

**Genesis at Brandeis University
Internship in Experiential Jewish Education
Summer 2012**

OVERVIEW

The Genesis Internship in Experiential Jewish Education is for a select group of university students who are interested in learning, practicing and exploring experiential Jewish education in a supportive and challenging Jewish learning community. The interns work with and learn from Genesis community educators and course faculty, contribute to the community through Shabbat programming, coordinate the recreational options offered during the afternoon chofesh (rest), live with the participants in the residence halls, and take part in significant learning as a group and individually. This is a paid internship, entailing significant learning opportunities, responsibilities, and experience working in a collaborative, creative environment.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Residential and Community Life

Genesis runs alongside its sibling program, BIMA (www.brandeis.edu/highschool/bima). 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 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 Jewish experiential settings. The CEs serve as educational role models and informal mentors for the interns throughout the summer.*

Educational Programming

The following elements are components of the program that the interns are responsible for either as a group or as individuals and are part of their learning experience as well as their responsibilities. They will work closely with a senior educator on the design, implementation, and evaluation of all of the elements.

Community Service

The Genesis participants engage in three mornings or afternoons of community service during the summer. The interns accompany the participants to the community service sites and help the participants make connections between doing community service and the rest of their Genesis experience.

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; this includes being present at meals and communal activities, as well as available and close at hand in the dorm area throughout the day.

There are two ways that the interns will be expected to contribute educationally to the Shabbat experience:

- a) **Educational Programming** - The interns will have opportunities throughout the summer to develop and offer educational programs on Shabbat (2-3 throughout the summer). The interns will be able to choose what type of session to develop that will take place either on Friday night, Shabbat morning, or Shabbat afternoon.
- b) **Batim**: The whole Genesis 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 shadow a CE in planning and facilitating Shabbat programming within the *bayit*.

Chofesh: Recreational Options

Participants and educators deal with free time in various ways; some know what to do with their free time, and others seek out organized activities through which to connect to other participants and educators and give them a focus for the free time in the schedule. Throughout the summer the interns will be responsible for offering optional recreational activities during the afternoon chofesh (rest) time block. These will be coordinated in advance and throughout by a member of the community education team.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

We encourage the interns to view every aspect of their work at Genesis 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. The interns will work closely with a senior educator who will mentor them individually and as a group.

Group Learning

The Genesis interns will meet regularly with the intern coordinator to learn and discuss issues of practice, as well as topics generated by the interns. Opportunities to meet and learn with professionals, 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 experiential Jewish education, each intern will develop an “investigation” (professional learning 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.

Observations

The interns will have many opportunities to observe the Genesis course faculty and community educators (CEs) at work. Each week, the interns will be assigned a different topic for observation (such as pedagogy, educational content, interpersonal relationships, etc). They will observe different settings that week through that lens, and will have time to collectively reflect and develop their understanding of the topic of the week.

APPLICATION PROCESS

There are three internships available for summer 2012. Interns receive full room and board, travel stipend (if applicable), plus a \$1500 work stipend. The dates of the internship are Monday June 25 – Monday August 6, 2012.

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 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 get out of an internship at Genesis
 - What you hope to contribute to the Genesis community
4. Letter of recommendation from a previous employer or university professor who knows you well and can describe your personal qualifications
5. Contact information for an additional reference (name, phone number, and email address)

Please complete the staff application form online (see above), and email all other materials to highschool@brandeis.edu with the subject "Name - Genesis 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.