



America's Premier Jewish Pluralistic
College Prep Boarding School
www.americanhebrewacademy.org

International Student Programs

The American Hebrew Academy is an international school which serves students from across the United States and around the world. Our campus is a "home away from home" for Jewish teenagers from across the spectrum of Jewish life. Joining together in one of the most dynamic Jewish learning environments ever created, they grow, explore and develop as young adults. The Academy prides itself on the diversity of the student body. This directly adds great value to the educational process. As the world becomes more aware of our global economy, students at the Academy are already learning about the importance of building lasting relationships with friends the world over.

International Students can attend the Academy and participate in a full immersion allowing them to improve their English speaking, reading and writing skills while continuing a dynamic and engaging Jewish Studies curriculum as well as the experience of living in the United States. The Academy assists families in obtaining a U.S. student visa once accepted for admission to the Academy.

Admission Requirements and Criteria:

1. An official English translation of a complete high school transcript. Grades must be strong enough to assure success in our rigorous curriculum.
2. Standardized test scores such as the SAT, ACT, or End of Grade Examinations.
3. TOEFL or SLEP exam scores indicating a strong, age appropriate, level of English language skill. Register online to take the TOEFL exam at www.toefl.org. Our TOEFL score recipient code is 8634. SLEP can be administered privately in some communities.
4. Personal, Academic, and Jewish Professional recommendations.
5. Web-based application, beginning at www.AmericanHebrewAcademy.org/applying
6. Application Fee
7. Campus Tour (if possible) and personal interviews. If unable to come to campus, we prefer to use Skype for personal interviews.
8. Completion of College Counseling Document for International Students
9. Before enrollment, each applicant will be required to complete a Hebrew, math, and synagogue skills assessment. They will also take an English assessment called BESTEL.
10. Other documentation as requested.

*The International Student admissions deadline is June 1, to assure adequate planning and placement.

Options

- One year –Build your language skills (with ESOL support) and immerse yourself in a dynamic pluralistic Jewish community. Return to your home country for the remainder of high school. Approval by Dean of Academics required prior to applying to ensure course availability as required by your school.
- Two to Four Years – If your goal is to graduate from the American Hebrew Academy, you will follow the schedule of general requirements for graduation.
- Post-Graduate Year (see Mechinah description below)
- Occasionally it may be appropriate for an International Student to repeat a grade to gain greater proficiency in language.

Annual Requirements of all International Students:

Academic Area	Description	Courses
English	English at Skill Appropriate Level	1 year course
Mathematics	Math or a Math-based Science course.	1 year course
Sciences	Biology, Chemistry, Physics. Science requirements may be waived if Math requirement is met	1 year course
History	World, European or US History, depending upon grade	1 year course
Judaics	Basic Judaism to Advanced Talmud Study. Students must work with Dean of Jewish Studies to be placed into appropriate courses.	3 term course
Hebrew	At appropriate level for student for duration of enrollment.	1 year course
Health/Fitness	Wellness course or Team Sports.	2 terms
Fine Arts	Visual or Performing Arts Class	1 term elective
Academic Electives	English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) is needed and/or other Jewish Studies, Leadership, etc.	Elective
Information Technology	Information Technology Orientation	1 term elective
Synagogue Skills	As determined by Deans of Jewish Life	1 term course

Student Life for International Students

All International Students are considered residential students of the Academy. As such, they live in our Residential Houses along with our students in their grade.

They are provided with Laptop computers and have full access to our school's resources, including our Language Learning Lab, Science Labs, Computer Labs, Arts and Athletic Facilities.

As is the case for all of our students, international students are strongly encouraged to participate in Athletics (subject to meeting league eligibility requirements) and the Performing Arts.

International Students are encouraged to participate fully in all weekly social activities and are held accountable to participate in Jewish Life community programs. International students must adhere to the Academy's Honor Code, and policies and practices described in our Student-Parent Handbook (HaMadrach).

For more information, please contact our Admissions Department at 336-217-7070.

