



Year-In-Israel Handbook

2023-2024

תשפ"ג - תשפ"ד

This YII Handbook complements the
HUC National Student Handbook.

<https://huc.edu/wp-content/uploads/National-Student-Academic-Handbook-2022-10.27.pdf>

Students are responsible for information contained in both

HUC-JIR Mission

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) is North America's premier institution of Jewish higher education and the center for professional leadership development of Reform Judaism. A multi-campus academic and spiritual learning community, HUC-JIR builds vibrant progressive Judaism in North America, Israel and around the globe by:

- Studying the great issues of Jewish life, history and thought with an open, egalitarian, inclusive and pluralistic spirit;
- Educating innovative, visionary clergy and professionals who embody the sustaining values, responsibilities, practices and texts of Jewish tradition to inspire future generations; and
- Advancing the critical study of Judaism and Jewish culture in accordance with the highest standards of modern academic scholarship.

From the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost

Dear Members of the Year-In-Israel Class of 5783/2023-2024,

I welcome you to the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion with words of blessing and advice:

ברוך אתה בבאך וברוך אתה בצאתך

(Deut. 28:6)

Blessed may you be in your comings and your goings to
and from your home

to and from the classroom
to and from this miraculous, beguiling land.

Blessed may you be in
your becoming

in your striving
in your going forth to serve.

חזק ויאמץ לבך

(Ps. 27:14)

Let your heart be strong and resilient as
you question

as you struggle
as you listen and learn.

With curiosity and gratitude experience
the wonder

of Hebrew letters becoming words
of ancient texts yielding modern meaning
of song and silence ascending to the heavens.

פתח תפתח את ירך

(Deut. 15:8)

Open your hands
to give and receive with love,

to hold and help with compassion, to
touch the past

and to be present

as this experience unfolds,
day after day,

this year in Jerusalem.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Dr. Andrea L. Weiss
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

From the Director of the Year-in-Israel Program

Dear First Year Students,

"וככה תאכלו אותו מתניכם חגורים [נעליכם ברכלים ומקלכם בידכם ואכתלם אותו בחפזון...] (שמות י"ב 11). כיוצאי דרכים. רבי יוסי הגלילי אומר, בא הכתוב ללמדנו דרך ארץ מן התורה על יוצאי דרכים שיהיו מזורזין. (מכילתא דרבי ישמעאל מסכתא דפסחא פרשה ז)

"This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly..." (Exodus 12:11). Like people starting on a journey. Rabbi Yose the Galilean says: The verse comes to teach us that according to the Torah the proper way for people to start out on journeys is to be *mezurazin*: eager/alert/ready/active/strong." (Mekhilta D'Rabbi Yishmael Tractate Pischa 7)

By design HUC-JIR's Year-In-Israel offers an immersive and intense beginning to your journey as future cantors, educators, and rabbis. Through spending a year in Israel, you have the unique opportunity to both *step away* and *step in* by being in an immersive program.

The midrash aptly describes why you've been accepted into your programs; you are *mezurazin* for the start of your journeys. The whole first year is the start of your multi-year journey and its program design will serve to heighten your eagerness, alertness, readiness, and confidence you are bringing in order to prepare you to move forward.

To do this, the YII program immerses you in **authentic** learning and living, essential to your professional formation, by making room for you to be autonomous learners (see Joye A. Norris, *From Telling to Teaching: A Dialogue Approach to Adult Learning*). And, by situating the first year in Israel, you will embark on your (pre)-professional journeys in a place that lends itself to heightening your alertness and readiness, for engagement with the most essential Jewish questions through your own unique exploration of this place.

On behalf of all the faculty, staff and administration, we are excited about being your guides and partners as you start on your path to Jewish leadership.

בהצלחה,

Rabbi Reuven Greenvald, Director
Year-In-Israel
Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion

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PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Academic Program Overview

HUC-JIR identifies three areas of focus for YII learning experience:

Hebrew language learning for moving towards proficiency to study classical texts on their own and for deeper engagement with modern Israel.

Studying Israel - Ancient and Modern through text and sites, by learning to listen to Israel's multivocality and engaging in dialogue with it.

Cultivating **Living in Jewish Time** in the sacred communal spaces for worship, learning and ritual practice and by experiencing the Jewish calendar in Israeli society and its public square.

