

## **About the Bronfman Fellowship**

### **Our Mission**

The Bronfman Fellowship nurtures intellectually curious young Jews from Israel and North America to build a more vibrant and pluralistic future.

### **Our Vision**

We envision a dynamic future led by people who see the world through a lens broader than their own and who value Jewish learning as an instrument for discovery, meaning, creativity, and change.

### **What We Do**

We thoughtfully select promising Jewish people with diverse backgrounds and identities who demonstrate the ability to be cultural creators, deep thinkers, moral voices, and community builders. By exploring the plurality of Jewish life, and by creating a rich tapestry of Jewish ideas, we build a community rooted in meaningful relationships and an expanded sense of possibility that continues to grow over time.

### **Commitment to Inclusion**

The Bronfman Fellowship strives to create a vibrant and welcoming community of young Jews from as wide a Jewish spectrum as possible. This spectrum includes, but is not limited to, diversity in religious and cultural affiliation, race, ethnicity, spiritual beliefs, place of origin, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, all abilities, and political views. The Fellowship's only religious requirement is that Fellows self-identify as Jewish. Our program aims to meet the religious and spiritual needs of all Fellows as best as possible in a pluralistic setting.

In this community, Fellows make a commitment to respect their peers; discrimination of any kind is not permitted. We follow our Fellows' lead in the way they self-identify, and uphold their identities with respect, dignity, and understanding. We encourage Fellows to share of themselves when they feel comfortable, and expect all Fellows to strive to understand and appreciate their peers' multi-faceted selves, views and practices, including those that might be new to them.



### **1. Fellowship Year Programming**

The Bronfman Fellowship Year consists of a number of different educational experiences, both in-person and virtual. These include the Summer seminar in Connecticut, December seminar, the Spring seminar, monthly virtual gatherings, and more. At the end of this section is a list of all dates when Fellows are expected to participate.

Our Summer seminar is an intensive in-person program (**July 6- August 2, 2021**). The seminar will be held at Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, 116 Johnson Rd, Falls Village, CT 06031 CT

From **January 13-18, 2022**, there will be a five-night in-person seminar with the Fellows. Throughout the year, Fellows participate in monthly virtual seminars.

In March/April, our Israeli Fellows (called Amitim) travel to the United States for a 2-week visit. Toward the close of the Fellowship Year, Fellows participate in an in-person Spring Seminar with the Amitim from **April 6-13, 2022**.

*Upon request, we can provide formal letters to any school or program to explain the nature of your commitment to The Bronfman Fellowship, and the educational value of your required participation in these virtual and in-person sessions.*

### **2. Full Participation**

Fellows commit to full participation in the Fellowship program activities. This includes the entire scope of the Fellowship Year, spanning the summer program, monthly group virtual sessions, December Seminar, and the Spring Seminar. Fellows are expected to attend all sessions, arrive on time for programming, and stay through their completion. We expect the Fellows to be committed to the cohesion of our community and to participate fully in all group activities. In the interest of that social cohesion, every Fellow is expected to respect all participants and bring to the staff's attention any problems that may arise. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build relationships and learn with a cadre of exceptional peers.

### **3. School Year Programming**

We recognize that the Fellowship Year experience occurs during a time when Fellows are applying to colleges and/or gap year programs, which can be a stressful period for many students. The Bronfman Fellowship is dedicated to providing an environment of understanding and open discourse during this critical phase, in which Fellows can freely discuss their concerns or seek advice. We appreciate that Fellows commit their time to the Fellowship during this pivotal year, and strive to ensure that this involvement will make their senior year a more balanced and positive experience. We are committed to helping Bronfmanim identify opportunities to support their continuing education by facilitating visits to older alumni on



college campuses, writing recommendation letters as requested, and helping Fellows think meaningfully about their decisions and commitments.

#### **4. Commitment to Write**

Fellows understand and accept that, as Bronfman Fellows, they make a commitment to write and to provide original written material to the program. Fellows are expected to keep a journal throughout the summer seminar to help them process the experience and get the most out of the Fellowship.

