

Women Learning Torah in 14th C Germany

Learn and Live PROFOUNDLY

מדרשת עמודים
MIDRESHET AMUDIM



Women Learning Torah in Jerusalem Today



Look Beyond the "What" to Explore the "Why" and "How"



At Midreshet Amudim, you'll pursue truth and meaning, expand your horizons, and uncover new possibilities as you:

Discover

Develop the skills and confidence that empower you to explore Torah deeply and learn independently for a lifetime.

Inquire

Engage openly and honestly with challenging texts, complex ideas, and fundamental questions of faith, meaning, and human existence.

Explore

Experience Israel as a living Beit Midrash, where learning extends beyond the classroom and into the world around you.

Wonder

Encounter the richness and breadth of Torah through an expansive curriculum that awakens curiosity and inspires awe.

Create

Generate original ideas and bring your insights, imagination, and initiative into conversation with Torah.

Become

Deepen your relationship with Torah and mitzvot as you discover who you are and shape the Jewish life you want to lead.

LEARN PROFOUNDLY

Soundbites just won't cut it!

At Amudim, we embrace complexity because we believe that thoughtful inquiry and intellectual honesty deepen our understanding of Torah and enrich our relationship with it.



Go Beyond the Text

Can two contradictory claims about a text both be true?

Explore context, comparison, and interpretation to uncover the layers of meaning within Jewish texts.

Ask Deeper Questions

Can we love a God we don't understand?

Grapple with fundamental questions through rigorous study and encounters with Jewish thinkers across the ages.

Think for Yourself

Does being a religious person conflict with independent thought?

Develop the analytical tools to examine sources critically, formulate interpretations, and ground your insights in the mesorah.

Make It Your Own

What will your Jewish life look like beyond your parents' home?

Take an active role in Torah learning through independent research, original insights, student-led shiurim, and creative contributions.



OUR WEEK OF LEARNING

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
8-9 Tefillah and Breakfast	8-9 Tefillah and Breakfast	8-9 Tefillah and Breakfast	8-9 Tefillah and Breakfast	8-9 Tefillah and Breakfast
9:30-11:30 Gemara Seder and Shiur	9-10:30 Halacha Seder and Shiur	Gemara Seder and Shiur 9-11 Introductory 9-12 Advanced	9-10:30 Halacha Seder and Shiur	Gemara Seder and Shiur 9-11 Introductory 9-12 Advanced
11:30-12 Sichat HaRav	10:40-12 Tanach Seder and Shiur	11-12 The Talmud: A Biography	10:40-12 Tanach Seder and Shiur	11-12 The Talmud: A Biography
12-1 The DEEP Hour: Drop Everything and Encounter Philosophy | It's About Time: Inside the Jewish Calendar	12-1 Theories of God | Pathways to God	12-1 Amudim and Yesodot: Your Talmud Torah Toolbox	12-1 Shiur Klali	12-1 50 Big Questions | Jewish-Christian Polemics
1-3 Lunch and Break	1-2 Lunch and Break/Travel	1-3 Lunch and Break	1-5 Lunch Internships and Hitnadvut	1-3 Lunch and Break
3-4:15 Midrash Agnon | Shakespeare and the Bible	2-5 Torat Chaim • Jerusalem: Past, Present, and Personal • Museum Tanach • Jewish Books and Ephemera • Krav Maga • Jewish Filmmaking • Halacha in Action • Israel Unplugged	3-4:15 Great Ideas of Chassidut		3-4:15 Visual Midrash: Draw Your Own Conclusions | Pirkei Avot: Ethics and Ideology
Mincha	Mincha	Mincha	Mincha	Mincha
4:30-5:30 Beit Midrash	5-6 Va'ad	4:30-5:30 Beit Midrash	5-6:15 Women and Judaism	4:30-5:30 Beit Midrash
5:30-6:15 Hotbutton Halacha | Hotbutton Hashkafa	Optional Beit Midrash	5:30-7 Israel and the Middle East: Navigating Complexity	6:15-7 Hebrew Immersion Cafe	5:30-7 Practical Halacha
6:15-7 Tea w/Rivka		7-8 Dinner	7-8 Dinner	7-8 Dinner
7-8 Dinner		8-9 The Meaning of Shabbat | Avodah Shebalev: Understanding and Experiencing Tefillah	8-9 Meet the Author | Shocking Shutim	8-9:45 In Other Words: Creative Writing on the Parsha | Night Seder
8-9:30 A Time for Everything: A Kohelet Seminar | Night Seder		9-10 Philosophy of Rav Kook | Night Seder	9-10 Night Seder	10-11 Mishmar
9:30 Dira Meetings				









SAMPLE OF COURSES

Seder and Shiur

Daily sedarim in Talmud, Tanach, and Halacha culminating in in-depth, analytical shiurim.

