

International Volunteer Programs in Israel

Volunteer Association
40 Years of Civil Service



International Volunteer Programs in Israel



The Israel Volunteer Association Background

The Israel Volunteer Association (IVA) is a nonprofit organization that for over 40 years has been operating various programs in the field of community and Voluntary Services. With more than 6,000 volunteers per year, coming from all the different cultural and religious communities of Israeli society - Jewish and Arab, secular and religious, working in all parts of the country, the IVA has over 180,000 alumni and is the largest and oldest organization in Israel in its field. While promoting solidarity, equality and social justice, the IVA enables young people from all faiths and religions to engage in meaningful volunteer work, endowing them with social and professional skills.

The Israel Volunteer Association (IVA) offers its volunteers:

Diverse fields of volunteering – welfare and health organizations, kindergartens, schools, social and community centers, environmental organizations, social organizations, and more.

Unique projects – in recent years, the IVA has developed special projects aiming to strengthen and empower various groups: cultural minority groups, elderly people, youth at risk, women and people with special needs.

Promotion of social cohesion – voluntary activities and especially those performed by disadvantaged and minority population groups, reinforcing the sense of belonging to society, helping to reduce social gaps and strengthening the contact and identification with the community.

Reduce prejudice, racism and alienation – integrating young people from disadvantaged population groups and minority groups into volunteering, side by side with different population groups, creates a significant encounter with the “other.”

Empowering every single volunteer – the volunteering year and integration in the new workplace offer volunteers an important experience for the next steps in their life. During their service, the IVA offers the volunteers a variety of workshops and training seminars according to their unique community needs.



The International Department of the IVA

The professional experience of conceptualizing new volunteer programs for different target groups has also opened new frontiers also for international cooperation and development of new volunteer programs for people from outside of Israel. Based on longstanding cooperation with hundreds of organizations around the country, the IVA offers its international volunteers professional pedagogical programs that enables wider experiences, deeper connections and better understanding of the reality in the country. Through good connections with government offices, the IVA supports the development of the program on the administrative level for Visa and National Insurance.

In only two years, the IVA has received more than 100 international volunteers and is experiencing an ever growing demand. Based on its wide experience, the IVA has trained a **professional team of facilitators and coordinators** that individually escorts and supports the international volunteers all over Israel with all administrative, social and pedagogical needs. In addition, the IVA has established new platforms that expose the international volunteers to different networks for meaningful intercultural encounters outside the placements, such as, the **Israeli tandem-friends and regular encounters with Israeli volunteer groups.**

The International Programs are based on a partnership model with Israeli organizations, foreign NGOs, and international volunteers.

Partners in Israel:

- **Placements:** the International Department of the IVA cooperates currently with 15 different NGO's around Israel. From Haifa in the north to Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv, Givahtaim, Kfar-Saba, Ra'anana, Natanya in the center and as far as Kibbutz Lotan in the southern Arava desert. The IVA operates international volunteers in hospitals, homes for people with disabilities, homes for elderly people, daycare Centers for children with special needs, projects for therapeutic horse riding and farm work in a Kibbutz. The existing infrastructure of accommodation and administration enables the IVA to find new partners every year from a wide spectrum of social fields, thereby extending the variety of the placements for the volunteers.

- **Projects:** Based on longstanding cooperation with different organizations around the country, in

all sections of Israeli society, the IVA opens to its international volunteers **a new door to the Civil Society in Israel.**

International Partners:

the IVA has so far developed a cooperation with 6 different European volunteer organizations. With each partner, the IVA designs a special concept, according to the special pedagogical aims and wishes of the organizations and finds suitable placements for the project. The IVA maintains ongoing contact with the partners, informing them of developments throughout the year, consulting with them on challenging issues, as well as evaluating the different projects.

The Israel Volunteer Association wishes to continue expanding its international networks and cooperation with organizations abroad, conceptualizing new programs according to the needs and wishes of different target groups. **Together with the partners, the IVA aims to create meaningful projects that increase awareness, dialog and understanding between people from different parts of the world.**



International programs



The Volunteer Association offers the following **International programs** that can be developed with the partner organization in a modular system:

Long-Term Volunteer Program:

Young people between the ages 18-27

Placements all over Israel: Kindergartens, hospitals, geriatric centers, homes for people with disabilities, horse-riding centers, social and environmental organizations (in accordance to participation fees in the costs of living).