These areas of focus flow holistically into the outcomes for the YII, which are for students will:

- 1. Have rich, well-paced, high quality learning experiences that will include:**
 - Synchronous and asynchronous learning
 - Personal and small group reflection on significant Jewish ideas and practices
 - An emphasis on intellectual rigor and personal meaning-making
- 2. Build foundational knowledge, dispositions, and skills for success in subsequent years:**
 - Begin to develop rabbinic or cantorial consciousness including distinctions and commonalities
- 3. Engage in a dynamic interchange among students and between students and faculty that supports intellectual and spiritual growth**
- 4. Advance significantly in Hebrew proficiency with particular attention to:**
 - Learning modern Hebrew by drawing upon a rich array of Hebrew sources connected to our students' studies and professional pursuits.
 - Reading, translating, and making meaning of the foundational biblical, rabbinic and liturgical texts of the Jewish past and present, and using such texts to reinforce and advance students' modern Hebrew language skills.
 - Making connections between Hebrew learning and the land and people of Israel
- 5. Cultivate multiple dimensions of lived Jewish experience through:**
 - Prayer
 - Spiritual growth
 - Torah study
 - Explorations of Shabbat practice
 - Collective Jewish experiences
- 6. Build an intentional community as a cohort of 1st year students at HUC-JIR:**
 - Where students feel seen by each other

Where they begin to connect to faculty, alumni, and students in their campus community

Courses

BIB 5920 Beit Midrash: Torah

Instructors: Cantor Sarah Grabiner (Level 1), Rabbi Debi Shua-Haim (Level 2)

Fall

HEB 4999: Modern Hebrew Ulpan (Alef, Bet, Gimel)

Instructors: Sharon Bar-Shaul, Tammy Khayat-Shapira, Dr. Zohara Pardess-Feinstein

Summer

HEB 5000 (fall) HEB 5002 (spring): Modern Hebrew (Alef, Bet and Gimel)

Instructors: Sharon Bar-Shaul, Tammy Khayat-Shapira, Dr. Zohara Pardess-Feinstein Full Year

HIS 5005: Biblical History

Instructor: Dr. David Ilan

Summer

HIS 5001: Survey of Jewish History 538BCE -1929CE

Instructors: Jeremy Leigh, Prof. Rabbi, David Levine, Dr. David Mendelsson

Full Year

All Students

ISR 5005 (fall) ISR 5006 (spring): Israel Seminar

Instructors: Jeremy Leigh, Dr. David Mendelsson, Dr. Rivki Rosner

Full Year

LIT 5000 (fall), LIT 5001 (spring) Liturgy

Instructors: Rabbi Dr. Dalia Marx Rabbi, Dr. Alona Lisitsa

Full Year

LIT 5005 (fall) LIT 5006 (spring): Worship Lab and T'filah

Instructor: Cantor Sarah Grabiner

Full Year

MUS 5000 (beginner) MUS 5001 (advanced): Cantillation of the Torah

Instructor: Cantor Sarah Grabiner

Summer

RAB 4007 Beit Midrash: Mishnah

Instructors: Prof. Rabbi Michael Marmur (Level 1), Prof. Rabbi David Levine (Level 2)

Spring

RAB TBD

Instructor: Dr. Rabbi Dr. Alona Lisitsa

Winter break elective (for credit)

PHI TBD – Reform Judaism in Israel

Instructor: Rabbi Dana Sharon

Fall Intensive

Cantorial - Only

MUS 5004 (fall) MUS 5009 (spring): Cantorial Coaching
Instructors: Cantor Evan Kent and *tbc*
Full Year (weekly in Fall, biweekly in Spring)

MUS 5005 (fall) MUS 5011 (spring): Cantorial Workshop
Instructor: Cantor Sarah Grabiner
Full Year (weekly in Fall, biweekly in Spring)

MUS 5010 (fall) MUS 5013 (spring): Musicianship
Instructor: Boaz Dorot
Full Year

MUS 5006 Israeli Music
Instructor: Dr. Tanya Sermer
Spring

MUS TBC Singing Mizrahi Piyutim
Instructor: Yahala Lachmish
Spring

RABB TBD Beit Midrash: Mishnah
Instructor: Rabbi Reuven Greenvald
Spring

Rabbinical/Education Only

PDE 5000 (fall) PDE 5001 (spring): Rabbinic/Education Workshop
Instructor: Rabbi Reuven Greenvald
Full Year

HIS 5010: The Jew in the Contemporary Jewish World (Elective)
Instructor: Jeremy Leigh
Spring

HIS 5004: The Arab Israel Conflict (Elective)
Instructor: Dr. David Mendelsson
Spring

OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Summer Ancillary Learning

Mechinot

In addition to the summer ulpan, cantillation and biblical history courses, the summer schedule includes non-credit required learning called Mechinot. The Mechinot have three goals:

- Developing a baseline for common understanding around t'filah and ritual
- Setting students' intention for their own growth and exploration in living Jewishly

- Creating a culture of communal study

This summer's mechinot will address four themes: prayer and synagogue ritual, personal Shabbat practice, beit midrash learning, and introduction to key books in the classical Jewish library.

