

M.A. in Teaching Tanakh & Parshanut

Department Head: Professor Eli Hadad
English M.A. Program Director: Rabbi Reuven Spolter
Director of Admissions: Hadassah Levy

For over 30 years, Teaching Tanakh has been the flagship educational degree program at Herzog College, training thousands of teachers for Israel's religious schools. Our M.A. in Teaching Tanakh and Parshanut takes this program to a higher level for teachers in Israel and around the world, raising the standard of professional learning in the topic central to Judaic studies in educational institutions around the world.

Teaching Tanakh is a multi-disciplinary endeavor, exploring Biblical verses and their commentaries drawn from multiple sources including Talmud, Midrash and Halachic literature. The Herzog approach to the study of Tanakh involves literary analysis of every chapter, understanding its historical context, the places where its events took place, and its philosophical messages. Interpretations of Biblical stories can also be examined through engagement with contemporary literature, poetry, art, cinema and theater.

Students in the M.A. program will study passages from the Tanakh, expand their knowledge of its many classical interpretations, and explore opportunities for engaging multidisciplinary teaching. The program will combine traditional commentaries with new study methods, modern research and interpretative tools, while retaining an authentic religious Jewish commitment to the Torah text.

During the first year of the program, courses will focus on exploring connections between the Biblical text and other Jewish traditional sources and developing pedagogy skills. During the summer program and second year courses, we will develop techniques for interpreting, researching and teaching the Tanakh and its commentaries.

Alongside the Hebrew-language master's course, the English-language version of the program will be taught primarily online with one two-week summer semester in Jerusalem in July 2025.

Please note that all details in this prospectus are subject to change and dependent on sufficient registration.



English M.A. Rubric

The English two-year Master's program includes 14 hybrid and asynchronous courses in English with the option to take classes in Hebrew. Course study will focus on Tanakh, Education, Pedagogy, and touring with the Tanakh, as well as two courses geared towards writing a Master's seminar paper.

Many of our existing Tanakh Teaching Courses are accredited as part of this degree. If you have taken online courses through Herzog College, you may already have earned credits toward the M.A. degree.

Tuition will be approximately 31,000 NIS total for two years of study, valid for all registrations before August 1, and not including flights to Israel or accommodations. Space in the program is limited and all candidates will be interviewed.

Overseas students will graduate with an internationally recognized Master of Arts degree in "Teaching Bible and its Commentaries" from Herzog College, accredited by Israel's Council of Higher Education.

Breakdown by Learning Method:

- 18 Credit Hours (CH - each credit hour = 1 semester course)
- 2 CH Research Seminar + 1 Paper
- 6 Asynchronous Courses (12 asynchronous units with 2 online meetings)
- 8 Hybrid Courses (10 asynchronous units plus 2 online & 2 live meetings in Summer Semester)
- 2 Summer Courses – July 14 –24, 2025 (subject to change)

Breakdown by Topic:

- 10 Tanakh Courses (1 with a Referrat)
- 3 Pedagogy Courses
- 1 Multi-Disciplinary Course
- Writing a Research Paper (2 CH)
- 2 Touring Israel Courses – Tanakh and Archaeology & Walking the Land

Timetable

- Fall Semester begins: Sunday November 3, 2024
- Spring 5785 Semester begins: March 6, 2025

- Summer 5785 Semester in Israel: July 14 –24, 2025
- All Zoom meetings will take place at 20:00 IST on Sunday evenings.

