2020-21
FZY YEAR COURSE
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE!
APPLY ONLINE VIA WWW.YEARCOURSE.ORG.UK
The Federation of Zionist Youth (FZY) is a Jewish Zionist Youth Movement, strengthening Jewish and Zionist identity whilst creating a strong and vibrant Jewish community for tomorrow. At FZY we strive to challenge, stimulate, educate and excite British Jewish youth through an array of programming. FZY works within a pluralist framework and therefore welcomes and respects members from different Jewish backgrounds.

FZY Year Course is a life changing 9 month programme, giving participants the opportunity to study, volunteer, travel, learn to live independently and gain invaluable life skills – all whilst meeting new people from around the world, and exploring a new and unique culture. The structured programme allows participants to tailor make the experience through an array of options ranging from Surfing in the Mediterranean Sea, to Internships in some of Israel’s top companies.

This year of study and opportunities in Israel provides chanichim (participants) with the perfect grounding and development for their entry into further education and employment, as well as the chance to explore their Jewish identity and connection to Israel.
Clara Bernstein
FZY Year Course: 2015/16
Employment: Student

“Deferring my place at university and going on FZY Year Course was the best decision I could have made – a remarkable programme that really has something for everyone to experience, enjoy and learn from. I feel more prepared for university now than I did when I finished school. I now have a new sense of motivation and a desire to return to studying.”

Many chanichim who choose FZY Year Course continue onto Higher Education. The UCAS website is excellent at explaining how the process works in order to defer entry for a year and it has answers to many questions regarding applications to University. With regards to gap years UCAS recommends the following:

“A gap year can be great for your CV – many employers value the experiences students have gained if they’ve actively managed their time, set themselves goals and stretched themselves. If you decide to apply for university most former gap year students are generally more focused and responsible.”
TEL AVIV-YAFO
ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

The Tel Aviv-Yafo home is centrally-located in the Montefiore neighbourhood, a 10-minute walk from the famous Sarona Market and Azrieli Mall, and a 15-minute walk from the Tel Aviv Cinematheque, Rothschild Boulevard, and Habima Square. Year Course is planting roots in the city where Israel was first declared a Jewish state, and where the Hebrew language was revived to create the first “Hebrew city.”

The diversity of Israelis, immigrants and refugees provides opportunities to experience pluralism and co-existence on every street, enabling leadership and Tikkun Olam to play a lead role in our daily lives.

FZY Year Course provides a variety of volunteer options to choose from. In addition to volunteering in schools and nonprofit organisations, participants will now have the opportunities to arrange internships and work alongside a more diverse community.

By volunteering, chanichim learn about Israeli society by working within the community. Year Course chanichim will become British “ambassadors” to Israel, acting as a living bridge between our two communities. Through their experience, they will gain insight and appreciation for the challenges facing the people of Israel today, all the time gaining maturity, independence and life skills.

Most chanichim will now live together under one roof, creating a strong and cohesive sense of community, being equipped with common areas for socialising and activities, and an amazing roof top garden!

Tel Aviv-Yafo is the cultural and economic capital of Israel. It is the top choice of location for many national and international conferences, concerts, cultural events, and celebrations! Of course, it is also home to a world-famous beach and promenade.

In addition to volunteering in Tel Aviv-Yafo, chanichim can apply to volunteer with Magen David Adom (MDA) or to participate in the Marva programme.

MDA – MAGEN DAVID ADOM

MDA provides emergency services throughout Israel and works with its volunteers to provide effective first-aid treatment. This option allows Year Coursers to be part of this mission and gain valuable hands-on experience. Following a week-long intensive training course, chanichim will volunteer on ambulances side by side with Israeli volunteers and professionals.

MARVA

Marva consists of a two month Army simulated basic training programme. Chanichim participating in the Marva programme are not part of the IDF, and are not completing their army service. Components of the programme include training, hikes and marches, discovering the history of the IDF, living in field conditions, survival training, physical fitness and extensive educational programming.

Zoe Edelman
FZY Year Course: 2011-12
Employment: Director of Admissions

"Year Course gave me the skills that I will continue to use for the rest of my life!"
Noah Levy  
FZY Year Course: 2012-13  
Employment: Academic Affairs

“Year Course allows you to shape your future and become who you want to be. I never would have imagined nine months would help me to grow as much as it has. It will stay with me forever!”

Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Israel.

From the old city to the new streets it is a unique blend of the modern and ancient. Chanichim living here get to feel the 2000 years of history whilst living in a vibrant modern capital.

Chanichim will spend the majority of their time in Jerusalem focusing on studying and learning.

The programme is designed and built with FZY chanichim in mind and is constantly changing and developing to reflect the interests of those coming on the programme.

Twice a week during the weekly schedule chanichim will explore Jerusalem and beyond through siyurim (trips) which bring the teaching out of the classrooms in order for participants to get to know and love the country they are living in for their gap year.

