



KIVUN / TORANI 5780

HACHSHARA

ISRAEL YEAR PROGRAMME

**BNEI
AKIVA**
UNITED KINGDOM





Table Of Contents

03	Welcome to the world of Bnei Akiva
04	Kivun
06	Kivun - Your Home
08	Kivun - Your Israel
12	Torani
14	Torani - Midrasha & Yeshiva
16	Torani - Year Overview
18	In Their Words - participant quotes
20	Frequently Asked Questions
22	How To Apply & Contact Details

Welcome to the world of Bnei Akiva

BNEI AKIVA inspires and empowers young Jews with a sense of commitment to the Jewish people, the Land of Israel and the Torah.

FOR MORE THAN 80 YEARS, Hachshara has played a part in shaping and training the future leaders of Bnei Akiva and Jewish communities in Israel and around the world.

HACHSHARA is a vital component in your Bnei Akiva journey, when you can devote time to learning Jewish texts, develop independently and explore your identity.

Who? What? When?

Kivun is a programme where you will experience living independently in Israel, encounter Israeli society first-hand, and engage with Judaism like never before.

KIVUN

The Kivun programme is a life-changing, integrated gap-year experience with Bnei Akiva. Learn about yourself, Modern Orthodox Judaism and Religious Zionism through relevant and meaningful Torah study - focused on preparing you for real-life experiences. Experience an all-encompassing, authentic taste of Israel through volunteering and actively contributing to Israeli society. Expand your horizons and grow through diverse and memorable experiences. Enhance and develop your skills, and become empowered to fill advanced leadership roles in Bnei Akiva and beyond.

Your first year after school is your first real opportunity to shape your future life direction and choose the **values** you wish to live by.

That's why we've designed the Kivun programme, to help you explore your **Judaism** and Zionism

in a **positive** and non-judgemental environment, and to help you forge your own personal direction.

Kivun will facilitate your personal and religious **growth** through diverse and challenging experiences, giving an authentic

encounter with Israel. It will deepen your understanding of Judaism through relevant and contemporary learning from ancient texts to modern, **cutting-edge issues**.

Bnei Akiva believes that our learning and personal growth must

be matched by a commitment to **action** - or in other words, Torah Va'Avodah. On Kivun you will become **active** contributors to Israeli society, making a tangible difference to people and communities.

And Kivun doesn't end there: our vision is for graduates of Kivun to make a lifelong commitment to **giving back** to others, through being involved in Bnei Akiva, the wider community and Israel.

AT A GLANCE

SEP

Kibbutz

OCT

Learning & Leadership

NOV

DEC

Internships

JAN

FEB

MDA / Marva

MAR

Northern Volunteering

APR

Learning & Leadership

MAY

Zionism Seminar

JUN

Closing Seminar

JUL



YOUR HOME

Bnei Akiva - a global community

Kivun has been uniquely created to meet your needs as young British Jews, yet significant parts of the year have been designed to cross paths with other Hachshara programmes from around the world.

This means you will have the opportunity to learn, hike and celebrate chagim with other young Jews from over 15 different countries; from Australia to Italy and from Uruguay to South Africa. The coming together of future Jewish leaders from so many different countries and backgrounds will enrich your year and give you friends from around the world.

Leadership-focused learning

Education is at the heart of Bnei Akiva, and there will be set periods of time dedicated specifically to Jewish learning, when you will become equipped with the skills and motivation to become future Jewish leaders. Kivun aims to give you a broad knowledge base whilst focusing on relevant and engaging topics, and we won't be afraid to ask difficult questions about faith, religion and identity.

Our teachers will be highly qualified male and female Religious Zionist and Modern Orthodox educators, and our classes will be interactive, discussion-based and taught both in the Bet Midrash and on location in sites of importance

throughout the country. Another feature of Kivun is that our learning won't be in a vacuum - it will be integrated within a framework of real-life experiences, living independently in Jerusalem. Through celebrating Chagim and Shabbatot in shul and with host families, you will feel the pulse of life in modern day Israel and make connections that will last beyond your year. You'll be guided throughout, and different levels will be catered for. To be a participant on Hachshara, you don't need prior knowledge in Jewish studies - you just need commitment to learn and to grow.



