT OTHERS AROUND ME. THE EXPERIENCES AND FRIENDSHIPS I’VE MADE HAVE LEFT AN EVERLASTING IMPACT ON MY LIFE AND CHANGED ME AS A PERSON. MDA HAS REALLY TAUGHT ME TO APPRECIATE LIFE. IT SHOWED ME HOW TO BE A PART OF A TEAM, HOW TO BE A LEADER AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, HOW VALUABLE A PERSON CAN BE...INCLUDING ME!”

- ADI GENOSAR

Jewish National Fund’s “Plant Your Way to Israel” Program

Plant Your Way to Israel allows students to raise money for their trips to Israel, and help Israel at the same time. Students ask their families and friends to make donations in support of JNF’s forestry projects in Israel. Half of all the funds raised will go towards JNF projects, and the other half is held in an account for the student to be used for their trip.

Additional Ideas

www.studyinisrael.org - this link takes you to a multitude of additional scholarship resources.

Safety & Security

The safety and security of Year Course participants is our primary concern. Young Judaea has a designated security officer and committee that constantly review and update our security procedures. We consult with the Head of Security of the Israeli Society for the Protection of Nature – the agency responsible for field trips throughout the country. That consultant is in daily contact with all of Israel’s security services. We also receive, in real time, all security alerts posted by the Security Department of Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and its subsidiary company, The Israel Experience. Young Judaea may at times take security measures that are in advance of and/or exceed those recommended by JAFI or the Israeli security authorities.

We require all participants to have a working cell phone sim card through Israel Phones, which allows for location tracking for security purposes only, and to be in touch with participants immediately in case of any emergency.

Get in Touch

Email: yearcourse@youngjudaea.org
Phone: From Abroad: 1 (866) 599-2534 In Israel: 02-632-2821

“MY SON, SIMON MANN-GOW, IS FINALLY HOME WITH SO MANY PICTURES AND STORIES. HE LOOKS OLDER AND WISER AND TALLER. HIS EXPERIENCE WITH YOUNG JUDAEA WILL HELP CREATE INFORMED DECISIONS AS TIME GOES ON. THE PRACTICAL SKILLS OF TRAVEL, EMBRACING OTHER CULTURES, EXPANDING YOUR COMFORT ZONE AND BEING FAR AWAY FROM YOUR REGULAR FAMILY WILL ALL SERVE HIM WELL FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE. THANK YOU AND ALL THE OTHERS WHO MADE THIS SUCH A PRICELESS EXPERIENCE!”

- NEALE GOW

Year Course: Past, Present, and Future

Much has happened since Young Judaea began in 1909. Our association with Hadassah began in 1936, when Hadassah passed a resolution urging all its chapters throughout the United States to help Young Judaea succeed. In 1967, Hadassah took over sole sponsorship of Young Judaea and worked diligently to promote youth empowerment projects in Israel and America.

Under Hadassah’s patronage, Young Judaea grew to become the largest Zionist youth movement in the United States. During this important time in US and Jewish history, Young Judaea took on Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) as a fundamental pillar, becoming involved in the American National Civil Rights and Soviet Jewry movements and helping local communities across the country.

In 2011, Hadassah voted to move Young Judaea toward organizational independence. And now, the journey continues and we continue to grow and strengthen. We are excited to see where the next century will lead us!

Young Judaea is different today from its early years. Today, there are over 10,000 Year Course alumni, many of whom have drawn upon their Year Course experiences as leaders of Jewish organizations, non-profits, innovative businesses, political movements in both the U.S. and Israel, and a wide variety of fields.

Through the years, Young Judaea has maintained our ideals and our commitment to Judaism and Zionism and continues to bring change to the world and a future of promise to the Jewish people. We are a global community of passionate Jews, empowered to lead both in Israel and America.



Some of our favorite moments in Young Judaea history include...

1909 - Young Judaea is officially born as an organization, made up of multiple Zionist clubs from around the United States

1948 - Camp Tel Yehudah, Young Judaea's senior leadership camp, is founded

1956 - Young Judaea establishes its Year Course Program, which eventually becomes the largest gap year program in Israel

1963 - Young Judaea becomes the only Jewish youth group to send an official delegation to the Civil Rights March in Washington, D.C.

1968 - Young Judaea opens its first campus in Israel, at Beit Riklis in Mount Scopus

1973 - Kibbutz Ketura is founded by Young Judaea graduates looking for a stronger commitment to Zionism after the Six Day War

1993 - Young Judaea gathers over 8,000 signatures on a petition to the Clinton Administration calling for more U.S. involvement on behalf of Israeli soldiers missing in action

1997 - Young Judaea formalizes partnerships with its two sister movements – the Tzofim in Israel and the Federation of Zionist Youth in Great Britain – to create Atid, in order to strengthen the connection between Jewish Zionist youth in Israel and the Diaspora

1998 - Young Judaea publishes a Continuity Study showing that 95% of Young Judaea alumni married other Jews

2005 - After Hurricane Katrina, Young Judaea launches "Caravan 4 Katrina": four truckloads of food, clothes, and toys from the Northeastern and Southeastern US collected and delivered to those in need in time for Thanksgiving.

2009 - Young Judaea moves to its new campus at Beit Ar El in the Baka neighborhood of Jerusalem

2011 - Young Judaea becomes an independent organization, becoming a "103-year-old start up"

2016 - Young Judaea celebrates 60 years of the Year Course Program

2017 - Young Judaea opens its new Beit Hillel campus in the heart of Tel Aviv.

2018 - Young Judaea St. is formally recognized by the City of Tel Aviv for over 100 years of contributions to the city and to Israeli society.

AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO A BRIGHT AND EXCITING FUTURE FOR YOUNG JUDAEA AND THE YEAR COURSE PROGRAM, WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US AND WRITE YOUR OWN FUTURE!

TO GET IN TOUCH

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HADASSAH
the power
of women
who **DO**