Fellows will be asked to write two essays reflecting on themes explored during the Fellowship Year, one after the summer program and the second to be submitted prior to the end of the Fellowship. The essay can take shape of an extended journal entry, visual art panel, mini-film, or other reflective form. Additionally, Fellows may be asked to write a short piece to be shared publicly on a blog or similar platform. The Bronfman Fellowship may use this as promotional and educational material.

#### **5. Beyond Bronfman**

*Beyond Bronfman* is a self-guided, exploratory initiative Bronfman Fellows take on after the summer seminar. The goal of the initiative is twofold. Firstly, the Fellows enact their leadership in their home communities by bringing to these environments a manageable project that embodies some of the big questions and ideas explored in the Fellowship. Second, Beyond Bronfman provides an experimental outlet for Fellows to deepen their engagement with ideas and questions that they find most stimulating – as part of self-directed learning in the Fellowship Year. The projects may be intellectual, experiential, artistic, and educational. There will be regular check-ins and opportunities for workshopping Beyond Bronfman with the Fellowship's peers and educators. Examples will be given of previous Beyond Bronfman projects. At the end of the Fellowship Year, Fellows will share their projects with the cohort, thus enriching the collective knowledge and experience of the group.

Against the backdrop of a busy senior year, Beyond Bronfman is rewarding for Fellows precisely because it is not an assignment with rigid expectations or parameters but, instead, is a space for deeper and thoughtful exploration and growth.

#### **6. Long-term Commitment**

It is our wish that each Fellow's relationship to the Bronfman Fellowship will be a long-term association, and that each Fellow will contribute to this community well beyond the Fellowship Year. This includes ongoing mentoring, networking, regional alumni gatherings, and volunteering to assist The Bronfman Fellowship. During the college years, alumni are encouraged to attend our yearly Collegiate Weekend and to connect with alumni from campuses across North America.

## **Expectations for Conduct**

### **7. Health and Security**

Questioning is a central element of the summer Fellowship, but when it comes to health, safety and security, Fellows must comply with both the spirit and the letter of the rules pertaining to security-related matters, including staying on-site for the entire Summer seminar. These regulations are explained in more detail in a separate letter, along with a release waiver which must be signed by parents.

### **8. Inclusion and Accommodations**

We seek to meet Fellows' reasonable needs to allow for full participation in the Fellowship program. This includes physical accommodations, learning adaptations, medical needs, and food requirements. We request that Fellows and parents be in touch proactively early in the onboarding process to discuss any needs. We will work with you to do our best to meet those needs. Additional costs associated with certain accommodations (for example: custom meals for severe allergies) will need to be covered by the family.

### **9. Interpersonal Relationships**

A foundational belief of this program is that positive personal relationships can contribute to the healthy growth and development of individuals, and promote the establishment of a pluralistic community. In order to achieve this, we expect all Fellows, faculty and staff to refrain from any verbal, emotional or physical acts of bullying, harassment, intimidation, manipulation or abuse. Any 1:1 relationship that inhibits a Fellow's ability to connect with the rest of the group or fully participate will be addressed by the staff. Should a romantic relationship (physical or not) develop over the course of the program, it must be mutually consensual. Romantic relationships are strictly prohibited between a Fellow and any staff person or adult volunteer, or between a supervisor and a subordinate.

### **10. Reporting Complaint of Abuse, Harassment or otherwise**

If you or your child has been the victim of any of the behavior prohibited above, please be in touch with a faculty or staff person on site, the Deputy Director Aaron Steinberg (917-826-5959). You are also entitled to report abuse or suspected abuse to a governmental agency if appropriate. Your complaint will be taken seriously and with compassion. Confidentiality will be respected. Further steps will be determined in coordination with the Executive Director and Board of Directors.

### **11. Prohibited Substances and Activities**

The use and/or possession of illegal drugs, marijuana products, alcoholic beverages, tobacco/vaping products and weapons is strictly prohibited and may lead to removal from the program. No piercing or tattooing can be done while on any Bronfman seminar.