YOUR ISRAEL

Kibbutz

From the early days of the State, kibbutzim had a sense of duty, serving as a pillar of strength for Zionism. The members lived under extreme conditions, while tilling the soil, draining the swamplands, and building settlements. Today, Hachshara participants are viewed as valuable contributors to the kibbutz movement.

Working with kibbutz members, you may share duties in the field, gardens, factories, kitchen, dining hall or childcare facilities.

You'll be offered placements according to the work requirements of the kibbutz, and you'll live together in kibbutz housing, eating meals in the communal dining room.

The group will also become involved in kibbutz social and communal activities such as Shabbat and holiday celebrations. You'll be "adopted" by an Israeli kibbutz family, enabling you to have a closer view of what kibbutz life means for the children and adults who reside there permanently.



Internships

We believe that your year in Israel should give you the tools to shape your future life direction in a truly holistic way. That's why we are offering professional internships, personalised based on your needs and interests. Whether in journalism, politics, medicine, teaching, finance or education, we aim to find a placement suited to you, in an industry of your choice*. Building connections with people and experiencing life in the Israeli workplace will give you an authentic and diverse appreciation of what it means to live and work in Israel.

*Placements in certain fields may not be available.

Community Volunteering

You'll live and volunteer in a neighborhood in one of Israel's socio-economically deprived areas where there is a real need for volunteers. This will bring you to experience a part of Israel that you would not necessarily encounter elsewhere. Volunteer placements may include teaching English in local community centres, helping in soup kitchens, working with the elderly, and sports. Your time will be supplemented with a learning programme and evening activities. Through your experience, you will gain appreciation for the challenges facing the people of Israel today.





Marva may ask for a financial deposit in exchange for the uniforms and equipment, which will be returned at the end of the programme.

YOUR

MARVA

Marva is ideal for those who want to become familiar with Israel by experiencing the physical and emotional challenges of the country and its people. Through hiking the land, living in field conditions, navigating deserts and participating in seminars and lectures, you'll learn about the issues of the country.

The programme is based in the Southern Negev, but you'll spend your time in various other parts of the country, including Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and the Galilee. The two-month experience is conducted in easy Hebrew, and as participants come from all over the world, that becomes the common language of communication allowing for significant improvement of Hebrew skills.

Marva is a physically demanding programme, and participants are expected to be in good physical condition and highly motivated. You will be required to have a personal interview prior to acceptance.

FUTURE

MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Magen David Adom provides effective emergency first-aid treatment. You'll be part of this mission and gain valuable hands-on experience giving basic medical treatment while experiencing "real life" in Israel.

After completing a training course, you'll volunteer alongside Israelis

on ambulances at various MDA stations across the country. You'll be certified "First Responder", recognised throughout MDA Israel. Kivun will be assigned a station based on the needs of MDA. Depending on the number of volunteers, the group may be split into various stations. Participants must be in good physical and mental health,

and basic conversational Hebrew is required.

The work you will do saves lives and has a lasting effect on Israeli society. It is highly rewarding and is ideal for people who enjoy working with, and helping others.



IMPORTANT: Before coming on Hachshara, participants wishing to volunteer for MDA should have had Hepatitis B and MMR vaccinations, and must bring the accompanying documentation. In addition, we recommend starting to learn Hebrew before Hachshara starts.

DISCOVERING ISRAEL

Israel has a dynamic, multi-layered society, where each person and family has a story to tell.

On Kivun you'll travel the length and breadth of Israel on seminars to uncover about how the Zionist dream unfolded into reality, the diversity and

complexity of Israeli society, how the Holocaust affects Israeli identity and how the Land of Israel has been brought to life in modern times.

Kivun is committed to training, inspiring and enriching the Jewish leaders and activists of tomorrow.

