

# Certificate Program FAQ

## What are the educational goals of this Certificate Program?

This intensive learning experience provides educators with the necessary competencies to educate about conflicts and “the” conflict in their unique educational settings. The Certificate Program is organized around our core pedagogies, content areas, and points of contention in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Educators will develop facilitation skills, open-mindedness, courage, and resilience to approach conflicts in their work and everyday lives. *Upon completion of the Certificate Program, participants will earn a Certificate in Conflict Education from The iCenter.*

## What is the structure of this Certificate Program?

This is a hybrid program, taking place through synchronous experiences both on Zoom and in person. Through three 90-minute virtual sessions and a two day/two night in-person experience, cohort participants will explore core content related to conflicts and Israel and engage with multiple perspectives, authentic voices, and diverse narratives. In addition to the virtual sessions and the in-person experience, there will be required reading and individual coursework leading up to and following each session. There is approximately 25-30 hours of learning time in this program.

## How much time am I expected to dedicate to learning outside of the session structure listed above?

In addition to the synchronous learning experiences, there will be required reading and individual coursework leading up to and following each session. The rationale for some of that “coursework” is listed below.

### Core Text:

- > In order to ensure participants are all coming to the experience with a baseline of shared knowledge, we will read excerpts from *Arabs and Israelis: Conflicts and Peacemaking in the Middle East*, providing us with foundational narratives to contextualize our learning.

### Ongoing Learning:

- > After each session, we will add layers to our learning through a framework we call “Watch, Read, Listen.” The goal is to continue to expand our knowledge base, enabling us to engage deeply with some of the core content of this experience, as well as providing learning modalities that address the needs of different learners.

## **How will this program be relevant for me in my personal and professional life?**

Conflicts are an essential part of the human experience ranging in scale from the individual to the communal to the global. Engaging with conflicts is one of life's defining challenges—particularly for educators who are tasked with transforming these moments of uncertainty into moments of opportunity. In essence, education is the art of turning conflict into growth.

The same holds true for Israel education especially when engaging with complex issues like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Leveraging The iCenter's rich content and expertise in learner-centered relational education, Conflicts of Interest prepares participants with the skills to educate with greater confidence and competence.

## **When does the next cohort of the Conflicts of Interest Certificate Program begin?**

The COI Certificate Program is a hybrid program, structured with both Zoom and in person sessions. Please see below for dates and times for both Zoom and in-person experiences:

- > January 16 – 12-1:30pm CT on Zoom
- > January 23 – 12-1:30pm CT on Zoom
- > January 28-30 – in-person, in Chicago\*
- > February 5 – 12-1:30pm CT on Zoom

*\*Note—our in-person experience formally begins with dinner and an evening program on Sunday, January 28.*

## **Who is eligible to apply?**

Any Jewish professional, Israel educator, volunteer, or lay leader who regularly finds themselves acting in the role of educator/leader in a Jewish and/or Israel educational space will find value in this program. Anyone currently studying/enrolled in an undergraduate degree program are not eligible at this time.

*Currently, only people living/working in North America (US and Canada) are eligible to apply.*

## **How many cohorts of the COI Certificate Program are taking place?**

We will be hosting 2-3 parallel cohorts at the same time, including one exclusively open to Birthright Israel *madrichim*. All cohorts will operate on the same dates, each with their own dedicated staff and faculty team.

*There are opportunities during the in-person experience for cohorts to connect and learn together.*

### **Who is eligible to apply to the Birthright Israel *madrachim* (i.e. trip staff) training cohort?**

In order to be considered for the Birthright Israel cohort, you must be scheduled to staff a Birthright Israel trip in February or March 2024 and/or during the Summer 2024 (April-September) travel season. The Birthright Israel *madrachim* cohort application can be [found here](#).

If you will not be staffing a Birthright Israel trip and wish to apply to one of the parallel cohorts being offered, [click here](#) to be directed to The iCenter's application.

### **How long will applications be open?**

The scheduled application period will close on December 29, 2023.

### **How soon after submitting my application should I expect to hear back?**

Acceptances will be made on a rolling basis. You should expect to hear back one way or the other within two weeks of submitting your application. In some cases, an interview may be scheduled with a team member.

### **How much does it cost to participate in the Conflicts of Interest Certificate Program?**

Outside of travel costs to/from your local airport, there are no costs to participate in the Conflicts of Interest Certificate Program. This is made possible thanks to generous support from the Jim Joseph Foundation, Schusterman Family Philanthropies, and Crown Family Philanthropies.

### **How will my travel arrangements be made for the in-person days?**

Upon acceptance into the program, we will immediately put you in touch with our travel agent who will book your round-trip flights to and from Chicago O'Hare Airport. The in-person training will officially conclude at 4:00pm CT on Tuesday, January 30. The travel agent will know not to book your return flight any earlier than 6:30pm CT. *Transportation assistance to and from the airport in Chicago will be provided.*

### **Where is the in-person experience taking place?**

We will be staying at a hotel in Itasca, IL, a suburb of Chicago.

### What if I live in the Chicagoland area? Am I expected to stay at the hotel, and when should I plan on arriving?

If you are based in the Chicago area or are planning to drive in, we strongly encourage you to stay overnight at the hotel to get the most out of the experience. Please plan to arrive on Sunday evening in time for dinner.

*If you have questions or extenuating circumstances that prevent you from staying at the hotel, please contact [Nomi Mitchell](#) to discuss.*

### Will I get my own hotel room for the in-person experience?

Yes, we are fortunate to be able to offer all participants a private room. We hope you will use that private space to reflect and recharge.

### What else is expected of me as a participant in the COI Certificate Program?

We are committed to creating an experience where everyone feels like an essential and valued member of our community. With this in mind, we offer a few guidelines to help ensure that we'll get the most out of this learning experience.

- > **The more you put into this experience, the more you will get out of it.** Commit to being an active participant, complete all of the selected readings, and be open to engage in deep conversations with one another.
- > **Be fully present.** Make sure you have cleared your schedule for all of the virtual sessions, and that you are in front of a computer in a quiet and intentional space with your camera and microphone on.
- > **Be respectful.** This includes respecting each other's time and showing up to sessions on time. Likewise, we will do our best to start and end on time. If for whatever reason you are running late or have to leave early, please let us know.