The general framework of the program includes:

- 12 months volunteering service
- 40 weekly hours of work in each placement
- Pocket money and board
- Accommodation in a fully furnished apartment

Program Coordination:

- Finding suitable placement for the volunteer
- Taking care of all the bureaucratic issues involving the arrival and integration of the volunteer

Pedagogical Guidance:

- Assigning a pedagogical guide that keeps contact and takes care of all the needs of the volunteer throughout the entire year in and out of the placement
- 12 Seminar and Study days throughout the year
- Organizing encounter meetings with Israeli peer groups

Participation fee for the volunteer / partner organization:

- Flight ticket to Israel and back to the home land
- Medical insurance costs for the year

Short-Term Volunteer Program:

Open to all age groups

Placements all over Israel: hospitals, homes for people with disabilities, boarding schools, social and community organization.

The general framework of the program includes:

- 3-6 months volunteering service
- 40 weekly hours of work in each placement
- Accommodation and board in the placement

Program Coordination:

- Finding suitable placement for the volunteer
- Taking care of all the bureaucratic issues involving the arrival and integration of the volunteer

Pedagogical Guidance:

- Assigning a pedagogical guide that keeps contact and takes care of all the needs of the volunteer throughout the whole stay in Israel in and out of the placement

Participation fee for the volunteer / partner organization:

- Flight ticket to Israel and back to the home land
- Medical insurance costs for the period of stay in Israel
- Participation in the living costs of the volunteer in the placement

Explore Israel Society (EIS) – Volunteer Study Tour for 3 weeks:

Open for all age groups (minimum of 15 Participants)

The general framework of the program includes:

- 2 weeks volunteering full time in a summer camp for children with disabilities or a community project
- 1 week of study program in Israel including tours, lecturers and meetings with different social, educational and community organizations in Israel
- Accommodation, board and travel costs within Israel
- A coordinator that will escort the group throughout the stay in Israel

Participation fee for the volunteer / partner organization:

- Flight ticket to Israel and back to the home land
- Medical insurance costs for the period of stay in Israel
- Cost of the program: 900 EUR per participant

The Pedagogic Program of the International Department in the IVA



The Pedagogic Program

Rational:

The International Department of the Israeli Volunteer Association strives to open for international volunteers a door to Israeli society. The seminars conducted by the professional team of the IVA aim to introduce Israel to the volunteers via a variety of perspectives and activities: geographical, historical, social and cultural. Each seminar focuses on different topics and targets, encountering people from different cultures and different narratives. Throughout the seminars, the volunteers will go through a process that will enable them to gain a broader, more educated and insightful view on the differences, richness, complexities and beauty of the society in the end of their volunteering period.

The following seminars are conceptualized for the 12 months volunteer program. Seminars for shorter volunteer programs can be planned accordingly, in coordination with the partner organization.

Objectives:

- Creating a deep insightful introduction to Israeli society
- Developing critical and independent thinking and encouraging curiosity
- Empowering the volunteers: strengthening independence, creativity and team work skills
- Stretching social engagement and empowering community leadership

Structure:

- A process of 2 Seminars of 4 days each – opening and closing, and 4 single seminar days in between (total of 12 days):
 - Opening seminar – preparation for volunteering service (September, 4 days):** Gathering tools and skills for a successful volunteering year; Introduction to Israeli society.
 - Mid-year single seminar days – geography, society and culture in Israel (Throughout the year, 4 days):** tours, meetings, lectures and workshops in different parts of Israel with different organizations, people and young Israelis.
 - Closing seminar – end of service (July, 4 days):** Reflection of the service experience and personal development.