Our seminars will give you the opportunity to meet the movers and shakers of Israeli society, whether in politics or religion, charity or hi-tech, and from this learn what it takes to make a difference to the society around us.





Who? What? When?

Torani is a Yeshiva / Midrasha based programme. Bnei Akiva will enhance your year with diverse and exciting programming and providing you with a "family" while away from home.



TORANI

Torani is designed to enhance your year of learning. When you're not in Yeshiva or Midrasha we'll provide a variety of programmes to let you live and feel the pulse of the Land and State of Israel. We are your family in Israel. You'll be more independent than you've ever been in your life, yet you can relax in the knowledge that your needs are being looked after. From welcoming you at Ben Gurion airport and taking you to your Yeshiva or Midrasha, to arranging Shabbat hospitality for you whenever you need, you can always rely on us to be there for you.

Torani is an uplifting, inspiring and empowering gap year program in Israel with Bnei Akiva. You'll learn new skills, enhance old ones, develop your Jewish identity and adapt to new environments - all while enjoying the group experience.

On Torani you'll spend most of your year in Yeshiva/ Midrasha, as

well as the Bnei Akiva experience of Israel, including leadership training, Shabbatonim, Kibbutz and enriching seminars.

On Torani you will learn about Judaism as you never had before, and gain the skills, drive and passion to develop your own Jewish identity.

Torani is all about learning: learning about yourself and learning to be a leader. It's a year for yourself, but it's especially a year to learn how you can make an impact to society around you.



AT A GLANCE

SEP	Opening Tiyyul & Shabbat
OCT	Succot Seminar
NOV	Southern Tiyyul
DEC	Shabbat Hachshara & Ha'Irgun
JAN	Community Shabbat
FEB	Shabbat Shevet Avichai
MAR	
APR	Pesach Seminar
MAY	Shabbat Hachshara
JUN	Closing Shabbat
JUL	

MIDRESHET AMIT

Midreshet Amit, located in Jerusalem, offers an amazing combination of challenging Torah study along with a life-changing chessed experience. The Midrasha provides a serious learning experience with caring staff who are committed to teaching and encouraging the students to advance their learning through a variety of exciting course options. The home is Beit Hayed, a foster home for Israeli children run by the Amit network. The Torani participants connection to the people of Israel is deepened through the unique experience of living and interacting daily with disadvantaged Israeli youth and dedicated foster parents.

www.midreshetamit.org



MIDRESHET HAROVA

Midreshet Harova is located in the heart of the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, and is one of Israel's leading seminaries. The Midrasha offers an ideal setting for students to achieve spiritual and intellectual growth in a religious Zionist framework. The open intellectual environment, combined with the wide variety of teachers, is particularly attractive to the

creative student interested in exploring a range of ideas and approaches.

www.harova.org

YESHIVAT ERETZ HATZVI

Yeshivat Eretz Hatzvi is situated in the Katamon neighbourhood of Jerusalem, and places emphasis on teaching the skills to enable students to become independent in their studies. Featuring prominently in the schedule are Gemara, Tanach, Halacha and Machshava classes.

While the curriculum is devoted to *Limmudei Kodesh*, the Yeshiva is sensitive to issues that students face during their growth process in Israel, and that they will encounter in their subsequent university years.

www.yehatzvi.org



YESHIVAT HAKOTEL

Yeshivat Hakotel overlooks the Western Wall, and aspires to give students the opportunity to learn Torah in an Israeli Yeshiva environment, fostering a true love of Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael and Torat Yisrael through intense learning and interaction with Israeli students. The Yeshiva offers multi-level Gemara classes, Halacha, Machshava and Tanach shiurim, as well as special guest lectures on varied topics.

www.hakotel.org.il

Opening Tiyul

You'll stretch your mind and your legs on the Torani Tiyul. It takes place at the start of the year to give you the chance to bond as a group while seeing some of Israel's most beautiful landscapes and walking where our ancestors walked.



