



Student Registration Guide

5784

2023/2024

BnotTorah.com

Connect. Inspire. Grow.

Jerusalem
Shevat 5783
February, 2023



Dear Student,

Congratulations on being accepted to Bnot Torah/ Sharfman's for the 5784 (2023/2024) academic year.

During the application process, we have requested that you provide us with a great deal of information about yourself; an application, a personal statement, transcripts and recommendations. It is appropriate at this time to reciprocate with some information about us which should prove helpful to you.

We have therefore prepared this Student Registration Guide for you. It contains information you need to know about registration procedures and about life at Sharfman's in general.

While I am sure that you decided to attend our school only after thoroughly investigating our program, I am also including in this pamphlet a general introduction which includes some details that may be unclear to a new student. It also contains some of our rules and regulations which you will be accountable for during your stay in Israel. Please read them carefully.

As the time of your departure grows near, I am sure that you will have many questions about preparing for your year. Many of these questions will be answered in our Student Preparatory Guide which registered students will receive before Pesach.

It contains advice on what to pack, Seforim you will need, group flight arrangements, banking in Israel and other useful information. But there is time for that.

In the meantime, in order to ensure your place on the Bnot Torah/Sharfman's 2023-2024 Student Roster, make sure to complete your registration as soon as possible.

Looking forward to greeting you in Eretz Yisrael on August 28th,

I remain,
Sincerely,

Rabbi Label Sharfman

Rabbi Label Sharfman
Dean

Our History

Bnot Torah/Sharfman's was founded in 1977 by Rabbi Label Sharfman. We are now celebrating more than 45 years of providing young Orthodox Jewish women with the tools to maximize their potential. The curriculum is structured to offer each student the means of understanding her unique role and responsibility as a Jewish woman. Our classes, trips and Shabbatonim all revolve around the three concepts of: connect, inspire and grow. We aim to empower our students to forever connect with Hashem, search for Jewish inspiration and always grow in their Judaism.



Innovation & Renewal

For over 45 years, Bnot Torah has been recognized as an innovator in Jewish Education for women. One of the first seminaries in Yerushalayim to open its doors specifically for the North American high school graduate, many of our innovations have become the benchmarks used by other seminaries following in our footsteps.

Bnot Torah/Sharfman's was at the forefront of offering a Beit Midrash setting to its students. Serving not only as a place to work on assignments in preparation for class and as an instrument for improving textual skills, the Beit Midrash additionally functions as a laboratory in which young women can delve into texts dealing with additional subjects of personal interest either independently, or with help from their Rakezet or tutor.

To maintain our successful track record, Bnot Torah/Sharfman's constantly continues to innovate and revise its program, always updating and fine tuning, so that the education it offers is always exciting and relevant to each new student.

Personalized Learning

Our educational program includes inspirational classes, elective courses, Chaburah options, special lectures and seminars that are geared to enhance one's appreciation of the wealth and depth of our heritage.

Our program offers an eclectic array of timely courses such as: Torah Topics, Parsha Wisdom, Daily WAZE, Practical Hilchot Shabbat, Mussar in Action, iTefillah, The Jewish Woman in the Modern World, Bein Adam L'Chaveiro, V.I.P. Judaism, Sephardic Heritage, Life Essentials and Chassidus Revealed.

We feature clubs such as Tefillah Club, Art Club and a club that allows one to experience additional volunteer and chessed opportunities. Our Beit Midrash sessions are designed to allow you to take ownership of your Torah knowledge. After all, we are famous for being a seminary that is the leader in providing you with the ability to achieve real growth where you can move in a positive direction.



Amazing Faculty

Bnot Torah/Sharfman's great faculty has an outstanding reputation in academic circles not only in Israel, but throughout the international Jewish community as well. We take pride in the number of famous lecturers and authors of repute on our staff. In addition to the obvious requirement of being experts in their fields, Sharfman's has a hand picked staff who truly serve as role models to their students.

Students have access to our faculty in the classroom, in our Beit Midrash and even in our local homes. We offer an unparalleled student-centered seminary experience. A predominant amount of our our core faculty lives right in our community. Enjoy an authentic Israel experience and become someone who forever evokes inspiration for life.

Your Schedule

The Bnot Torah/Sharfman's day begins with Tefillah Club and special breakfast. Sunday through Thursday, morning learning begins at 9:00 AM and concludes at 1:25 PM. Morning classes are followed by a light lunch, Mincha and an afternoon break.

Afternoon and early evening classes are held on Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00 - 7:00 PM.

