



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
SECULAR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

## IISHJ STUDENT HANDBOOK NORTH AMERICA

### WELCOME

Welcome to the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism. You are entering the Rabbinic Program, Master's Program, Leadership Program or the Officiant Program. This handbook will answer most administrative questions related to your program and guide you to the correct staff member if you still have more. We are here to guide and support you on your educational journey.

Much of the information in this handbook is linked to the IISHJ website, [www.iishj.org](http://www.iishj.org).

*Some links to files are in Microsoft OneDrive. If you do not have a OneDrive account, you will only be able to view or read files in the relevant Office Online. You will not be able to open files in a corresponding desktop version of the Office program. We recommend you [sign up for a free OneDrive account](#).*

### INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SECULAR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ) was established in 1986 to fulfill the need for trained Secular Humanistic Jewish leaders. It is sponsored jointly by the Society for Humanistic Judaism and the Cultural and Secular Jewish Organization. It began offering its Leadership Program in 1986 and its Rabbinic Program in 1992. Its first rabbinic ordination took place in 1999; subsequent ordinations have happened biennially as students complete their programs. The IISHJ began its Officiant Program in 2018. Its Colloquium program began in 1997, drawing together scholars and activists to explore the pressing issues of the secular Jewish world. The founding dean of IISHJ was Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine. Its current Dean is Rabbi Adam Chalom, Ph. D.

[Tmura-IISHJ](#), the Israeli sister organization to IISHJ in North America, began in 2004 and held its first ordination in Jerusalem in 2006; they have likewise continued biennially. Tmura-IISHJ has also sponsored a rabbinic association for its graduates and has recently initiated Secular Humanistic Jewish communities in several locations in Israel. The founding dean of Tmura-IISHJ was Professor Yaakov Malkin, z"l. Its current Dean is Rabbi Sivan Malkin Maas.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Institute promotes Jewish and Humanistic scholarship by educating those of any religious or philosophical outlook and by training people to become Officiants, Leaders and Rabbis according to the philosophy of Secular Humanistic Judaism.

## ADMISSIONS

[All admissions information can be found on the IISHJ website](#)

## STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

[Current IISHJ staff and administration information on the IISHJ website](#)

[Contact information for IISHJ offices on the IISHJ website](#)

## STUDENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- [Declaration of Students Rights and Responsibilities including Grievance Procedure](#)
- [Sexual Harassment Policy](#)
- [Ethical Guidelines for Officiants](#)
- [Ethical Guidelines for Leaders](#)
- [Ethical Guidelines for Rabbis](#)

### Collegiality for Rabbinic Students

Students admitted into the IISHJ Rabbinic program are invited to become members of the [Association of Humanistic Rabbis as students](#). Students are also invited to join the [AHR Facebook Discussion Group](#).

IISHJ Rabbinic students have participated in the interdenominational rabbinic student retreat [Rabbis Without Borders](#), sponsored by Hazon.

## LEARNING AT THE INSTITUTE

[IISHJ locations in Farmington Hills, MI and Lincolnshire, IL](#)

### Programs and Seminars

- [Master's Degree](#)
- [Rabbinic Program](#)
- [Leadership Program](#)
- [Officiant Program](#)
- [Continuing Jewish Education](#)
- [Seminar Descriptions](#)

### Field Work

- [Officiant Program Field Work](#)
- [Leadership Program Field Work](#)
- [Leadership Program Documentation Template](#)
- [Rabbinic Program Internship](#)

- [Rabbinic Program Internship Documentation Template](#)

## **ACADEMIC PROCEDURES AND POLICIES**

### **Academic Policies**

Attendance  
Registration  
Completion of Requirements  
Leave  
Withdrawal from Program  
Readmission to Program

### **Guidelines for Writing Papers**

Formatting Papers  
Citing Sources  
Plagiarism

### **Course Evaluation**

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **Cost of Programs**

### **Scholarships and Financial Aid**

- [IISHJ Financial Aid Policy](#)
- [IISHJ Rabbinic and Master's Program Work Study Fellowships](#)
- [LCSHJ Leadership Program Scholarship](#)
- [Financial Aid Application](#)

## **GRADUATION AND ORDINATION**

### **Graduation Requirements for Officiant Program**

### **Graduation Requirements for Leadership Program**

### **Ordination Requirements for Rabbinic Program**

## **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION/ORDINATION**

### **Leadership and Officiant Program**

The certification/ordination process is managed by the Certification Committee of the IISHJ. There is a continuing education requirement to maintain certification. Continued membership in a Secular Humanistic Jewish movement communal organization, either the CSJO or the SHJ, is also required to maintain certification/ordination.

### **Rabbinic Program**

An ordination certificate is provided by the IISHJ and signed by rabbis of the movement and faculty of the IISHJ. Graduates of the Rabbinic Program are contacted by the Association of Humanistic Rabbis (AHR) and invited to become full members of the organization. Continued membership in a communal movement organization, either the CSJO or the SHJ, is required for AHR membership.

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### [Leadership Conference of Secular and Humanistic Jews](#)

At one time the professional organization for Leaders was the Leadership Conference of Secular and Humanistic Jews. There is currently no active professional organization for Officiants or Leaders.

### [Association of Humanistic Rabbis](#)

The Association of Humanistic Rabbis (AHR) invites Rabbinic students to join the AHR as students when they are admitted into the IISHJ Rabbinic Program. Upon ordination, the newly ordained rabbi is invited to join the AHR as a full member.