

Participants & Parents, Shalom!

We are pleased to open Registration for the 2021-22 edition of our Maccabi Gap Year Program in Israel for young people, designed to provide an experience of significant and lasting personal benefit to each participant.

We aim to establish a framework of cooperation and shared responsibility between participants, parents, educators, and Maccabi World Union towards the optimum development of this program.

Our central objective is to benefit participants in various aspects & values of modern multidimensional Jewish & Zionist life, and all its implications; above all, we try to wrap education with fun, to ensure a life-enriching and most rewarding experience for every participant.

We deeply appreciate your trust in us, and we will do everything to ensure the success of your program.

Sincerely, **Yachad Team!**

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MACCABI GAP YEAR SCHEDULE

Opening seminar	September 10-11
Machon LeMadrichim	September 12 - December 23
Maccabi seminar + Volunteering	December 23 - January 02
Kibbutz	January 02- March 03
Tel Aviv	March 03 - April 03
Marvah	April 03 - June 02
Closing seminar	June 02 to 07

(*) Dates can change in order to attend the organization's team needs.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Clear explanations of all aspects relevant to your program, registration, documentation process, scholarships, payments, regulations and internal policies.

1. Program:

Your Gap Year program consists of various stages, each with its own characteristics. Your program includes: Medical insurance throughout your stay; likewise, all meals (including some program stages when you are given money on a weekly basis to buy your own food), accommodation, transport, activities, monitoring & supervision by our Program Director, and Coordinators and Counsellors assigned to your Program.

2. Stages:

Opening Seminar

While they're really kefi! (fun!), all opening seminar activities are mandatory, of utmost importance to you. You meet, socialize and get to know everyone involved, your fellow participants, coordinators, and counselors. Together, you review the rules of your program, its code of conduct, your personal goals, and what is expected of you during each stage of your program.

Machon Le Madrichim

Based at Kiryat Moriah in Jerusalem, the famous Machon course has trained counselors & young educators from all over the world since the 1940s. Innovative pedagogical techniques convey knowledge & content of Israeli sociology, actuarial, Middle East conflicts, and many other subjects, along with practical exercises to develop your leadership, public speaking, and project planning skills & abilities. Your group travels on many guided study tours & excursions all over Israel, all related to aspects of your course, accompanied & led by the professional teachers of your course. Through this stage, participants will also participate in a Macabiu Seminar in which aspects related to the objectives, values and identity of our Movement will be discussed.

Also, at this stage they will volunteer work in some Israeli NGOs, which will allow them to live closely immersed in Israeli society.

Kibbutz Experience

Throughout history, the kibbutz has undergone changes that make it different in many of its characteristics from the kibbutz of the 1950s and 1960s, but the essence and idea of living in community remains the driving force. of its decisions. Participants will work in all its various sections, such as dining room, stable, agricultural activities, gardening, kindergartens, etc.

Throughout this period there will be weekly meetings with professionals and educators based on leadership, Israeli news and Jewish identity.

A Madrich and a Coordinator will accompany the stay of the participants in the kibbutz, who will help and guide them based on their needs.

Tel Aviv

Your MDA course is a wonderful opportunity to live in modern Israel's most exciting metropolitan environment, the place every young person wants to experience. You share a Tel Aviv apartment with your flatmates and you are responsible for cleaning, laundry, cooking, and all your other domestic arrangements; you will be given a weekly allowance to cover these expenses. Apartment rentals in Central Tel Aviv are in high demand, so your group will divide into several apartments, but your coordinators will try as much as possible to keep groups of friends together.

Maguen David Adom (MDA)

"MADA" starts with an intensive 60-hour theoretical & practical First Aid course over 10 days, including proficiency tests & graduation exams, followed by actual work as ambulance crew members at MDA stations in cities & localities across the country. If – and only if – you pass the tests & exams, you live in a Tel Aviv apartment, receive a weekly allowance for your domestic & living expenses, interact with volunteers from Israel and other countries, and as to what you experience – there is no such thing as routine day on an Israeli ambulance crew. This is a formative & very real experience, genuine volunteering to benefit the people of Israel. Before MADA you're a kid; after MADA you're an adult. At the end, there's a diploma.

Marvah

National Service in the Israel Defense Forces is a basic rite-of-passage for young Israelis, forging personality, defining patriotism, and personal identity with the State of Israel. We see this stage of your program – a taste of army life – as very relevant, a fundamental aspect of Israeli life. Accompanied & led 24/7 by a team of commanders, Marvah introduces you to military discipline, a little toughness training, obstacle courses, survival techniques, an automatic rifle, and some study of IDF heritage & its Code of Ethics. You will never be exposed to danger situations or enter combat zones.

The IDF opens 4 Marvah Courses per year, each with a limited number of participants, and Marvah are solely in charge of admission. Acceptance to Marvah is not automatic but strictly conditioned: Complete your registration on the Internet site; your medical record will be reviewed, and you will be interviewed.