- Visiting a variety of places and communities in Israel: Each seminar takes place in a different part of the country, which exposes the volunteers to a different geographical place in Israel, as well as enables them to encounter with a variety of people, organizations, ethnical and cultural groups.
- All lodging and seminar facilities are suitable to the needs of international volunteers.
- Each seminar is conceptualized with different methods and activities that support a meaningful and interesting learning process: lectures; guided tours; reflective workshops; group discussions; methodical discussions; day trips; meeting with Israeli organizations, projects and volunteers.
- Professional coordination and moderation of the seminars: held by the professional team of the International Department in the IVA in coordination with the partner organization abroad.
- Encouraging active participation of the volunteers:
 - Cooking project:** in some of the seminars, the volunteers will prepare the meals themselves. The volunteers are divided into preparation teams and each team decides on a menu and a set up. During the seminar, each team gets time to prepare a different meal. The self cooking project enables the volunteers to take an active part in the seminar, and through that, helps them in developing independence, creative thinking, team-work skills and orientation in new unfamiliar surroundings.
 - Open space activities:** the volunteers will be given the opportunity to develop and lead a 30 min. activity on a topic of their interest. The activities will be integrated in the seminar in an open space time slot.



Specification of seminars, themes and objectives

	On-Arrival Seminar	Mid-year Single Seminar days	Closing Seminar
Main Target	Preparing the volunteers to the year of service and introducing them to Israeli society.	Reflecting the volunteering service. Dealing with different issues in Israeli society.	Summing up the year – self-reflection, conclusions, tools and ideas to take back home.
Location	Center of Israel	1. Acre 2. Jerusalem 3. Tel Aviv 4. Galilee	North of Israel
Day 1	Arrival of the Group: Welcome unit Active workshop: Getting to know one another, sharing expectations Lecture: Introduction to the Volunteering Service in Israel	Acre (November) • Visit to the House of Acre Treasures • Lecture: Acre – a city of multi-cultures • Meeting residents and people working in Acre	Welcome unit Tour in the city: getting to know the community Meeting with a social project that is active in the city
Day 2	Workshop: An introduction to Israeli state and society Lecture: the Israeli Social Services System City Tour Evening in the City	Jerusalem (January) • Tour in Yad Vashem • Workshop: commemoration culture in Israel and in Europe • Meeting with a Holocaust Survivor	Day trip – hiking: Israeli geography, history and archeology Reflective workshop: major experiences, changes and insights from the volunteering year
Day 3	Lecture: Volunteering in Israeli Society Tour: Israeli National Institutions Workshop: Holidays and special events in Israel	Tel Aviv-Jaffa (February/March) • Tour in the “Back Yard” of TLV • Lecture: Margin groups in Tel Aviv • Reflection workshop: my volunteering so far – gathering tools for the rest of the year	Workshop: Israeli society and myself – similarities and differences Meeting with Israelis who volunteered abroad Workshop: carrier orientation – where am I going next
Day 4	Workshop: conflict management in the placement Professional preparation in groups divided by fields of service Sum-up unit	Galilee (May/June) • Tour in a Druze Village, meeting with residents • Lecture: the Druze community in Israel, different populations in the Galilee area • Discussion: encountering different cultures within Israeli society	Reflective workshop: time to go – what am I taking back with me Sum-up unit: leaving Israel

The International Department Team

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Yaron Lutz | CEO of the Israel Volunteer Association.

Born in Tel Aviv, graduated with a BA in Education and Economy and an MA in Business Management. Has worked at the IVA since 1995 and has been the CEO since 2011. He leads the organization in the empowerment of volunteers in various sectors of the population and in developing a variety of volunteer programs in Israel.



Keren Pardo | Manager of the International department of the Israeli Volunteer Association.

Born in Tel-Aviv, graduated Social Work and Social Pedagogic Studies at the University of Alice Salomon in Berlin. Established and managed the first German-Israeli Volunteer Program for Israelis in Germany – Kom-Mit-Nadev for the Israeli Authority for Youth Exchange.



Heat Habashe | Manager for Intercultural Projects of the Israel Volunteer Association.

Born in Yafia, graduated MA degree in Human Resources. Established a volunteer program for teenage Bedouin girls in the South of Israel with nowadays more than 400 volunteers. Heat develops programs that connect different populations.



Rinat Avigur | Pedagogical Coordinator of the International Department in the Israel Volunteer Association.

Born in Haifa, volunteered for one year of service in Israel and for one year in Germany. Currently a student of psychology and politics at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.



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