WELCOME!

HUC-JIR’s New York campus is located in the West Village of NYC, adjacent to NYU’s campus and Washington Square Park. New York is the home of the Jewish Institute of Religion, founded in 1922 by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise as a center for higher study for scholars and students of all streams of Judaism. It merged with Hebrew Union College in 1950 in order to sustain a liberal and pluralistic study of Judaism under the auspices of the Reform movement. In addition to the Rabbinical program, the New York campus includes the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music (Cantorial program) and New York School of Education and Doctor of Ministry Program.

Through its five year rabbinical program, incorporating the Year in Israel experience, academic study, supervised fieldwork experiences, spiritual growth and professional development, HUC-JIR ordains rabbis who will serve as visionary leaders in the Jewish community.

1) What is the Rabbinical Curriculum?

Like all three stateside campuses, the rabbinical curriculum is build upon a Three-Year Core Curriculum, the intent of which is to maximize the academic, professional, and religious growth of our students, and to help students better integrate all aspects of their learning, while bringing greater uniformity to the educational experience across our four campuses.

To this end, the Core Curriculum has several key components:

- Raising Admissions requirements in both Hebrew and basic Jewish knowledge
- Integrating the Year-in-Israel Program fully into the three-year core curriculum
- Enhancing the interrelationship of the academic, professional, and spiritual components of rabbinical education, which will enable students to create a vibrant vision of Jewish life
- Including mentored, in-field experiences with trained mentors, as part of all aspects of clinical education
- Implementing a holistic approach to assessment that is focused in the main on helping students grow throughout their tenure at the College-Institute.
Continuing to build on Hebrew and text skills throughout the curriculum

If you would like to see a sampling of the current course offerings at each center, please view the website at [www.huc.edu](http://www.huc.edu). However, each campus will offer a variety of additional opportunities for its rabbinical students. Details are listed below.

Additional Opportunities for study:
- Education courses and degree program at the New York School of Education. Students can complete this program, earning a Master of Arts in Religious Education (MARE) degree, during their time on the NY campus
- Cantorial courses
- Graduate courses at nearby institutions of higher education including: New York University and the Jewish Theological Seminary

2) Who are the Faculty and Administration of the Rabbinical Program?

**NY Rabbinical School Administration/Faculty:**
- **Renni Altman**, Rabbi, Director of the Rabbinical Program, Associate Dean
- **Roseanne Ackerley**, National Financial Aid Director
- **Shirley Idelson**, Rabbi, Ph.D., Dean
- **Jessica Ingram**, MARE, MAJCS, Assistant Director of Recruitment and Admissions
- **Clyde Parrish**, National Registrar
- **Stephanie Mohan**, Assistant Registrar, NY Campus
- **Nancy Wiener**, Rabbi, Director of the Blaustein Center for Pastoral Counseling, Field Work Coordinator

**NY Ranked Rabbinical School Faculty:**
- **Carole B. Balin**, Rabbi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Jewish History
- **Martin A. Cohen**, Rabbi, Ph.D., Professor of Jewish History
- **Norman J. Cohen**, Rabbi, Ph.D., Professor of Midrash
- **David Ellenson**, Rabbi, Ph.D., Chancellor, I.H. and Anna Grancell Professor of Jewish Religious Thought
- **Lisa Grant**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Jewish Education
- Alyssa Gray, J.D., L.L.M., Ph.D., Emily S. and Rabbi Bernard H. Mehlman Chair in Rabbinics; Associate Professor of Codes and Responsa Literature
- **Lawrence A. Hoffman**, Rabbi, Ph.D., The Barbara and Stephen Friedman Professor of Liturgy, Worship and Ritual
- **Sharon Koren**, Ph.D., Norman Cohen Chair for and Emerging Jewish Scholar; Associate Professor of Medieval Jewish Culture
- **Aaron D. Panken**, Rabbi, Ph.D., President, Assistant Professor of Rabbinic and Second Temple Literature
- **S. David Sperling**, Rabbi, Ph.D., Professor of Bible
- **Andrea Weiss**, Rabbi, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Bible
- **Nancy H. Wiener**, Rabbi, D.Min, MAHL, M.Phil, Dr. Paul and Trudy Steinberg Chair in Human Relations; Founding Director, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Center for Pastoral Counseling, NY
- **Wendy Zierler**, Ph.D., M.A., Professor of Modern Jewish Literature and Feminist Studies
Lecturers, Mentors, Visiting Faculty:
Every year there are visiting faculty members, lecturers and mentors. Recent individuals include:

