

# ***Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz***

## ***Bar Ilan University***

*Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* is the only program in Israel which provides a university experience within a Torah environment. Designed to meet the needs of students wishing to experience life in Israel, *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* offers courses in both Jewish and General Studies that are easily transferable to colleges and universities in all countries. Combined with a spectacular array of trips and visits to some of Israel's more glorious and historical sights, *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* provides its students with a meaningful Israeli experience sure to remain with them for the rest of their lives.

### ***JUDAIC STUDIES***

Students on *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* spend their mornings learning Judaic studies in the *Machon* (men) or *Midrasha* (women).

#### ***Machon Gavoha L'Torah (Institute of Higher Torah Studies for Men, Kollel)***

The *Machon* was founded in order to enable young men to maintain their Torah studies while continuing their academic pursuits, and to develop a cadre of university graduates who will also be Torah scholars. Over four hundred post-*Hesder* Israelis are enrolled in this program, and the *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* student will be encouraged to integrate with Israelis whenever possible. The *Machon* is a full yeshiva environment, meeting Sunday afternoons, Monday through Thursday mornings, and two evenings a week.

Students in the *Machon* may choose from two tracks: an emphasis on Talmudic skills or Jewish philosophy. Both options provide students with the chance to learn in a yeshiva framework, promote the development of Torah values, strengthen students' commitment to Israel and deepen their proficiency in Hebrew.

#### ***Midrasha L'Banot Program***

The *Midrasha* was established in order to provide observant young women who have a rich background in Jewish studies with the opportunity to delve more deeply into areas such as Bible, oral law and Jewish philosophy. Over seven hundred young Israeli women are currently pursuing advanced religious studies in this program. *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* students spend approximately 18 hours per week immersed in these subjects.

#### ***Credits***

Students at the *Midrasha* and *Kollel* will receive University credit for their studies. Each semester, a student will enroll in 18 hours per week. Examinations are given in each of the above subjects. Credits and grades are based on class participation and the results of exams.

### ***GENERAL STUDIES***

Bar-Ilan offers a variety of courses taught in English each semester that reflects a typical freshman course load that would be found in American schools. Students enroll in a range of two- and three-credit, secular academic courses each semester (for a minimum of ten credits). Students who so desire, and whose Hebrew proficiency is acceptable, are

encouraged to avail themselves of most of the over 3,000 courses offered in Hebrew in the University at large (with the exception of Law School courses). These classes begin in the fall and run for the whole academic year. One Semester students may not register for these classes. Registration for regular University courses requires approval of the Dean of Students and the chair of the relevant department. In addition, some courses completed by students participating in *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* may count toward their degree requirements at Bar-Ilan, should they decide to remain at the University.

### ***Course Registration***

Prior to registration for courses, students will meet with advisors to receive an explanation of registration procedures and program requirements. All programs must be submitted to the Office of the Dean of Students for final approval.

Students register at the beginning of the year for both semesters. Program changes may only be made during the first two weeks of the semester. Students should attend classes for which they have registered and visit other classes before making program changes. After registration, students will receive an official copy of their programs. The Office of the Dean of Students must be notified immediately if there are any errors. Students will not receive credit for any course not on this printout even if they attend courses and take examinations.

### ***Credit and Grading System***

#### *Transfer of Credit*

Bar-Ilan University is chartered and accredited by the Board of Regents of the State of New York. As such, the overwhelming majority of colleges and universities in the United States and Canada recognize its courses. In most cases, *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* students have been able to get credit for their studies. However, every college and university has its own policy regarding international study and the University cannot guarantee that a particular institution will grant credit for specific courses taken at Bar-Ilan. Students are urged to contact the school they intend to enroll in after their studies at Bar-Ilan to determine that school's policy on study abroad and the transfer of credits.

