

DIPLOMA OF
TALMUDIC STUDIES
COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE CODE 10117NAT



NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
TRAINING

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The Diploma of Talmudic Studies is designed to provide participants with advanced academic proficiency and analytical skills in Talmud, Chassidic Philosophy and Jewish Law. The course provides the background for a wide range of career options e.g. Jewish studies teacher, outreach worker, student counsellor, Youth Activities Director, Chaplain and the first stage in the pathway to ordination as a Rabbi.

COLLEGE AND COURSE RECOGNITION

The Rabbinical College has been in existence since 1966. In 1994, the college was formally approved by the State Training Board of Victoria, thus becoming the state's first tertiary Jewish institution to be recognised as a Registered Private Provider and Endorsed Provider of Courses to International Students. The college's current registering and accrediting body is the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).

The Rabbinical College delivers its nationally accredited Diploma of Talmudic Studies course to both Australian and international students.

The college is responsible for the quality of the training and assessment in compliance with the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTO's), and for the issuance of Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) certification documentation.

All training and assessment will be provided as agreed at enrolment. In the event that the Rabbinical College closes or ceases to deliver any part of the course that the participant is enrolled in, the college will endeavour to arrange for the agreed training and assessment to be completed through another suitable RTO. (At present there are no other RTO's offering this course.) In this unlikely circumstance, affected participants will be formally notified of the arrangements, including any refund of fees.

COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- The Diploma of Talmudic Studies is open to young men who have demonstrated competency in collecting, organising and analysing information. This may be confirmed by having completed Year 12 in Australia, or an overseas equivalent. Or, at least having completed Year 9 or overseas equivalent followed by two years of Talmudic studies at a recognised Mesivta or Talmudic/Rabbinical college. Students who have attained Year 11 equivalent of Jewish studies may also be accepted. Prior to enrolment, evidence of level of studies attained is required from the educational institution/s attended.
- Overseas applicants must also provide evidence of proficiency in English:
 - For students coming from English-speaking countries e.g. USA, Canada, United Kingdom, South Africa etc, acceptable evidence would include School certification and/or letters from the relevant School Principals that the high school/ Mesivta /Talmudic/Rabbinical college education they completed was conducted in English.
 - For students from non-English speaking countries, acceptable evidence would include School certification and/or letters from the relevant School Principals that the high school/ Mesivta /Talmudic/Rabbinical college education they completed was conducted in English. If this is not available, an IELTS Test Band Score of 5.5 with no less than 6.0 in Speaking and Listening and no less than 5.5 in Reading and Writing is required.
- be able to read, comprehend and write Hebrew;
- be able to read and comprehend Yiddish. This requirement is advisory rather than prescriptive, however, entrants should be aware that they may experience difficulty undertaking the course unless they are able to read and comprehend Yiddish, and there is no remedial provision built into the course.
- have a basic knowledge of key Jewish texts, and the Jewish laws and customs;

- demonstrate that they are committed to pursue the college's aims and are prepared to abide by the General Conditions of Acceptance and Rules and Regulations of the college, copies of which are included in the Enrolment Pack sent to students.

Applicants may call or write to apply for admission. Applications must be accompanied by references and letters of recommendation from teachers and principals. If successful, the applicant will need to be interviewed.

Soon after the interview, the applicant will be notified whether he has been accepted. Enrolment forms and financial arrangements will then need to be completed for final acceptance to take place.

ACCESS AND EQUITY

The principles of Access and Equity will be applied in the selection of learners. However, in order to satisfy the observation of Jewish Law the course must limit the participation to men as Jewish Law prohibits the co-education of men and women (especially so at high levels).

COURSE DETAILS

The curriculum offered is suitable for both Australian and international students. The course is usually completed within two years of full-time study, however it may be completed earlier, if a student is able to demonstrate competence in all modules in less than two years. The course leads to the award of a Diploma of Talmudic Studies.

ISSUING OF AWARDS

1. The Rabbinical College aims to provide the AQF qualification or Statement of Attainment to the student within 30 days of confirmation that they have completed the course.
2. The College will not issue AQF certification documentation to a student before a verified Unique Student Identified has been obtained, unless it is confirmed that an exemption applies.
3. The College will not issue AQF certification documentation to a student before all agreed fees owing to the college have been paid.
4. To prevent the production of fraudulent qualifications, Diplomas or Statements of Attainment issued by the Rabbinical College of Australia & New Zealand will be printed on special security paper and will display the following features:
 - a) Rabbinical College logo
 - b) Unique background watermark
 - c) Handwritten (not scanned) signature
5. If the document is issued digitally, it will be done so by means of a password secured pdf, which only allows the document to be printed. Content copy, assembly or extraction are not permitted.
6. The Rabbinical College does not allow third parties to produce Diplomas or Statements of Attainment on its behalf.
7. Replacement of certification documentation - In the event that a current or past student has misplaced or lost a certificate or Statement of Attainment, the College will reissue it. The student will first need to make an online application for reissuance via the college's website. The college is responsible for authentication and verification of any replacement certification documentation.