Evening classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 - 10:00 PM. Currently, elective courses are held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Bayit Cham events, that take place at the local home of your Rakezet, occur every other Wednesday night.

On Thursday, we have our chessed program that takes place in the afternoon hours. Thursday Night Mishmar classes feature the likes of dynamic speakers: Rav Gav Friedman and Rav Mordechai Burg. This is followed by an amazing Open Beit Midrash in which all of our students enjoy learning and tasty Shabbos food.



Amazing Library



Bnot Torah/Sharfman's has a large reference library with many seforim which you will find useful during the course of the year. In addition, you will find many seforim of interest to you, in both Hebrew and English, which may be borrowed from the lending library.

The Student Preparatory Guide contains a list of most of the seforim that you will need for your classes. Certain courses will require additional seforim.

You will receive a complete list during Orientation Week. Students are expected to bring their own seforim for all classes and Beit Midrash sessions. Private seforim may be left in the student's individual locker in school.

Your Neighborhood & Living Accommodations

Our living accommodations help develop warmth and bonding, shared experiences, and the building of friendships to cherish forever. Located in the Ramat Eshkol/Sanhedria HaMurchevet neighborhoods of Yerushalayim — within minutes of your classrooms and Beit Midrash — our living accommodations offer you a personal place that you can truly call "home".



It is a place where you can relax and enjoy the magnificent and panoramic view of Yerushalayim from your window and/or balcony. Our dorm penthouses have comfy and chic lounge areas that feature a generous array of couches, cozy chairs, throw pillows and armchairs that encourage you to hang out with your friends. American style mattress and pillow are provided to ensure you have a quality night's sleep. Even though we provide three plus meals a day, there are multiple refrigerators and microwaves for your added convenience.

Our safe and friendly, largely English speaking community provides you with full access to the Ramat Eshkol Promenade, restaurants, boutiques, American style supermarkets, ATM machines, dry cleaners, charming sidewalk cafes and even an indoor swimming pool nearby. Plus, our students enjoy being within easy walking distance to the Kotel! When you attend Bnot Torah, you become part of our community along with many of Bnot Torah's faculty members who live within minutes of our school.

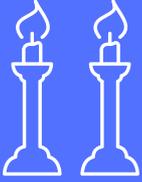
3+ Meals



In addition to having constant access to your kitchen, we believe that it is important to feed our students at both a physical and spiritual level.

As such, when classes are in session, a well balanced breakfast is offered every morning and includes oatmeal, cereals, milk, hard boiled eggs and of course coffee and tea. In addition, we serve a light dairy lunch and a soup in the afternoon. Our meat dinners include a variety of nutritious, wonderfully catered hot meals, together with a fresh salad. Our constantly changing and diverse menu provides tasty, well balanced meals with that home-cooked feel. And of course, these meals are provided by the school without additional charge.

Shabbos & Yom Tov



Sharfman's is more than just a seminary, we are a family! Accordingly, because of our special location and proximity to American-style synagogues, you will not need to frantically run around looking for a place to stay for Shabbat, Yom Tov, or even Purim and Chanukah. Rather, you are welcome to stay at our facilities and celebrate with your friends and local faculty members. At Bnot Torah/Sharfman's we have a Shabbaton about once a month.

Trips & Overnight Tiyulim



In spite of being a geographically tiny country, Israel has a wealth of important religious, historical and archeological landmarks. As part of both the learning experience and the general experience of Israel, you will be participating in numerous guided overnight tiyulim (tours) which cover many of the major sites from the Golan Heights in the north to Eilat in the south. In addition to these overnight trips, we also have a number of full day, as well as half day, tiyulim.

Extracurricular Activities



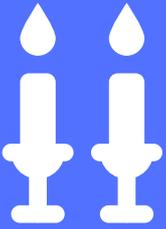
Whether it be a Tiyul, a night out at our exclusive gym, a Bayit Cham social evening with your friends at your Rakezet's home, Kedma Choir, Guest Lecture, Art Club, Rosh Chodesh Happening, Exercise Night, or Shabbaton, you will find that there are many extracurricular activities available to you on a regular basis.

Chesed & Volunteering



Acts of generosity and kindness in the form of Chesed projects go beyond an intellectual exercise in the classroom. Our students give of themselves and help others in various situations of need. From visiting the elderly at the local old age home, to working with handicapped children, to tutoring English to Israeli youngsters, to helping young local mothers with their busy households, to making sandwiches for Ezer Mizion, to packaging groceries for distribution to impoverished families at Yad Eliezer, to seeing behind-the-scenes of United Hatzalah, assisting at Pantry Packers and bringing a smile to the face of many in local Yerushalayim hospitals — your help is needed and appreciated.

