
Letter/email writing is essential!

Write to congregations, Hillels, Jewish Federations, and other Jewish/Israel related organizations as well as activist groups. It can be a big help to write a good letter/email that includes who you are and some nice things you have done, what you plan to do, why you are going to Israel, positive change on the personal, communal and global fronts, and what your need is (material support/funding). While this is a less common practice in Europe, this is an extremely normal way to get funded in North America.

Organizations often get individual requests like this and if you are impressive in your letter, ask for a face to face meeting with the Executive Director/Rabbi/Whatever... You will find that some are very receptive and will be interested in supporting your journey. The same is true of some social change organizations that have nothing to do with Jewish/Israel issues.

A letter ought to include:

- Who you are
- What the program is
- Why you are awesome and why the program is awesome and why you are participating in the program
- Why the person you are writing to will be enriched by your participation in this program. For example, a Jewish Federation is interested in growing Jewish community in their area. A community leader wants you to take part in good work in the world. An organization may want you to spend significant time abroad learning about the reality 'out there', etc.
- The support you are looking for. Example: 'Please support me by paying for my plane ticket' or 'By supporting me with \$1500 I will be able to take part in 5 months of [Hebrew classes, immersive learning, solidarity work]'" (choose what you think they will be most excited to fund you for).
- You'd like to set up a meeting to talk about it in person if they want... Otherwise, they can feel free to send you money!

Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding is about raising money through small donations from your family, friends, networks, and communities. Here is a basic outline of what to include when setting up your campaign:

- Who you are
- What the program is
- Why you are awesome and why the program is awesome and why you are participating in the program
- How your work and/or your communities will be enriched by your participation in Achvat Amim.
- You can offer to write a blog, send postcards, make videos, etc. for the contributors to your campaign.

Are you wondering how to talk about Achvat Amim? Here are a couple draft texts that you can include to explain Achvat Amim! Feel free to tweak them for your audience

- Achvat Amim engages with community justice struggles at the intersections of Jewishness, feminism, racial justice, and solidarity. Their 5-Month Immersive program provides young adults with a framework to engage in meaningful partnerships with Israelis and Palestinians working to build a future of peace and justice for all. I will be living communally in the heart of Jerusalem, building and taking part in a critical and democratic learning process, volunteering with prominent human rights organizations, and engaging in spiritual learning and growth with Rabbis at the forefront of human rights Torah.
- The Achvat Amim 5-Month Immersive, a program of Hashomer Hatzair, provides a unique framework to engage in meaningful peace work. I will be living communally in the heart of Jerusalem, building and taking part in a critical and democratic learning process, volunteering with organizations working to build a more equitable future, and engaging in spiritual learning and growth with Jewish educators in Jerusalem.

Scholarships/Grants

Below is a non-exhaustive list of scholarships and grants that may be available to you. We also recommend spending some time on Google, researching scholarships that may be available to people with your skillset, field of study, location, etc.

United Kingdom

Hashomer Hatzair Grant

Hashomer Hatzair UK is a registered charity (no:1159336) that promotes Jewish education and culture and good community relations between Jews and non-Jews in the UK and Israel. It is fully supportive of the aims of Achvat Amim and has awarded grants to UK-based participants in its programs. It welcomes applications from future participants from UK residents. Grants are usually £6000 towards the costs of the program.

Applications should be emailed to John Strawson, Chair of Hashomer Hatzair UK (John.Strawson@btinternet.com), and Julie Weinberg-Connors, Director of Outreach and Communications at Achvat Amim (Julie@AchvatAmim.org). Applications should consist of your CV, and a short letter outlining your reasons for wanting to participate in Achvat Amim, as well as how your experiences on Achvat Amim will enrich you as a member of your UK communities

United Kingdom Continued.

Go Overseas Volunteer/Intern Abroad Scholarship <https://www.gooverseas.com/scholarships>, Volunteer Forever Travel Scholarship <https://www.volunteerforever.com/scholarships>, Open Society Foundation <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants?page=3>

United States

The Amy Adina Schulman Scholarship Fund www.amyadinaschulmanfund.org, Volunteer Forever Travel Scholarship <https://www.volunteerforever.com/scholarships>, Go Overseas Volunteer/Intern Abroad Scholarship <https://www.gooverseas.com/scholarships>, DoSomething.Org <https://www.dosomething.org/us/about/easy-scholarships>, Open Society Foundation <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants?page=3>

Canada

The Amy Adina Schulman Scholarship Fund www.amyadinaschulmanfund.org, Volunteer Forever Travel Scholarship <https://www.volunteerforever.com/scholarships>, Go Overseas Volunteer/Intern Abroad Scholarship <https://www.gooverseas.com/scholarships>, DoSomething.Org <https://www.dosomething.org/us/about/easy-scholarships>,

Exclusively for Undergraduates

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program www.iie.org/Gilman, Boren Scholarship www.borenawards.org, Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund www.davisputter.org, Rustic Pathways <https://rusticpathways.com/students/scholarships>, Tortuga Study Abroad Scholarship <https://www.tortugabackpacks.com/pages/study-abroad-scholarship>, Golden Key <https://www.goldenkey.org/>

Search Engines (Check Here for Regional Scholarships)

Hillel Jewish Scholarships Portal <https://hillel.org/college-guide/hillel-scholarships/jewish-scholarships>
UK Charity Choice <https://www.charitychoice.co.uk/>

Other Opportunities

For Rotary Members: Rotary Grants <https://my.rotary.org/en/take-action/apply-grants>, For Photojournalist: The Howard Chapnick Grant <https://www.smithfund.org/howard-chapnick-grant>, For Full-Time Journalists: The Alicia Patterson Foundation <https://aliciapatterson.org/application-instructions>, For Those Located Around San Francisco: <https://jewishfed.org/how-we-help/opportunities-support/scholarships/israel-within-reach>

Interest Free Loans

Interest free loans are loans that need to be repaid, but do not incur interest on the loan. If you foresee yourself having stable employment with a livable wage after Achvat Amim, then interest free loans may be of interest to you.

- The International Association of Jewish Free Loans www.iajfl.org
- Hebrew Free Loan www.hflasf.org

And always remember...

We are here to support you!