



The TAKA Pre-Academic Arts Program: Scholarships for Students Living at Jewish Agency Absorption Centers

PROGRAM PROPOSAL

July 2008





The TAKA Pre-Academic Arts Program: Scholarships for Students Living at Jewish Agency Absorption Centers

Executive Summary

TAKA is a pre-academic arts program that offers Hebrew instruction, academic preparatory courses, and cultural activities to new immigrants that wish to study in Israel.

Taka provides an initial framework for immigrant students who intend to enter a college/university program and are interested in strengthening their skills in Hebrew and a variety of other subjects. The program is aimed at students who are exempt from the pre-academic "mechina" program and have a matriculation certificate (GED) from abroad, as well as students wishing to enter a second degree program in Israel. The program is composed of advanced Hebrew instruction, English (if needed), computer courses, scientific writing, math and preparation for the psychometric (SAT) exam. The duration of the course is 5 months.

Through a scholarship of \$1,500 per participant, we will be able to allocate an amount of \$1,000 to each immigrant to be used for living expenses, and \$500 for social, cultural and recreational activities, including lectures on various topics (including Judaism and the Jewish heritage), tours, visits to museums, and more.

An annual contribution of \$165,000 for 3 consecutive years (\$495,000 total) will enable 330 new immigrant students (110 students annually) to enroll in the TAKA Arts Program. Your contribution will significantly increase their chances of being accepted into a Fine Arts College/University in Israel.



Program Rationale

During the period of studies in TAKA, it is almost impossible for the new immigrants to maintain jobs in order to support themselves - due to the long hours of classroom learning and the additional time required for projects and homework. These students are very much in need of financial assistance to pay for their rent, food, bills, study materials, and transportation, but do not have the time or familiarity with Israel in order to work and study simultaneously.

Target Population

New immigrants between the ages of 18-30 that meet program requirements and live at Jewish Agency Absorption Centers.

Program Goals and Objectives

To assist new immigrants in earning acceptance into academic programs in the Arts, while facilitating their successful absorption in Israel - both academically and socially.

- To provide a one-time scholarship of \$1,500 per student to participants of the TAKA Arts Program
- To implement a program of social, cultural and recreational activities for new immigrants

Program Description

The Taka Arts program takes place at one of three colleges: 1) Hadassah Academic College in Jerusalem, 2) Emek Yisrael College in the north, or 3) Ashkelon Academic College in the south. Participants reside at the Jewish Agency Absorption Centers during the program. Upon completion of the program, the new immigrants are referred to academic studies for art and design at *Bezalel Art Academy* or at other highly respected academic arts programs. Acceptance to these respected Fine Arts programs involves passing a qualifying exam at a high level of Hebrew. TAKA will prepare students to pass these exams and succeed during their studies.



The students arrive at the Absorption Center and for a period of 5 months learn in an ulpan (Hebrew language instruction). During this period they enjoy a small financial stipend and subsidization of rent at the absorption center (provided by the Ministry of Absorption). Following this 5 month period, and upon successfully passing an entrance exam, the students begin studying in the TAKA program for an additional five months before they enter their formal studies.

In addition to meeting the basic needs of absorption: providing Hebrew instruction, assisting in job placement, helping to find permanent housing, etc., we believe that becoming familiar with Israel's culture and history is an important component for each immigrant's social absorption in Israel. Therefore, we have constructed an activities program that includes the main aspects of the culture and history of the Jewish People and Zionism in which each immigrant should be exposed to during their first year in Israel.

The \$1,500 scholarship will be provided to each of the 55 participants per class participating in the Taka Arts Program who reside at the Beit Canada Absorption Center in Jerusalem. The scholarship will be provided for a period of 3 years, 2 classes per year, constituting a total of 6 classes of the Taka Arts Program per Absorption Center.

[Program Evaluation and Reporting](#)

In addition to feeling a great sense of financial relief, we anticipate the short term outcomes of the cultural package to instill a deep understanding of Israeli society and culture in each new immigrant. We also anticipate each participate to feel more self-confident in studying in a foreign language (Hebrew) through the extended exposure provided by the program. Our anticipated long-term impact is that a large percentage of TAKA students will be accepted into arts programs offered by institutions of higher education.

Reports will be issued bi-annually for 3 years, with a program completion report to be submitted after the exhaustion of funds. Evaluations will be conducted via surveys,



questionnaires and interviews – offered to the students, teachers, social workers. The program director will oversee all reports and evaluations.

Funding Request

An annual contribution of \$165,000 for 3 consecutive years (\$495,000 total) will enable 330 new immigrant students (110 students annually) to enroll in the TAKA Arts Program. Your contribution will significantly increase their chances of being accepted into a Fine Arts College/University in Israel.

Project Budget

Expenses – 3 year budget in \$USD			
Item	Detail	Cost per person	Total
<i>Scholarships to olim</i>	<i>55 participants * 6 groups</i>	\$1,000	\$330,000
<i>Cultural and social activity</i>	<i>55 participants * 6 groups</i>	\$500	\$82,500
Total Expenses		\$1,500	\$495,000
UNMET FINANCIAL NEED			\$495,000

Donor Recognition

In appreciation of your generosity, we are happy to provide you with program reports, pictures, and personal stories upon your request. In addition, we welcome the opportunity to host you throughout the program as a guest of honor.