Shabbatonim



Shabbatonim take place in school and also at beautiful destinations and communities around the country. Every Shabbaton carries its own unique theme such as Shabbos, Chessed or Kibbud Av Va'Aim. Using various techniques including skits, discussions and workshops, you are given the chance to discover and explore the meaning and significance of these Mitzvot. Each topic is developed so that you leave the Shabbaton with a new found appreciation, understanding and sensitivity for the Mitzvah.

Laundry Options



Coin operated washing machines and dryers are available for the exclusive use of our students. In addition, there is a dry cleaners across the street from the school.

College Credits & Joint Programs



Many colleges (including Touro College and Stern College) will allow transfer credit of between 32-36 credits based on a Bnot Torah transcript. Other colleges will transfer a full year's credit from an Israeli institution if the student attended on a joint-college program with a recognized U.S. college, or grant credit based on their evaluation of a student's transcript. Throughout the years, our students have been accepted to some of the most prestigious colleges and universities including, but not limited to: Harvard, Yale, USC, NYU, Penn, UCLA and many others. Each college has its own policy for accepting transfer credits. Students attending Bnot Torah/Sharfman's on a joint-program are entitled to whatever financial aid they would be entitled to receive if they were attending that college in the U.S. For further information regarding joint-programs, please contact our North American office.

Security Policy



Due to the security situation, from time to time the school may place travel restrictions on areas in or outside of Yerushalayim. These notices will be posted on the bulletin board, be announced in school and/or sent via Whatsapp to our students. On all of our Tiyulim, we follow the guidelines used by the Israeli Ministry of Education and MASA. All Tiyulim outside city areas are accompanied by armed guards who are also top-notch medics. Our itineraries do not include areas that are deemed unsafe and the tour guide checks with security authorities prior to our departing on any Tiyul. Parents who wish to give permission to their daughter to travel to an area placed "off-limits" by the school, may do so by emailing permission to: office@bnottorah.com. Nevertheless, we reserve the right to withhold permission from a student for any travel, even within the "Green Line." A student who does not follow these guidelines does so on her own responsibility.

The Poland Trip

For a number of years, Bnot Torah/Sharfman's students have all participated on an unforgettable educational trip to Poland (this trip usually takes place in the month of February).

Our Poland trip is led by members of our very own faculty and allows students to not just learn and bond while exploring their history.

Students touch their past and return from this impactful journey filled with heartfelt determination for growth. It's for these very reasons that the Poland trip is an important aspect of our student experience.



In the past, we have been able to fully subsidize the Poland trip so that students can attend this trip for free. In the coming year, we look forward to once again subsidizing the Poland trip. However, this coming year our students will earn their trip through a new educational-incentive-program. Our students will learn more about it upon their arrival at school.

By offering our students more than just the typical seminary experience of serious Torah learning and amazing trips and tiyulim, Bnot Torah/Sharfman's students will be uniquely empowered to truly connect with their life, history and future.

Code of Conduct



A student who has decided to attend Bnot Torah has shown her commitment to continued development and growth in Torah and Middos.

She has chosen to work on the achievement of these ideals in a Torah atmosphere. The following rules are tacitly understood. We are nevertheless listing them to avoid any possible misunderstandings.

These rules apply throughout your stay in Israel (including vacation periods), whether on or off campus.

Our students are expected to conduct themselves on a level of Tznius befitting seminary students in all aspects of their demeanor — whether in their dress or in their standard of behavior. In addition to adhering to Halacha.

It is expected that students maintain these standards at all times and in all places, throughout the year.

Our school dress code requires that skirts or dresses must cover the knee even when sitting, any slits in skirts must end below the knee. Shirts must adequately overlap the skirt waistline, have appropriate necklines and sleeves must cover the elbows. Socks, stockings or closed toed shoes must be worn. Items considered unacceptable include: sheer or form fitting clothing, pants, body piercing, unusual hair coloring and any form of fashion considered inappropriate for a seminary student. No men are allowed in the dorm under any circumstances.

It is expected that all students attend classes and Beit Midrash sessions regularly. (See "ATTENDANCE" for further information.)

Reasons for disciplinary dismissal include, but are not limited to: violation of the Code of Conduct, excessive absence from classes; failure to complete class assignments; violation of curfew; use of beer, alcohol or drugs; visiting pubs or bars or any other conduct unbecoming a seminary student.