Seder

Ask people who have been on Torani what the highlight of their year was – and you will likely hear that it was the Pesach Seder! Torani is your family in Israel, and the experience of singing, learning and discussing Seder Night with your friends, each bringing their own unique customs and traditions, is very special.



Preparing to Lead

We believe in the importance of developing Jewish leadership around the world. You'll be introduced to leaders of the past, inspired by leaders of today, and gain practical skills to help you be the leaders of the future. By the end of Torani, you'll be well-prepared for a future in Bnei Akiva and the wider community.



Group Shabbatot

At various points during the year, Torani will spend Shabbat together. We choose the venues carefully so that each Shabbat adds a new and unique dimension to your year. You'll sing, share Divrei Torah, and enjoy meals together – all while seeing much more of Israel



Sothern Tiyul

As well as various trips you'll take with your Yeshiva or Midrasha, you'll get to see more of Israel with Bnei Akiva. Our Southern Tiyul will give you the opportunity to enjoy water sports, hike the land, and see how Ben Gurion's dream of making the desert bloom is coming true. You'll go to Eilat together with all our other Hachshara groups – so you'll experience the beautiful south with Bnei Akiva members from across the globe!



Shabbat Hachshara

Torani isn't the only Hachshara programme. There are loads more from all over the world! On Shabbat Hachshara, everyone joins together to enjoy Shabbat. There will be around 250 people, from every continent, and while you might not all speak the same language, you'll all have one thing in common – you are all part of Bnei Akiva.



Succot & Pre-Pesach Seminars

This is the time when you really get to know Israel. Whether it's going off the beaten track to meet different types of people or volunteer where society needs you most, these two seminars expand your horizons and add an extra dimension to your knowledge and love for Israel.



Shabbat Ha'Irgun

Shabbat Ha'Irgun is the highlight of the year for members of Bnei Akiva in Israel. You'll be joining one of the local branches of Bnei Akiva to share in the celebrations, and getting to know your Israeli counterparts. Shabbat Ha'Irgun in Israel is the culmination of a month of celebrations, which includes a special ceremony at which the new Shevet name is revealed.



IN THEIR WORDS



“Kivun is like no other experience. Nowhere else will you be fully immersed into Israeli culture and society, and provided with the best tools and opportunities to grow. It gave me a strong sense of identity, opportunities I couldn’t imagine, enriching speakers, an inspiring global community, and friends for life. It’s an experience of the best Israel has to offer, and will last you a lifetime.”

– Sara Cowan, London, Kivun



“Torani isn’t just a programme - it’s a family. When I look back on my year in Israel, whilst I spent the overwhelming majority of it in Yeshiva, my favourite and most memorable moments come from Torani. The amazing experiences that you are provided with by Bnei Akiva create friendships and bonds that will last lifetimes and I’m so happy to be able to say that I was a part of Torani 5778!”

– Daniel Ellis, London, Torani



“Kivun was a life-changing year. We learned about our heritage, learned how to live independently and learned about ourselves. We gained invaluable life skills and friends that we’ll have our entire lives – it was like we got a new family. Kivun was without a doubt, the best year of our lives.”

– Benjamin & Hannah Blecher, Sweden, Kivun

“Torani added immeasurably to the gap year of my three kids. It gave it a depth, a Torah V’Avodah slant that they wouldn’t otherwise have got. It gave them a chevrah. It set them up for life in terms of after their gap year which means the gap year lasts so much longer than the 10 months that they are actually in Israel. The tochniot, the madrichim, the chinuch was hugely beneficial to them in every way and we think going to Israel without going on Torani is crazy! You get double the depth, double the information, double the experience by going with Torani as well. Torani adds an entire dimension to the year which otherwise they wouldn’t get. Their Jewish identity, their Torah V’Avodah identity. They have a wonderful close-knit chevrah to go back to the UK with. Their involvement in BA when they come back to the UK is all because of Torani.”