## **12. Distracting Devices**

In order to encourage conversation and camaraderie, we follow a strict “no screens” policy for the summer, and during any in-person programming. We do not allow any personal entertainment devices such as laptop computers, smartphones, tablets, game consoles, iPod touch and the like. E-book readers and mp3 players without video capability are permitted for use during downtime. Fellows who would normally use a smartphone for photos or music should explore alternative options. All Fellows will have access to communal phones at certain designated times.

## **13. Termination of Fellowship**

Failure to follow these guidelines will result in disciplinary measures being taken, including the possibility that you may be sent home at your own expense. The Bronfman Fellowship may terminate your Fellowship if you fail to comply with the terms and conditions of this agreement, or if it is determined your participation in the program is detrimental to yourself, other Fellows, and/or the Bronfman staff/faculty. Termination of any Fellowship is at the sole discretion of the Executive Director.

## **Parental Role and Financial Matters**

### **14. Process for Parental/Guardian Review and Approval**

Parental permission is required for most program plans and activities. Therefore, duplicate copies of certain materials will be addressed to one (or more, if requested) of each Fellow's parents. Parents indicate their understanding of the information in the letter and their approval of its contents by signing and returning their copy. If a Fellow's parents are not living together, the parent who has legal custody must sign the forms. It is the responsibility of the Fellow to make sure that their parent signs and returns the materials within the allotted amount of time.

Parents must fully and truthfully answer all health and mental health forms and requests. This includes disclosure and ongoing updates for any existing or new diagnoses, treatments, and medications throughout the Fellowship year.

### **15. Costs Incurred by Fellows**

The majority of Fellowship Year expenses are covered by The Bronfman Fellowship, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) private operating foundation.



Expenses paid by the Fellowship:

- Meals and lodging at in-person seminars.
- All seminar expenses over and above the travel and participation fees below.

Expenses paid by Fellow:

- Domestic (US) travel to/from the Summer, Winter and Spring Seminars.
- Travel to/from subsequent alumni activities.
- Postage, laundry, and incidentals during the summer.

In addition, Fellows are charged a \$600 participation fee to partially offset the Winter and Spring seminar costs. This fee is requested to be paid by December 1, 2021.

***For those to whom the travel costs, personal care expenses, or participation fee constitute a financial hardship, reasonable expenses will be reimbursed or waived, if approved in advance by the administrative office through a confidential personal phone call. There is no requirement for any forms to be filled out, or financial information disclosed. Please call in a timely manner to discuss with the Program Coordinator, Sari Setton 917-697-4240.***

**16. Internal Revenue Service**

The Internal Revenue Code does **not** require The Bronfman Fellowship to report the value of direct out-of-pocket expenditures made on behalf of United States Fellowship recipients during their Fellowship Year. The Bronfman Fellowship is a non-profit 501(c)(3) private operating foundation. The estimated total direct expenses in connection with the Fellowship Year exceed \$20,000 per Fellow. Please note that the Fellowship cannot advise you on tax matters. If you are not clear about the applicable tax regulations, you should direct questions to a tax consultant.

**2021 BRONFMAN FELLOWSHIP**  
LETTER OF COMMITMENT AND PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES



**I have read, I understand, and I commit myself to everything contained above in the Bronfman Fellowship Letter of Commitment and Participation Guidelines including:**

**Commitment to Inclusion**

1. Fellowship Year Programming
2. Full Participation
3. School Year Programming
4. Commitment to Write
5. Beyond Bronfman
6. Long-term Commitment
7. Health and Security
8. Inclusion and Accommodations
9. Interpersonal Relationships
10. Reporting Complaint of Abuse, Harassment or otherwise
11. Prohibited Substances and Activities
12. Distracting Devices
13. Termination of Fellowship
14. Process for Parental Review and Approval
15. Costs Incurred by Fellows
16. Internal Revenue Service

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Signature of Fellow \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name of Fellow \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form signed and scanned via the SMapply platform by April 14, 2021.**