STATEMENT OF ATTAINMENT

Students who do not complete the course will be provided with a Statement of Attainment for all modules competently completed, at no additional cost.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course consists of seven mandatory modules made up of supervised and extensive private study. A student who is able to demonstrate competence in all modules will be awarded the Diploma of Talmudic Studies.

Module code	Field of Education code	Module Title	Pre-requisite	Nominal hours
DTSTSV501A	091703	Talmud Survey (Legal Systems I)	None	460
DTSTIN502A	091703	Talmud Intensive (Legal Systems II)	None	680
DTSJPH503A	091701	Jewish Philosophy (Chassidus I)	None	350
DTSJPH504A	091701	Jewish Philosophy (Chassidus II)	None	260
DTSTAN505A	091701	Tanya	None	170
DTSJLA506A	091703	Jewish Law & Applications	None	70
DTSJSL507A	091703	Jewish Seasonal Laws and Customs	None	70
Total nominal hours				2060

COURSE DELIVERY

Training will be delivered via teacher-led classroom delivery, group activities and practical exercises as determined by the needs of the modules being delivered.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment of candidates will be based on their ability to achieve the stated learning outcomes in each module to the standard defined by the relevant assessment criteria.

Due to the largely theoretical nature of the course, a number of different assessment techniques will be used including:

- Written or oral tests
- Research assignments
- Case study analysis
- Classroom presentations

Written and oral assessments will require access to relevant texts.

Research assignments and case study analysis should provide access to all relevant information.

Students will be given advance warning of the time and form of any assessment and will not be expected to sit an assessment they have not been prepared for. Students will be given an opportunity for at least one re-assessment for any competencies not achieved on the first attempt.

A summary of the assessment tasks for each module will be provided by your trainer/assessor.

The trainers and assessors will provide verbal feedback to students in relation to their progress throughout the course.

Most tests have “critical” questions and non-critical ones. Only answers to the critical questions are used to measure competency (and passing the course). The critical questions will be identified as such on the test.

For some assessment tasks, students will be given an opportunity to resubmit assessments in order to achieve a satisfactory result. This will be identified in the assessment task information. A satisfactory result in all of the forms of assessment in a given module is required in order to be deemed competent for that module.

All tests are “open book,” and students will be advised as to which texts may be used for each test. Answers may be given in English, Hebrew or Yiddish.

If, at any time a student finds himself in difficulties understanding or completing an assessment task, he should talk to the trainer/assessor at the earliest stage possible.

Students may appeal an assessment decision through the normal ‘Complaints and Appeals’ process.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

Prior to commencement, students will be interviewed by senior staff. Basic requirements for secular and Jewish studies must be satisfied. The assessment procedure is by interview, either by staff of the Rabbinical College or their agents overseas. Students who already possess the competencies developed in a module may be eligible for credit on substantiation of their competencies and allowed to commence the course at a higher level. If RPL is granted, a record of the student’s RPL must be signed by the student and a copy placed on their file.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Rabbinical College recognises relevant AQF qualifications and Statements of Attainment awarded by other Registered Training Organisations. Students may apply for credit in such cases by presenting a verified transcript and award, or Statement of Attainment.

FURTHER STUDY LINKS

This course articulates with advanced Talmudic studies courses provided at other Rabbinical Colleges and Yeshivos around the world. Graduates are accepted by various educational institutions, including:

- Talmudical Seminary Oholei Torah (USA)
- Central Yeshiva (USA)
- Rabbinical College of America
- Rabbinical College of Canada
- Kollel Menachem Lubavitch

University faculties may also give varying degrees of credit transfer, depending on the nature of their course. Arrangements have been confirmed with:

- RMIT University
- Monash University
- Deakin University

PLAGIARISM STATEMENT

By definition, plagiarism is the act of pretending to have written or produced a piece of work that someone else created.

Plagiarism occurs when students fail to acknowledge that ideas have been borrowed. Specifically, it occurs when:

- phrases and passages are used verbatim without quotation marks and without a reference to the author
- an author's work is paraphrased and presented without a reference
- other students' work is copied or partly copied
- work for assessment is written in conjunction with other students (without prior permission of the relevant Trainer/Assessor).

At Yeshivah Gedolah, tests are structured in such a way that cheating is virtually impossible. However, all students will be monitored for evidence of plagiarism and if students are found to have submitted work, other than their own, they will need to re-submit assessment tasks.

RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS

Student Acceptance Agreements will be securely retained by the Rabbinical College of Australia and New Zealand for a minimum period of two years following the completion of a student's course.

COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS POLICY

Please refer to the following link on our website.

http://www.rabbinicalcollege.edu.au/templates/articlecco_cdo/aid/572800/jewish/Accreditation.htm

CANCELLATION, DEFERMENT OR SUSPENSION OF OVERSEAS STUDENT ENROLMENT

1. The Rabbinical College will report details of a student via PRISMS within 14 days of:
 - satisfactory financial arrangements having been made [ESOS Act 19(1) ESOS Reg 3.01]
 - non-commencement of an enrolled student on the nominated date [ESOS Act 19(1)(c) ESOS Reg 3.02]
 - termination of studies by an accepted student before completion of the course [ESOS Act 19(1)(d)]
 - changes to identity or duration of any accepted student's course [ESOS Act 19(1)(e)]
 - any other prescribed matters [ESOS Reg 3.03].
2. If a student wishes to defer commencement or suspend studies in mid-course they can only do so on medical grounds (with a doctor's certificate) or other exceptional compassionate circumstances.
 - If permission is to be granted by the college then the reason for the deferment/suspension and the medical certificate (if relevant) is to be filed on the student file.

Where the suspension or cancellation is not initiated by the student, the student will be informed of the College's intention to suspend or cancel the student's enrolment and notify the student that he has 20 working days to access the registered provider's internal complaints and appeals process as per Standard 8.1. If the student accesses the registered provider's internal complaints and appeals process, the suspension or cancellation of the student's enrolment under this standard cannot take effect until the internal process is completed, unless extenuating circumstances relating to the welfare of the student apply.

In either of the above cases:

- The student will be informed that deferring, suspending or cancelling his enrolment may affect his student visa.
- The student must be reported to DIBP via PRISMS within 31 days, as not complying with visa conditions.

Grounds for cancellation of overseas student enrolment:

- Student completed course early
- Student left provider – transferred to course at another Provider
- Student notifies cessation of studies
- Provider decision to cease student enrolment for:
 - Non-payment of fees
 - Disciplinary reasons, including if the safety and welfare of other students or staff is at risk
 - No longer holding student visa
 - Provider unable to deliver course
- Non-compliance with student visa conditions
 - Unsatisfactory attendance
 - Unsatisfactory course progress
- Non-commencement of studies

Grounds for deferring or suspending student enrolment:

- Compassionate or compelling circumstances

Counselling and Reporting Learners

Attendance

3. It is a condition of receiving a student visa that the student is enrolled in full-time study and satisfies requirements relating to attendance.
4. If the student is absent for more than 5 consecutive days without approval, or is at risk of not attending at least 80% of the scheduled course contact hours, the college will nominate a Rabbi (from the academic staff) to counsel the student and devise a plan of action to improve performance.
5. If the student fails to meet the 80% attendance of the scheduled course contact hours, the student will no longer be allowed to continue studying.
6. The Executive Director will:
 - Notify the student in writing of the college's intention to report the student for not achieving satisfactory attendance.
 - Notify the student that he has 20 working days to access the registered provider's internal complaints and appeals process as per Standard 8.1. If the student accesses the registered provider's internal complaints and appeals process, the suspension or cancellation of the student's enrolment under this standard cannot take effect until the internal process is completed.
 - Report the student to DIBP via PRISMS within 31 days if the student chooses not to access the complaints and appeals process within the 20 day period, the appeal is not upheld, or the student withdraws from the appeal process.

Academic progress

7. The College will monitor, record and assess the course progress for each student for each module of the course, to ensure that at all times the student is in a position to complete the course within the expected duration as specified on the student's Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE).
8. Course progress and procedure requirements will be conveyed to staff via the college's Quality Assurance Manual, and to students in the Enrolment Pack they receive prior to enrolment.
9. Satisfactory academic progress must be maintained to comply with the student's study visa conditions.
10. A study period is one semester which consists of two terms. Term lengths vary each year according to the Jewish calendar. Information pertaining to current term dates is included in documentation provided to students prior to enrolment and on the college's website.
11. The course modules are delivered concurrently over the whole two year duration of the course. Students will be continually monitored throughout the course. To assist students in their understanding of the information at hand, formative assessments will be used as necessary in this regard. Towards the end of each study period, summative assessments in all modules of the course will be conducted by the assessor responsible for each module. Alternatively, where a series of assessments is conducted, results will be consolidated to reach an overall rating for each module for the study period.
12. At the end of each study period, results for each module will be recorded on the students' file. The student will be notified of the results.
13. A student who fails any summative assessment/s will be given the opportunity to retake the assessment/s.
14. Satisfactory course progress is determined to be satisfactory completion of the summative assessment (including multiple assessments with an overall rating) for each module in each study period. Failure to achieve satisfactory course progress over two consecutive study periods will result in the student being reported to DIBP.

