



masa יצ
ISRAEL JOURNEY

From the Desk of Ofer Gutman

This summer, thousands of Masa Fellows graduated from their programs. Through their journeys in Israel, they made lifelong connections, gained independence, developed professional skills, and discovered their leadership role in our international Jewish community.

New Masa Fellows from around the world are now arriving in Israel for a life-changing experience. Their time in Israel will provide them a path to grow as individuals and to build a more connected global community.

Our staff and partners have been continuously innovating and designing programs that will support our Fellows in our ever-changing landscape.

This past year was an opportunity for learning and reflection. The experience challenged us and helped us grow into a more resilient organization that continues to make an impact in Israel and internationally. As we look toward the new year, we are more equipped to provide even more enriching opportunities.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Sincerely,

Ofer Gutman

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Masa Israel Journey

Welcome Home from Mexico!

Israel skies are now open for thousands of Masa Fellows from around the world. This month, we welcomed a special charter flight from Mexico carrying 150 Masa Fellows and more than 50 olim. The flight, named "Operation Home", was organized by Hanoar Hatzioni, The Jewish Agency, and Keren Hayesod.





Read more in [The Jerusalem Post](#).

We can't wait to see where our Fellows' journeys will lead them! This year will be a one-of-a-kind experience, providing unmatched opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Thriving in Quarantine

We have designed enriching programs to support Fellows in quarantine. Quarantine will not be time "off", rather it will be an opportunity for Fellows to better prepare for their journeys.

Experiences are customized by program segment and country to ensure the unique needs of each group is met. Fellows will participate in online educational seminars, trainings, and community-building activities related to the core concepts of their programs.

All our Fellows will also have access to virtual events joined by Fellows from across our different programs, creating a profound sense of community.

MITF Coordinators Seminar

This month, we held a three-day intensive seminar for our Masa Israel Teaching Fellows (MITF) coordinators who are welcoming 165 new Teaching Fellows for the 2020-21 school year. Our training provided coordinators with the tools they need to ensure our Fellows are supported and have a meaningful experience. We discussed the challenges posed by COVID-19 and the resources to overcome them, how to build resilience in face of uncertainty, and ways to develop more connected communities.

Our incoming Teaching Fellows will volunteer across 100 schools in 12 cities within Israel's social and demographic periphery.

THANK YOU to our generous new Masa Israel Teaching Fellows supporters: the Azrieli Foundation and the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation. With their continued commitment, we can bring more Masa Israel Teaching Fellows to Israel in the coming years for opportunities to learn and grow while helping improve English literacy in Israel's periphery.

Webinar Series for MasaGap Parents

Thousands of recent high school graduates are arriving in Israel for their gap year. To help Fellows' families prepare and navigate the year, we are hosting a webinar series exclusively for parents. This month, we held our first live virtual session. Hundreds of parents from North America joined the event for an open discussion with our staff, including Acting CEO Ofer Gutman and Chief of Security Amir Keinan



Hebrew Speakers Club for the Global Community

Hebrew is the shared language of the Masa family. Even after programs officially end, there are other ways for the international community to engage. Over the summer, we hosted five ulpan-style courses for alumni from around the world including Russia, Canada, the U.S., France, and even Israel. The success of the course led to the launch of our inaugural Hebrew Speakers Club. Every Sunday this summer, Masa Fellows and alumni dial in to our ulpan-style online class. Participants make new connections, learn more about Israeli culture, and share their unique experiences all the while improving their Hebrew.

In the Media

Trusting your gut and taking a leap



Masa Israel Teaching Fellow Gili Bar shares about his journey in Israel. “It was a great learning experience, to come over here, make a big drastic change, and learning that I can make new friends, make the adjustment and can succeed in making that change,” he says.

Read more in the [Australian Jewish News](#).

Young couples find love in Israel on the Masa program



Young adults come to Israel for personal and professional growth. Along the way, many of them find love and everlasting connections. “My experience in Israel gave me the opportunity to grow, learn and develop, and [my wife] is the person that stood by me along the journey and decisions of my personal and professional life,” shares Masa alum Mark Gilbert.

Read more in [The Jerusalem Post](#).

For these Masa participants, COVID-19 created new mission



Meet our incredible gap year Fellows from Australia: Abby Goldstein and Nechama Klajn. Both 18-year-olds were adopted by Jewish families in Australia and came to Israel to deepen their relationship with the country and its people. They began their journeys this past winter by volunteering at farms coping with the pandemic. Today, they are volunteering with Magen David Adom in Jerusalem.

Read more in [Israel Hayom](#).

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