More than just classes, the study programme offers plenty of opportunities for social events and encounters with the Israeli community. Meetings run by madrichim (leaders) and chanichim themselves are held for each section on a weekly basis.

CORE CLASSES:
The courses that we offer during the study programme are constantly changing and evolving. Below is a list of the core classes expected during the Jerusalem section of FZY Year Course.

- HISTORY OF ZIONISM AND ISRAEL
- THE JEWISH IDEA
- HEBREW ULPAN
- HADRACHA (LEADERSHIP)
- JERUSALEM: EXPLORING ITS COMMUNITIES
Taking a year out before university was something I never imagined I would have done but wow am I glad I did. Year Course expanded my love for Israel in a completely new way and enabled me to become a more confident and independent individual, as I embark on my next FZY journey laying a foundation for the rest of my life.
Jessie Meyer
FZY Year Course: 2012/13
Employment: Agency Producer

People will tell you again and again that you are making friends for life and you won’t really take much notice, but no one can really understand the power Year Course actually has in generating real friends except for those around you experiencing every step of the journey with you.

Lynsey Selman
FZY Year Course: 2001/02
Employment: GP

“Being on Year Course allowed me to develop myself as a person, gain valuable life skills and pepper my CV with unique talking points. Now, as a GP, I recognise the enormous value of these experiences.”


**JERUSALEM STUDIES**

Pesach Chofesh

SPECIAL SEMINARS

SPECIAL INTEREST PERIOD

*Year Course schedule is subject to change*
The Special Interest component of the year provides participants with numerous different options in order to tailor part of their Year Course journey. The exact options will be presented to the chanichim during Year Course, but the following are a variety of options that are to be offered:

KIBBUTZ
The kibbutz movement is over 100 years old and Year Course chanichim can volunteer, understand and experience this way of life and can join the generations of foreign volunteers and visitors who have helped build these incredible institutions.

YESHIVA / RELIGIOUS SEMINARY
One of the unique aspects of Israel is the large number of yeshivot (religious study schools) that are located in Jerusalem and around the country. Choosing this option will allow chanichim the opportunity to study in one of these yeshivot and to broaden their Jewish education.

HIKING
There is no better way to see Israel than to hike across it. By choosing this option, chanichim may hike from the Mediterranean Sea in the west of Israel all the way across to the Kineret (Sea of Galilee) in the east, sleeping under the stars and soaking in all of the natural beauty that Israel has to offer.

INTERNSHIPS
With the job market so competitive, why not get a step ahead of your peers and take an internship in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv? Year Course has contacts with many different businesses and organisations from the world of business and finance to the heart of art and politics in Israel.

SURFING
Spend some time on one of the stunning Tel Aviv beaches and learn how to surf. Professional instructors will provide participants with equipment, workshops and guidance in order for the Year Coursers to ride the incoming waves.

OTHER OPTIONS
A plethora of other options will be offered such as ecological living, desert experiences, volunteering in the IDF, and archeological seminars. For those participants that can’t find the perfect fit for them, Year Coursers can always ‘build their own week’ and get it financed after approval from the staff.

Joel Landschaft-Singe
FZY Year Course: 2016/17
Employment: Student

“Year Course is more than just a Gap Year; it is a unique opportunity to explore yourself through a country that has so much to give. Israel is an inspiring nation, and I have gained a stronger Jewish identity and passion for Israel that I would never have originally thought possible.”
Maddy Duchen  
FZY Year Course: 2018/19  
Employment: Student

"Exploring Mumbai was insane and volunteering in the Kalwa slum was an eye opening experience. It was an amazing two weeks filled with loads of lessons and laughter."

**ADDITIONAL OPTIONS:**

**SPECIALITY TRACKS AND TRIPS**

Year Course offers a series of additional specialty tracks and trips designed to allow chanichim to focus on a specific passion or interest.

It’s a great opportunity to deepen your knowledge, perfect your talents, travel the world, and build your portfolio – with Israel, Zionism and Judaism as your backdrop.

There is an additional cost for each of these supplementary options to the Year Course programme.

**TIKKUN OLAM: INDIA**

One of the key ideals of any Jewish community is to improve the world around us, based on the principles of Tzedek (Justice), Tzedakah (Acts of Righteousness) and Tikkun Olam (Social Action). FZY is providing a travel experience to India to engage in international development and to work with impoverished and underprivileged communities. Chanichim will be prepared and trained in Israel before embarking on a voyage of volunteering in India. Whilst there, participants will also experience the wildlife and culture these countries have to offer.

**KUMA**

FZY offers an educational, enriching and meaningful opportunity to travel to Poland for a week on the Year Course Kuma Journey.

