

# דרישה

## Drisha Institute for Jewish Education

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### Application for Admission to Full-Time Programs

Thank you for your interest in our full-time learning programs, which draw women from all walks of life, ranging from college graduates to experienced educators, academicians, doctors, lawyers, and business people. Students value the intellectual rigor, free inquiry, and personalized attention from dedicated faculty members that characterize Drisha Institute.

We take great pride in the Drisha alumnae who serve as scholars, educators, and role models in every sphere. They address issues at public forums, develop curriculum in day schools and after-school programs, and shape community initiatives that foster spiritual growth and knowledge.

#### **Beit Midrash Program**

Women with textual skills engage in a year of intermediate-level study of biblical and rabbinic texts, with a strong emphasis on *havruta* (partner) learning. Prerequisites for this program are: prior experience studying *Chumash* with traditional commentaries and sufficient background to study *Talmud* using the Vilna Shas edition. Students of the Beit Midrash program who are significantly advanced may apply to study in the Beit Midrash Program Advanced Track for a second year or the Scholars Circle.

#### *Beit Midrash Program - Advanced Track*

Highly qualified women are invited to participate in this year-long intensive program with an advanced curriculum of *Talmud*, *Halakha* and *Tanakh*. Prerequisites for this program: must meet the Beit Midrash Program prerequisites in addition to facility with *Gemara*, *Rishonim* and *Poskim*, and knowledge of basic Talmudic concepts. After one year, students may apply for a second year of study or to join the Scholars Circle.

#### **Scholars Circle**

This program is intended for highly qualified women interested in careers in Jewish leadership or education; the program runs for three years. Students will be re-evaluated yearly and continuation in the program is subject to these evaluations. Prerequisites for this program: must meet the Beit Midrash Program prerequisites in addition to facility with *Gemara*, *Rishonim* and *Poskim*, and knowledge of basic Talmudic concepts. Participants learn with Beit Midrash students in the advanced track. In the three year cycle, study will cover *Niddah*, *Shabbat* and *Kashrut*, as well as leadership training and experiential programming.

#### **Yesodot Skill-Building Program**

Women who want to build skills in Biblical Hebrew and Jewish text study may enroll in this program on a full- or part-time basis. Classes range from Biblical Hebrew, Parshanut (Biblical interpretation), and Talmud. Students will be assigned to the appropriate level class based on their knowledge of Hebrew and Bible. Graduates of Yesodot who are sufficiently advanced may apply for the other full-time programs.

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**Application for Admission to Full-Time Programs**

- I. Your application will be reviewed only when all the following have been received:
- 1) Completed application form (Please type or print clearly in black ink.)
  - 2) Two letters of recommendation (submitted directly to Drisha Institute by your references). One letter should speak to your academic skills and Judaic background and one letter should speak to your character.
  - 3) Official academic transcripts from all universities and Judaic programs (sent directly to Drisha Institute).
  - 4) A non-refundable application fee of \$20. Checks are payable to Drisha Institute.
  - 5) A recent photo of yourself.

**Drisha has a rolling admissions policy. Priority for acceptance and financial aid will be given to applications received by the submission deadline. Deadline for submission is April 15, 2010. If you apply and are accepted after this date, financial assistance will be granted as it is available.**

II. Candidates will be invited for a personal interview with the admissions committee.

III. At the time of the interview, candidates will be tested for placement in the correct level.

You will be advised of the status of your application within four weeks of your interview.

Tuition waiver and living stipends are available by application – please complete financial addendum.

Please contact Drisha if you have any questions or require additional information:  
tel: (212) 595-0307 fax (212) 595-0679 email [inquiry@drisha.org](mailto:inquiry@drisha.org) web: [www.drisha.org](http://www.drisha.org)

Send completed application to:

Full-Time Programs  
**Drisha Institute for Jewish Education**  
37 WEST 65TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023



Please list all other programs (Jewish and secular) that you are applying for this year:

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How did you learn about Drisha's full-time programs?