– Naomi & Mark Nevies

“Torani gave me a group of friends who I could connect to and rely on during and after my gap year, and also allowed me to meet people from Bnei Akiva programs worldwide, which was an amazing experience! The Shabbatot we spent as a group are so special to me and were the highlight of my year in Israel.”

– Jodie Franks, London, Torani



“Our son, Sam, had a terrific time on Kivun. He learnt so much about Israel and its diverse population, as well as increasing his Jewish knowledge whilst at the same time having a lot of fun. Most of all, we witnessed tremendous personal growth during the nine months he lived in Israel. He learned to live independently within the framework of a structured programme. Kivun provided Sam with the tools and motivation to become an engaged leader within the Jewish community.”



Kivun most definitely exceeded our expectations and we would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone looking for a fulfilling gap year experience.”

– Sidney & Lorraine Myers

Frequently Asked Questions

✓ Why Hachshara?

You rely on Bnei Akiva to support and help you whilst in Israel and you can trust us to create a programme tailored to people from a Bnei Akiva UK background. Hachshara is geared towards what you, individually, want from your year in Israel and allows you the security and enjoyment of being part of a group sharing the same experiences.

✓ Will I see my friends on other programmes?

Yes. There are times when the different Hachshara groups are together, even though your real group relationship will be with those on your own programme. You'll also have ample free time and Shabbatot to make your own plans and arrange visits to those on other programmes and at other Yeshivot and Midrashot.

✓ What security measures are taken?

Your safety is our primary concern. Like all gap year programmes, we follow the security advice of the relevant security agencies in Israel, and run our activities with their approval. In the event of a change in the security situation, we will inform you. Occasionally, as a precaution, we will ask you not to go out, even during free time.

✓ Will Hachshara be useful for my university application?

The value of gap year activities is widely acknowledged and most universities will allow you to apply for deferred entry. It is a good idea to include details of your proposed gap year in your personal statement to support your application.

✓ Are arrangements made for special dietary requirements?

If you require a special diet or have a severe allergy that may necessitate extra attention, please state this in a letter attached to your medical form. Although it may not always be possible, we will make every effort to cater for your needs.

✓ Is medical care and insurance provided?

Medical services and insurance for illness and injury while in Israel on Hachshara is included in the cost of the programme. Doctors affiliated with the plan are located throughout Israel and you can easily arrange to see one, no matter where you are based at the time. Treatment related to pre-existing conditions is not included in the coverage. You are advised to take out 'personal effects insurance' to cover your valuable belongings and we will be happy to send you the details from our recommended insurers.

✓ Do I need to arrange a visa for a year in Israel?

When you arrive in Israel you'll be issued with a three-month entry visa at border control at Ben Gurion airport. For Kivun, we will make the arrangements to extend this visa into a year-long visa. For Torani, this will be arranged by your Yeshiva/ Midrasha. This visa does not affect your status as citizens of your home country or your future Aliyah rights. If you or your parents have Israeli citizenship, please contact the Israeli Consulate as soon as possible and complete any necessary steps before arrival in Israel

KIVUN - FAQ

Who is this programme for?

The Kivun programme is for people who are highly motivated to get the most out of a Bnei Akiva gap year in Israel. Participants will benefit from learning Torah and experiencing Israel in an unparalleled manner. If you want to have a gap year experience where you gain the skills to become tomorrow's Jewish leader today, then Kivun is for you!

How do group Shabbatot work?

Kivun will roughly follow an alternating "in"- "out" schedule, and will be adapted depending on the specific time of year. The group Shabbatot will be both at home, or visiting another community in Israel. Staff members will ensure participants have somewhere to go on free Shabbatot.

Will there be holiday?

Kivun is a nine-month programme and every day is important! In order to maximize participants' time in Israel, there will only be holiday during Chol Hamoad Suktot & Pesach after the Seder.

Is laundry arranged?

Laundry for certain parts of the year will be provided free of charge, for example on kibbutz. During other periods, laundry will be organised at a cost of around 25-40 shekels for a large load.

