Welcome!

Thank you for participating in this ongoing evaluation of the Taglit-Birthright Israel program. Your responses to this survey will add to information from over 60,000 Birthright applicants collected over the past seven years. Completing the survey will take about ten minutes.

The information you provide is highly valued by Taglit-Birthright Israel; it helps the organization to learn more about those interested in the program and to more effectively implement future trips.

This research is being conducted by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University. Your answers are confidential – the only results that will be reported are overall responses from the entire group of applicants.

The survey starts as soon as you click the "Next" button below.

Thank you for helping with this important project,

Theodore Sasson, PhD, Leonard Saxe, PhD, Shahar Hecht, MA, MeLena Hessel, BA (Summer ’05 Taglit alum)
Taglit-Birthright Israel Research Team

FAQs
I have a question regarding my application status/deposit/eligibility/phone interview.
What if I don’t know whether I’m going?
Do I need to complete this survey if I am not going on a trip?
What is the purpose of this survey?
How do you keep my answers confidential?
How can I get the results of this research?
What is the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies?
I have an issue with the questions that you ask in your survey. Do I have to respond?
I am having technical issues with the survey.
I never gave permission for my email to be used. How did you get my contact information?
Plenty of people complete these things - why should I?
Whom do I contact if I have any other questions about this research?

Introduction

Were you offered a spot on a summer 2008 Taglit-Birthright Israel trip?

☐ Yes -- and I am going
☐ Yes -- but I am undecided about whether to accept
☐ Yes -- but I have decided not to go
☐ No, I was not offered a spot
☐ Don’t know yet
☐ I withdrew my application
☐ I didn’t complete my application
Applying for the Trip

How important were each of the following in your decision to apply to Taglit-Birthright Israel?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Not at All</th>
<th>A Little</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Very Much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friends told me it is a great experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I always wanted to see Israel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The trip was free</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The trip is an important Jewish experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why did you apply to go on Taglit-Birthright Israel with the specific trip organizer you chose (e.g. Oranim, Tlalim-Israel Outdoors, Hillel, etc.)? (check all that apply)

- [ ] My friends were going with this organizer
- [ ] It was the only organizer I knew about
- [ ] This organizer contacted me/I attended their recruiting event
- [ ] This organizer was religiously the right fit for me
- [ ] I’d heard from alumni that this organizer had the best trips
- [ ] This organizer had the easiest registration process
- [ ] This organizer offered the best dates/departure cities
- [ ] This organizer easily facilitated the extension of my trip
- [ ] This organizer had the most opportunities to connect with Israelis
- [ ] I liked the specific type of experience offered by this organizer
- [ ] This organizer had the best website
- [ ] Other. Please explain: ______________________________

What are your expectations of the trip?
I expect the trip to be...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expectation</th>
<th>Not at All</th>
<th>A Little</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Very Much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A fun vacation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A learning experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A religious pilgrimage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A journey to my Jewish roots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A group Jewish experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A life changing experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Applying for the Trip (continued)

What are some possible reasons for your not going on this trip? (check all that apply)

- I should spend time studying and/or writing papers
- The timing of the trip I was offered is inconvenient
- I can't take time off from work
- I am unable to go on the same trip as family/friends
- I am concerned about terrorism
- A family/personal emergency has come up
- I need to earn money over the vacation period
- I don't have enough money for other trip expenses
- I want to spend time with friends
- The trip I wanted wasn't available
- Don't know yet if I'm accepted
- I was not accepted
- Other. Please explain: 

If you do not go, are you planning to apply again?

- Yes, next winter
- Yes, next summer
- Maybe later on
- No

Thinking About Israel

In the past three months how often did you actively seek news about Israel?

- Never
- Once a month
- Twice a month
- Once a week
- Every few days
- At least once a day

If someone asked you about the current situation in Israel, how confident do you feel in your ability to give a good explanation?

- Not at all confident
- A little confident
- Somewhat confident
- Very confident

How much do you AGREE or DISAGREE with the following statements?
I think about Israel as...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A lively democratic society</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A militaristic society</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A religious fundamentalist society</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A possible future home</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A diverse multi-cultural society</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As part of a permanent settlement with the Palestinians should Israel be willing to...