Theories of God

Consider Jewish and Western arguments about God's existence, nature, and the rationality of belief.

Philosophy of Prayer

Why pray? Can prayer change God's mind? Why use a fixed text?

Discourses of Dress

Rethink tzniut through the lenses of dignity, humility, self-expression, philosophy, and halacha.

Talmudic Heroines

Discover how rabbinic narratives illuminate women's experiences, moral agency, and relationships.

Biblical Portraits

Examine biblical figures through close textual study and original visual art.

Tiny Tanach Tales

See how brevity deepens meaning through close readings of Tanach's shortest narratives.

Inside Halachah

Uncover the foundations, reasoning, and methods of halachic decision-making.

Akedah Through the Ages

Trace interpretations of the Akedah across generations, confronting faith, obedience, and morality.

50 Big Questions

Tackle students' most pressing questions about God, faith, morality, and Jewish life.

Kabbalah and Chassidut

Encounter Jewish mysticism, its central teachings, and its influence on religious thought and practice.

Science and Religion

Investigate rabbinic responses to evolution and the relationship between science and religious belief.

Mental Health and Halacha

Apply classical halachic sources to contemporary psychological challenges.

Literature and the Jewish Imagination

Study Hebrew literature and poetry through literary analysis and creative writing.

From Midrasha to Campus

Prepare for the halachic, social, and ideological challenges of Jewish college life.

One Topic. Multiple Perspectives.

Our courses complement one another, approaching the same subject from intellectual, spiritual, theoretical, and practical angles.

Theories of God
↕
Pathways to God

Halachot of Shabbat
↕
Meaning of Shabbat

From Gemara to Halacha
↕
From Gemara to Hashkafa

Hilchot Kashrut
↕
Hands-On Kashrut

FACULTY AND STAFF

At Amudim, learning is personal. Our faculty combine intellectual rigor, genuine curiosity, and a deep commitment to each student's growth. Through spirited discussions, one-on-one learning, and relationships beyond the Beit Midrash, they inspire students to think independently and make Torah their own.



Dr. Julie Goldstein

Rosh HaMidrasha and Director

Dr. Goldstein holds a PhD in Medieval History and Judaic Studies from NYU and an MA in Jewish Philosophy from YU. With thirty years of teaching experience, she has received multiple awards for excellence in scholarship and education.



Rabbi Uri Goldstein

Rav HaMidrasha and Gemara Ra"M

Rabbi Goldstein received semicha from YU and has served as a rabbi, educator, and program director in the U.S. and Israel. Formerly a community rabbi in NJ, he has taught at Frisch and Ma'ayanot and directed Yeshivat HaKotel's overseas program.



Elisheva Malkiel

Director of Student Life

Elisheva holds degrees in Social Work from Hebrew University and Muslim-Jewish Relations from Cambridge. Formerly the director of Nishmat's Maayan program, she brings extensive experience in women's education and a passion for students' emotional well-being and spiritual growth.



Rivka Gopin

Director of Operations and Programming

Rivka holds a degree in Business Administration and is pursuing an MA in Judaic Studies at YU. Born and raised in Israel, she brings extensive midrasha experience and a passion for introducing students to Israeli culture and inspiring a love of Israel.

Danielle Barta — Zionism
Dr. Tikva Blaukopf Schein — Tanach, Creative Writing
Gila Fine — Rabbinic Thought
Shayna Glickman — Torah and the Arts
R. Dov Laimon — Safrut (Scribal Arts)
Chana Lanter — Eim Bayit, Shoelet u'Meishiva
R. David Levin-Kruss — Machshava
R. Dr. John Krug — Torah and the Arts
R. Yoni Nouriel — Halacha
R. Natan Rosenbaum — Night Seder
R. Jeffrey Saks — Jewish Literature and Thought
Chana Schmell — Women and Judaism
Rabbanit Tzophia Stepansky — Gemara
R. Michael Unterberg — Israel and the Middle East
R. Ari Zeev Schwartz — Jewish Philosophy
Hannah Weizman — Shoelet u'Meishiva





The Amudim Semiar
Meet the Author

Every Wednesday evening, students engage directly with distinguished authors, scholars, and thinkers, exploring their work, ideas, and the questions shaping Jewish life.

Speakers have included:



R. Dr. Joshua Berman
Bible, Bar Ilan



R. Yoni Rosensweig
Ma'aglei Nefesh



Ilana Kurshan
Author



R. Yosef Hadane
Chief Rabbi, Ethiopian-Israeli Community



R. Yosef Zvi Rimon
Leading Posek



Sivan Rahav Meir
Journalist



R. Dr. Jeffrey Woolf
Talmud, Bar Ilan



Shira Lankan Scheps
Poet and Author

LIVE WITH PURPOSE

The year in Israel at Amudim is not just informational. It's transformational.