Should I bring bedding or a sleeping bag?

You should bring both. Although bedding will be provided for some parts of the year, there will be occasions when you'll need it. There are companies that hire out sets to gap year participants, to save you from schlepping it to Israel in your luggage.

What else should I bring?

A few weeks before the start of Kivun, we'll send you a packing list, containing all the essentials for an amazing year in Israel!

TORANI - FAQ

Why Torani?

Why not? Torani is a year-enhancing programme within the context of a year of Jewish study, and you can rely on us to create a programme tailored to people from a Bnei Akiva background. Torani is geared towards what you, individually, want from your year in Israel and allows you the security and enjoyment of being part of a group sharing the same experiences.

What will the learning be like?

You've almost certainly never learned in the way you will on Hachshara, but don't worry – most people will be in the same boat. As long as you are motivated and do as much as you can, you will be able to look back at your year with pride and with the knowledge that you realised your potential. And you'll find that being on Hachshara is a learning experience itself. You'll find out more about Israel, pick up Ivrit and grow and develop as a person.

Will Torani look after me when I need a place for Shabbat?

Yes. There are many Bnei Akiva bogrim in Israel who love to host Hachshara participants. In fact, many of them were on Hachshara themselves, so you'll be able to share stories and experiences over the Shabbat table.

Will Torani take up all my free time?

No. We understand that you'll want time to see friends and family, and explore Israel at your own pace. Torani offers bursts of fulfilling programmes at selected points during the year, enabling you to maximise your time in Israel and complement your own personal goals. Torani balances structure and independence, so you can manage the requirements of the programme while branching out on your own.

Am I expected to come to everything?

We hope you'll want to come to everything! As the shared experiences are so important on Torani, it can be disruptive to the group atmosphere if not all the group is present. Aside from special circumstances, we do expect a commitment to participate in the whole programme.

APPLY NOW

How to do it

1. Apply online at www.hachshara.org | Once you have begun the application process, you can sign back in as many times as you like to continue the application.

2. Complete the medical form, which needs to be signed and stamped by a doctor, and uploaded to the application website.

3. Register with MASA at www.masaisrael.org | Masa is a project of the Israeli government that offers Hachshara participants an automatic grant, with further needs based funding available.

How much does Hachshara cost?

KIVUN | The cost of Kivun is 83,300 Shekel paid to World Bnei Akiva + £999 admin fee payable to Bnei Akiva UK. The cost will cover return flight, tuition, seminars, tiyulim, accommodation, special Shabbatot, group transportation, staff and medical insurance. The cost will cover tuition, seminars, tiyulim, accommodation, special Shabbatot, group transportation, staff and medical insurance.

TORANI | The Programme Fee is at the heavily subsidised price of £1,500. This fee, paid to Bnei Akiva UK, covers flights, administration costs and upgraded activities. Each Yeshiva or Midrasha will notify all applicants of their fee, and this should be paid directly to them.

Not covered are the costs of optical care and treatment of prior dental problems, medical care relating to pre-existing conditions, hepatitis and MMR vaccinations or additional check-ups (that may be required by MARVA/MDA volunteers) and laundry for certain parts of the year. In addition, you may be required to purchase your own books and learning materials for the study periods.

How will I know if I have been accepted?

After we receive your application, you'll be invited for an interview. Your interview allows us to get to know you a bit better and assess your suitability for the programme. It will also give you the opportunity to ask any specific questions you may have.

Shortly after the interview, you'll be informed of your acceptance. Your place will be confirmed only after the payment plan has been agreed.



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BURSARIES

We believe that no-one should miss out on a Bnei Akiva educational experience due to financial reasons. Please speak in confidence to Lorraine Reid on: 020 8209 1319 ext 5 or e-mail her at: lorraine@bauk.org for details of bursaries available from Bnei Akiva and UJIA as well as various other trust funds in the community.

www.worldbneiakiva.org
www.bauk.org



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Bnei Akiva Hachshara



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