Hebrew Immersion Activities

Research into foreign language acquisition shows that formal language learning will be more successful when learners have to apply their knowledge in authentic situations outside of the classroom, in places where they engage with native speakers other than their teachers and in settings where the language usage is seen as real-world and relevant.

During two afternoons a week, students will be in non-credit required Hebrew activities that have been designed for the YII by an independent Hebrew teachers' collective called *This Is Not an Ulpan* (TINU). TINU specializes in teaching Hebrew and Arabic for communication through topics such as identity, ethnicity, sexuality, and activism.

Year-In-Israel Reading Competency Requirement

By the end of the summer semester (**Thursday 17 August**), all students are expected to meet with either Rabbi Greenvald or Cantor Grabiner to complete the Year In Israel Reading Competency Requirement. This involves:

1. Reading aloud the opening of Parashat Vayishlach, **Genesis 32:4-13**, from a pointed (including all the vowels) text.
2. Reading aloud from the siddur the following 3 passages –
 - a. **Yishtabach** ("Yishtabach shimcha..." to "...chei ha'olamim")
 - b. The weekday shacharit **K'dushah** ("N'kadeish..." to "...ha'eil hakadosh")

(pp. 77 and 87 in *T'filat Ha'adam*; or pp. 56 and 82 in *Mishkan T'filah*).

3. Read aloud 1 verse of Torah text and 1 sentence from the siddur that you have not prepared. You'll have a few minutes to prepare and we invite you to share aloud any steps or techniques you'd use to work on an unseen passage. While of course we do not expect the same level of confidence with an unseen text, the same fundamental factors are important: accuracy, precision, and fluency.

In all three parts of the requirement, you should pay attention to:

- Accurate and precise reading with correct consonants and vowels.
- Emphasis of the correct syllable in each word, and some sense of (gentle) emphasis within the phrase. Know what the text means and think about emphasizing the significant words that carry the main meaning of the passage, and de-emphasizing smaller connecting particles like "et" or "al".
- Fluency over pace. You do not have to be fast, but need to read fluently and steadily at a pace that would be appropriate for public reading in a *T'filah*/study setting.

Community Meetings

The YII has a monthly community meeting over lunch that provides an opportunity for reflection, community

building and connections between students as well as with YII staff. We will provide programmatic updates, share ideas, and strengthen the bonds within our community. Your participation is essential in shaping our collective success.

Location: Moadon

Time: 12:30-13:30

Dates:

- July 30
- September 18
- October 23
- November 20
- December 18
- January 22
- February 19
- March 18
- April 8

Israel Culture Evenings

Israeli Cultural programming will happen throughout the year as part of Israel Seminar. Due to the nature of the programming, they might be scheduled in the evening.

See Major Dates Calendar for the list of those which are required.

Tiyulim

Tiyulim are an essential component of the Israel Seminar curriculum and attendance is required. There will be some tiyulim attached to the new Jewish History survey – those dates will be shared by the instructors.

Shabbat and Holiday Programming

A number of required holiday and shabbat services will be scheduled to both create community and offer students the opportunity to develop their T'filah leadership skills. They are listed in the Major Dates Calendar.

Clergy and Professional Formation Advisory

All students will meet twice a semester with a designated advisor as an opportunity to reflect on their experiences and development towards their professional goals.

Course Placement

To accommodate the diverse backgrounds of incoming students, Modern Hebrew, Liturgy, Jewish Texts are taught in sections based on Hebrew level, and/or prior coursework or demonstrated proficiency.

Every effort will be made to ensure that each student studies at an appropriate level for each discipline. The assignment of Hebrew classes is not final, and, upon the request of a student, the recommendation of the

instructor, and the approval of the YII Director, the student may shift up or down during the term. It is to the advantage of the student to make such a change as early as possible, after the first week of studies.

