

Financing your son's year in Israel

A year in Israel can be costly. While there is no such thing as a complete scholarship as parent participation is expected, there are ways to assist you. This is a guide to help you find all the financial aid options available to you.

PLEASE NOTE: a) Many of these scholarships require 2015 tax forms. The earlier you file your taxes, the more scholarship money you will be able to apply for. B) Many have application deadlines that are very early. Please go to the websites and check it out. Don't lose the opportunity. **BEGIN THE APPLICATION PROCESS NOW!**

- 1)  MASA is a Jewish Agency project to encourage long term programs in Israel. They automatically provide \$200 per student towards tuition. If financial aid is documented, they will give an additional scholarship, the amount varying from country to country of applicants. [Apply online masaisrael.org](http://masaisrael.org)

- 2) **FAFSASM** <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (known as the FAFSA) is a form that can be prepared annually by current and prospective college students (undergraduate and graduate) in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid (including the Pell Grant, Federal student loans and Federal Work-Study). ***IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR A FAFSA GRANT FOR ISRAEL STUDY YOUR SON MUST BE PART OF THE S. DANIEL ABRAHAM ISRAEL PROGRAM OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY OR TOURO COLLEGE ISRAEL OPTION.***

There are several components to FAFSA.

- Pell Grant A *Federal Pell Grant*, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid. Federal Pell Grants usually are awarded only to undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's or a professional degree. Eligible amounts can change yearly. The maximum Federal Pell Grant award is \$5,920 for the 2017–18 *award year* (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018). The amount you get, though, will depend
 - your *financial need*,
 - your cost of attendance,
 - your status as a full-time or part-time student, and
 - your plans to attend school for a full *academic year* or less.

You may not receive Federal Pell Grant funds from more than one school at a time.

- a) **Stafford loans** are the most common form of government student loans, and are awarded to college students who file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). There are many Stafford loan benefits, but one of the greatest benefits is that they are not credit-based.

Stafford Loan Options

Stafford loans come in two forms — subsidized and unsubsidized.

Subsidized Loans:

- 3.86% interest rate
- Federal government pays interest while enrolled in school
- Can borrow up to \$3,500 per year depending on your eligibility

Unsubsidized Loans:

- 3.86% interest rate
- Interest accrues while in school
- Can borrow up to \$5,500 per year depending on your eligibility

- 3) **STATE AID** Here are some examples of State aid, check with your state to see if they have a program.



TAP – hesc.ny.gov

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/>

There are other **private organizations** that grant scholarships, some based on financial need and some based on merit. These are the ones that I have found:

- 1) The **Alisa Flatow Memorial Scholarship Fund** is dedicated to the memory of Alisa Flatow, a 20-year-old student studying in Israel murdered in a terrorist attack in near the settlement of Kfar Darom on April 9, 1995. Alisa was in Israel to study her religion and to live among the Israeli people.

The Alisa Flatow Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established to encourage others to follow in Alisa's footsteps in a year- long program offering the full-time pursuit of traditional Jewish studies at schools in the State of Israel.

The number of scholarships is quite limited and are awarded on a competitive basis. The application deadline is February 16, 2016. **Alisafund.org**

- 2) **Torah LeTzion** is on a mission to send Jewish youth to Israel for a year of study after high school. To date, \$300,000 in partial scholarships have given 70 post-high school students an opportunity of a lifetime that they can give back. The application deadline is March 1. **torahletzion.org**

- 3) **Local Federations** – In the US, many local Federations (particularly out of the NY region), give scholarships for study in Israel.

QUICK TIP: How to ACTUALLY Get Money from Your Federation

The only way to get money from your federation is TO CALL their office. DO NOT email them if you want to get a scholarship.

When you call the Federation, ask to speak with the Financial Aid Director or to the person in charge of scholarships. Explain your situation to them (i.e. you're 25, you want

to study at a seminary or yeshiva in Israel, you don't have any money, etc.). Ask them if you're eligible to apply to any of their scholarships.

If they have a scholarship that you're eligible for, they'll either email you an application to fill out or send you to their Web site where you can fill out the online application.

4) Other

The following organizations very often have money set aside for help with airfare and/or other expenses associated with a student's year in Israel. Check them out:

- a) **NCSY**
- b) **Your son's high school**
- c) **Your local Rabbi or synagogue**
- d) **JNF** has a "Plant your way to Israel" program

http://support.jnf.org/site/TR?fr_id=1010&pg=entry.

- 5) Reishit** has a limited amount of scholarship money available. Please fill out your Financial Aid form and fax or email it to us with your 2016 tax forms. We will not process the application until MASA is completed. The form is available on our website under Applying to Reishit.