#### *The Bar-Ilan Credit System*

All *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* Program classes are offered on a semester basis. Bar-Ilan credits are expressed in terms of "annual class hours." The number of "annual hours" awarded for a particular course is normally equal to the number of hours per week devoted to that course during a full year of study (i.e., each "annual hour" is equivalent to 2 credits as usually defined by the U.S. universities working on a semester system). This does not apply to laboratory, seminar, or recitation hours or for certain science courses for which a special credit hour value has been determined.

## ***STUDENT LIFE***

### ***Dormitories and Programming***

The student residences are currently located in the nearby town of Ramat Efal, centrally located between Ramat Gan and Kiryat Ono, and right next to the Aluf Sadeh bus terminal. Each student should expect to have no more than one roommate. A chartered bus

provides transportation to and from the main Bar Ilan campus on each school day. Sunday classes, and some evening classes, are offered at the Ramat Ef'al site.

Students who do not live in the dormitories can receive a rebate on housing fees. In order to live off campus, approval must be received from the Program Director.

Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz provides meals during all trips and Shabbatonim. On a day-to-day basis, the students are responsible for their own meals. There are nominal kitchen facilities in the dormitories. There is a supermarket no more than a 5-7 minute walk away from the dorms. (The supermarket also offers door-to-door delivery service for a small fee).

Three to four nights per week, educational and social programming is offered at the dorms. Such activities have included movie programs, candle making, Jiu Jitsu classes, tzitzit making, tie-dye night, ping pong tournaments and bon fires in our fire pit. In addition, the program has organized and subsidized evening outings for go-karting, bowling and paintball. The dormitory rooms are also equipped with wireless Internet access.

There is a student lounge at the dorms that is open 24 hours a day to our students only. In the lounge there is a ping-pong table, board games and satellite TV. There is a health club at the Ramat Ef'al site that offers our students a greatly discounted membership fee for the year. The health club has a swimming pool, weight room, basketball court, hot tub and sauna.

## ***SPECIAL PROGRAMS***

### ***Joint Programs***

Bar-Ilan University has agreements with a number of American colleges permitting students to enroll at these schools while attending Bar-Ilan. Students in the joint programs may apply for certain state and federal grants and loans through their home school. The following schools participate in the joint program and regularly approve transfer of credits: Yeshiva University (Yeshiva College, Stern College for Women and Sy Syms School of Business)

Rockland Community College

SUNY (the State University of New York)

CUNY (the City University of New York)

Students must apply and be accepted by both Bar-Ilan University and their home school, and must notify each institution of their intentions.

### ***One Semester Program***

Students may apply for one semester of study. Dormitory space may be limited for spring semester applicants, so students are urged to apply early. While *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* classes are taught on a semester basis, students planning to register for regular University classes should keep in mind that the latter are offered on a year-long basis beginning in the fall.

### ***Non First-Year Students***

Sophomores, juniors and seniors interested in a study abroad program at Bar-Ilan may participate in the *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* program. Although intended for first-year

college students, the program can be adapted to students who have already started college. All first year program classes, activities, trips, Shabbatonim and special programs are open to upperclassmen. In some cases, it may be possible to arrange independent study opportunities, and permission may be granted for overseas students to attend certain regular university classes. These arrangements must be worked out in conjunction with specific departments at the University. Students may attend for one semester or the full academic year.

### ***ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS***

Students possessing a high school diploma will be considered for admission to *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz*. A good result on a standardized test such as the SAT or ACT, strong high school academic record, recommendations and a personal interview with the director of the program are also used in determining acceptance to the program.

*Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* is designed for students with a strong personal commitment to the observance of Jewish tradition. Only students with this commitment will be considered for admission. Students from non-observant backgrounds who are seriously interested in rediscovering their heritage, and who are prepared to observe the program's religious requirements, are also welcome to apply.

Applications for admission and medical forms are attached; additional copies may be downloaded from our website. You may also write to the Office of the Dean of Students, *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz*, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel, 52900, call: 972-3-534-6473, or email [fordal@mail.biu.ac.il](mailto:fordal@mail.biu.ac.il).