Placement in a beginning Hebrew level is not a reflection of the student's academic potential. It is merely an indication of a student's language level at a particular point in time.

For all questions about placement, please make an appointment with the YII director.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mashov (Feedback) Sessions

This year we are piloting monthly **המנהל עם משוב** (Feedback with the Director) sessions with YII Director Rabbi Reuven Greenvald, to provide a space to share your perspectives and feedback on the YII program. These sessions provide an organized framework for students to share experiences, seek clarification and provide valuable feedback to enhance their time and learning in Israel. Engaging in these sessions is optional.

Location: TBC - will be updated in the YII Student Calendar

Time: 12:30-13:30

Dates:

- August 14
- September 11
- October 9
- November 6
- December 4
- January 15
- February 5
- March 4
- April 1

Study visits to Jewish sites in Lithuania (Vilna, Kovno, Zehmir) led by Jeremy Leigh 'Between Memory and Meaning' Students are offered the opportunity to participate in this five-day program, in the days immediately before Pesach.

In its time, Vilna was a 'capital' of Jewish life in the diaspora and one of the most vibrant centers of Jewish cultural and political creativity. Vilna was both a capital of both rabbinic learning as well as Haskalah and secular Jewish culture. It was home to critical political movements such as Jewish Socialism and Zionism. Given its almost total destruction by the Nazis and later on during Soviet times, we investigate the nature of that legacy, including important interactions with those attempting to rebuild and strengthen Jewish life today. In addition to many site visits to the area of former Jewish life and also destruction in Vilna and Kovno, we also aim to meet with key figures in the local Jewish community incl. Prof. Dovid Katz, formerly head of the Yiddish Studies; Rachel Kostanian, Director of Vilna Holocaust Museum, Fania Branstovsky, former Jewish partisan; Simon Gurevicus, Director of the Vilna Jewish community.

Finally, it is important to stress that the primary purpose is to offer students a chance to investigate the complex relationship between past histories and the contemporary Jewish world.

Pesach Partnership Project

Following the Lithuania trip, interested students can remain in Eastern Europe to join communities for Passover. This is a co-operative venture linking students, the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the Joint Distribution Committee, the Hebrew Union College and the Progressive communities in the former Soviet Union. Students develop, plan and facilitate activities and learning for these communities.

Public Lectures

Occasional lectures in English and Hebrew, part of the College's Outreach Program, feature scholars,

writers, artists and political figures.

Student Organization and Activities

To grow as future community leaders, students are invited to co-create the programming that turns the Year-In-Israel into a vibrant social and spiritual community. To that end, students are invited to work with the Coordinator of Community Life through participation on committees that express their particular interests and backgrounds. An activity fee of NIS 650 is collected at the beginning of the program to facilitate student-initiated programming. *All events, however, must be cleared in advance with the Community Life Coordinator.*

Miscellaneous Information

Mail: Student mail is placed in the boxes behind the guard's desk in the administration building. Mail is usually received once a day. If you are expecting a mail delivery, check at the guard's desk.

YII Master Outlook Calendar

An Outlook Calendar has been created that includes all classes and scheduled activities. Students can add student-planned programs to that calendar through the Coordinator of Community Life.

Travelling to Palestinian Territories

We are aware that throughout the year students travel and participate in programs in the West Bank and areas not governed by Israel, travel to Egypt and Jordan and tour in East Jerusalem. Students who plan to travel to the Palestinian territories will be asked to sign a Waiver with HUC at the start of the program. As our students' safety and security is a high priority, we recommend that students follow the guidelines in accordance with [US State Department recommendations](#). Students will be updated by the administration whenever necessary. Like when traveling outside of Israel, the Harel health insurance does not cover students when they travel in Areas A and B.

Mental Health Support

Living outside of one's home country and/or starting a new academic program can be challenging. The YII provides access to a Counselor-on-Call at no charge to students to help students from time to time. If students need ongoing support, the YII office has created a special resource sheet that details what is available to students. The topic of mental health support will be presented as part of orientation.

Academic Procedures

Attendance – YII Supplement to National Handbook (p.5)

One of the central defining experiences of being in a cantorial and rabbinic program is T'filah and /Worship Lab, which is one of the required courses of YII This is where students practice the skills and competencies to be worship leaders, experience being in a kehilla, and increase their connection to the liturgy and Jewish spiritual life. Since all students will be on a rotation for service leading, your attendance is viewed as a commitment to create an atmosphere of mutual support among your peers in the cohort and with the faculty.

