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 50,000 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 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, Rachel Maimin, BA (Winter ’04/’05 Taglit alum)
Taglit-birthright israel Research Team

FAQs
I have a question regarding my application status/deposit/eligibility.
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

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

☐ 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
Applying for the Trip

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

<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>I wanted to learn more about Judaism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I thought it would be fun</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>My parents wanted me to go</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My friends were applying</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends told me it is a great experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to meet other young Jews</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 is an important Jewish experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to get to know Israelis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was looking for a spiritual experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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 summer
- [ ] Yes, next winter
- [ ] Maybe later on
- [ ] No
Applying for the Trip

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Not at All</th>
<th>A Little</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Very Much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I thought it would be fun</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My friends were applying</td>
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<tr>
<td>My parents wanted me to go</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The trip is an important Jewish experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>The trip was free</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to learn more about Judaism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</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 college seminar</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>
</tbody>
</table>

Thinking About Israel

In the past month how often did you actively seek news about Israel?
- Never
- Once
Once a week
☐ Every few days
☐ Once a day
☐ Several times a day

Which of the following do you consult for news about Israel? (check all that apply)
☐ Cable news (CNN, MSNBC, FOX, etc.)
☐ Network news (ABC, NBC, CBS, CBC etc.)
☐ BBC International
☐ 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, The Canadian Jewish News, etc.)
☐ Weekly magazines (Time Magazine, Newsweek, US News & World Report, etc.)
☐ 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

How much do you AGREE or DISAGREE with the following statements?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When I think of Israel, I think about Israel as...</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A diverse multi-cultural society</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A refuge for persecuted Jews</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 militaristic society</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A lively democratic society</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A source of pride</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A technological powerhouse</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A country riven with internal strife</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An educational and cultural center</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?
Your Views

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

\[
\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
 & Not at All & A Little & Somewhat \\
\hline
An ethnic group? & & & \\
A people? & & & \\
A nationality? & & & \\
A religious group? & & & \\
A cultural group? & & & \\
A lifestyle? & & & \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

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

\[
\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
 & Not at All & A Little & Somewhat \\
\hline
Reading Jewish/Israeli literature and/or non-fiction? & & & \\
Engaging in Jewish learning? & & & \\
Watching Jewish/Israeli theater and/or dance? & & & \\
Attending synagogue? & & & \\
Celebrating Jewish holidays? & & & \\
Working for social justice? & & & \\
Supporting Jewish organizations? & & & \\
Volunteering to help those in need? & & & \\
Remembering the Holocaust? & & & \\
Viewing Jewish/Israeli films and/or TV shows? & & & \\
Countering anti-Semitism? & & & \\
Visiting Jewish/Israeli websites and/or blogs? & & & \\
Caring about Israel? & & & \\
Celebrating Shabbat? & & & \\
Listening to Jewish/Israeli music? & & & \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

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

\[
\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
 & Not & A little & Somewhat & Very \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

© Dismantle none of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?
© Don't know
To what extent do you...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Being Jewish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dating someone Jewish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marrying someone Jewish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising your children Jewish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To what extent do you...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not at All</th>
<th>A Little</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Very Much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feel a connection to Jewish history?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel a connection to Israel?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel part of a worldwide Jewish community?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel a connection to your local Jewish community?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jewish Learning

In the next two years, do you plan to take any courses specifically focusing on Jewish subjects, such as Jewish history, the Holocaust, or Hebrew?

- No
- Yes

Are you taking any such courses this year?

- No
- Yes

Which courses are you/will you be taking? (check all that apply)

- Jewish history
- Modern Israel
- The Holocaust
- Hebrew language
- The Arab-Israeli conflict
- Hebrew/Jewish literature
- Bible/Talmud
- Other. Please specify: __________________________
- Am not/will not be taking any courses

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

- Hillel
- Chabad
- Your local Jewish federation
- A synagogue
- Other. Please describe: __________________________________________
- Wasn't contacted by any organization

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></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>Other Jewish organization(s)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If other, please specify: __________________________________________

Activities (continued)

In the past three months, in what kind of Jewish activities did you participate? (check all that apply)

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

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

- No
- Yes. Please describe your position: __________________________________________

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

- No
- Yes. Please describe your position: __________________________________________
Activities (continued)

If you haven’t participated in Jewish related activities in the past three months, 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 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
- I do Jewish things privately with family/friends
- Other. Please explain: ____________________________

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)
- A graduate student
- Other student. Please explain: ____________________________

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

Do you actively use...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MySpace</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JDate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal blog</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How many of your close friends are Jewish?
- None
- A few
- Half
- Most
- All

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
<th>Often</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listened to Jewish/Israeli music</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read Jewish/Israeli literature and/or non fiction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watched Jewish/Israeli theater and/or dance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Viewed Jewish/Israeli films and/or TV shows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited Jewish/Israeli websites and/or blogs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended a lecture or class on Jewish/Israeli topics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteered to help those in need</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the past three months have you...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Usually</th>
<th>Always (every week)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lit/participated in lighting Shabbat candles?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Had a special meal on Shabbat?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Other than for the High Holidays, 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

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

- No
- Yes

Last Passover, did you hold or attend a Seder?

- No
- Yes

Your Upbringing

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time Jewish day school</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>(Click here to choose)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time Hebrew school that met once a week</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>(Click here to choose)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time Hebrew school that met several times a week</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Click here to choose)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part-time Hebrew school that met once a week

During your high school years...

Did your household keep kosher?  
No  ☐
Yes ☐

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 ☐

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?  

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](http://www.birthrightisrael.com)