M.A. Course List*

Credit Hours	Type	Course	Instructor	Mode
1	Tanakh	Breadth and Depth: A Textual and Values-Based Study of Tanakh	Dr. Yosefa Fogel Wruble	Asynchronous
1	Tanakh	Method & Meaning: Herzog-Style Tanakh	Rabbi Dr. Shuki Reiss & Rabbi Daniel Wolf	Asynchronous
1	Tanakh	Teaching Ethics and Morals	Rabbi Dr. Eli Kohn	Asynchronous
1	Tanakh	Teaching Shemot: The Birth of the Jewish Nation	Dr. Yael Ziegler	Asynchronous
1	Pedagogy	Student-Centered Learning	Dr. David Saltzman	Asynchronous
2	Tanakh	David: From Shepherd to Monarch - Triumphs and Trials	Dr. Yael Ziegler	Hybrid (asynchronous + live)
2	Tanakh	<i>Shivat Tzion</i> (year-long course)	Rabbi Dr. Yehuda Tropper	Hybrid (asynchronous + live)
1	Pedagogy	Intrinsic Motivation in the Kodesh Classroom	Rabbi Shmuel Feld & Dr. Avichai Kellerman	Asynchronous
2	Seminar	Research Seminar + Paper	Rabbi Dr. Eli Kohn	Live online meetings
1	Multi-Disciplinary	Hassidut in the Torah	Professor Daniel Reiser	Hybrid
1	Summer	Tanakh & Archaeology	Herzog Staff	In-Person Course
1	Summer	Walking the Land	Herzog Staff	In-Person Course
1	Pedagogy	TBD	TBD	Asynchronous
1	Tanakh	The Five Megillot	Rabbi Dr. Ari Silbermann	Hybrid (asynchronous + live)
1	Tanakh	Parshanut for Teachers	TBD	Asynchronous
18				

Courses in Hebrew

MA students in the English program can also register for any Master's level course offered by Herzog College in Hebrew and apply credits earned to their degree.

Overseas students can register for any online course, and **Israel-based students** are welcome to register for live classes, which take place on Tuesdays at Heichal Shlomo in Jerusalem.

To review the Hebrew course schedules:

[Women's schedule](#)

[Men's schedule](#)

**Course topics and instructors subject to change*

M.A. Course Schedule – Year 1

Year 1 – Semester 1 – Fall 2024 – Begins Sunday November 3, 2024			
Tanakh	Method & Meaning: Herzog-Style Tanakh	Rabbi Dr. Shuki Reiss and Rabbi Daniel Wolf	12 asynchronous units with 2 online meetings
Pedagogy	Student-Centered Learning	Rabbi Dr. David Saltzman	12 asynchronous units with 2 online meetings
Tanakh	David: From Shepherd to Monarch - Triumphs and Trials (Part I)	Dr. Yael Ziegler	12 asynchronous units plus 2 online meetings
Pedagogy	Intrinsic Motivation in the Kodesh Classroom	Rabbi Shmuel Feld and Dr. Avichai Kellerman	12 asynchronous units with 2 online meetings

Year 1 – Semester 2 – Spring 2025 – Begins March 6, 2025			
Tanakh	Teaching Ethics and Morals	Rabbi Dr. Eli Kohn	12 asynchronous units plus 2 online meetings
Tanakh	David: From Shepherd to Monarch - Triumphs and Trials (Part II)	Dr. Yael Ziegler	12 asynchronous units plus 2 online meetings
Tanakh	The Five Megillot	Rabbi Dr. Ari Silbermann	12 asynchronous units plus 2 online meetings
Tanakh	Parshanut for Teachers	Rabbi Dr. Daniel Reifman	12 asynchronous units with 2 online meetings

Year 1 – Summer 2025 - July 14 –24, 2025			
Tanakh	David: From Shepherd to Monarch	Dr. Yael Zeigler	2 in-person meetings
Pedagogy	Teaching Ethics and Morals	Rabbi Dr. Eli Kohn	2 in-person meetings
Summer	Tanakh and Archaeology	Herzog Staff	In-person course
Summer	Walking the Land	Herzog Staff	In-person course
Multi-Disciplinary	Hassidut in the Torah	Prof. Daniel Reiser	2 in-person meetings
Tanakh	<i>Shivat Tzion</i>	Rabbi Dr. Yehuda Tropper	2 in-person meetings

