

Brandeis

JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON
MANDEL CENTER FOR STUDIES
IN JEWISH EDUCATION

INFORMED CONSENT DOCUMENT FOR THE RESEARCH STUDY, “THE AMERICAN JEWISH GAP YEAR IN ISRAEL”

February 2024

This study is being conducted by Jon A. Levisohn, a professor of Jewish education at Brandeis University. The following information describes the research study. Please read the information carefully. At the end, you will be asked to sign if you agree to participate.

WHAT IS THIS STUDY ABOUT?

You are being asked to participate in a research study. The study is about the experience of American Jewish students who are participating in gap year study programs in Israel in 2023-24.

PROCEDURES

- Participants will be chosen for a one-hour, in-person interview.
- The questions during the interview will ask participants to share their thoughts about their experiences during their gap year in Israel.
- The interviews will be audio-recorded and then transcribed.
- All identifying information will be removed from the transcripts. This includes participants' names and the names of their programs.
- The transcripts will be analyzed, in order to learn about the gap year experience.

The interview will take approximately one hour. It will be scheduled at a time convenient for you, at a location convenient for you.

RISKS AND/OR DISCOMFORTS

This study should not involve any risk or discomfort to you.

If you choose to skip a question, you are encouraged to tell the interviewer, “Pass.”

If you decide at any point that you do not want to participate in the study, you can tell the researcher. The interview will end and all data collected will be destroyed.

BENEFITS

You should not expect any benefit from participating in this study. The study is expected to benefit the field of gap year education by improving understanding of the experience of students.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The audio recordings of interviews will be destroyed after three years. All other research materials will be kept securely for seven years. At the end of seven years, all electronic records and printed materials will be destroyed.

By signing this form, you authorize the researchers to access your interview for purposes of this study. Your interview will not be shared for future research, even without personal information.

COSTS

The only cost associated with your participation in this study is the time for the interview.

COMPENSATION

Each participant who completes an interview will receive an NIS 80 Aroma gift card.

RIGHT TO DECLINE OR WITHDRAW

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You are free to refuse to participate in the study or withdraw your consent at any time during the study.

Your desire not to participate in this study or request to withdraw will not adversely affect your status as a student in your program in any way.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any questions about this project can be addressed to Dr. Jon A. Levisohn. He can be reached at <levisohn@brandeis.edu> or 857-225-0761.

If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you may also contact the Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) at the Brandeis Office of Research Administration (ORA) at <hrpp@brandeis.edu> or 781-736-8133.

PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

- I have read the information in this consent form.
- I have had the chance to ask any questions I have about this study, and they have been answered for me.
- I understand that I can quit the study at any time without penalty.
- I am an adult over 18 and a U.S. citizen.
- I understand am entitled to a copy of this form after it has been read and signed.
- I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

Printed Name

Signature

Date