מכון יונתן זקס
The Jonathan Sacks Institute

אוניברסיטת בר-אילן
Bar-Ilan University

Call for Applications

Noé-Sacks MA Scholarships

Academic Year 2026/27

The Jonathan Sacks Institute at Bar-Ilan University is pleased to invite applications for the Noé-Sacks MA Scholarships. The scholarships are designed to support outstanding students whose **research engages with the academic ideas, writings, and concerns of Rabbi, Professor, Lord, Jonathan Sacks** in the fields of political studies or Jewish philosophy.

Scholarship Details

- The scholarship will commence at the beginning of the **2026-27** academic year.
- The scholarship covers **tuition fees plus $1000 per year**, for **two years**.
- Scholarship recipients are expected to complete their MA within three years.

Eligibility Criteria

- An undergraduate degree completed by the end of the 2025-26 academic year.
- An undergraduate degree with a **minimum GPA of 90** from a recognized university.
- Acceptance into an MA Program in the department of Political Studies or Jewish Philosophy at Bar-Ilan University for the academic year **2026-27**.
- Written Agreement of a member of staff in one of those departments to serve, in principle, as your supervisor.

Research Requirements

- The proposed research must **engage with the academic contributions of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks in political studies or Jewish philosophy.**
- The research topic must align with the expertise of faculty members in the Departments of Jewish Philosophy or Political Studies.
- Scholarship recipients must commit to presenting their research in a public forum, such as a lecture, podcast, and publications.
- Recipients must meet all standard requirements for MA thesis students in their department.

Deadline for Submission: 30 April 2026

Application Process

Candidates must submit the following materials in one PDF:

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Complete official transcript of BA degree
- Copies of BA degree certificate
- A short letter (maximum one page) outlining the candidate's research interests and how these relate to the work of Jonathan Sacks
- Specify the faculty member(s) relevant to your research area
- Two letters of recommendation addressing academic excellence

Submission Instructions

- All application materials must be sent via email to sacks.institute@biu.ac.il
- Letters of reference should be sent *directly* by referees to the same email address.
- For both applicants and referees the email subject line should be written thus: "Noé-Sacks MA Application – [Candidate's Name]"

About Jonathan Sacks' Intellectual Legacy

Rabbi, Professor, Lord Jonathan Sacks wrote extensively about Jewish religious thought, addressing many of its classical concerns in articles and commentaries to major Jewish religious texts, while also engaging deeply with contemporary Jewish thought in books such as *Crisis and Covenant*. Among the subjects he addressed in Jewish philosophy are:

- A theology of dialogue
- Tikkun Olam in the Jewish Tradition
- Pluralism: Approaches to other religions and Atheism
- The relationship between Science and Religion

In works such as *The Politics of Hope*, *The Dignity of Difference*, *Morality*, and *Not In God's Name*, Rabbi Sacks addressed key moral, social, and political challenges of modern society, including:

- The Jewish tradition and political philosophy, particularly the concept of covenant
- The role of community, civil society & moral responsibility in sustaining modern democracies
- The relationship between religion and politics
- Identity politics and inter-faith relations

The Noé-Sacks Scholarships support research that continues Rabbi Sacks' intellectual legacy, while fostering new insights on these vital subjects.

For inquiries, please contact the Institute at sacks.institute@biu.ac.il