



# Yeshiva University

## THE ZAHAVA AND MOSHAEL STRAUS CENTER FOR TORAH AND WESTERN THOUGHT

### The Straus Scholars Program

#### What is the Straus Scholars Program?

The Straus Scholars Program is an elite scholarship for Stern College for Women and Yeshiva College students who demonstrate high academic achievement and leadership potential. Under the direction of Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik, the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought trains Yeshiva University students to be Modern Orthodox intellectual leaders who are well versed in both Torah and the Western canon. Students who are accepted to the Straus Scholars Program may be awarded up to \$25,000 a year in merit-based scholarships. In addition to the generous financial incentive, Straus Scholars will have access to an unparalleled range of academic, professional, and networking opportunities.

#### Who is Eligible to Apply?

Students who have been accepted to Yeshiva College or Stern College for Women and are studying in Yeshiva/Seminary.

#### Can a student in the Honors Program also be a Straus Scholar?

Yes. Students in the Honors Program may apply for the Straus Scholarship. If they are accepted to the Straus Scholars Program, **the Straus-funded scholarship replaces the Honors Scholarship.** Honors-Straus students will continue to participate in the Honors program throughout their time at YU, and an Honors student's existing scholarship will not go down upon acceptance to the Straus Scholars Program.

#### What are the benefits to being a Straus Scholar?

Straus Scholars undertake a course of study that bridges Judaic studies, philosophy, political science, history, literature and art. Straus courses prioritize the development of critical thinking, close-reading, and writing skills while facilitating open debate and the meaningful exchange of ideas. Straus Scholars are encouraged to publish their written work, engage with think tanks, and pursue prestigious summer fellowships, internships, and research opportunities.





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Other exclusive Straus experiences include small group seminars with visiting dignitaries and leading public intellectuals, and travel opportunities. Straus Scholars also receive targeted academic and professional mentorship through the Straus Impact Office, and this mentorship continues with intellectual enhancement activities and professional networking post-graduation.

### What are the academic requirements for Straus Scholars?

Straus Scholars are required to take 8 Straus classes over the course of their time at YU, and they will write a thesis in their senior year. Several Straus courses are cross listed as Honors courses, and the Straus thesis satisfies the Honors thesis requirement.

### Can a student majoring in a non-Humanities subject apply for the Straus Scholars Program?

Yes. Straus Scholars come from a variety of academic backgrounds, including pre-med, computer science and nursing. Unfortunately, students in the Sy Syms School of Business are **not eligible** to apply.

### If a student wants to stay in Israel for Shana Bet, are they eligible to apply for the Straus Scholars Program?

As the Straus Scholarship is non-deferrable, students who intend to stay Shana Bet are encouraged to apply to the Straus Scholarship in the year immediately preceding their arrival on campus.

*For more information on the **Straus Scholars Program**, please email Dr. Shaina Trapedo at [shaina.trapedo@yu.edu](mailto:shaina.trapedo@yu.edu).*



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