

MAKE THIS YEAR YOUR YEAR. YEAR COURSE.



WHY YEAR COURSE

What is a Gap Year?

Travel Study Volunteer Intern Fun

Young Judeaea Year Course is all of this and more.

Year Course is the oldest gap year program in Israel, engaging participants in nine months of living in Israel within the pluralistic framework that defines our mission. Through college-credit eligible academics, meaningful volunteering, and a wide variety of special interest options, our participants strengthen their independence and values while experiencing the modern culture, society, and history of Israel.

ASK A YEAR COURSER

Ari Abramson, Year Course 2013-14

"I created a life for myself in Israel, made many new friends, and learned the ins and outs of the country. I was able to form a connection with Israel that I didn't even feel was possible."

Natalie Spector, Year Course 2016-17

"It's hard to put such an incredible and memorable experience into words. Year Course presented so many amazing opportunities that I could not find anywhere else. Between the people, the trips, and the immersive learning I was able to become more independent and confident."

Jonny Lefkowitz, Year Course 2014-2015

"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 volunteer work I have done. Year course is an unbelievable experience, I recommend it to everyone. "



year Course 23



Tel Aviv beach!

THE PROGRAM

TEL AVIV the white city



Israel's cultural capital, Tel Aviv-Yafo is the heartbeat of modern Israel, home to hi-tech, music and theater, incredible food, beautiful beaches, and some of the most important sites in modern Israeli history. During the Tel Aviv semester, participants make a meaningful difference in Israeli society through a wide variety of volunteer options - whether working in an urban greenhouse, advocating for refugees, or teaching in a school, there exists a vast array of rotating placement options to fit every interest and cause.

Over the semester, Year Coursers get to know Tel Aviv as locals, touring with guides and experts in the city's colorful markets, exploring its many unique neighborhoods in depth, digging into the vibrant arts scene, and of course, hitting the beach.

In addition, the Tel Aviv semester includes a number of courses and optional tracks:

- Marva, a 2-month IDF boot camp
- MADA paramedic course
- Volunteering on Kibbutz Ketura
- Internships in specialized areas
- Ulpan, an intensive Hebrew-language course
- The Tel Aviv Idea: a hands-on exploration of the city's places, people, and history
- Minorities in Modern Israel: an immersive experience

THE PROGRAM

JERUSALEM the holy city



There is no city in the world like Jerusalem, the historical heart of the Jewish people for centuries. Rich in culture and tradition, Jerusalem is the ideal location for our academic semester. The classroom comes alive in the capital and political center of Israel, where participants study and enrich their knowledge of Israel's history with the unique opportunity to live, learn, and be inspired by Jerusalem's 3,000-year-old history.

Year Coursers engage with the city through a series of immersive tours with licensed tour guides and program educators. In addition to in-depth exploration of the ancient sites, there is special emphasis placed on learning about Zionism, Jewish Peoplehood, and politics, as well as the different religions that call Jerusalem home. Through visits to a diverse collection of communities, Year Coursers come to understand what it is that makes Jerusalem one of the holiest cities in the world.

Year Course's academic semester course offerings can include:

- Jewish Theology and Folk Music (JST 104Y)
- Jewish Art (ART 103)
- Bible & Western Culture (JST 301)
- Religion, Society and the Individual (COR 302)
- Introduction to Hasidism (JST 335)
- The Jewish Idea (COR200)
- Torah Yoga / Jewish Meditation
- Sociology of the Jewish People (JST 361)

THE PROGRAM

SPECIAL INTEREST month



The last month of Year Course is the opportunity to build your own Israeli adventure. With an ever-expanding list of options, participants take 3-4 weeks to pursue a personal passion, find a new interest, and enjoy what the country has to offer. Year Course staff works with each participant to make their month a truly personalized and exciting end to their Year Course experience.



Past options have included:

- Backpacking Israel's famous Sea-to-Sea Hike
- Shadowing a Member of the Knesset
- Interning with an Israeli company from the "Start Up Nation"
- Spending time at the beach and learning to surf
- Exploring Israel's world-class museums and artist workshops

"I knew I wanted to be a part of something bigger than me. The experiences and friendships I've made have left an everlasting impact on my life and changed me as a person."

Adi Genosar, YC 2013 - 2014



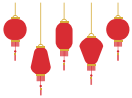
TRACKS & TRIPS

FIND YOUR PASSION



With half a dozen international trips, Year Course is a truly global program, offering once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to explore the world.

China



Connect with Chinese-Jewish culture in Beijing and Shanghai while touring the world's most populous nation.

Morocco



The trip focuses on the experience of the Moroccan Jews who lived under Muslim rule since the 7th century, creating a unique culture.

Rwanda



Live, learn, and volunteer for three weeks at the Agahozo Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda, founded by Year Course Alumna Anne Heyman, z"l



Kuma Poland



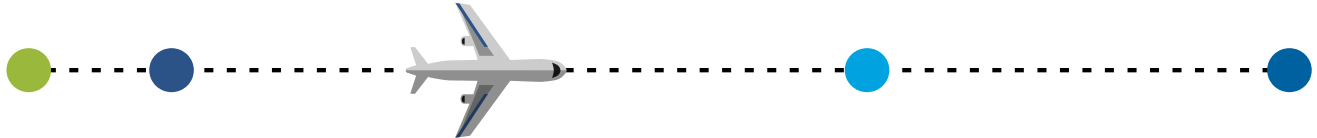
The Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf Hadassah/Young Judaea Holocaust Studies Program is a one-week journey to Poland in which participants examine the Holocaust through a Zionist prism,

"Our trip to Poland on Year Course was a once in a lifetime experience"

David Solovy, YC 2015 - 2016

Specialized Tracks

FIND YOUR PASSION



Specialty tracks give you the opportunity to form an intimate group of like-minded friends within the larger Year Course community. You'll meet with experts, participate in workshops, take in lectures, and go on trips related to your track. Tracks are subject to change based on interest

MEDICAL

An interactive educational program coupled with hands-on experience on the ground. Meet leading health professionals, work with Israeli paramedics, and participate in tours and workshops to find out what it takes to help others. A basic level of conversational Hebrew is required for participating in the Magen David Adom volunteering portion.