○ Dismantle all of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?
○ Dismantle some of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?
○ Dismantle none of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?
○ Don’t know

Your Views

There are different ways of being Jewish. For you personally, how much does being Jewish involve...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not at All</th>
<th>A Little</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Very Much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Celebrating Jewish holidays?</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring about Israel?</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Jewish organizations?</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working for social justice?</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending synagogue?</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remembering the Holocaust?</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countering anti-Semitism?</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering to help those in need?</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How important is each of the following to you personally in your life?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not Important</th>
<th>A little Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Being Jewish</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dating someone Jewish</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marrying someone Jewish</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising your children Jewish</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To what extent do you...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not at All</th>
<th>A Little</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Very Much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Over the past twelve months, have you taken a course in...?

Feel a connection to Jewish history?

Feel a connection to Israel?

Feel part of a worldwide Jewish community?

Feel a connection to the Jewish community where you live?

Feel a connection to Jewish traditions and customs?

Feel a connection to your Jewish peers?

No Yes

Jewish Learning

Are you planning to take any such courses in the next twelve months?

No Yes

Activities

In the past three months, were you INVITED by any of the following organizations to participate in activities? (check all that apply)

- Hillel
- Chabad
- Your local Jewish federation
- A synagogue
- Your local JCC
- Other Jewish organizations. Please describe:

Feel a connection to Jewish history?

Feel a connection to Israel?

Feel part of a worldwide Jewish community?

Feel a connection to the Jewish community where you live?

Feel a connection to Jewish traditions and customs?

Feel a connection to your Jewish peers?
Wasn't contacted by any Jewish organization

In the past three months, how often have you ENGAGED in activities sponsored by....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>Twice</th>
<th>3-5 times</th>
<th>6 times or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hillel?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chabad?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your local Jewish federation?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A synagogue?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your local JCC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Jewish organization(s)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If other, please specify: 

In the past three months have you participated in...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>Twice</th>
<th>3-5 times</th>
<th>6 times or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taglit-Birthright Israel preparation sessions?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other Taglit-Birthright Israel events?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities (continued)

In the past three months, how often have you engaged in the following types of Jewish/Israel-related activities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>Twice</th>
<th>3-5 times</th>
<th>6 times or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rallies/demonstrations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerts/performances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures or panel discussions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parties/celebrations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the past three months have you been an officer, board member, or employee of a Jewish organization?

- No
- Yes. Please describe:

Volunteering

How interested would you be in participating in a 6-12 month post-college volunteer program in the developing world (e.g. Peace Corps)?
To what extent would each of the following increase or decrease your interest in participating in such a service program …

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Greatly Decrease</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
<th>No Effect</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Greatly Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship by a Jewish organization?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship by a Non-Jewish organization?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Volunteering (continued)

To what extent do each of the following factors contribute to your interest in a long term service program?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Not at All</th>
<th>A Little</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Very Much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working with other Jewish peers?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support of living expenses during the program?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with peers from other countries?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delay of student loan repayment during program?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaining experience related to future career plans?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abatement of some portion of student loans?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language training?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Volunteering (continued)

Over the last year, how often did you engage in any of the following volunteer or social action efforts?...

...through a Jewish organization?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>A few times</th>
<th>Regularly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mentoring, tutoring or coaching youth</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helping in hospitals, nursing homes, crisis centers, shelters, or food banks</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing or assisting an arts/cultural organization</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Volunteering (continued)

People participate in volunteer or social action work for many reasons. How important to you is each of the following reasons?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Not at all Important</th>
<th>A little Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To express your Jewish values</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To help people</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To feel personal satisfaction</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To have new experiences</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To have fun</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To express your personal values</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To develop new skills</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To enhance your resume</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To gain hands-on experience related to your career</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Little About You

Are you CURRENTLY....