M.A. Course Schedule – Year 2

Year 2 – Semester 3 – Fall 2025 – Dates TBD			
Seminar	Research Seminar + Paper	Rabbi Dr. Eli Kohn	Includes 1 live online meeting
Tanakh	<i>Shivat Tzion</i>	Rabbi Dr. Yehuda Tropper	12 asynchronous units plus 2 online meetings
Multi-Disciplinary	<i>Hassidut</i> in the Torah	Prof. Daniel Reiser	12 asynchronous units plus 2 online meetings
Tanakh	Breadth and Depth: A Textual and Values-Based Study of Tanakh	Dr. Yosefa Fogel Wruble	12 asynchronous units with 2 online meetings
Year 2 – Semester 4 – Spring 2026 – Dates TBD			
Seminar	Research Seminar + Paper	Rabbi Dr. Eli Kohn	1 live online meeting
Tanakh	<i>Shivat Tzion</i>	Rabbi Dr. Yehuda Tropper	12 asynchronous units plus 2 online meetings
Tanakh	Teaching Shemot: The Birth of the Jewish Nation	Dr. Yael Ziegler	12 asynchronous units with 2 online meetings
Pedagogy	TBD	TBD	12 asynchronous units with 2 online meetings

M.A. Course Instructors

Rabbi Shmuel Feld served for 25 years in Jewish education as a teacher, instructional leader, and principal. Shmuel helps day schools as the founding director of the Jewish Education Innovation Challenge. Shmuel has an M.Ed. from Harvard Graduate School of Education and brings his many professional experiences outside of schools to inform his work, including running field training for the US Public Health Service, an arm of the US Navy.

Dr. Yosefa Fogel Wruble is a Ramit in the Women's Beit Midrash Migdal Oz, a lecturer in Matan Jerusalem's branch and the host of their weekly podcast, One on One. She holds a doctorate in Bible from Bar-Ilan University, a master's degree in Bible from Bar-Ilan University, a BA in Literature and Judaic Studies from Yeshiva University, and a teaching degree from Herzog College. She is also a Nishmat-certified Yoetzet Halacha and kallah teacher.

Rabbi Dr. Eli Kohn is Senior Lecturer at Orot Israel College in Israel, and lecturer at the School of Education, Bar Ilan University. In this capacity he teaches Tanach and the pedagogy of Tanach to teachers of Jewish Studies at different grade levels. Rabbi Kohn was head of Jewish studies at Herzlia School in Cape Town, South Africa. There he developed curriculum in Tanach and other areas of Jewish studies. He is also former Director of Curriculum Development Projects at the Lookstein Center of Jewish Education in the Diaspora at Bar Ilan University.

Rabbi Daniel Reifman has been teaching Torah in a variety of institutions of higher learning for the past twenty years. He currently teaches at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, Yeshivat Maharat and at the Institute for Advanced Torah Studies at Bar-Ilan University. Daniel is also a long-time faculty member at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, where he served most recently as the director of the Drisha Summer Kollel. Daniel holds a BA in biology from Columbia University, rabbinic ordination and an MA in Tanakh from Yeshiva University, and a PhD in hermeneutics from Bar-Ilan. He has published and lectured widely on philosophy of halakhah, Jewish medical ethics, and Tanakh.

Professor Daniel Reiser heads the Department of Jewish Thought at Herzog College. He specializes in Hasidic philosophy, modern mysticism, and theology in the Shoah. Reiser was a Matanel and a Warburg Post-Doc Fellow at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and an adjunct lecturer in their department of Jewish Thought. He was a Yad-Vashem Post-Doc Fellow in Jerusalem, and a Saul Kagan Post-Doc Fellow in Advanced Shoah Studies in New York. His books include *Language of Truth in the Mother Tongue: The Yiddish Sermons of Rabbi Yehudah Aryeh Leib Alter*; *Imagery Techniques in Modern Jewish Mysticism*; and *Sermons from the Years of Rage*.

Rabbi Dr. Yehoshua (Shuki) Reiss is an alumnus of Yeshivat Har Etzion, where he received rabbinical ordination. Rav Shuki received a B.A. in history from the Open University, and an M.A. in history from Hebrew University. His doctorate from Bar-Ilan University was on the structure, ideology and historiography of the book of Joshua. For the past decade, Rabbi Shuki has been Chair of Herzog's

Bible Studies department and Director of Bible Initiatives, making the Tanakh accessible to wider audiences through digital and experiential tools, including HaTanakh.com.