The Journey has three main goals:

- To explore the rich heritage of 1000 years of Jewish history in Poland and to find its relevance in our lives today.
- To explore the events of the Shoah (Holocaust) through a Zionist prism and to bear witness to the destruction of Polish Jewry.
- To understand our responsibility as young Jews today towards the world in which we live.

**OLAMI (WORLD TRAVEL)**

The rich history of Israel is deeply influenced by other Jewish communities worldwide, whose connection to Israel spans the past, present and future. Year Course Olami explores these connections with a series of week-long journeys outside of Israel to countries around the globe.

Participants will tour famous (and not-so-famous) sites, visit embassies, attend cultural and social events, and meet their Jewish peers in each country to experience first-hand their relationship to our history, and ours to theirs.

This coming year the Olami trips are offered to China, Morocco and Greece and will occur at various times throughout the year.

**SPECIALTY TRACKS**

There are a variety of specialty tracks and packages that are offered. These include a hiking track, which offers a number of different day and overnight hikes throughout the country over the year. There is also a Shabbat and Chaggim package which includes a number of catered religious weekends and festive experiences throughout the year. Other specialty tracks include Medical and Business themes where participants will engage in Israel through these different prisms.
Atid
FZY, Young Judaea and the Tsofim together form the umbrella organisation Atid (“Future”), an international partnership of pluralist Zionist youth movements.

FZY Year Course is run in conjunction with Young Judaea and the Tsofim. As well as British chanichim, there will be chanichim from all across North America, Canada, Europe and Israel.

Tsofim - (Israeli Scouts)
The Tsofim is FZY’s sister movement in Israel. Throughout the year members of the Tsofim participate in special seminars, hikes, home hospitality, volunteering and leadership experiences with Year Course chanichim. Meetings with the Tsofim offer a unique insight into the lives of Israeli youth today and a chance to exchange ideas with Israeli counterparts. Most FZY Year Course participants will get to live with the Tsofim during the Tel Aviv-Yafo semester.

Young Judaea
Young Judaea is the oldest Zionist Youth Movement in the United States. It is not affiliated with any political party nor does it advocate for any specific stream of Judaism. Young Judaea seeks to impart a strong Jewish identity to American youth whilst helping them to create a personal relationship with the State of Israel. From the Atlantic to Pacific, from the Rio Grande to the Canadian border, more than 50,000 Young Judaea graduates have benefited from its programmes. Young Judaea cherishes its relationship with the Tsofim, FZY and Canadian Young Judaea.
Joshua Tankel
FZY Year Course: 2010/11
Employment: Pilot

“"We left Year Course with new concepts and ideas in our minds, and most importantly, a renewed sense of our Jewish identity.""
When I now interview graduate candidates, I notice that those who have had structured gap years or time out are often distinguished from their peers. The experiences they have had and the lessons they have learnt make them memorable and ultimately more successful in their careers.

Joshua Marks
FZY Year Course: 2007-08
Employment: Project Manager
Shalom,

We are writing to introduce FZY Year Course, FZY’s gap-year programme in Israel. Year Course is open for you if you’re in your final year at school and want to spend a year away before going off to university or the working world.

Year Course is not only one of the best Israel gap-year programmes on offer, it is one of the best gap-year programmes of any kind. It’s a unique year full of fantastic experiences, education and enjoyment. It’s a once in a life time opportunity to make life long friends, do things you’ll never be able to do at any other time, explore your Jewish identity and gain valuable life skills.

Year Course gives its participants a range of transferable skills that benefit them at university, as well as enhancing their CVs and helping them to secure exciting employment opportunities in the future. University professors and employers frequently cite the value of an organised gap year programme, pointing out how the responsibilities and opportunities given to Year Coursers distinguish them from their peers.

Programme Costs:

Earlybird: Apply before 31st December 2019 and pay: £16,499
Application deadline for Year Course 2020-21 is 29th April 2020. Apply by this date and pay £16,999
Applications following the application deadline date will be dependent on availability, and will incur a £200 surcharge to cover administration costs.

All applications must be accompanied by a £500 deposit in order to qualify for the prices listed above. Deposit deadline is 1st February 2020. Upon acceptance to the programme, at least 50% of the programme cost is to be made by the end of May 2020, with the balance due by the end of July 2020.

The price is inclusive of a $200* award available by MASA to all participants - please check the MASA website or contact the FZY office for further details.

*$200 grant is correct as of time of printing, please check their website for the most up to date information.

Financial assistance is available to those with a genuine need and the process is confidential. For more information about financial assistance email office@fzy.org.uk.

If you’re at all considering in participating in the FZY Year Course programme then we’re here to provide you with all the information you’ll need and are more than happy to meet with you or your family to talk through the year and the exciting options on offer. For more information please email yearcourse@fzy.org.uk.

Hope to hear from you soon,

Rebecca Lewis
FZY Year Course Recruiter
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