Attendance Policy



1) Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and Beit Midrash sessions and to be present promptly at the beginning of the hour, unless prevented from doing so by illness or other compelling causes.

2) A record of each student's attendance is kept for each course. In computing the student's final grades, her attendance record is taken into account — together with her grades on tests, papers and participation in class. (See paragraph 6 below.)

3) The AIM PA visits our school a few days a week. If a student does not feel well enough to attend classes on a particular day and wishes her absence to be excused, she must see the PA or doctor on the day of her absence, request an excused absence note from one of them and submit it to the office upon her return to classes. **Only absences excused by the PA or a doctor on the day of her absence will be considered excused absences. Retroactive excused notes will not be accepted by the office. It is the student's responsibility to see the PA during the hours that the PA is at school.** Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence. Absences due to minor ailments (e.g. headaches, tiredness, etc.) will not be excused. Excused absences for each class are limited to twice (2 times) the number of weekly course meetings per semester. On a day that the PA is not in school, or in the afternoon, when the PA does not have hours, absences will be excused by the secretary.

4) In recognition of the fact that there will be times that a student will have a valid non-medical reason for missing class (e.g. family visits, attending a wedding, bris, other personal reasons, or for medical reasons beyond the allotted excused absences), a student will not be penalized for personal absences provided they do not exceed twice (2 times) the number of weekly course meetings per semester. Personal absences should not be used indiscriminately, but rather saved for those unexpected occasions that inevitably arise during the year.

5) Lateness of up to 15 minutes will count as one half of an absence; of more than 15 minutes as a full absence.

6) The following is a list of the maximum number of absences allowed per class over each semester. Absences beyond either total will result in a penalty of a grade reduction of one grade for each additional absence (1/2 grade for each Beit Midrash period). The above rules apply per semester.

	EXCUSED	PERSONAL
Classes meeting 3 times a week	6 absences	6 absences
Classes meeting 2 times a week	4 absences	4 absences
Classes meeting weekly or biweekly	2 absences	2 absences

Attendance Policy



7) Excessive absences in a particular class will result in a failing grade for that course. **Students accumulating a sufficient number of absences to result in a grade of "F" in a number of courses (including Beit Midrash) will not receive credit for any courses taken at Bnot Torah/Sharfman's. In addition, excessive absence from classes may lead to dismissal from the program.**

8) Although a student may use her personal absences at her discretion, nevertheless, examinations must be taken when scheduled. A teacher has the right to deny the opportunity of a make up examination to a student who has missed a scheduled examination, unless the student received an excused absence note for her illness. Failure to take an examination counts as a grade of "0" for that test. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that she has completed all the requirements for each of her classes.

9) Due to the nature of the Bnot Torah/Sharfman's Chessed Program, it is expected that students will attend their Chessed Activity unless prevented from doing so by actual illness. In such instances, students must receive an "excused note" from the PA and inform the Chessed Coordinator as early as possible so that she can make the proper arrangements with the family or institution involved.

10) Extended absences during the school year not only disrupt the continuity of the school experience of the student, her class and dorm mates, but leave the student with a significant amount of material to learn by herself. Therefore, during the course of the school year, students will **only be permitted to travel abroad for:** a sibling's wedding, Bar or Bat Mitzvah and for Pesach vacation (not Succot or Chanukah vacations). Please note that all trips abroad require prior permission and approval of the dates of absence from her Mechanechet. The permitted trips must be arranged so that a minimum amount of school is missed. **A maximum of ten calendar days will be allotted for a sibling's Simcha.** Classes missed during these periods will be counted as personal absences.

11) Transcripts are issued at the end of June and reflect the student's work over the course of the entire academic year.

Living Accommodations



- 1) Dorm living is an integral part of the educational experience at Bnot Torah. Therefore, it is expected that students' demeanor in the living facilities will always reflect the behavior expected of seminary students, whether in manner of speech, the type of pictures and posters displayed or activities held in the Dorm Penthouse.
- 2) Posters and pictures may be hung in your apartment, but only on the bulletin board adjacent to your bed.
- 3) Guests are not allowed to sleep in the school dorms under any circumstances.
- 4) In order to ensure that the living facilities are being maintained in a neat and orderly fashion, each girl is given a cleaning assignment which must pass inspection by her Aim Bayit. The assignments are rotated on a monthly basis. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that her assignment is maintained throughout the month.
- 5) The Aim Bayit will visit and inspect the Dorm Penthouse on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons during the afternoon break. Attendance for all students is mandatory. A student who is unable to attend a particular meeting must receive prior permission from her Aim Bayit.
- 6) No pets, with the exception of fish, are allowed in the dorm.
- 7) Wifi is available to our students in all of our facilities.

