

FAQs

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN EXPERIENTIAL ISRAEL EDUCATION

What is the “Certificate Program in Experiential Israel Education”?

Brought to you by The iCenter, this professional development experience allows you to learn from and connect with distinguished experts across Israel and North America. Together, through interest-based learning, hands-on immersive experiences, and a community of practice, we'll discover how to bring the many flavors, colors, and narratives of Israel to life.

This virtual professional development opportunity for Birthright Israel Fellows is designed to deepen skills, knowledge, and confidence to create inspiring and meaningful educational experiences. This opportunity is for people who are passionate about Israel and are committed to professionalizing the role of leading trips to Israel.

Israel education is a mosaic of journeys that offer infinite possibilities to connect to the art of education and the heart of Israel. This five-week certificate program in experiential Israel education invites each of us to render our own color palettes and design new educational frameworks for deepening relationships with Israel and Israelis. Through this educational experience, we will explore and experiment with new perspectives on experiential Israel education.

Who is eligible to apply to this cohort of the program?

This cohort of the Certificate Program in Experiential Israel Education is a partnership between Birthright Israel and The iCenter and is open only to alumni of the Birthright Israel Fellows training seminar.

Priority acceptance will be given to active Birthright Israel madrichim (people who have led trips within the past few years), and those who will be staffing trips in the Winter 2021-2022 (November 2021 – March 2022) or Summer 2022 (May 2022 – September 2022) travel seasons. That said, all Birthright Israel Fellows are welcome to apply, and will be given due consideration.

Anyone who will end up staffing an October 2021 Birthright Israel trip will necessarily be ineligible as full participation in the program would not be possible while staffing a trip.

What is the length and time commitment of this program?

The Certificate Program in Experiential Israel Education is a 5-week training seminar beginning on October 4, 2021 and ending on November 3, 2021.

Through twice weekly - Mondays and Wednesdays at 12 pm CT- 90-minute large group sessions led by various iCenter staff and faculty, as well as guest educators, you will be invited to see Israel and Israel education through a different lens.

Additionally, you will meet once-per-week for 45-minutes in separate small group processing sessions. Your processing group will be led by an iCenter facilitator and will include 6-8 of your fellow participants. Together, your group will agree upon a set date/time each week to meet to process what you've learned and discuss larger concepts, questions, and frameworks.

There will also be required “Read, Watch, and Listen” homework assigned on a weekly basis which will help you further explore the core themes of the program. On average, these assignments will require between 60-90 minutes of time each week.

Only applicants who affirm their commitment to attend all sessions and to fully participate in all aspects of the program will be considered for acceptance.

What are the dates of the program?

The initial session will take place on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 12 pm CT with sessions continuing every Wednesday and Monday thereafter at 12 pm CT through Wednesday, November 3, 2021. (It’s possible that the final small processing group session could take place a few days after the completion of the final large group session.)

How many people will participate in this cohort of the program?

We will accept up to 36 Birthright Israel Fellows into this cohort of the program. The cohort will also include select staff and faculty of Birthright Israel and The iCenter.

How can I fully participate in the program?

Beyond attending all ten 90-minute large group sessions taking place every Monday and Wednesday at 12 pm CT from October 4, 2021 through November 3, 2021, you will also be required to participate in weekly 45-minute small group processing sessions. The date/time of these sessions will be determined prior to, or during, the first week of the program. Additionally, you will be assigned weekly homework which you’ll be able to do at your own pace, and will include “Read, Watch, and Listen” assignments. Typically, this will take between 60-90 minutes each week to complete.

In terms of the actual training and processing sessions, these will be conducted via the Zoom platform. We will insist that all participants be fully present at these sessions which will require you to be in front of a computer with your camera enabled. Joining sessions using a smartphone (or tablet) is not permissible as to prevent outside distractions such as traffic, ambient noise, passersby, etc. Additionally, there will be times when you’ll need to have multiple browser windows open to access other platforms or electronic resources.

How much does this program cost? Is there a stipend?

The program is free to those who are accepted. And, upon completion of the program, participants will each receive a \$595 stipend.

How do I apply?

The application can be [found here](#). The deadline to apply is **Monday, August 30th**.

Upon submission of your application, it’s possible that a staff member from either The iCenter or Birthright Israel will want to follow-up with additional questions and/or schedule a Zoom call to learn more about your interest in the program.

When would I find out if I’m accepted?

Acceptances will go out on or before **Monday, September 13th**.