The Otzem Pre-Military Yeshiva

If you seek a uniquely Israeli experience – then Otzem is the place for you!

Students in the Yeshiva represent a broad geographical spectrum of Israeli Religious Zionism, hailing from the Golan Heights in the north to Eilat in the south. We seek to create a mixture of students from different communal backgrounds including development towns, urban centers, kibbutzim and moshavim, and the settlements of Judea and Samaria. The Yeshiva’s continued contact with its graduates during and after their military service constitutes an important element in our educational success. The “Torah of the Yeshiva” becomes more and more of a “Torah for Life” for its graduates.

Our primary aim is to promote our students personality development. Our graduates are mature young men capable of making responsible decisions in all areas of their lives. We seek to instill in our students love of Hashem, His People and His Torah.

The quiet and serenity of Cholot Chalutza make it a perfect environment in which our students can build strong and healthy spiritual foundations in preparation for the tasks of contributing productively to Israeli society in general and serving proudly and successfully in the IDF in particular.

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The English speakers program provides young men from abroad with the spiritual resources needed to integrate successfully within Israel’s armed forces and society at large. The English speakers program combines four core components:

1. Integration
   - Hebrew - knowing fluent Hebrew - we have daily Hebrew classes, the end goal being learning in the regular Hebrew program.
   - Culture - getting to know Israeli culture - experiencing it and learning it.
   - Torah - learning what Eretz Israel and Ami Israel are all about.
   - Pre-army yeshiva. Rabbi Levy is an officer in the Golani infantry unit. Starting his military service. He served as an officer in the Ministry of Defense, prior to being asked by Rav Rafi Peretz to replace him as the Rosh Yeshiva, he returned to Yeshiva and spent another 8 years at Yeshiva during which he became a sought after lecturer in many Mechina, Seminars and Yeshivot. For the last four years he is Rosh Yeshiva at Otzam. Rabbi Baruch is a lieutenant colonel in reserves.

2. Yeshiva studies designed to build men of faith and action
   - The traditional Yeshiva curriculum – Talmud with Rishonim and Acharonim.
   - In-depth study of the classic texts of Jewish Philosophy.
   - The Israeli army is a unique environment, and Am Israel are all about. The yeshiva. To this end, we encourage independent learning.
   - Independent Learning
     - We seek to give our students the skills and motivation to continue their Torah study after they leave the yeshiva. To this end, we encourage independent learning.
     - Challenged to solve problems on their own, students experience the joy of discovery. Independent learning is part of the daily schedule. Our Rabbis are available in the Beit Midrash for questions and guidance.
     - Personal Responsibility
       - “אין עםך מי אחרל, אشرح לך מה אתה צריך ל…”
       - Learning to take responsibility for one’s own spiritual and physical well-being and that of society is the basis of a sound personality. At Otzem we emphasize self-motivated study, daily time management, respect for the environment, and community service.
     - Chessed
       - We believe that Torah study is bound up with life outside the Beit Midrash. Individual chessed activities are part of the schedule. The Yeshiva also organizes collective chessed projects.

3. Deepening of Jewish identity, religious-Zionist commitment, and love of the Land of Israel
   - Lectures by experts in the fields of science, politics, military, and philosophy.
   - Seminars with prominent figures in Israeli society.
   - Field trips and fact-finding missions throughout the country.
   - The discipline and focus acquired in map-reading and navigation in the field where the margin of error is small and precision is critical, carry over into all areas of life. The IDF places great emphasis on the development of these skills.

4. Spiritual and physical preparation for military service
   - Shabbatot
     - Shabbat at Yeshiva is a special and uplifting day. Students enjoy the inspiring tefillot, shiurim and Shabbat meals with their peers. In addition to Shabbat at the Yeshiva, there will be several Shabbat programs outside of the Yeshiva throughout the course of the year.
   - Personal Attention and Family Atmosphere
     - Our Rabbis counsel each student on an individual basis. Our Rabbis learn with each student several times each week. Each student will have an adopting family form the Naveh community.

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