

ISRAEL CONNECTIONS/EXPERIENCES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Los Angeles Hillel Council: In Partnership with the Israel Connections/Experiences of The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and The Jewish Community Foundation

Los Angeles Jewish Federation's Israel Connections/Experiences (IC/E) has grants available in partnership with Los Angeles Hillel Council (LAHC) for participants going on recognized Israel programs which include educational, touring and peer components. These grants were developed to encourage Jewish students to participate in Israel experience programs. Hillel serves as the conduit for students to access these funds. There are three different types of funds available, and these may be combined where applicable.

Who Should Apply Through Hillel?

1. Applicants for IC/E-Hillel Financial Assistance must be:
 2. College students (undergraduate or graduate/professional) enrolled at LAHC campuses (including Cal Poly Pomona, Caltech, Claremont Colleges, CSUN, LMU, Moorpark College, Occidental College, Santa Monica College, Pierce College, UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, University of Judaism, USC, Valley College); or
 3. College students from other schools who are permanent residents of the Los Angeles Federation's service area; or
 4. High school students applying for an Israel program that will take place after high school graduation.
5. Applicants may not have received prior funds from IC/E. **Former Birthright Israel participants are not eligible.**
6. Adults (ages 18-26) who are not enrolled as college students.
7. There are no additional qualifications for applicants for Partnership Grants. Other forms of financial assistance do have additional qualifications.

Who Should Not Apply Through Hillel?

1. **If you have participated in Birthright Israel, you are not eligible for a Partnership or Need-Based Grant.**
2. Students who do not attend one of the above colleges and who are not permanent residents of the Los Angeles Federation's service area.
3. IC/E grants will not fund private vacations, visits with family, internships, or programs that are not peer based. IC/E grants will generally not fund programs that have only a short portion of time in Israel or Jewish programs taking place outside Israel.
4. High school students who are not graduating seniors and are not affiliated with IC/E's synagogue or organizational partners should apply through the Jewish Community Centers.

Partnership Grants:

1. Los Angeles Hillel Council and its campus units are IC/E Partners and as such encourage IC/E participation, facilitate financial aid requests and serve as the contact point with Jewish college students.
2. Students whose families are affiliated with a synagogue or organization that is also an IC/E Partner (list available from IC/E) should consider applying for a Partnership Grant through that institution. Students can only receive one grant from the IC/E during their post high school years. Those partners are required to provide an additional 25% of the amount of the IC/E grant (Hillel, as a Federation agency, does not provide this 25% match).
3. A Hillel professional must sign all applications. Students attending LA-area schools with a Hillel professional should contact their campus Hillel. Students attending schools with no Hillel professional, schools outside the LA area, graduating high school seniors, or non-students ages 18-26 should contact Saul Korin at (323) 761-8555 x 105.
4. Partnership Grants are only available to offset the cost of programs costing more than \$3,000 not including airfare or personal living expenses (unless these are integrated into the cost of the program).
5. Partnership Grant checks are made payable only to the organization running the Israel program, not to the individual applicant. A letter confirming the Partnership Grant amount will be sent to the applicant.
6. IC/E Grants will fund the cost of the program itself, and will include airfare as part of the program cost only if the airfare is paid by the Israel program. Personal expenses cannot be included in the program cost.
7. **All Partnership Grant applications must be accompanied by an \$18 application fee. Checks should be made out to "UJF" and will be considered a donation to the United Jewish Fund in the hope that it will serve as the beginning of a lifetime of support of Israel and the local Jewish community.**
8. **Applications for Partnership Grants should be submitted at least 4-6 weeks prior to the program departure date (note: the deadline for all summer programs is May 31). The deadlines for Need-Based and other Financial Assistance are different. Please see next page.**

Need-Based Grants

1. Students who seek Need-Based financial assistance should complete the “Need-Based” application pages.
2. Attach your parents’ most recent tax return (1040 or equivalent) if they claim you as a dependent, or your own tax return if they do not. If your parents are divorced, please submit both of their tax returns. If your parents claim you as a dependent and one or both parents are self-employed, they must also submit an income & loss statement and, if required by IC/E, an income statement.
3. The IC/E Committee awards Need-Based grants according to established criteria including income, commitment to finding other support, family size, and expenses. Grant amounts range from \$250 to \$1000.
4.