Safety & Protocol



- 1) Students must sleep in their own room every night and must be in their Dorm Penthouse by curfew. On Friday night, a student can receive permission to sleep out upon notifying the school.
- 2) Curfew on all weeknights is at 11:30 PM, Saturday night, 12:00 midnight. This curfew time is in effect throughout the entire school year, including vacation periods.
- 3) Students may sleep out only after receiving permission from the Mechanechet.
- 4) A student may not sleep in a hotel, Airbnb, etc. without receiving prior permission from her Mechanechet.
- 5) A student whose family owns an apartment in Israel may not use the apartment at any time unless she is with her parents.
- 6) Students who violate curfew will be subject to disciplinary action.
- 7) Students are not permitted to travel abroad or to Eilat without receiving prior permission from the Mechanechet. This rule applies throughout the year, including during vacations.
- 8) Students may not rent or drive a motor vehicle while in Israel.

Group Flight

Our school flight will, IY" H, depart on Sunday, August 27th. In the near future, we will be sending you more information regarding our flight.

The school flight will be met by our staff at Ben Gurion Airport. There will be a chartered bus to transport our students. If you will be making your own travel arrangements, plan on meeting us at the school building on Tuesday, August 28th. As we get closer to Tuesday, August 28th, you will be hearing from our office as to the exact time. Keys will be distributed on this day.

Health Care

In order to ensure that all Bnot Torah/Sharfman's students receive the best health care possible, all students are required to be registered on at least the AIM GOLD Plan.

AIM will be providing a PA or nurse who will be in school at least twice weekly when school is in session. The AIM PA or Nurse is available to all Bnot Torah students for consultation without additional charge. In addition, our students have access to an AIM Doctor 24/7.

A student who does not feel well, should first consult with the office secretary. She will help determine whether a visit to the doctor is necessary, and if so, which doctor should be seen.

There is no additional charge for a visit to an AIM General Practitioner. Students enrolled on the AIM Plan are not charged for specialists or laboratory services if ordered by the AIM office.

AIM has an emergency hotline with a physician on duty to speak with 24 hours a day. We have enclosed additional information from AIM which explains their services in detail.



Passport & Visa Info

We recommend that you have a passport that is valid at least until November, 2024. If you already have one, but it is due to expire during your stay in Israel, please contact us to discuss.

We will be sending you in the near future information regarding visas.

If either you or one of your parents has Israeli citizenship, please send an email to Citizenship@BnotTorah.com. We will send you instructions which will help you avoid problems in Israel.



How to Register

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

- The enclosed Bnot Torah/Sharfman's Israel Program Contract must be signed by you and one of your parents via a notary public.
- The contract must be sent together with a nonrefundable registration fee of \$4,000.00 to our North American office by the date stated in your acceptance letter. Failure to do so constitutes a withdrawal of your application.

PROGRAM COSTS

- Program Costs (including tuition, residence costs, meals, participation in all school tours and activities) for the coming academic year will be \$24,000.00. This, together with the registration fee, totals \$28,000.00.
- Payment is made in the form of five post dated checks according to the following schedule:

Check 1	Dated	July 1st, 2023	\$4,800.00
Check 2	Dated	August 1, 2023	\$4,800.00
Check 3	Dated	September 1, 2023	\$4,800.00
Check 4	Dated	October 1, 2023	\$4,800.00
Check 5	Dated	November 1, 2023	\$4,800.00

Completion of Enrollment

The above checks must be sent to our North American office by February 20th, 2023, in order to complete enrollment. Failure to do so will constitute withdrawal from the program and your name will be dropped from our student roster.

All checks should be made payable to American Friends of Bnot Torah Institute. Your cancelled check is receipt of payment.

The above checks must be submitted to our office even if you plan on attending through a joint-program or receiving a scholarship from a third party. Overpayments will be refunded to you upon receipt of payment from the participating college or scholarship fund.

Enclosed, you will find literature from the American Israel Medi-Plan (AIM) which explains their coverage and services. Also included is the AIM Membership Application and a Medical Form. They must be filled out and submitted together with the AIM enrollment fee, payable to AIM. Alternatively, it is possible to register online at www.aim.co.il. Enrollment on either the AIM GOLD or PLATINUM Plan is mandatory to complete registration.





Bnot Torah/Sharfman's

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Connect. Inspire. Grow.