BIMA and Genesis
Community Educator

Each summer, BIMA and Genesis hire a team Community Educators (CEs) to live with the participants and design and implement a curriculum of experiential Jewish and arts-based learning in a pluralistic Jewish setting. The role of CE is an intensive residential position defined by educational collaboration, experimentation and learning in the context of designing and implementing an exceptional growth experience for participants from around the world. CEs invest significantly in thinking about their own professional development and the craft of experiential Jewish education.

This document outlines the main responsibilities of a community educator at BIMA and Genesis: (1) residential and community life, (2) Jewish life and educational programming, (3) recreational options, and (4) professional development.

Residential and Community Life

The residential team plays 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, as well as facilitate ways for the participants to encounter each other.

Members of the residential staff:
• Live in the residence halls with the participants;
• Monitor the physical and emotional well-being of the participants;
• Support the participants in following the community guidelines and making responsible decisions as they negotiate living in the community at Brandeis;
• Create a supportive environment within which participants can expand their comfort zones and explore new ways of expressing themselves;
• Collaborate with the participants to shape a vibrant, diverse and intentionally pluralistic Jewish community;
• Consider creative ways of approaching “unstructured” time in the program.

Jewish Life and Educational Programming

The CEs work independently, with senior staff support, and as a group to frame Jewish life conversations and programming for the BIMA and Genesis community (including, but not limited to, exploring issues around Jewish practice, Shabbat, ways of relating to Israel, and Jewish identity). The CEs are also responsible for facilitating participant discussion and helping the participants integrate the different parts of their experiences through community building and exploration of diverse Jewish community.

Educational Programming

Each CE will have the opportunity to teach a series of experiential classes / workshops over the course of the program with a small group of participants. BIMA and Genesis approach this piece of the program differently:

Each BIMA CE will design and facilitate an “Artist Beit Midrash” experience, using a particular art form (music, theater, visual arts, writing, dance, or interdisciplinary arts) to explore Jewish texts, questions of identity, and more.

Each Genesis CE will design and facilitate an “Expedition” that explores important facets of community: people, ideas, and experiences. The expeditions are hands-on and discussion-based explorations that culminate with authentic experiences that are shaped by the participants.

Detailed descriptions of these educational frameworks will be shared in the interview process. CEs will do much of the individual planning prior to the summer with support from senior staff members. Collaborative planning will happen during staff orientation and throughout the summer.

Shabbat and Weekday Options

The team of Genesis and BIMA CEs will work with the Jewish Life Coordinator and senior staff to engage participants in Shabbat planning, leadership, and celebration each week. This includes CE leadership of some tefilah as well as offering some “kavanot” -- facilitated opportunities for participants to explore spirituality in other ways two afternoons a week.

Chofesh: Recreational Options

On a rotating basis throughout the summer the CEs will be responsible for offering optional recreational activities during afternoon chofesh (free time). These will be coordinated in advance and throughout by a member of the community education team. As part of our emphasis on collaboration, the participants will have the opportunity to plan some evening activities for the larger community. CEs will work closely with these small groups of participants to design and facilitate programming during several open time slots.
Ongoing Learning Opportunities

We believe that every member of the educational team is both an educator and a learner. Our staff engages in reflective practice and models a philosophy of lifelong learning that supports our work with the participants. The CEs work collaboratively and invest significantly in their own professional learning and the craft of experiential Jewish education. The CE team functions as an active and reflective research group: studying and exploring their practice as Jewish educators individually and as a group. Over the course of the summer, each CE will cultivate an area of inquiry for a reflective investigation. The CEs will work closely with members of the senior staff on their investigations.

Working as a CE at Genesis and BIMA is an incredible opportunity to further develop skills in:

- Jewish experiential and arts education
- Facilitating challenging, relevant conversations
- Leading aspects of Shabbat learning, vibrant prayer, and Jewish life and empowering teens to lead and feel a sense of ownership of their Judaism
- Mentoring inspiring teens and cultivating a caring pastoral presence
- Planning and teaching a series of workshops on a topic about which you are passionate
- Collaborating with an amazing staff of educators and artists
- And of course, spending four weeks with an incredible, pluralistic group of teens from around the world.

To apply, please fill out our employment inquiry form: [http://www.brandeis.edu/precollege/employment/inquiry-form.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/precollege/employment/inquiry-form.html) or reach out to [precollege@brandeis.edu](mailto:precollege@brandeis.edu) with any questions.