Deadlines	Program Season	Program start dates
February 1	Spring	March 1 through May 31
April 1	Summer	June 1 through August 31
July 1	Fall & Year-Long programs	September 1 through November 30
October 1	Winter	December 1 through February 28
5. **Deadlines are strictly adhered to. If a student misses a deadline, they cannot apply in the next cycle.**

Interest-Free Loans from the Jewish Free Loan Association

1. You must be either a full-time student or employed full-time.
2. Loans are completely interest-free and have no administrative fees.
3. Loan amounts and repayment plans are determined on a case-by-case basis. Most loans are for up to 50% of the cost of your program, up to a maximum of \$5000.
4. Two co-signers are required.
5. Applications are reviewed individually on a weekly basis.
6. **This application form cannot be used for these grants. Please call Jewish Free Loans at 323-761-8830.**

Marks & Brown Fellowships

1. Fellowships are for college graduates and are specifically designed for graduate and post-graduate yearlong intensive study in Israel.
2. Criteria include financial need, academic achievements and plans for involvement in the Jewish community upon return from Israel.
3. Each year, up to six Fellowships of \$2000 are awarded.
4. Complete the Need-Based portion of application form, and enclose tax return documentation as described above.
5. On separate pages, briefly answer the following:
 - Describe your previous academic and/or professional achievements.
 - What are your academic and/or professional goals during your year-long study in Israel?
 - Outline your academic and/or professional plans when you return and how you plan to be involved in the Jewish community.
6. Enclose two letters of reference for admission to your program. Copies of letters already written as part of your program’s application process are acceptable. Also enclose one copy of your current college academic transcript.
7. All applications are reviewed together one time per year. **Applications are due July 1.**

Otzma

If you wish to apply to OTZMA, the United Jewish Communities’ leadership program in Israel, contact the IC/E College Coordinator at (323) 761-8345, or by e-mail at latoisrael@jewishla.org, for a special application. OTZMA grant amounts and criteria are different from those listed above.

For more information about qualifying programs or partner organizations contact the IC/E office at (323) 761-8329 or by e-mail at latoisrael@jewishla.org. For more information about the application process contact your campus Hillel or Saul Korinat LAHC at 323-761-8555 or by e-mail at skorin@lahillel.org.

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ISRAEL CONNECTIONS/EXPERIENCES

Los Angeles Hillel Council: In Partnership with the Israel Connections/Experiences
Mail to: LAHC 6505 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 450, Los Angeles, CA 90048, Attn: Saul Korin

Section I - Personal Information:

Name:	
Permanent Address:	Address at College: (until what date?)
Permanent Phone:	Campus Phone:
Fax:	Fax:
Date of Birth Age	E-mail:
Social Security #	Driver's License / ID#:
Citizenship: <input type="checkbox"/> USA <input type="checkbox"/> Israel <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
School Attending:	Year in School: Undergrad: 1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th Graduate/Professional School:
Do you or your family belong to a synagogue? If yes, which one?	
I am applying for: <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Need-Based Grant (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Interest-Free Loan <input type="checkbox"/> Marks & Brown Fellowship	

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Application Completion Checklist:

- Complete all necessary sections of this application.
- Attach a copy of your Israel program application or acceptance letter.
- If seeking Need-Based funding, attach copies of tax return or other documentation.
- Meet in person with a Hillel professional and have him/her sign the scholarship application.
- Make a copy for your records.
- Attach an \$18 check made out to "UJF"
- Send the completed application to LAHC at the address shown above.

This application has been reviewed by a Hillel professional (Director, Program Director, JCSC Fellow) and is complete.