- □ Not a student
- □ A freshman (1st year)
- □ A sophomore (2nd year)
- □ A junior (3rd year)
- □ A senior (4th year)
- □ Studying for a Master's degree (e.g. MA, MBA, MSW, MS)
- □ Studying for a Doctoral degree (e.g. PhD, EdD)
- □ Studying for a professional degree (e.g. MD, JD)
Other student. Please explain: 

**In general, how would you describe your political views?**
- Very conservative
- Conservative
- Moderate
- Liberal
- Very liberal

**How many of your close friends are Jewish?**
- None
- A few
- Half
- Most
- All

**In the past three months, did you date...**
- Did not date
- Only Jews
- Mostly Jews
- Jews and Non-Jews equally
- Mostly Non-Jews
- All non-Jews

**Do you CURRENTLY consider yourself to be?**
- Secular/Culturally Jewish
- Just Jewish
- Reform
- Conservative
- Reconstructionist
- Orthodox
- No religion
- Other. Please specify: 

**If you were asked to read a text in Hebrew how much would you understand?**
- Don't know Hebrew alphabet at all
- Can read the letters but not understand the words
- Some of what I read
- Most of what I read
- Everything I read

**Do you have family and/or friends in Israel?**
- Family. Please describe: 
- Friends

**In the past three months, how often have you done any of the following?**
Have you ever participated in an alternative break service program or trip?
- No
- Yes

In the past three months have you...

Lit/participated in lighting Shabbat candles?  
- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always (every week)

Had/attended a special meal on Shabbat?  
- Never
- Sometimes
- Usually
- Always (every week)

Which of the following best describes your current practices regarding keeping kosher?
- Don't follow kosher rules at all
- Follow some kosher rules like avoiding pork or shellfish
- Keep kosher only at home
- Keep kosher all the time

During the last Yom Kippur, did you fast?
- Not at all
- Could not due to health reasons
- Part of the day
- All day

This coming Passover, will you hold or attend a Seder?
- No
- Yes

How often, if at all, did you attend some type of organized Jewish religious service in the past MONTH?
- Never
- Once
- A few times
- Weekly
- Daily

Your Upbringing

Listened to Jewish/Israeli music

Read Jewish/Israeli literature and/or non fiction

Participated in Jewish/Israeli performing arts

Viewed Jewish/Israeli films and/or TV shows

Visited Jewish/Israeli websites and/or blogs

Which of the following best describes your current practices regarding keeping kosher?

- Don't follow kosher rules at all
- Follow some kosher rules like avoiding pork or shellfish
- Keep kosher only at home
- Keep kosher all the time

During the last Yom Kippur, did you fast?
- Not at all
- Could not due to health reasons
- Part of the day
- All day

This coming Passover, will you hold or attend a Seder?
- No
- Yes

How often, if at all, did you attend some type of organized Jewish religious service in the past MONTH?
- Never
- Once
- A few times
- Weekly
- Daily
Were you raised...
- Secular/Culturally Jewish
- Just Jewish
- Reform
- Conservative
- Reconstructionist
- Orthodox
- No religion
- Other. Please specify: 

Were your parents born Jewish?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are your parents Jewish now?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where were your parents born?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>If other, please specify:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>(Click here to choose)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>(Click here to choose)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are your parents members of or do they donate to a... (check all that apply)
- Synagogue?
- Jewish Community Center?
- Jewish federation?
- Other Jewish organization? Please describe: 

During elementary and middle school (grades 1-8) did you attend...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>If yes, number of years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time Jewish day school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Click here to choose)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time Hebrew school that met several times a week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Click here to choose)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time Hebrew school that met once a week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Click here to choose)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During high school (grades 9-12) did you attend...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time Jewish high school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During your high school years...

Did your household keep kosher?  
- None  
- A few  
- Half  
- Most  
- All

Did someone in your home regularly light Shabbat candles?  
- No  
- Yes

Did your family celebrate Hanukkah?  
- No  
- Yes

Did your family hold or attend a Seder?  
- No  
- Yes

During your high school years, how many of your close friends were Jewish?  
- None  
- A few  
- Half  
- Most  
- All

Did you have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony?  
- No  
- Yes

Have you ever attended or worked at an overnight camp that had Shabbat services and/or a Jewish educational program?  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attended</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If yes, number of years:  
- (Click here to choose)

During your high school years, how frequently did you participate in a Jewish youth group, if at all?  
- Never  
- Rarely  
- Occasionally  
- Often

As you were growing up, how many of the people in your neighborhood were Jewish?  
- Almost none  
- A few  
- About half  
- Most  
- Almost all
Other Thoughts

Is there anything you would like to add about your Jewish background and/or interest in Israel?

Would you like to receive results of this survey?
- No
- Yes

Please enter the e-mail address you would like the results to be sent to:

Thank you for participating in this important survey!

If you have any questions about Taglit-Birthright Israel, visit their Website http://www.birthrightisrael.com

Submit Survey