During Marvah, participants have 3 free weekends, and you are free to choose: Stay with relatives, or in Hotels/Hostels, or use a travel-and-maintenance allowance. During those free weekends, MWU is responsible for you.

MASA awards scholarships for programs of at least four (4) months duration.

MASA awards scholarship amounts at its sole discretion.

- Any & all personal changes you request in the Gap Year program schedule, before or during your program must be submitted in writing to MASA authorities in Israel.
- The deadline for canceling your participation in any program stage is five (5) weeks before that stage begins; you will be reimbursed 50% of the payment for that stage.
- No reimbursement will be made for cancellation after the 5-week deadline.
- The above refers to a program stage or stages in full; no reimbursement is made for partial or limited participation in any stage.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Complete the following mandatory steps:

- Read carefully the document and stages.
- Online Application for MASA Scholarship
<https://www.masaisrael.org/> and click on “Apply Now”
- Apply to Maccabi Gap Year Program [Register here](#)
Choose: Maccabi gap year 2021-22
- Marvah (Online) [Register here](#) Choose Marva MP - April 2022
- All participants must have a program participation psychology approval before arriving to Israel, the participant chooses psychology specialist
- VISA application
- Pay for the program

IMPORTANT:

- Carefully read detailed stage-by-stage information on each module, payment, exchange and return policies and the list of personal items necessary for participation in the program.
- You must process the Multiple Entry VISA A-2, valid until the Program's concluding date. Prepare your Passport & any required Documentation in advance, especially regarding special categories, e.g. child of Israeli citizens/ Israeli nationality, etc.
- You must deposit NIS700 upon entering the program in Israel; this will be held by Program Management as a guarantee against damages to any facility where you are accommodated. If no damage occurs, your total deposit will be refunded at the end of your program.

MASA SCHOLARSHIPS

Masa is the Israeli institution awarding financial subsidies based on socioeconomic factors to participants in approved study programs. Besides facilitating contact, sending documentation & adjusting applications, MWU Maccabi World Union has no input into applying for scholarships or decision-making processes.

Masa grants scholarships only to:

- Jewish applicants, 18 years old at the time of the program, or turning 18 during the program;
- Applicants who never previously received a Masa scholarship;
- Applicants who were not resident in Israel during the preceding 4 years;

Please Note: Masa scholarship amounts vary according to participants' country of residence.

- On the MASA page: Find the Maccabi Gap Year 2021-22 session. Complete your application to Masa with exact program dates, i.e. dates of your participation in the program, NOT dates of your arrival in & departure from Israel.

Masa scholarship grants are based on these dates. If you complete these dates incorrectly, you will have to pay or reimburse the difference between the amount Masa grants you, and how much Masa should have granted in accordance with the actual dates of your participation.

VISA

Tourist Visas grant a stay of no more than 90 days in Israel.

Maccabi Gap Year 2021-22 participants are not categorized as tourists: Apply for a Student VISA (A-2)

Essential: Process the Visa in your country of origin

You need the following:

- Israeli Consulate Documentation (Deliver to Maccabi office)
- Two passport photographs 5x5cm (2x2 inch)
- Certificate of Jewishness (Processed in local Jewish Community offices)
- Letter of parental responsibility
- Letter of participation in Maccabi Gap Year (From Maccabi office)
- Passport valid for at least six (6) months after your expected departure from Israel

If you are an Israeli Citizen, or your parents are Israeli Citizens, it is your responsibility to complete required procedures at the Israel Embassy or Consulate. *If you do not, serious problems will arise immediately upon your arrival at Ben Gurion Airport.*

Price: \$17.000 [SEVENTEEN THOUSAND UNITED STATES DOLLARS]

Airfare is not included.

STUFF YOU NEED FOR YOUR STAY IN ISRAEL

Check List:

- NIS 700.00 Deposit in Israel with Program Coordinators
- 1 Photocopy of your Passport and Israeli Student Visa
- 4 Passport-size photographs 5x5 centimeters (2x2 inches)
- 1 set of single-bed Sheets
- 1 large Towel
- 1 pair of Sports/Tennis shoes, sturdy & comfortable for walking
- 1 small backpack for short trips
- Cap, Sun Protection cream
- Prescription Medication sufficient for the duration of your stay in Israel

STUFF YOU DON'T NEED FOR YOUR STAY IN ISRAEL

- Too much of anything; in Israel, you tote your own baggage, so keep it basic, stay comfortable, and save the schlepp
- Important: Your Gap Year team & Maccabi World Union are not responsible for valuables you bring to Israel. Program Insurance does not cover theft, damage, or loss of valuables of any kind. You are 100% responsible for your belongings throughout the program; we strongly advise you not to bring items of high or sentimental value to you.

We appreciate your trust in us, and together with you, your parents, your fellow participants, and their parents, we hope to make 2021-22 a most significant and rewarding year in your life. For additional information or answers to any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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Get in touch!

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