

**BIMA at Brandeis University
Internship in Jewish Arts Education
Summer 2012**

OVERVIEW

The BIMA Internship in Jewish Arts Education is for a select group of university students who are interested in learning and practicing arts education in a Jewish context. The interns work with the arts faculty in the BIMA arts majors, live with the BIMA participants in the residence halls, and engage in professional development as a group and individually. This is a paid internship, entailing significant learning opportunities, responsibilities, and experience working in a collaborative, supportive environment.

Internships are available in dance, instrumental music, theater, visual arts, and writing. We are not accepting applications for choral music. The dates of the internship are Monday, June 25 – Monday, August 6, 2012.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Arts Majors

Each intern will work alongside the arts faculty in one of the BIMA arts majors for about fifteen hours per week. Within the major, the intern will have an area of responsibility as well as significant learning opportunities. Prior to the summer, the faculty will orient the intern to the curriculum and develop a plan for how the intern will contribute to the arts major and learn from the faculty throughout the summer. The interns will work closely with the BIMA Director, the BIMA Intern Coordinator and the faculty to monitor the balance of their teaching and learning.

Residential and Community Life

BIMA runs alongside Genesis at Brandeis (<http://www.brandeis.edu/highschool/genesis>), its sibling program. BIMA and Genesis participants live in the same residence halls and interact in a variety of ways throughout the summer. The BIMA/Genesis residential staff team includes Community Educators (CEs)* and Interns from both programs, who play a key role in fostering a nurturing environment where participants can connect with each other, learn and challenge themselves. They form relationships with the participants and model the behavior of encountering and understanding people from diverse backgrounds.

The entire BIMA/Genesis residential team (CEs and Interns):

- Lives in the residence halls with the participants;
- Monitors the physical and emotional wellbeing of the participants;
- Helps the participants make responsible decisions as they negotiate living in the community at Brandeis;
- Creates a safe, supportive environment within which participants can expand their comfort zones and explore new ways of expressing themselves;
- Collaborates with the participants to shape a vibrant, diverse Jewish artistic community;
- Considers and facilitates creative ways of approaching “unstructured” time in the program.

**CEs are graduate students or professional educators who have worked with high school students in the arts and/or in Jewish experiential settings. The CEs serve as educational role models and informal mentors for the interns throughout the summer.*

Shabbat

The interns are expected to participate fully in communal celebration of Shabbat each week and to help make Shabbat a successful and meaningful communal experience. The entire BIMA community is divided into three *batim* (houses). The *batim* generally meet to begin and end Shabbat together, as well as to do some learning on Shabbat afternoon. Each intern will be assigned to a *bayit* (house) and will be invited by the community educators to contribute their skills and ideas to *bayit* activities. Interns are also invited and encouraged to offer prayer and/or educational options on Friday night and Shabbat morning, and/or to plan recreational activities for/with participants. Interns are also expected to be present at meals and communal activities, as well as available and close at hand in the dorm area throughout the day.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We encourage the interns to view every aspect of their work at BIMA as an opportunity to learn. In every area of the program, the interns will engage in reflective practice that supports their work with the participants and with the rest of the staff.

Group Learning

The BIMA interns will meet regularly as a group with the BIMA intern coordinator, to learn and discuss issues of practice as well as topics generated by the interns. Opportunities to meet and learn with professional artists, special guests and Jewish educators may also be available throughout the summer.

Individual Investigations

In order to explore, from theoretical and practical perspectives, an aspect of Jewish arts education and/or the relationship between the arts and Jewish identity development, each intern will develop an “investigation” (professional development project) on which he or she will work throughout the summer. The group of interns will periodically share their investigation topics, offer group feedback, and serve as resources for each other. Interns will present their investigations to the rest of the staff at the end of the summer.

Observations

Interns will have many opportunities to observe the BIMA arts faculty and community educators (CEs) at work. Observations will be both informal and structured, with opportunities to reflect on and learn from what is observed.

COMPENSATION

Interns receive full room and board, travel stipend, plus a \$1500 work stipend.

APPLICATION PROCESS

We will consider candidates for internships in dance, instrumental music, theater, visual arts, and writing. We are not considering applications for choral music.

Qualifications

Current university juniors and seniors are eligible to apply. The ideal candidate will:

- Have prior experience working in residential settings (as summer camp counselors, travel program *madrichim*, university residential advisors, etc.), preferably with teens;
- Have passion for and skills and experience in one (or more) of the arts disciplines offered at BIMA;
- Have experience living and/or learning in a Jewish community setting (either as a participant or staff member);
- Demonstrate motivation to learn from and contribute to a diverse, creative, collaborative, Jewish community.

Application Materials

Intern candidates should submit the following application materials by January 16, 2012:

1. Online staff application form

<http://www.brandeis.edu/highschool/employment/index.html>

2. Resume

3. Personal statement describing:

- What you hope to gain from an internship at BIMA
- What you hope to contribute to the BIMA community

4. Letter of recommendation from a previous employer or university professor who knows you well and can describe your personal qualifications

5. Sample(s) of your work in your artistic discipline:

- Dance and theater samples should be submitted via link(s) to YouTube or another website. Your sample video should be no longer than 2 minutes. If you are submitting an excerpt from a longer piece, please provide context for the excerpt. If you are performing with other performers, please include a description of yourself and your role so that we can easily identify you. Only one sample is required, but you may submit additional samples if you wish.
- Music samples should be submitted via link(s) to YouTube or another website. Please submit two or three video samples in different styles. We do not accept audio-only samples.
- Visual arts samples should be submitted as a link to a Picasa web album (or other online web album) containing photographs of your work. Your album should include between four and six samples in at least two different media from within the last twelve months.

- Writing samples should be submitted as PDF documents via email to bima@brandeis.edu. You should submit between two and four writing samples in at least two genres.

Please complete the staff application form online (see above), and email all other materials to highschool@brandeis.edu with the subject “Name - BIMA Internship Application Materials.”

Interviews and Acceptance

You will be notified by January 23 if you have been selected for an interview. Interviews will be scheduled between January 29 and February 10, 2012. Decisions will be made by February 27, 2012.