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**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Are you applying for tuition assistance from Drisha Institute?  yes  no

Are you applying for a stipend from Drisha Institute?  yes  no

*If yes to either question, please complete the financial addendum.*

**LEARNING SKILLS**

I have studied (check all that apply):

**Tanakh**

- in the original  in translation
- with classical commentaries  without classical commentaries
- in academic study
- with independent preparation  some degree of independent preparation

**Talmud**

Mishnah:  in the original  in translation  
 with independent preparation  to some degree  none

Gemara:  in the original  in translation  
 with independent preparation  to some degree  none

Rashi, Tosafot:  with independent preparation  to some degree  none

Other Rishonim:  with independent preparation  to some degree  none

**Halakha**

Shulkhan Arakh:  with classical commentaries  without classical commentaries  
 with independent preparation  to some degree  none

Responsa Literature:  with independent preparation  to some degree  none

**Hebrew**

Reading:  Fluent  Some Fluency  None

Conversation:  Fluent  Some Fluency  None

**ACADEMIC HISTORY**

School / Location	Dates Attended	Major	Degree and Date Received
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Academic honors received, including scholarships, fellowships, prizes:

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Text courses in Jewish studies that you have taken, post-high school:

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**ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS**

With special attention to Jewish-related activities, please list your school, community, and leadership activities, beginning with the one most important to you:

Activity	Office(s) held or honors received	Time Span
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Please list your last four positions of full-time or part-time employment:

Position	Employer	Dates of Employment

If there is a time gap in your employment or education, please explain:

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**Personal History:**

*If you answer yes to any of the following questions, please explain on a separate sheet.*

Have you ever been convicted of a crime, or is there any charge pending?  yes  no

Have you ever been suspended or dismissed from any academic institution or employment?  
 yes  no

Do you have any physical condition or medical problem that may impact your full participation in the program?  yes  no

Have you ever had a drug or substance abuse problem?  yes  no

Is there any information not included on this form that is relevant to your application?

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**Letters of Recommendation**

List the name, title, affiliation, and phone number of the individuals who will send recommendations on your behalf. Indicate your relationship to each. Please select references who can comment on your Jewish learning and analytic ability, integrity and promise as an educator or community leader. References must be sent directly to Drisha Institute.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Please answer each of the following questions (150-250 words per question)

- 1) What are your aspirations and how will this program help you achieve your goals in terms of Jewish learning and spiritual development and professional growth?
- 2) Describe a challenging situation where you strongly disagreed with another person’s point of view. How did you handle it, and what was the outcome?
- 3) Evaluate your strengths and your areas for development, as a student and as an educator or community leader.
- 4) Why is Drisha Institute the right school for you? What will you contribute that supports Drisha’s long-term goal of creating a more reflective and committed Jewish community?

**SIGNATURE**

I affirm that the information provided here and in related materials is completely accurate and honestly represented, to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation may be cause for rejecting my application or rescinding my student status at Drisha.

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Signature

Date

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**Letter of Recommendation – Full-Time Programs**

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

The letter of reference must be sent directly to Drisha. Applications will not be considered until Drisha has received the references and other requested information.

Name of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please address the following questions in your letter of recommendation, and send it to Drisha along with this 2-page form.**

- 1) How long have you known the applicant, and in what capacity?
- 2) What are her strengths? Weaknesses? Please give specific examples.
- 3) Share your specific observations about her character and integrity, passion for learning, and ability to inspire and teach others about Judaism.
- 4) Based on your knowledge of the applicant, in what role or capacity will she best serve the Jewish community? (If the applicant has other goals, please comment.)

**Please rate the applicant in the following areas:**

**Analytic Ability**

Exceptional    Very good    Good    Average    Below Average    N/A

**Written Communication Skills**

Exceptional    Very good    Good    Average    Below Average    N/A

**Oral Communication Skills**

Exceptional    Very good    Good    Average    Below Average    N/A

**Teamwork**

Exceptional    Very good    Good    Average    Below Average    N/A

**Ability to Work Independently**

Exceptional    Very good    Good    Average    Below Average    N/A

**Intelligence**

Exceptional    Very good    Good    Average    Below Average    N/A

**Maturity**

Exceptional    Very good    Good    Average    Below Average    N/A

**Overall Potential**

Exceptional    Very good    Good    Average    Below Average    N/A

**OVERALL RATING** (Please check one)

- Highly recommend
- Recommend
- Recommend with reservations \_\_\_\_\_
- Do not recommend

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Signature of Reference

Date

Return to:

Full-Time Programs

**Drisha Institute for Jewish Education**

37 West 65<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10023

Telephone: 212-595-0307; Email: [inquiry@drisha.org](mailto:inquiry@drisha.org); Fax: 212-595-0679

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- 5) How long have you known the applicant, and in what capacity?
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