Each application must be printed out and accompanied by:

- Three listed references with names, addresses, and phone numbers (one must be a Rabbi)
- Two photographs
- Two copies of a high school and, where applicable, college transcript
- Results of a College Board exam (SAT, ACT etc.) (Canadian students are exempt)
- A copy of a high school diploma or its equivalent
- A non-refundable Application Fee of \$100

An information packet will be sent in the spring to all registered students. This packet will contain more detailed information about program policies, insurance and the group flight, in addition to a number of forms that must be filled out by students and their parents. A medical form filled in by a physician is necessary to complete an applicant's file.

### ***FINANACIAL INFORMATION***

#### ***Program cost***

The program cost includes tuition, dormitory fees and trips. Health insurance, airfare, books, food and living expenses are extra. Based on past participant's comments, students should expect to spend between \$300-400 a month on food and other personal expenses. Students

generally spend more at the beginning of the year when they buy books, cooking supplies and otherwise settle in to the dorms.

Although fees may vary from year to year, the following figures are given so that families can begin planning for the year ahead. These prices are subject to change. Actual amounts will be available from the office as soon as costs are finalized. The following is for information purposes only, and is not a statement of the actual fees being charged.

*Tuition*

Fee for 2006-2007 academic year: \$15,000.

*Airfare (NY-Israel-NY)*

Price of the group flight will be based on the arrangements we make with the airline.

*Health Insurance*

Price of the insurance plan will be based on the arrangements we make with the insurance company (approximately \$450).

*Living Expenses*

Books, food, entertainment, travel etc., **per month** \$300-400.

*Maintenance Deposit*

To be paid in Israel by any student living in the dormitories - \$300.

***Pay schedule***

All students and their parents will receive a pay schedule well in advance of the academic year. In order not to jeopardize a student's registration, payments must be submitted according to this schedule. Parents are urged to contact the office of *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* with any questions they might have as early as possible.

**No student will be permitted to enter class unless all payments have been made in full.**

***Refunds***

In the event that a student withdraws from the program, a pro-rated refund may be issued. Refunds will only be given upon submission of a written request to the office of *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* in accordance with the University's official refund policy. A refund policy notice will be mailed to each student along with a pay schedule.

**Students who are asked to leave the program or are dismissed for any reason are not eligible for any type of refund.**

***Financial aid***

Students in need of financial assistance may submit financial aid applications after they have been accepted to the program. All requests for aid are to be submitted to the office of the One Year Program no later than May 1. In addition to submitting your forms, students must complete a U.S. Government FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Form. These may be obtained by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID. Processing for this form can take 6 weeks, so please keep our deadline in mind when calling for a form.

Scholarships available to the *Tochnit Torah V'Derech Eretz* student include awards from the Dorot Foundation of New York. Students from Chicago may apply, in addition, for the Eisenberg Scholarship, while Michigan residents may apply for an award from the Pappas Fund. Canadians may apply to the Pulver Scholarship Fund in Toronto for a significant scholarship. Deadline is April 1. For New York and New Jersey students, the Board of Jewish Education offers generous awards for high school students planning to study abroad -- students are advised to contact their local schools. Yeshiva of Flatbush students are urged to apply for the Joel Braverman and Marie Mohadeb Memorial Scholarships. In addition to all these awards, local Aliyah offices, NCSY, USY, Jewish Federation and Associated Talmud Torah offices might be valuable sources of scholarship information.

Scholarships are awarded based on financial need and prior academic performance.

### ***CONTACT US***

*Tochnit Torah V' Derech Eretz*: 972 3 534 6473 (8am – 3pm Sunday –Thursday)

Dean of Students office: 972 3 531 8275

Main switchboard: 972 3 531 8111

**Program Director:** Rabbi Kahn

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### **Mailing Address**

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Israel