Hillel Prof'l Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (print) _____

Campus: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____

Section II - Israel Program Information

1. Program Name:	
2. Dates of your Israel program participation:	
3. IC/E Partnership checks will be made out and sent to the program. Please provide the organization name and address in the United States where payment is to be made:	
Program Contact Person:	Phone:
4. Cost of Israel Program: <i>(do not include personal/living expenses or airfare, unless integrated into the cost of the program)</i>	
5. What is the type of program you are participating in?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hillel/USD	<input type="checkbox"/> Livnot U'Lehibanot
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior Year Abroad	<input type="checkbox"/> Pardes
<input type="checkbox"/> Kibbutz	<input type="checkbox"/> Semester Abroad.
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please indicate):	<input type="checkbox"/> Ulpan
	<input type="checkbox"/> UJA Winter Mission
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yeshiva
6. Why have you chosen this particular program?	
7. How did you hear about this Israel program <i>(check all that apply)</i> :	
<input type="checkbox"/> Campus newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth
<input type="checkbox"/> Hillel	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend
<input type="checkbox"/> Internet	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please indicate):
<input type="checkbox"/> Israel programs fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Study abroad fair
8. Have you been to Israel before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>(complete below)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>(go onto part III)</i>	
Program Name & Type (or Personal Visit)	Dates
9. Why do you want to return to Israel?	

Section III. Additional Financial Information –Required Only for Need-Based Grant, Marks & Brown Fellowships or Interest-Free Loan

<i>If applicant is shown as a dependent on parents' tax returns, fill out this section</i>	
Father's Name & Address:	Mother's Name & Address:
Phone1:	Phone1:
Phone2:	Phone2:
Social Security #	Social Security #
Driver's License / ID#:	Driver's License / ID#:
Profession:	Profession:
Employer: Phone:	Employer: Phone:
Length of time employed: <i>from to</i>	Length of time employed: <i>from to</i>
Parents are: <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Separated <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed	

Income

Gross annual income of applicant or parents:		Total number of people supported by income:
<i>Income Sources & Amts:</i>	Salary	Self-employed
Investment income	Child support	AFDC
Disability	Social Security	Unemployment Comp.
Other (Please describe):		

Section III. Additional Financial Information (*continued*)

Financial Obligations:

Rent / Mortgage Pmt	<i>Mortgage Balance</i>	Medical	School Tuition
Credit Cards	Other Monthly Pmt:	Other Monthly Pmt:	Other Monthly Pmt:

Other (please describe):

Automobiles	Year	Make	Model	Payment
1.				
2.				
3.				

Israel Program Financial Information:

Cost of Israel Program:	
Amount applicant or family can pay (mandatory):	
Other sources and amounts of financial aid:	
How do you plan to make up the difference between the cost of your trip and the financial assistance offered by the Federation?	
Comments and/or additional information to help the financial aid committee make its decision	

This application must be completely filled out and be accompanied by a current tax return in order to be considered for the need-based grant.

Incomplete applications will be returned. *Late applications will not be accepted.*

Section IV - Student Interests and Experiences

This section is informational only. Current or past participation in Hillel or other Jewish activities is not necessary to qualify for Israel Connections/Experiences Program financial aid. We encourage students who are not Jewishly involved to have the opportunity to experience Israel.

1. Tell us about your Jewish background or experiences, which can include formal or informal education, youth group, camp, Israel, college Jewish studies, etc.

2. Please describe your non-Jewish interests and activities, which can include academic, extra-curricular, sports, cultural, recreation, career goals, etc.

3. Current Jewish activity on campus (*mark all that apply*):

- I am an active member of Hillel or the Jewish Student Union.
- I am an active member of other Jewish student group(s): _____
- I participate in some Jewish student programs.
- I am not presently involved in Hillel or other Jewish student programs.

4. When I return from Israel, I would be interested in (*check any that apply*):

- Talking with my peers about my experiences in Israel.
- Attend a Shabbat or other program at Hillel on my campus.
- Being involved with Jewish activities on campus.
- I don't know now, but please contact me upon my return.
- Other (please describe):