**Richard Address**, Rabbi, M.A.H.L., Lecturer on Education
**Bernard Mehlman**, Rabbi, Lecturer on Homiletics and Rabbinic Literature
**Jerome K. Davidson**, Rabbi, D.D., Lecturer on Social Responsibility and Homiletics
**Sandra Kazan**, Speech and Communications Coach and Consultant
**Henry Resnick**, M. Phil., Lecturer and Tutor in Rabbinical Literature
**Margaret M. Wenig**, Rabbi, M.A.H.L., Lecturer on Homiletics and Liturgy
**Al Vorspan**, Lecturer on Social Responsibility

3) What is community life like at the school?

Community life in New York is uniquely defined by the presence of three “schools” - Rabbinical, Cantorial and Educational. Daily Tefilah is facilitated by a Cantorial/Rabbinical student team, who serve as Shlichei Tzibur for an entire week. Torah is read on Monday and Thursday. Most Thursdays a fourth year student will deliver a sermon and a community lunch and discussion follows services.

Monday or Tuesday lunch is “Common Hour,” during which we sponsor guest speakers, musical programs, holiday celebrations or student association meetings. Wednesday’s community event is usually a cantorial practicum or senior recital, open to the entire community during lunch hour.

The student association consists of presidents from each of our three schools (Rabbinical, Cantorial and Education), representatives from each class of the different programs and two members at large. This board meets regularly with the Associate Dean in order to plan community events and discuss relevant issues.

The New York campus also sponsors a neighborhood soup kitchen every Monday afternoon. Entirely student-run, the soup kitchen serves seated meals, provides clothes and toiletries, legal advice from NYU law students, and background piano to approximately 100 homeless and hungry New Yorkers. Each week one or two groups of student volunteers from metropolitan area synagogues come to the soup kitchen to volunteer; HUC-JIR students teach them about tzedakah as they prepare to put those teachings into action. Local volunteers play an active role in the soup kitchen.

The soup kitchen sponsors an annual Beit Café and silent auction, at which they raise in the area of $10,000 to support their efforts.

4) What are the employment/internship opportunities and requirements?

**Requirements:**
A minimum of two years of approved supervised professional fieldwork.

To fulfill this requirement, each student must serve a URJ congregation (or one in the process of affiliating) with pulpit and pastoral responsibilities for one year. This requirement may be met through a bi-weekly or its equivalent (i.e. 2 years in a monthly) or a pulpit internship.

AND
Either serve a URJ congregation or one that is in the process of affiliating, with pulpit and pastoral responsibilities for a second year; or, complete a year of non-pulpit professional experience, in a job offered through the College that includes on-site supervision and a base of approximately 400 hours. The 400 hours requirement can be fulfilled over a two-year period at a single institution. Summer alumni residency students may receive a year of supervised field work credit if they wish.

In addition, students must fulfill a Supervised Pastoral Care Fieldwork requirement. The vast majority of students do so by taking a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) over the summer or during the academic year. They may receive a year of supervised fieldwork credit for a unit of CPE if they wish.

Congregational teaching and youth opportunities abound in the NY area. There are also numerous opportunities for jobs, such as retreat staff, substitute teaching, short-term adult education, etc.

5) What are the campus and local resources?

The New York campus is housed in one five story building adjacent to New York University. Students have NYU privileges, including use of the NYU library, gym, and cross registration. Students continually take advantage of the wide range of professional and personal Jewish opportunities in the New York area, including social and academic meetings with clergy students from other Seminaries (JTS and Yeshiva Chovevwi Torah, Union Theological Seminary and others). As the city with the largest Jewish population in the United States, New York City is home to countless Jewish organizations. Jewish communities of all kinds exist within the city. The URJ and CCAR both find their homes in New York City. In addition, Kosher food, Jewish bookstores, and Judaica shops are never hard to find.

All sorts of resources outside of the Jewish community are available in New York City, as well. Whatever your hobbies or special interests are, you can find your community here!

6) What about cost of living?

While different areas of town vary, we estimate that the cost of living in NY comes to approximately $51,545 per year, which includes tuition, rent, utilities, transportation, insurance, books, etc.

