

RIETS KOLLEL AND HONORS PROGRAMS

Program Descriptions

For Students in the Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Semikha Program

Marcos and Adina Katz Kollel: Under the direction of Rabbi Hershel Schachter, *shlit" a*, this kollel is the largest of the RIETS Kollel programs. In the main section of the kollel, *talmidim* study approximately 20 *dapim* of Gemara per semester and take regular *bechinot*. Alternative *limmudim*, in halakha and Gemara, may also be studied by the fellows. The kollel meets in the afternoon, Sunday through Thursday, and includes a night seder requirement. Students may be eligible for free housing and stipends.

Bella and Harry Wexner Semikha Honors Program: The most promising *semikha* students, future *talmidei chachamim*, and community leaders are chosen through a rigorous process. They receive a sizeable fellowship to allow them to focus completely on learning. Fellows of the Semikha Honors Program study with the Marcus and Adina Katz Kollel. In addition, they take select, high-level courses in the areas of effective written and oral communication, pastoral counseling and psychology, and dispute resolution.

Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Institute / Israel Kollel: The Institute, directed by Rabbi David Miller, *shlit" a*, offers year-long programs of study on Yeshiva University's Israel campus in Yerushalayim. Most of the *semikha* requirements may be filled while at the RIETS Israel Kollel. RIETS students are encouraged to spend one of their four years of study at the Gruss Institute so they can absorb the unique Torah of *Eretz Yisrael*.

Maybaum Sephardic Scholarship: This fellowship is dedicated for RIETS students of Sephardic heritage. Fellowship recipients will receive a stipend toward completion of *semikha* studies. On top of the general RIETS *semikha* requirements, Maybaum scholars are required to take coursework in Sephardic *halakha* and *hazzanut*. Above all, Maybaum fellows must exemplify leading the life of a *talmid hakham* within the context of their Sephardic heritage.

For Post-Semikha Students

Bella and Harry Wexner Kollel Elyon: This post-*semikha* kollel, under the direction of Rabbi Mordechai Willig, *shlit" a*, is designed to educate an elite cadre of rabbinic leaders to meet the complex demands of today's Jewish community. The program was the first of its kind to combine intensive Torah learning and traditional rabbinic education with a curriculum drawn from a wide range of disciplines, including: effective written and oral communication skills, pastoral counseling and psychology, dispute resolution, business ethics, and leadership development. The goal of the program is that its graduates embody outstanding erudition and commitment to Torah, coupled with the practical skills to enable them to most effectively address the contemporary issues facing the Jewish community at large. (*Talmidim* in the Wexner Kollel Elyon study together with fellows of Machon Beren)

Israel Henry Beren Institute for Higher Talmudic Studies (HaMachon HaGavoah Le'Talmud): This post-*semikha* kollel is under the direction of Rabbi Michael Rosensweig, *shlit" a*. It is designed for exceptional

students who wish to study *Torah lishma*, and who have the potential and desire to become the academic leaders of Jewry. It enables these most gifted *talmidim*, already possessing Kollel experience and *semikha*, to devote themselves fully to Torah study. Out of its ranks have emerged outstanding *talmidei chachamim* who serve in the first-rank of roshei yeshiva and yeshiva faculty, to whom the coming generation will look for guidance and direction in Jewish law and living.

Rabbi Jacob Kupietsky Memorial Program for the Study of *Kodshim*: This post-Semikha program enables promising *talmidim* to dedicate themselves to the study of *Kodshim*. Fellows receive a sizeable stipend and are expected to study together with the *Kollelei Elyon*, as well as devote one *sefer* a day to the study of *Kodshim*. On occasion, the Dean requests one of the Kupietsky fellows to prepare and deliver a lecture to all post-semikha students wherein he expounds on his learning.

Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm Kollel L'Horaah (Yadin Yadin): This kollel, overseen by Rabbi J. David Bleich, *shlit"á*, and Rav Mordechai Willig, *shlit"á*, is offered to an elite group of *talmidim*, all of whom have received *semikha* and have displayed profound ability in learning, as well as a firm commitment to a future life of scholarship and service. The program consists of study of *Even HaEzer* and *Choshen Mishpat*, coupled with observation at the Beth Din of America. Kollel fellows who demonstrate their mastery of the material – by passing *bechinot* and delivering *chaburot* before their peers and the *Roshei Kollel* – are granted advanced *semikha* (*Yadin Yadin*), which qualifies the recipient as a *dayan* in monetary and matrimonial matters.