Get Ready for the 2020 Bronfman Fellowship!

An exciting, one-of-a-kind Fellowship opportunity for intellectually adventurous, Jewish high school juniors. Read more and apply at bronfman.org/become.

Every year, twenty-six outstanding North American teenagers are selected as Bronfman Fellows. The highlight of the Fellowship is a free five-week summer in Israel, where Fellows engage in thought-provoking study and conversation and make lifelong friends. Fellows encounter the land and people of Israel, study major issues in contemporary Jewish life, and meet with some of today’s most influential figures. With the guidance of a diverse faculty of Rabbis and educators, the pluralistic group of Fellows have the opportunity to explore a wide range of Jewish texts, from classic religious documents to contemporary Israeli and American voices, using them to spark conversations, engage with stimulating existential questions, and achieve a deeper understanding of themselves and one another.

The Fellowship year continues with monthly virtual experiences and a Spring seminar in the United States, usually in the Northeast. Fellows continue their association with the Fellowship through our extraordinarily active, 1,200+ alumni community.

Eligibility and Important Dates

To be eligible for The Bronfman Fellowship 2020 cohort, you must:

- Be in the 11th grade in the Fall of 2019.
- Self-identify as Jewish.
- Be from the United States or Canada.
- Be born before July 1, 2004.

The application will open September 2019, and the Fellowship begins the summer following eleventh grade.

Want more information? Want to be notified when our application goes live?

Visit bronfman.org/become and fill out our interest form.
A Day in the Life of a Bronfman Fellow

On The Bronfman Fellowship summer in Israel, each day is full of possibilities. Here’s what a typical day is like for our Fellows. Learn more and fill out our interest form at bronfman.org/become. Applications will be open in Sept. 2019.

7:15 am: Good morning! The wake up committee will go around to make sure everyone is up – expect singing, knocking, and guitar playing.

8:00 am: Breakfast. On the campus where we stay in Jerusalem, there are tennis courts, basketball courts, and lots of open spaces.

8:30 am: Shiur (Seminar). There are four faculty members – Rabbis, professors and educators – who teach rotating classes on a variety of topics. Some recent class topics included “God in All Moments: The Spiritual Practices of the Hasidic Masters,” “A Jew in the World’ Modern Jewish Thinkers,” and “Genesis Midrash and Literature.”

9:45 am: Break. Grab a snack from the kitchen, take a quick walk, chat with a faculty member or hang out with some other Fellows on the lawn.

10:30 am: Bus to Tel Aviv. The group takes a private coach bus around the city to meet up with Amitim, the cohort of Israeli Bronfman Fellows, in Israel’s most cosmopolitan city.

11:30 am: Graffiti tour in Florentine. The Fellows and Amitim take a tour of street art in the south Tel Aviv neighborhood of Florentine from Guy Sharett, learning Hebrew slang, history, and culture along the way.

12:45 pm: Lunch. We have falafel and shnitzel with all the fixings delivered to a nearby park.

1:30 pm: Etgar Keret. Fellows and Amitim meet for a private reading, discussion, and book signing with one of Israel’s most prominent contemporary writers. Keret is the author of seven short story collections, two comic books, and several scripts for film and television.

4:30 pm: Guest Speaker on the Beach! We take a bus to Alma beach where Dr. Micah Goodman, faculty member at the Shalom Hartman Institute, meets us and leads a discussion on Diaspora and Statehood.

5:30 pm: Swimming and dinner. Free time to journal, relax, and catch some waves.

7:00 pm: Concert with System Ali. Amitim and Fellows enjoy a concert at a private venue where System Ali, an Israeli/Arabic/Russian/English fusion hip-hop group, leads singing and dancing.

8:30 pm: Bus back to Jerusalem. We travel home with sand in our sandals and hip-hop fusion stuck in our heads!

9:15 pm: Debrief and plans for the following day. The Fellows pow-wow briefly to talk about the upcoming schedule and takeaways from our day in Tel Aviv.

9:30 pm: Free time. Hanging out in our Mo’adon (common room).

11:00 pm: Quiet. Bedtime for some, while conversations between others continue into the night.
Meet the Fellows!

Four recent Fellows explain what Bronfman means to them.

“BEFORE BRONFMAN, I DIDN’T FULLY GRASP THE POWER OF UNDERSTANDING OTHER NARRATIVES, AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO SEE THINGS FROM MORE THAN ONE PERSPECTIVE. NOW, I SEE EVERYONE IN MY LIFE DIFFERENTLY BECAUSE OF IT.”
- YONI ALTMAN-SHAFER (’17)

“THE BRONFMAN FELLOWSHIP HAS INTRODUCED ME TO A DEEPER, MORE MEANINGFUL WAY OF THINKING ABOUT ALL THAT IS ENGAGING AND CHALLENGING. I’VE MET THE MOST INCREDIBLY CURIOUS, OPEN-MINDED, AND COHESIVE [GROUP OF] PEERS THIS SUMMER WITH WHOM I AM EXCITED TO CONTINUE LEARNING.”
- SHULIE SMOLYANTSKY (’17)

“BRONFMAN WAS A SUMMER OF EXTENDING, TRANSCENDING DIFFERENCES, SWIMMING ACROSS CANYONS TO MEET ONE ANOTHER HALFWAY. FOR THAT, I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL.”
- CHAYA HOLCH (’16)

“OVER THE FELLOWSHIP I DEVELOPED LIFELONG BONDS, FELT THE WARMTH OF AN INCREDIBLE GROUP, AND APPROACHED TEXTS WITH PASSIONATE INTENSITY.”
- ISAIAH MILBAUER (’16)