Students who will be away from Israel for any reason during the year, must inform the Director of the Year In Israel Program. The [Request for Leave of Absence form](#) should be submitted to the YII director if there are extenuating circumstances that warrant leaving Israel outside of the designated holidays and breaks. Students are expected to make all travel and work plans in accordance with the academic calendar. Students are required to be present for all end of term and end of year exams unless there are extenuation circumstances.

Absence Due to Illness

In order to maintain a healthy learning environment, students are asked to stay home if they are ill. If while home recovering, a student feels up to joining a class by zoom, they can ask their instructors if that can be accommodated. If possible, students should make that request by the night before. The request can be accommodated if it is conducive to the lesson for that day and if the teacher has time to set up the Zoom session.

Special Note about Learning Accommodations During YII

As soon as possible in the year, students who are finding any course work particularly challenging, should not hesitate to be in contact with the National Director of Student Support. With the YII places an emphasis on learning Hebrew, a student might realize that they need additional support.

Sexual Misconduct – Supplement for Year-In-Israel

Please read the section on Sexual Misconduct in the National Handbook carefully.

Regarding the reporting of sexual harassment, the Jerusalem campus is under the jurisdiction of Israel law as described below. A student who has a case to report in Jerusalem should be in contact with Anat Infeld Goodman aigoodman@huc.edu or 058-4859889 or can also be in contact with Rabbi Andrew Goodman, Director of Students Services in U.S.

Copies of the protocol for reporting sexual harassment according to Israeli law can be found in the library and in the Moadon. A copy is found in the appendix of this program handbook.

A required meeting about sexual misconduct reporting will be held during the first month of the program.

S. Zalman and Ayala Abramov Library

Size: The three-story Abramov Library contains between 50,000- 60,000 titles and receives a lot of current periodicals mostly in English and Hebrew.

Scope: The collection includes scholarly works in the fields of Bible Studies; Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology; Judaic Studies including Talmud & Rabbinics, Midrash, Liturgy, Jewish Philosophy, Jewish Music, Hebrew Language & Literature; and Israel Studies including History, Zionism and Culture, Society & Issues. In a city of many libraries with specialized holdings, the Abramov library attempts to make a unique contribution with its collections in the areas of The American Jewish Experience, History of the Reform Movement, and a collection of Modern Hebrew fiction in English translation. In addition, the library provides access to a variety of electronic databases and resources relevant to Jewish Studies.

Organization: The library is organized according to the Library of Congress classification system (LC). The major subject categories are: Rabbinics (BM); Bible (BS); Eretz Yisrael, Near Eastern archaeology and history of the Jewish people (DS); and Hebrew Literature and Linguistics (PJ); and Jewish Music (M, ML).

Catalogues: All materials can be found in the computerized catalogue. The Abramov library's catalogue is hosted by PRIMO. The link to the catalogue is as follows:

https://huc-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/search?vid=972HUC_V1&lang=en_US&sortby=rank

On this page you can find a tutorial on how to use our catalogue.

Services: The library offers bibliographic and reference services to students, faculty and staff of HUC, members of IMPJ (Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism), alumni, the Israeli academic community, visiting researchers and the general public. Borrowing privileges are extended to students and staff of the college and IMPJ, alumni and academic partners.

Hours: The library is open Sunday-Thursday from 8:15 am - 4:45 pm

Music Library: The primary purpose of the music collection is to serve the College's cantorial students but is also available to the general public. It contains over 3,500 items and includes music notations of folksongs, popular music, contemporary Israeli music, songs in Yiddish and Ladino, synagogue music from all streams of Judaism organized by the cycle of the Jewish year, compositions by well-known cantors and books about music. All of these materials are searchable with our catalogue.

There are 2 self-service photocopiers in the library. Photocopy cards may be purchased from the librarians. Students may also use the library printer (20 agorot per page) and scanner (free), both located on the ground floor. Payment is accepted in cash only.

Detailed information on library policies and procedures will be distributed during the library orientation session.

History of the College-Institute

Hebrew Union College was founded in 1875 in Cincinnati, the first institution of Jewish higher learning in America. The college was established by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, the architect of American Reform Judaism, who had formed the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, now the Union of Reform Judaism, two years earlier. The primary purpose of the seminary was to train rabbis for the Reform Movement.