15. At the end of each term, the Dean, or a staff member appointed by him, will review the academic progress of all learners and identify those learners who are at risk of failing to achieve satisfactory course progress in the study period, and those who are at risk of not completing the course within the expected duration. A record of each review shall be retained.
16. Implementation of an intervention strategy by the College will be triggered by learners being identified at risk of failing to achieve satisfactory course progress in a single study period or at risk of not completing within expected duration.
17. Learners identified as being at risk will be advised verbally that they are required to attend a course counselling interview with the Dean, or a staff member appointed by him. A note will be recorded on the student's file.'
18. At the course counselling interview the following intervention strategies will be put in place:
 - Students will be reminded of the requirements to meet satisfactory course progress requirements, and that unsatisfactory course progress over two consecutive study periods could lead to the student being reported to DIBP.
 - A student study plan will be drawn up involving:
 - a) Scheduling of an intervention meeting with a delegated trainer/teacher. During the meeting a strategy to assist the student to make improvements and meet course requirements will be discussed and implemented. Strategies to assist the student may include: one to one lessons by the trainer/teacher, increased classroom presentation of study material by the student, additional work, and/or consistent attendance in classes.
 - b) A fortnightly academic involvement report from each relevant module trainer/teacher.
19. Copies of all relevant documents will be retained in the student's file.
20. At the end of each fortnight, the following will be reviewed by the delegated trainer/teacher:
 - a. Fortnightly academic involvement
 - b. Implementation of the study plan (and associated strategies)If there has not been satisfactory progress, further intervention meetings will be scheduled as necessary.
21. At the completion of each study period the Dean, or a staff member appointed by him, will review the overall academic course progress to date of all learners. This review of overall academic course progress will identify those learners that have not met satisfactory course progress requirements over two consecutive study periods.
22. The Dean, or a staff member appointed by him, shall inform the Executive Director as to those learners who were identified as failing to meet satisfactory course progress over two consecutive study periods.
23. The Executive Director will notify the student in writing of the intention to report the student to DIBP for not achieving satisfactory course progress. Given that the learners live on campus, the notification shall be personally handed to the student. Refer Sample Intention to Report Letter (Appendix N).
24. The student must be informed they have 20 working days to appeal the College's decision. The appeals process shall be conducted as per Standard 8 (please note the relevant section in relation to the internal complaints and appeals procedure). The learner may appeal on the following grounds:
 - Failure by the Rabbinical College to record or calculate the student's assessment outcomes accurately,
 - Compassionate and compelling circumstances, or

- Rabbinical College has not implemented the intervention strategy according to its procedure that had been made available to the learner.
25. If the student chooses not to access the complaints and appeals process within the 20 working day period, or if the appeal is not upheld, or if the student withdraws from the appeal process, then the College (the Executive Director) must report the student to DIBP within 31 days.
 26. The College must allow the student the full 20 working days to access the complaints and appeals process if they choose to do so. Consequently, the College will not begin counting the 20 days from the date of the notice or decision to report the student, unless it can demonstrate delivery the same day as the date on the letter/notice.
 27. Any variation to a student's course will be reported to PRISMS. Refer to Appendix N - Student Course Variation (SCV) Report Options – Quick Reference Guide (from PRISMS).

Extension of Course Duration

Extensions to course duration are highly unlikely and, to date, have never been requested by overseas students or required as a result of poor academic progress. However the following applies.

28. The course duration is identified as 104 weeks (including vacation periods). Learners are issued with a CoE to cover this period.
29. Extension to expected course duration may be granted in the following circumstances:
 - Compassionate and compelling circumstances.
 - Where a deferment or suspension of study has been granted, which in turn affects the course duration (refer to deferment and suspension procedure)
 - Where an intervention strategy has been implemented for those students who have been identified at risk of not achieving course progress and may not complete within the expected duration.
30. Compassionate and compelling circumstances will generally involve issues outside a student's control e.g. illness and inability to attend classes, death of a family member, or if a suspension has been granted. Requests based on medical grounds must be accompanied by evidence of a doctor's certificate.
31. Each request for an extension of course duration based on compassionate and compelling circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis by the Dean.
32. Copies of all relevant documents will be retained in the student's file.
33. Due to the design of the course, there will be no reduction in student workload.
34. The Dean will inform the Executive Director for actioning on PRISMS, if required.
35. Any variation to a student's course duration will be reported to PRISMS. Refer to Appendix N - Student Course Variation (SCV) Report Options – Quick Reference Guide (from PRISMS).