BUSINESS

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. Business track participants will join weekly enrichment activities throughout the year as well as two overnight trips and are also eligible to receive two extra college credits.

"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 for something different"

Nicki Aviel, Year Course 2015-2016

Specialized Tracks

FIND YOUR PASSION

CAMP COUNSELOR FELLOWSHIP

Young Judeaea, with the generous support of the Avi Chai Foundation, has created the Camp Leadership Track of Year Course. The exclusive track prepares participants to return to their respective camps and communities having developed and practiced high-level leadership skills along with specialized Israel-related knowledge and programming. Through the track, participants will sharpen their lens with training and skills to become future leaders of Jewish summer camps and Israel education in North America. The Camp Leadership Track guides participants through an inspiring journey in Israel, which will allow them to articulate the Israel story they wish to convey at camp.



WEEKLY SESSIONS

During half of the year, the Camp Track meets weekly for two-hour sessions led by the track director. Sessions have included:

- Camp 101
- Leadership Styles
- Program Design
- Case Study: Flying the Palestinian Flag at Camp?
- Staff Communication
- Emotionally Intelligent Leadership
- Leadership & Language
- Working With Shlichim

SELECTION AND COMMITMENT

The selection process for the Camp Leadership Track is competitive, 12th Graders:

- 1) Apply for nomination by their camp director
- 2) Work at their nominating camp the summer before Year Course begins.
- 3) Give a one-summer (full summer) commitment to their camps, following Year Course



Specialized Tracks

FIND YOUR PASSION

CAMP COUNSELOR FELLOWSHIP

WEEKLY SESSIONS

During half of the year, the Camp Track meets weekly for two-hour sessions led by the track director. The weekly sessions provide the space to unpack their Year Course experience, develop their leadership tool-box, and explore camp-specific content



"Year Course Camp Fellowship taught me that I'm capable of being a good counselor, a good leader, and a good person."

Molly Kramer, YC 2017- 2018



REQUIRED SEMINARS

- Israel Education Seminar
- The Jewish Agency For Israel's Shlichim Seminar
- Sikkum Seminar
- Leadership Retreat
- Camp Director Day

WHAT DO I GAIN FROM THIS FELLOWSHIP?

You will gain the skills and knowledge to stand out as a leader and team leader that has a unique Israel education background. You will also receive a monetary scholarship, applied to your Year Course tuition, as well as an increase in your summer camp salary. This Fellowship is exclusive, which makes it an excellent bullet point on your resume

STUDENT LIFE

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

Year Course is a pluralist program for Jewish participants on a wide spectrum of religious observance.

All food provided by Year Course is certified kosher, and on the rare occasion that mandatory programming is held on Shabbat, relevant laws are observed. Participants commonly gather on Friday night for communal meals and can choose whether to personally observe Shabbat. In both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, there are a wide range of options for daily and weekly prayer, though there is no regular required prayer on Year Course. Our staff will gladly work with participants of all backgrounds to meet their religious needs.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The safety and security of participants is paramount to the Year Course experience. With a designated security officer and committee that constantly reviews and updates our security procedures, Young Judaea consults with the Israeli Society for the Protection of Nature – the agency responsible for field trips throughout the country – who are in daily communication of Israel's security services. Young Judaea may at times take security measures that are in advance of and/or exceed those recommended by the Israeli security authorities if it is felt necessary.

INDEPENDENCE

As adults, Year Course participants are afforded a high level of personal freedom. Aside from program-related obligations, Year Coursers are free to explore their cities, travel throughout the country on most weekends, tour abroad during winter and spring breaks, and generally enjoy the same independence they would experience on a college campus. In exchange, participants are expected to attend all classes, volunteer shifts, and mandatory trips and events.

Year Course maintains a zero tolerance policy regarding the use of drugs, including both the misuse of prescription drugs as well as the use of illegal drugs. As the legal drinking age in Israel is 18, our participants of age are legally allowed to consume alcohol. We continuously educate about responsible drinking, with the expectation that participants will act responsibly.

DATES & RATES



BASICS

- September 7, 2019-May 24, 2020
 - Cost: **\$25,950**
 - Application deadline: July 2020
 - Cost does not include flight to and from Israel
- All MASA-eligible participants receive an \$800 grant, regardless of need. Needs-based MASA grants are available, with certain requirements.
 - Generous scholarships are available from a number of organizations. Please visit our website or contact an enrollment specialist for more information.

"Going on Year Course in Israel was one of the best decisions I've made in my life."

David Taylor YC 2016 - 2017

TRACKS

- Business **\$1,200**
- Medical **\$1,200**
- Shabbat **\$750**
- Camp Fellowship



TRIPS

- Olami: Morocco **\$2,700**
- Olami: China **\$3,200**
- Kuma: Poland **\$2,200**
- Tikkun Olam: Rwanda **\$3,650**