It is not necessary to own a car in NY, and the majority of students would find it to be a disadvantage due to parking costs and constraints. Some students who have families and/or internships in more remote areas do own a car. It is also possible to be a member of Zip car which is a convenient car rental service.

While there are places to live within walking distance of HUC-JIR, a majority of students take the train and subway from Brooklyn, New Jersey, Queens, or other parts of Manhattan.

7) What is available for my spouse, significant other and/or children?

It is impossible to enumerate the excellent possibilities and opportunities in the New York area, which include day schools, day care centers, synagogues, and community centers.
8) Reflections on studying in NY from some of our recent ordinees:

**Adena Kemper, R’2014, akemper@huc.edu**

Located in downtown Manhattan, the NY campus both possesses and is surrounded by endless opportunities. Not only does the rabbinical school have top-notch faculty, but also classes in the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music and the School of Education are available to rabbinical students. The close proximity of all three schools also enables future rabbis to get to know and begin to work with future cantors and Jewish educators.

To supplement your education, there are extracurricular activities unique to NY’s campus. On Monday afternoons and evenings, there is a student-run Soup Kitchen that enables community members to embody the value of social action. On Thursday evenings, the Interseminary Dialogue brings students from a number of NY’s seminaries together to discuss issues that affect religious life in contemporary America. In NY, it is also possible to take classes at other seminaries and institutions of higher learning. This greatly broadens the academic options available to you and introduces you to future clergy colleagues.

NY is also home to the central institutions of Reform Jewish life: the URJ and CCAR. Students regularly intern at or visit these organizations to learn more about them and forge relationships with the movement’s leadership.

Because of the large number of Jews in the greater metropolitan area, NY has many synagogues where HUC-JIR students work and pray. Many rabbis in NY and its environs love mentoring students and ensuring the future of Reform Jewish life. Furthermore, there is a particularly high number of worship services geared towards young adults that HUC-JIR students enjoy.

And NY has more theaters, museums, and other cultural institutions than you can count. Life at HUC-JIR NY is never boring!

I have taken advantage of many of these opportunities and would be happy to speak with you about them.

**Bethie Miller, R’2014 bmiller@huc.edu**

I knew I wanted to study at the NY campus, but I had no idea I would be this pleased with my choice and for so many reasons. The intensity of NYC pervades the culture, academics, Jewish life, and street life, and it's energizing. And when you need to stop and take a deep breath, which will inevitably happen, there is an endless amount of coffee shops, yoga studios, and impressive urban parks to help balance you out. The professors on the NY campus include brilliant scholars who represent a range of Jewish communities and practices, and the work opportunities in the Metro NY area are endless. Importantly, there are a lot of smart and passionate people living and working in
NY, and they can really enhance your growth and well-being (and even your dating life) during your time here. When choosing a campus, I think it’s crucial to consider how the overall culture of the city will shape the culture of your classroom and also the Jewish institutions in which you work. If you are a Northeasterner, or want to be one, or want to be challenged by them, NYC is a great place to be.

Ethan Prosnit, R’2014 eprosnit@huc.edu

New York, New York what a wonderful town… The song doesn’t lie. Studying at the HUC-JIR New York City campus is a thrill. From the diversity of our amazing faculty, to studying with cantorial and education students, to connecting with administration and staff, we have a dynamic community at 1 West Fourth Street. But beyond our building, New York has so much to offer. From over one hundred fifty different types of restaurants to try (according to Zagat), over 80 different museums to visit, to nine professional sports team in the metropolitan area to root for, and to Broadway, off-Broadway, and off-off-Broadway shows to see -- good thing you have four years at HUC-JIR. And Jewishly living in New York City gives you a wonderful opportunity to weave what you are learning in the classroom to your own Jewish journey. Synagogue hopping on Shabbat is easy, a Shabbat walk through Central Park or Prospect Park is highly encouraged, and the number of lectures and programs that you can attend sponsored by so many different Jewish organizations based in New York City is innumerable. New York, New York what a wonderful place to study and live.

If you have any questions, please contact Rabbi Renni Altman, Director of the NY Rabbinical Program at raltman@huc.edu or at (800) 424-1336, extension 2230 or Jessica Ingram, Assistant Director of Admission and Recruitment, NY campus at jingram@huc.edu or 212-824-2260.

Want to hear more from our students? Check out blogHUC!
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