Rabbi Dr. David Saltzman Ed.D, is an experienced educator with more than 27 years of work in Jewish Day Schools. He spent 12 years teaching before serving as the Lower School Principal at Maimonides School in Brookline, MA for another 12 years. Currently, he works at the Yeshivah of Flatbush as the Lower School General Studies Principal and the Director of Teaching and Learning. Rabbi Saltzman is a firm believer in developing student-centered classrooms. He has coached teachers and administrators to support this approach.

Rabbi Dr. Yehuda Tropper heads the Tanakh Department of Shaanan College in Haifa. and was formerly the national supervisor of Tanakh teaching in Israel's religious school system. He studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion and Herzog College, holds an M.A. in Judaic Studies from the Siegal College of Jewish Studies in Cleveland, and a Ph.D. in Bible from Haifa University. He has worked in Jewish education for over thirty years, including at the Fuchs Mizrahi School in Cleveland. He believes in teaching a pedagogy that connects the teaching of Tanakh with shaping students' Jewish identity.

Rabbi Dr. Ari Silbermann Originally from Australia, Ari Silbermann spent 10 years studying at Yeshivat Hakotel, Beit Morasha, and Yeshivat Siach and has some two decades of experience involved in formal and informal Jewish education. He holds a B.A from Monash University, a Dip. Ed. from Herzog College as well as an M.A. and Ph.D. from Bar-Ilan University in Bible. His research interests include Sefer Tehillim, literary approaches to the Bible, and Second Temple Jewish biblical interpretation. He is currently a post-doctoral fellow at Tel-Aviv University involved in mapping Divine epithets in the Hellenistic ancient Near East.

Rabbi Daniel Wolf is a veteran educator, manager, and programmer with more than two decades of experience exploring and testing the interaction between technology and education. He studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion and Herzog Teachers College and holds a Masters in Jewish Thought from the Siegal College of Jewish Studies, and an undergraduate degree in Computer Science from Yeshiva University. Daniel spent seven years as a teacher and department chair at Fuchs Mizrahi School in Cleveland, where he developed Tanakh curricular materials for high school. He later served as an instructor and teaching coach in the Pardes Educators Program in Jerusalem. As an educator, Daniel encourages the use of technology as a pedagogic tool, particularly to facilitate textual analysis.

Dr. Yael Ziegler is a Senior Lecturer in Tanakh at Herzog College and former Rosh Batei Midrash and Academic Director of Matan. She received her BA from Stern College and an MA and Ph.D. in Bible at Bar Ilan University. Dr. Ziegler has lectured widely on various Tanakh topics in Israel, the United States, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and Europe. Dr. Ziegler is the author of "Promises to Keep: The Oath in Biblical Narrative", "Ruth: From Alienation to Monarchy", and "Lamentations: Faith in a Turbulent World".

Application Procedure

Please complete the registration form on our website: <https://global.herzog.ac.il/MA>

You will be contacted by our academic advisor Hadassah for an initial interview. You will be asked to send the following documents:

- Photo page of your Passport / Israeli ID Card if relevant
- Transcript from your B.A. degree
- Current photo

You will then be interviewed over Zoom by the head of the English program, Rabbi Reuven Spolter.

Deadline for applications is September 30, 2024

Cost

Application Fee (non-refundable):

Current Herzog Students (Rimonim, TTCP or Herzog Graduates): \$25

New Students: \$100

Tuition

Tuition will be 31,200 NIS total for two years of study, valid for all applications received before August 1, 2024, payable in installments, and not including flights to Israel or accommodations.

Please note that this introductory price applies for the academic years 2024-2026 only!

If you have any questions, you are invited to contact Hadassah Levy, Admissions Director, at admissions@herzog.ac.il or call/WhatsApp her at +972-54-552-2464.