In 1922, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise (not related to Isaac Mayer Wise) established the Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. The similar orientation of the two schools led to their merger in 1950.

A third center was opened in Los Angeles in 1954 to serve the growing Jewish community on the West Coast and a fourth branch was established in Jerusalem in 1963.

From modest beginnings, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion has developed into an institution providing a wide variety of graduate academic programs in Judaic studies. In addition to its Rabbinic School, the College-Institute includes Schools of Graduate Studies, a School of Sacred Music, Jewish Education, Jewish Communal Service, Nonprofit Management and Biblical Archaeology.

The Presidents of Hebrew Union College and, after the merger, of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, were Isaac Mayer Wise, 1875-1900; Kaufmann Kohler, 1903-1921; Julian Morgenstern, 1921-1947; Nelson Glueck, 1947-1971, Alfred Gottschalk, 1971-1995, Sheldon Zimmerman, 1995-2000, David Ellenson, 2001-2013, Aaron Panken, 2013-18. Andrew Rehfeld 2019- present. Stephen S. Wise was President of the Jewish Institute of Religion from 1922 to 1948.

The Jerusalem Campus

The Jerusalem School serves as the academic graduate center for the Year-In-Israel Program (first year of rabbinical, cantorial and Jewish education studies) and the Israel Rabbinic Program. The department of Educational Initiatives offers continuing education programs and serves as a resource center for Israeli teachers and educators, creating programs and methods of teaching a Progressive religious Jewish approach in the Israeli classroom. The Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology houses a research center for post-graduate

archaeology and excavates at archaeology sites in Israel.

The five-acre Jerusalem campus, situated on King David Street, in the center of Jerusalem, overlooks the ancient walled city. The original building facing King David Street was opened in 1963 and houses the William Murstein Synagogue, the college administrative offices and the offices of the URJ Youth Programs in Israel.

The Forchheimer Ceremonial Courtyard, dedicated in July 1993, the largest of the college courtyards, is open to King David Street and surrounded on three sides by the Administration, Abramov Library and Skirball Center and Museum buildings.

The Rosaline and Myer Feinstein Building, adjacent to the Saban Gardens, was dedicated in 1970 and houses the Jerusalem residence of the President of Hebrew Union College. It also contains the offices of the Center for Educational Initiatives and provides facilities for nursery school and kindergarten, part of the school system created by the Reform Movement in Israel.

The S. Zalman and Ayala Abramov Library, which was dedicated in March of 1988, has the capacity of holding over 100,000 volumes of Hebraica, Judaica, and Biblical Archaeology. Its special collections include the personal archaeology library of the late Prof. Yigal Yadin, a rare Spinoza collection of the late Prof. Fritz Bamberger (HUC-JIR New York) and thousands of books and pamphlets on the American Jewish experience including microfilms of materials from HUC's American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati.

The Bernard Heller Torah Center consists of seven seminar rooms and four large classrooms, one of which is a Cantorial study suite, surrounding the Gersten Courtyard. In addition, the complex houses faculty studies, the Rosen Faculty Conference/Seminar Room, the Gottschalk Family Lounge and Activity Center, and the Gottschalk Lecture Hall.

The Skirball Center for Biblical and Archaeological Research houses the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, including restoration laboratories, storerooms, facilities for charting and drawing for preparing archaeological excavated material for publications. Adjacent to the research center is the Skirball Museum featuring a permanent exhibit of archaeological artifacts discovered during HUC excavations from 1963 to the present. The Israel Reform Movement (also known as Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism, IMPJ) and its Center for Religion and State (also known as the Israel Religious Action Center) have offices on the second floor of the archaeology building.

Beit Shmuel and Mercaz Shimshon are situated on the east end of the campus, with main entrances on Shama Street and are operated by the World Union for Progressive Judaism. It is currently under renovation.

ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY AND STAFF

National Academic Administration, 2023 – 2024

Andrew Rehfeld, PhD, President; Professor of Political Thought

Andrea L. Weiss, Rabbi, PhD, Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Provost; Associate Professor of Bible

Joshua Holo, Ph.D., Vice President of Academic Resources; Associate Professor of Jewish History

Andrew Goodman, Rabbi, M.A., Director of Student Support

Miriam Heller Stern, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Educational Strategy; Director, School of Education; Associate Professor of Education

Sarah Benor, Ph.D., Vice Provost; Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies

Dvora Weisberg, Rabbi, Ph.D., National Rabbinical School Director; Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Professor of Rabbinics

Lisa Grant, Rabbi, Ph.D., Director of the New York Rabbinical Program; Eleanor Sinsheimer Distinguished Service Professor in Jewish Education

Jill Abramson, Cantor, M.A. Director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred

Adam Allenberg, Rabbi, MAJE, Senior Director, Office of Recruitment and Admissions

Lauren Kim, Ed.D., Registrar
Roseanne Ackerley, Director of Financial Aid

Taube Family Campus and Year-In-Israel Administration, Faculty and Staff

Administration – Year-in-Israel

Reuven Greenvald, Rabbi, M.A., Director
Sarah Grabiner, Cantor, M.A., Assistant Director; Coordinator of Cantorial Studies and Worship
Rachel Singer, M.A., Coordinator of Community Life
Shira Batit, M.A., Administrator

Campus Administration

Michael Marmur, Rabbi, Ph.D., Acting Dean (Spring 2024)
Einav Lahav, C.F.O. and HR Director
Dganit Jenshil, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Outreach
Iris Ben-Zvi, Personal Assistant to the Dean, Head of Student Affairs for the Israel Rabbinic Program
Ronit Ishai, Coordinator of Operations and Outreach
Moshe Alali, Accountant
Rodman Maor, M.A., M.B.A. Assistant Director of Recruitment and Admissions

Program Directors

Talia Avnon, Rabbi, M.A., Director of Israel Rabbinic Program
Michal Muszkat-Barkan, Ph.D., Director of Education and Professional Development
Ruchama Weiss, Ph.D., Director of the Blaustein Center for Pastoral Counseling

Ranked Faculty

Yehoyada Amir, Rabbi, Ph.D., Professor of Jewish Thought Emeritus,
David Levine, Rabbi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Talmud and Halacha
Dalia Marx, Rabbi, Ph.D., M.A., M.A.H.L., Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Professor of Liturgy and
Midrash
Michael Marmur, Rabbi, Ph. D, Associate Professor of Jewish Thought
Michal Muszkat-Barkan, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Jewish Education
Eliyahu Schleifer, Cantor, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. of Sacred Music Emeritus

Parallel Track Faculty

David Mendelsson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Jewish History and Israel Studies
Ruchama Weiss, Ph. D., Associate Professor of Talmud and Spiritual Care

Year-In-Israel Teaching Faculty

Sharon Bar Shaul, M.A., Instructor in Hebrew Language
Sarah Grabiner, Cantor, M.A., Coordinator of Cantorial Studies and Worship, Jewish Texts
Reuven Greenvald, Rabbi, M.A, Professional Studies and Jewish Texts
Tammy Khayat-Shapira, B.A., Instructor in Hebrew Language
Jeremy Leigh, M.A., Coordinator of the Richard J. Scheuer Israel Seminar;
Instructor in History and Israel Studies
Alona Lisitsa, Rabbi, Ph.D., Instructor in Rabbinic and Liturgy
Zohara Pardess-Feinstein, Ph.D., Instructor in Hebrew Language
Rivki Rosner, Ph.D., Israel Seminar
Dana Sharon, M.A., Rabbi, Contemporary Judaism

Debi Shua-Haim, M.A., Rabbi, Bible

Sacred Music

Sarah Grabiner, Cantor, M.A., Coordinator of Cantorial Studies and Worship

Boaz Dorot, B. Mus., Instructor of Music

Evan Kent, Cantor, M.P.A., Doctorate in Music Education, Cantorial
Coaching

Anastasia Sobolev, B. Mus., Artist Dipl., Accompanist

Tanya Sermer, Ph.D., Israeli Music

Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology

David Ilan, Ph.D., Director

Library

Tamar Duvdevani, Rabbi, Ph.D., Director

Asia Libman, M.L.I.S., Associate Librarian, Inter-Library Loans, Periodicals

Alejandro Soschin, M.A., Assistant Librarian, Circulation, Reference

Maintenance

Saleem Yagmur, Head of Housekeeping and Security

Yigal Shuval, Electrician

Fayiz Khalaf, Gardener

Muhammad Abu Elhawah, Maintenance

Sonia Abu Alis, Housekeeping

Hanadi Rajabi, Housekeeping

Osama Yagmur, Housekeeping

Abu Shadi (Raid Chalef), Housekeeping

Security Guards

Gilad Alon

Guy Biton

IT Support

Tor Ahissar

Michael Bertman