Own Your Religious Life

Participate passionately in your Judaism.

Amudim inspires students to move from spectators to participants in Jewish life, making Torah personal, purposeful, and fully lived.



Engage Modernity

Be empowered as a Jew in the modern world.

Through dialogue on science and religion, Judaism and democracy, postmodernism, and ethics, students develop the confidence to navigate contemporary challenges with intellectual depth and conviction.



Take Action

Put Your Values Into Practice

Through chavruta learning, independent living, internships, and hitnadvut, students discover their strengths, develop responsibility, put their values to work, and learn to make a meaningful impact.



Learn To Lead

Be informed. Bring change.

In partnership with leading Israeli advocacy organizations, students develop the knowledge, confidence, and skills to become articulate voices for Am Yisrael on campus and beyond.

HERE'S HOW

Hands-on experiences that turn learning into living.



Jerusalem as Your Classroom

Rediscover Jerusalem through classes taught across the city, bringing Tanach, Chazal, and Jewish history to life in the places where they unfolded.



Healthy Body, Healthy Soul

Strengthen body, mind, and spirit through energizing activities including krav maga, HIIT, boxing, and Zumba.



Internships and Hitnadvut

Pursue an internship or volunteer in a field that matters to you, developing skills, responsibility, and a commitment to giving back.



Torah Through the Arts

Explore and interpret Torah texts through visual and performing arts, using creativity, dramatic expression, and imagination to uncover new layers of meaning.



Torat Chaim

Hands-on mini-courses bring Torah to life through experiential classes like Museum Tanach, Halacha in Action, Jerusalem Through the Ages, and Israel Unplugged.



Hebrew immersion Café

Amudim students and lone Bnot Sherut join native Hebrew speakers for lively, Hebrew-only conversations on weekly topics, with refreshments in a welcoming café atmosphere.

ISRAEL FOR REAL

Israel isn't just where the experience takes place.
Israel *is* the experience.





Tiyulim – Traverse the Land

From Eilat's deserts and beaches to the Golan's lush mountains, explore Israel's extraordinary landscapes through adventures that connect you to the land and its history.

Israel Beyond the Headlines

Grapple with the ideas, complexities, and challenges shaping Israel today. In partnership with Nefesh B'Nefesh, Masa, and Nitzavim, explore religious Zionism and Middle East politics, and develop the skills to confront antisemitism on campus.

Shabbatot and Chagim

Experience the rhythm of Israeli Jewish life through Shabbatot in Jerusalem, Shabbatonim across the country, and chagim celebrated together and with diverse communities.

Live and Breathe Israel

Make Israel your home through independent apartment living, meaningful encounters with Israelis, internships, chesed, and immersion in the neighborhoods and communities around you.

Alumni in Israel

For students continuing to shana bet, sherut, the army, or university in Israel, Amudim remains a source of guidance, community, and a home to return to.

STUDENT LIFE

A Year in Israel. A Community for Life.



Mentorship

At Amudim, caring for students means taking their minds as seriously as their well-being. Our faculty engage each student as an individual, investing deeply in her intellectual and personal growth, taking her questions and ideas seriously, and building relationships rooted in mutual respect and connection. It's mentorship that both challenges and nurtures.

Guidance and Support

Our student life team, including a Director of Student Life, Eim Bayit, mental health professionals, and madrichot, provides compassionate, individualized care, ensuring that every student has someone to turn to. With personal attention and professional expertise, we help students navigate life in Israel, overcome challenges, and grow into confident, independent young adults.

Midtown Jerusalem — *Your Neighborhood*



Home in Yerushalayim

Live in welcoming apartments in Rechavia, at the crossroads of Jerusalem's most vibrant neighborhoods, where the excitement of city life meets the tranquility of quiet residential streets. Open year-round and staffed by a dedicated madricha, our apartments offer a home where daily life fosters independence, deep friendships, and a true sense of belonging in Israel.

Amenities

Each apartment is designed for comfort and independence, featuring WiFi, laundry services, a kitchen, living room, and inviting outdoor spaces. Students enjoy three daily meals while the midrasha is in session: self-prepared breakfasts with groceries provided in their apartments, and wholesome, well-balanced lunches and dinners from a local caterer.





מדרשת עמודים
MIDRESHET AMUDIM











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Ask a Talmida

Whatsapp Chat

masa מסע
ISRAEL JOURNEY

ישיבת ר' יצחק אלחנן
תורה ומדע
YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
PROUD MEMBER
S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
ISRAEL PROGRAM