

The Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies

Brandeis University

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www.cmjs.org

CMJS Web Surveys

Welcome!

Thank you for taking part in this survey of *Taglit-birthright israel* applicants. Regardless of whether or not you will be going on the trip, we want to hear from you. Completing the survey will take about 10 minutes and your input is very important to us.

This survey is conducted by The Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University. The goal of this survey is to learn more about applicants to *birthright israel*. The Cohen Center is solely responsible for this survey. Surveys are handled with complete confidentiality. Only overall results from all of the respondents will be reported.

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

Thank you for helping with this important project,

**Ted Sasson & Len Saxe
Co-Principal Investigators**

Introduction

Have you been accepted to participate in a *Taglit-birthright israel* trip this summer?

- 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 accepted
- Don't know yet
- I withdrew my application
- I didn't complete my application

Are you currently....

- Not a student
- A freshman
- A sophomore
- A junior
- A senior

A graduate student

Other student. Please explain:

Applying for the Trip

How important were each of the following in your decision to apply to *Taglit-birthright israel*?

| | Not At All | A Little | Some- what | Very Much |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I wanted to get to know Israelis | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My friends were applying | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I always wanted to see Israel | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I was looking for a spiritual experience | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I wanted to learn more about Judaism | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Friends told me it is a great experience | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My parents wanted me to go | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The trip is an important Jewish experience | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I wanted to meet other young Jews | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The trip was free | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I thought it would be fun | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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 is inconvenient
- I want to spend time with 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
- The trip I wanted wasn't available
- Other. Please explain:
- Don't know yet if I'm accepted
- I was not accepted

Are you planning to reapply to go on a *Taglit-birthright israel* trip?

Yes, next winter

- Yes, next summer
- Maybe later on
- No

Applying for the Trip

How important were each of the following in your decision to apply to *Taglit-birthright israel*?

| | Not at All | A Little | Some- what | Very Much |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I wanted to get to know Israelis | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My friends were applying | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The trip is an important Jewish experience | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Friends told me it is a great experience | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The trip was free | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I thought it would be fun | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I wanted to meet other young Jews | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I wanted to learn more about Judaism | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I was looking for a spiritual experience | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I always wanted to see Israel | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My parents wanted me to go | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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

| | Not at All | A Little | Some- what | Very Much |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A fun vacation | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A college seminar | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A religious pilgrimage | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A journey to my Jewish roots | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A group Jewish experience | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Thinking About Israel

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

- Several times a day
- Once a day
- Every few days
- Once a week
- Once
- Never

Which of the following do you consult for news about Israel? (check all that apply)

- Cable news (CNN, MSNBC, FOX)
- Network news (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX)
- Israeli news sites (Ha'aretz, Ynet, Jerusalem Post, etc.)
- National Public Radio
- The New York Times
- Local Newspapers
- Jewish newspapers (The Forward, The Jewish Week)
- Weekly magazines (Time Magazine, Newsweek, US News & World Report)
- Email circulations
- Blogs
- Other. Please explain:

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

Thinking about Israel, how much do you AGREE or DISAGREE with the following statements? When I think of Israel, I think about Israel as...

| | Strongly Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Somewhat Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A diverse multi-cultural society | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A technological powerhouse | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A refuge for persecuted Jews | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A religious fundamentalist society | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A possible future home | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A source of pride | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A militaristic society | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A country riven with internal strife | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A lively democratic society | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| An educational and cultural center | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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

In general, how would you describe your political views?

- Very conservative
- Conservative
- Moderate
- Liberal
- Very liberal

Your Views

To what extent do you think being Jewish means being a member of ...

| | Not at All | A Little | Some-what | Very Much |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A people? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A religious group? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A nationality? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A cultural group? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| An ethnic group? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A lifestyle? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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

| | Not at All | A Little | Some-what | Very Much |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Leading an ethical and moral life? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Remembering the Holocaust? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Caring about Israel? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Having a rich spiritual life? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Reading Jewish books? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Observing Shabbat? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Supporting Jewish organizations? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Attending synagogue? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Making the world a better place? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Countering anti-Semitism? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Knowing Hebrew? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Eating Jewish food? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Celebrating Jewish holidays? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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

| | Not Important | A little Important | Somewhat Important | Very Important |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Being Jewish | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Dating someone Jewish | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Marrying someone Jewish | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Raising your children Jewish | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

To what extent do you...

| | Not at All | A Little | Some-what | Very Much |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Feel a connection to Jewish history? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Feel a connection to Israel? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Feel part of a worldwide Jewish community? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Feel a connection to your local Jewish community? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Activities

In the past year, have you taken any college level courses specifically focusing on Jewish subjects, such as Jewish history, the Holocaust, or Hebrew?