Ready to begin the application process? [Click here!](#)

Mechinah l'Universitah (מכינה לאוניברסיטה) "Preparation for University" Year

One-Year Post High School Graduation Program at

The American Hebrew Academy

The American Hebrew Academy is the premier Jewish college preparatory boarding high school in America. We serve students from across the United States and from over 20 different countries.

The "Mechinah" program is a specially developed curriculum for students who have completed normal requirements for High School graduation.¹

Mechinah students choose to enroll at the Academy in order to gain an additional year of college prep classes, to improve their English through an immersion experience, and strengthen their college admissions application. The Mechinah program is not for students with remedial academic needs, nor for students with behavioral challenges or pronounced academic learning differences. The Academy is a rigorous academic environment and students accepted into the Mechinah program must exhibit independent study skills and a desire to enhance their academic performance, as well as athletic, artistic, leadership, and Judaic skills.

The Mechinah curriculum is an especially effective program for foreign students seeking to improve their English reading, writing, and speaking skills through formal study and social interaction.

Admission Requirements and Criteria for AHA Mechinah Certificate Candidates:

11. An official English translation of a complete high school transcript. Grades must be strong enough to assure success in our rigorous curriculum.
12. Standardized test scores such as the SAT, ACT, or End of Grade Examinations.
13. TOEFL or SLEP exam scores indicating a strong, age appropriate, level of English language skill.
14. Personal, Academic, and Jewish Professional recommendations.
15. Other documentation as requested.

The Mechinah Certificate Curriculum:²

Academic Area	Description	Credits
English	English 12 or at Skill Appropriate Level	3
Mathematics	Math or a Math-based Science course.	3
Sciences	Biology, Chemistry, Physics. Science requirements may be waived if Math requirement is met	3
History	US History or other as appropriate	3
Judaics	Basic Judaism to Advanced Talmud Study. Students must work with Dean of Jewish Studies to be placed into appropriate courses.	3
Hebrew	At appropriate level for student for full year.	3

¹ It is also appropriate for students who are "reclassified seniors".

² Alternative course assignments are determined based on individual needs. AP level courses are offered in most academic disciplines.

Health/Fitness	Two Advanced Wellness courses or Two Sports.	2
Fine Arts	Visual or Performing Arts Class	1
Academic Electives	English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) is needed and/or AP Psychology, AP Computer Science, other Jewish Studies, Leadership, etc.	
Information Technology	Information Technology Orientation	1
Synagogue Skills	As determined by Deans of Jewish Life	1
Total		20 Minimum

Student Life for Mechinah Students

Mechinah students are considered residential students of the Academy. As such, they live in our Residential Houses along with our Senior Class students.

They are provided with Laptop Computers and have full access to our school's resources, including our Language Learning Lab, Science Labs, Computer Labs, Arts and Athletic Facilities.

As is the case for all of our students, Mechinah students are strongly encouraged to participate in Varsity Athletics (subject to meeting league eligibility requirements) and The Performing Arts.

Mechinah students are encouraged to participate fully in all weekly social activities and are held accountable to participate in Jewish Life community programs. Mechinah students must adhere to the Academy's Honor Code, and policies and practices described in our Student-Parent Handbook (HaMadrach).

In all aspects of the school, Mechinah students are considered members of the Senior Class and are expected to conduct themselves accordingly.

Athletic Participation

Mechinah students are welcomed to participate in our Varsity athletic programs as long as they have:

- Enrolled as full-time students at AHA³.
- Not have received a high school diploma or its equivalent from any school within the United States.
- Not reached his/her 19th birthday on or before August 1st of the current school year.

College Advising

The Academy will provide college counseling services to Mechinah students consistent with the school's practice. International Mechinah students must be fully aware that U.S. colleges vary greatly in how they interpret non-U.S. high school transcripts and other academic records. Financial Aid requirements and availability for International students to attend college in the United States may also be limited.

As a college preparatory school the Academy seeks to assist each and every student with gaining admission to the college or university of their choice but cannot ensure such admission for any student.

³Full-time students in this program will be taking 6 courses per term. Athletic Eligibility will require that the student passes all 6 of these courses each term.