**Master’s Program in the Department of Jewish Literature**

**I. Description of the Department:**

In the Department of Jewish Literature, students discover the cultural and spiritual richness of Hebrew and Jewish literary production throughout history and gain a theoretical and methodological foundation for analyzing both mainstream and marginal Jewish literary texts.

The program of study emphasizes the historical chronology of Hebrew Literature, focusing on the intertextual dialogues that occur across different historical eras and languages.

The program of study also emphasizes the literary production of various Jewish communities across the globe: in both Israel and the diaspora, throughout the duration of Jewish history, and in both Hebrew and other languages spoken by Jews.

**II. Tracks:**

Studies for the Master’s Degree in the Department of Jewish Literature are offered in two different tracks:

Track A: Research Track: *Requires a thesis*, total of 14 hours/week (28 credit points)

Track B: Non-research Track: *Does not require a thesis*, total of 18 hours/week (36 credit points)

**III. Specializations:**

In addition to offering Master’s Degrees in both Research and Non-Research tracks in the fields of Modern Hebrew Literature, Medieval Literature, and Rabbinic Literature and Midrash, students may specialize in one of the following four areas:

Creative Writing (Non-research Track only)

Ladino: Dissemination of Ladino Culture (Research and Non-research Tracks available)

Hasidic Literature (Research and Non-research Tracks available)

Russian-Jewish Literature (Research and Non-research Tracks available)

**IV. Institutions and Research Centers:**

Salti Institute for Ladino Research:

The Institute for Ladino Studies should be used by students working on various aspects of Ladino literature and language across time and space, including those working on the relations between literature and oral traditions as well as those researching written literatures. Students in the center work on research projects appropriate to their educational background and research interests with the aim of bringing together various fields in the study of Ladino language, literature, and culture. The Institute awards several individual scholarships. *Hashlamot,* if deemed necessary, are determined on an individual basis. Knowledge of Ladino must be at level sufficient to undertake research. Students must also find a research advisor before registering and pass an interview.

The Rena Costa Center for Yiddish Studies:

The Center for Yiddish Studies prepares students to write a Master’s Thesis on either Yiddish Literature or the connections between Hebrew and Yiddish Literature. Students who choose this track will receive language training that gives them sufficient command to conduct research in Yiddish: i.e., to read literary and scientific in Yiddish and write about the Yiddish literature. In the course of preparing for a Master’s Degree, students will write research papers on the ancient Yiddish of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, on modern Yiddish, and on various aspects of Yiddish literature: poetry, prose, magazines and newspapers, and the historiography of Yiddish literature. Knowledge of Yiddish must be at level sufficient to undertake research.

**V. Requirements for [applying to] the Master’s Program:**

* Bachelor’s Degree in Jewish Literature or Other Field with a grade point average of at least 76
* Applicants must have an individual interview
* Applicants must complete *hashlamot* as determined on an individual basis
* For the Research Track, students must find an advisor before registering

**V.1 Requirements for Completion of Track A (Research Track)**

**Required workload:**

14 hours/week (28 credit points) as detailed herein:

1 course in aesthetics (required) — 2 hours/week (4 credit points)

2 seminars — 4 hours/week (8 credit points)

Electives — (totaling) 7 hours/week (14 credit points)

1 course on academic writing (required) — 1 hour/week (2 credit points)

**Writing of the Thesis:**

See the general guidelines for writing in the introductory chapter of the Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies.

A research proposal must be submitted by the end of the first year of study.

**Knowledge of Foreign Languages:**

English sufficient for a Master’s Degree (for details regarding placement tests, course levels, and criteria for receiving an exemption (*petor*) from requirements, consult the introductory chapter of the Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies)

An additional foreign language (students in the research track only): determined in coordination by the advisor

**Background in Jewish Studies:**

In accordance with the general requirements for a Master’s Degree; on which consult the introductory chapter of the Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies

**Attendance of Department Events:**

Students must regularly participate in department events that occur throughout the year, including colloquia, day-long seminars, and conferences.

**V.2 Requirements for Completion of Track B (Non-research Track)**

**Required workload:**

18 hours/week (36 credit points) as detailed herein:

1 course in aesthetics (required) — 2 hours/week (4 credit points)

3 seminars — 6 hours/week (12 credit points)

Electives — (totaling) 10 hours/week (20 credit points)

**VI. PhD Program:**

The Department of Jewish Literature prepares students in the PhD program for independent scholarly thinking and to produce original and innovative research that contributes significantly to existing knowledge in their chosen field by way of the dissertation.

The research tracks offered in the PhD program present opportunities for diverse areas of specialization:

1. Modern Hebrew Literature: Prose, Poetry, and Drama
2. Ḥasidic Literature
3. Medieval Literature: Prose, Poetry, and Piyut
4. Early Modern Literature: Prose, Poetry, and Drama
5. Rabbinic Aggadah: Midrash and Rabbinic Literature
6. תימטולוגיה
7. Hebrew Children’s Literature: Prose, Poetry, and Drama
8. Russian-Jewish Literature
9. Ladino Literature and Culture
10. Yiddish Literature and Culture

Acceptance to the PhD program is conditional upon passing an interview and finding an advisor prior to registration.

Students in the PhD program are required to audit courses totaling around 12 hours/week (24 credit points) in consultation with their advisor.

**English for the PhD program:**

For the PhD program, students are required to possess English to the level of exemption (*petor*).

The criteria for receiving an exemption (*petor*) can be found in the introductory chapter of the Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies.

**Knowledge of Foreign Languages:**

Students are required to possess knowledge of an additional foreign language, as determined in consultation with their advisor and as befits their area of research.

**Background in Jewish Studies:**

In accordance with the general requirements for a PhD; on which consult the introductory chapter of the Regulations of the School of Advanced Studies.

**Additional Details:**

The Department can be reached by telephone at 03-5318621/8235, by email, or at the Department’s website.