

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

### 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 *madrichim* (i.e. North American trip staff) is designed to deepen skills, knowledge, and instill 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 four-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 will be a partnership between Birthright Israel and The iCenter and is open to anyone who is scheduled to staff a Birthright Israel trip departing from the United States or Canada in the Summer 2022 (April through September) travel season.

Some priority may be given to those with previous Birthright Israel staffing experience. Only serious and committed candidates will be considered.

**What is the length and time commitment of this program?**

The Certificate Program in Experiential Israel Education is a 4-week training seminar taking place every Monday and Wednesday—between 1:00pm–2:30pm EST—beginning on March 14, 2022 and ending on April 6, 2022.

Through twice weekly large group sessions led by The iCenter staff and faculty, as well as guest educators, you will be invited to see Israel and Israel education through a different lens.

Small group processing sessions will be integrated throughout the program. This time will enable you to consider what you've experienced and discuss larger concepts, questions, and frameworks.

There will also be required "Read, Watch, and Listen" resources distributed on a weekly basis which will help you further explore the core themes of the program. On average, these enrichment resources will require between 60–90 minutes investment of your 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, March 14, 2022 with sessions continuing every Wednesday and Monday thereafter through Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

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

We will accept up to 36 current, or soon-to-be first-time, Birthright Israel *madrichim* into this cohort. The program will also include select staff and faculty of Birthright Israel and The iCenter.

**How can I fully participate in the program?**

Full participation will see you attending all eight 90-minute large group sessions taking place every Monday and Wednesday from March 14, 2022 through April 6, 2022. Additionally, you will be assigned weekly resources 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 \$500 stipend.

**How do I apply?**

The application can be found [here](#). The deadline to apply is Thursday, March 3, 2022.

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 a rolling basis, but final decisions will be made no later than Friday, March 4, 2022. All accepted applicants must confirm their participation no later than Monday, March 7, 2022.