



Brandeis University

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 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?

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

- 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*?

	Not at All	A Little	Some-what	Very Much
I always wanted to see Israel	<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"/>
The trip is an important Jewish experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Why did you apply to go on *Taglit-Birthright Israel* with the specific trip organizer you chose (e.g. Oranim, Talim-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
- 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...

	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 learning experience	<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"/>
A life changing experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An encounter with the real Israel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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 f
- The timing of the trip I was offered is inconvenient f
- I can't take time off from work f
- I am unable to go on the same trip as family/friends f
- I am concerned about terrorism f
- I need to earn money over the vacation period f
- I don't have enough money for other trip expenses f
- The trip I wanted wasn't available f
- Don't know yet if I'm accepted f
- I was not accepted f
- Other. Please explain: f

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...

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
A source of pride	<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 lively democratic society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A diverse multi-cultural 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 militaristic society	<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 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?

	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 the Jewish community where you live?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feel a connection to Jewish traditions and customs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feel a connection to your Jewish peers?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I have spent time trying to learn more about Judaism, such as its history, traditions, and customs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- I think a lot about how my life will be affected by my being Jewish
- I have often sought out other people in order to learn more about Judaism from them
- I am proud to be Jewish
- I have a clear sense of my Jewish background and what it means to me
- I have a strong sense of what being Jewish means to me
- I have a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people
- I feel good about my Jewish heritage

Jewish Learning

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

	No	Yes
Jewish history	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Modern Israel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Holocaust	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hebrew language	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Arab-Israeli conflict	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hebrew/Jewish literature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bible/Talmud	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Jewish/Israel related courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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 participated in...

	Never	Once	Twice	3-5 times	6 times or more
Taglit-Birthright Israel preparation sessions?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Any other Taglit-Birthright Israel events?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

- Hillel
- Chabad
- Jewish Student Union
- Your local JCC
- Other Jewish organizations. Please describe:
- Wasn't contacted by any Jewish organization

In the past three months, 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"/>
Jewish Student Union?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your local JCC?	<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:

Activities (continued)

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

	Never	Once	Twice	3-5 times	6 times or more
Rallies/demonstrations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Concerts/performances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exhibits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lectures or panel discussions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parties/celebrations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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...

	Never	Once	A few times	Regularly
through a Jewish organization	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
through another organization	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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...

	Not at All	A Little	Some-what	Very Much
A Secular Jew	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A Cultural Jew	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A Reform Jew	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A Conservative Jew	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A Reconstructionist Jew	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An Orthodox Jew	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not Jewish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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
- Some of what I read
- 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?

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Often
Listened to Jewish/Israeli music	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Read Jewish/Israeli literature and/or non fiction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Viewed Jewish/Israeli films and/or TV shows	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visited Jewish/Israeli websites and/or blogs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Actively sought news about Israel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Talked with your friends about Judaism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In the past three months have you...

	Never	Sometimes	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

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)?

	Rosh Hashana	Yom Kippur	During the past month (other than on High Holidays)
Did not attend Jewish religious services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A synagogue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minyan or Havura	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hillel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chabad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Father | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mother | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Are your parents Jewish now?

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

- Father
- Mother

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"/> |

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...

- | | No | Yes | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Full-time Jewish day school | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/> |
| Jewish supplementary school that met several times a week | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/> |
| Jewish supplementary school that met once a week | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/> |

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

- | | No | Yes | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Full-time Jewish high school | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/> |
| Jewish supplementary school that met several times a week | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="text" value="(Click here to choose)"/> |
| Jewish supplementary 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? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Did your family belong/pay dues to a synagogue? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Did your family belong/pay dues to a JCC? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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?

If yes, number of years

	No	Yes	
Attended	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	(Click here to choose) ▾
Worked	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	(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

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?

	Great deal	Some-what	Not really much	Not at all
The economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Iraq	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Terrorism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Taxes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Immigration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Abortion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Israel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Iran	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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?

	Great deal	Some-what	Not really much	Not at all
The economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Iraq	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Terrorism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 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 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?

	Great deal	Some-what	Not really much	Not at all
Israel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taxes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Afghanistan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- Crime and justice
- Energy
- Honest government
- Iran
- The economy
- National unity

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 Commnets

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

[Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies](#) [Brandeis University](#)
Mailstop 014, Waltham, MA 02454-9110 Phone: 781-736-2060 Fax: 781-736-3929 cmjs@brandeis.edu
Copyright ©2003 - 2008 CMJS