- No
- Yes

Which courses did you take? (check all that apply)

- Jewish history
- Modern Israel
- The Holocaust
- Hebrew language
- The Israeli-Arab conflict
- Hebrew/Jewish literature
- Bible/Talmud

- Other. Please specify:
- Did not take any courses

In the past year, have you engaged in any informal Jewish study?

- No
- Yes. Please describe:

In the past year have you participated in any Jewish or Israel related activities?

- No
- Yes

Activities (continued)

This past year, how often have you engaged in activities sponsored by....

| | Never | Once | Twice | 3-5 times | 6 times or more |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Hillel | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Chabad | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Your local Jewish federation | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A synagogue | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other Jewish organization(s) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

If other, please specify:

This past year, in what kind of Jewish activities did you participate both on and off campus? (check all that apply)

- Israel related activities
- Cultural activities
- Religious activities
- Community service/social justice
- Other. Please describe:

What is the most personally meaningful Jewish activity you participated in this past year?

Are you an officer or a board member of a Jewish or Jewish related organization?

- No
- Yes. Please describe your position:

Are you employed (full-time or part-time) by a Jewish related organization?

- No
- Yes. Please describe your position:

Activities (continued)

If you haven't participated in Jewish related activities in the past year, why not? (check all that apply)

- I don't have time
- I'm just not interested
- I don't know when/where these activities take place
- I tried it once and it was boring
- I don't know people I can go with
- I don't feel connected to people who participate
- There are no Jewish activities/events where I live
- I don't need Jewish organizations to feel Jewish
- Other. Please explain:

Are you an officer or a board member of a Jewish or Jewish related organization?

- No
- Yes. Please describe your position:

Are you employed (full-time or part-time) by a Jewish related organization?

- No
- Yes. Please describe your position:

A Little About You

Do you 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 year have you...

| | Never | Some- times | Usually | Always (every week) |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lit/participated in lighting Shabbat candles? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Had/attended a special meal on Shabbat? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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

During the past year, how often, if at all, did you attend some type of organized Jewish religious service?

- Never
- Only on special occasions (bar/bat mitzvahs, weddings)
- Only on High Holidays (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur)
- A few times a year
- About once a month
- A few times a month

- Weekly
- Daily

This past Hanukkah, did you participate in the lighting of Hanukkah candles, either in or out of your home?

- No
- Yes

This coming Passover, will you hold or attend a Seder?

- No
- Yes

Do you have a...

| | No | Yes | How often do you log on? | What is the primary reason you use it? |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Facebook profile | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | (Click here to choose) ▼ | <input type="text"/> |
| MySpace profile | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | (Click here to choose) ▼ | <input type="text"/> |
| JDate profile | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | (Click here to choose) ▼ | <input type="text"/> |
| Personal blog | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | (Click here to choose) ▼ | <input type="text"/> |

Your Upbringing

Were you raised...

- Secular/Culturally Jewish
- Just Jewish
- Reform
- Conservative
- Reconstructionist
- Orthodox
- No religion
- Other. Please specify:

Were your parents born Jewish?

| | No | Yes |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Father | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mother | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Are your parents Jewish now?

| | No | Yes |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Father | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mother | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Where were your parents born?

| | | If other, please specify: |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Father | <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Mother | <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/> | <input type="text"/> |

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...

| | | If yes, number of years |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | No | Yes |
| Full-time Jewish day school | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/> |
| Part-time Hebrew school that met several times a week | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/> |
| Part-time Hebrew school that met once a week | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/> |

During high school did you attend...

| | | If yes, number of years |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | No | Yes |
| Full-time Jewish high school | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/> |
| Part-time Hebrew school that met several times a week | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/> |
| Part-time Hebrew school that met once a week | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/> |

During your high school years...

| | No | Yes |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Did your household keep kosher? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Did someone in your home regularly light Shabbat candles? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Did your family celebrate Hanukkah? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Did your family hold or attend a Seder?

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?

- No
- Attended
- Worked
- Attended and worked

Other Thoughts

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

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