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 eight 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, Monica Pevzner, 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 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?
Who do I contact if I have any other questions about this research?

Introduction

Were you offered a spot on a winter 2008-09 Taglit-Birthright Israel trip?

Yes -- and I am going
Yes -- but I am undecided about whether to accept
No, I was not offered a spot
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?

I always wanted to see Israel
Friends told me it is a great experience
The trip was free
The trip is an important Jewish experience

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 heard from alumni that this organizer had the best trips
It was the organizer for my campus trip
This organizer offered the best dates/departure cities
This organizer had the most opportunities to connect with Israelis
I liked the specific type of experience offered by this organizer
Other. Please explain:

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

A fun vacation
A learning experience
A religious pilgrimage
A journey to my Jewish roots
A group Jewish experience
A life changing experience
An encounter with the real Israel

Not at All A Little Some-what Very Much

I expected the trip to be...

A fun vacation
A learning experience
A religious pilgrimage
A journey to my Jewish roots
A group Jewish experience
A life changing experience
An encounter with the real Israel

Not at All A Little Some-what Very Much

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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)

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Other. Please explain:

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A journey to my Jewish roots
A group Jewish experience
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An encounter with the real Israel

Not at All A Little Some-what Very Much
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
- 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
- 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

Thinking About Israel

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>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A source of pride</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 lively democratic society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A diverse multi-cultural society</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A militaristic society</td>
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</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

In the framework of a permanent peace with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to compromise on the status of Jerusalem as a united city under Israeli jurisdiction?

- No
- Yes
- Not sure

How important is it to you who becomes the next Prime Minister of Israel?

- Not important
- A little important
- Somewhat important
- Very important

Your Views

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

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

To what extent do you...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel a connection to Israel?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel part of a worldwide Jewish community?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel a connection to the Jewish community you live?</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feel a connection to Jewish traditions and customs?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel a connection to your Jewish peers?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

I have spent time trying to learn more about Judaism, such as its history, traditions, and customs
Jewish Learning

Over the past twelve months, have you taken a course in...?

- Jewish History
- Modern Israel
- The Holocaust
- Hebrew language
- The Arab-Israeli conflict
- Hebrew/Jewish literature
- Bible/Talmud
- Other Jewish/Israel related courses

If other, please specify: ____________________________

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

- No
- Yes

Activities

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

- Taglit-Birthright Israel preparation sessions
- Taglit-Birthright Israel events

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

- No
- Yes. Please describe: ____________________________

Over the last year, how often did you engage in volunteering or social action efforts...

- through a Jewish organization
- through another organization

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

- Hillel
- Chabad
- Jewish Student Union
- Your local JCC
- Other Jewish organizations. Please describe: ____________________________

- Taglit-Birthright Israel events?
- Any other Taglit-Birthright Israel events?

- If other, please specify: ____________________________

Activities (continued)

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

- Rallies/demonstrations
- Concerts/performances
- Exhibits
- Lectures or panel discussions
- Parties/celebrations

- If other, please specify: ____________________________

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

- No
- Yes. Please describe: ____________________________

- Over the last year, how often did you engage in volunteering or social action efforts...

- through a Jewish organization
- through another organization
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: _______________________________________________________________________

To what extent do you consider yourself...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Secular Jew</th>
<th>A Little</th>
<th>Some-what</th>
<th>Very Much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Cultural Jew</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Reform Jew</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A Conservative Jew</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A Reconstructionist Jew</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>An Orthodox Jew</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Not Jewish</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If 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
- Most of what I read
- Everything I read

Do you have family and/or friends who live in Israel (check all that apply)?

- Family
- Friends

Have you ever participated in an alternative break service program or trip?

- With a Jewish organization
- With another organization

In the past three months, how often have you done any of the following?

- Listened to Jewish/Israeli music
- Read Jewish/Israeli literature and/or non fiction
- Viewed Jewish/Israeli films and/or TV shows
- Visited Jewish/Israeli websites and/or blogs
- Actively sought news about Israel
- Talked with your friends about Judaism

In the past three months have you...

- Lit/participated in lighting Shabbat candles?
- Had/attended a special meal on Shabbat?

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

Last Passover, did you hold or attend a Seder?

- No
- Yes

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

- No
- Yes

This fall, in which of the following places have you attended Jewish religious services (check all that apply)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rosh Hashana</th>
<th>Yom Kippur</th>
<th>During the past month (other than on High Holidays)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did not attend Jewish religious services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A synagogue</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Minyan or Havura</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hillel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chabad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If Other, please specify: _______________________________________________________________________

Other than 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

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

Your Upbringing

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

Were your parents born Jewish?
- No
- Yes

Are your parents Jewish now?
- No
- Yes

Where were your parents born?
- Father
- Mother

If other, please specify:
- Father
- Mother

What languages were spoken in your home while you were growing up (check all that apply):
- English
- French
- Hebrew
- Russian
- Spanish
- Other. Please specify:

During elementary and middle school (grades 1-8) did you attend...
- Full-time Jewish day school
- Jewish supplementary school that met several times a week
- Jewish supplementary school that met once a week
- If yes, number of years

During high school (grades 9-12) did you attend...
- Full-time Jewish high school
- Jewish supplementary school that met several times a week
- Jewish supplementary school that met once a week
- If yes, number of years

During your high school years...
- Did your household keep kosher?
- Did someone in your home regularly light Shabbat candles?
- Did your family celebrate Hanukkah?
- Did your family hold or attend a Seder?
- Did your family belong/pay dues to a synagogue?
- Did your family belong/pay dues to a JCC?

During your high school years, how many of your close friends were Jewish? 
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?
- Attended
- Worked

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

The Elections

It is election season and there is great interest in understanding young adults’ political views. This is an opportunity to learn more about what Birthright Israel applicants think are the most important issues. Please feel free to skip any questions that you do not wish to answer for any reason.

There are a lot of issues that will have an impact on how people will vote in this election. If you were to vote, how much would the candidates’ positions on each of the following issues influence who gets your vote for President?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Great deal</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Not really much</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Are you...
- Registered to vote (or will register on election day)
- Not registered to vote
- Not eligible to vote

If you are registered to vote, how likely are you to vote in the presidential election?
- Already voted
- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not too likely
- Somewhat likely
- Very unlikely
- Not applicable

The Elections

This past election there has been great interest in understanding young adults’ political views. This is an opportunity to learn more about what Birthright Israel applicants think are the most important issues. Please feel free to skip any questions that you do not wish to answer for any reason.

There were a lot of issues that had an impact on how people voted in this election. If you were to have voted, how much would the candidates’ positions on each of the following issues have influenced who got your vote for President?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Great deal</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Not really much</th>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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- Very conservative
- Conservative
- Moderate
- Liberal
- Very liberal

This past election were you...

- Registered to vote
- Not registered to vote
- Not eligible to vote

Did you vote in the 2008 presidential election?

- No
- Yes
- Not applicable

The Elections

This past election there has been great interest in understanding young adults' political views. This is an opportunity to learn more about what Birthright Israel applicants think are the most important issues. Please feel free to skip any questions that you do not wish to answer for any reason.

There were a lot of issues that had an impact on how people voted in this election. If you were to have voted, how much would the parties’ positions on each of the following issues have influenced which party got your vote?

- Education
- Taxes
- Immigration
- The environment
- Abortion
- Israel
- Iran

In general, how would you describe your political views?

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

This past federal election were you...

- Registered to vote
- Not registered to vote
- Not eligible to vote

Did you vote in the 2008 federal election?

- No
- Yes
- Not applicable

Additional Comments

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