

OTZMA

In order to be a part of the OTZMA or OTZMA Israel Teaching Corps program one must complete an application and participate in both a committee and psycho-social interview. Applicants may also be contacted beforehand by our New York Staff for an initial conversation.

The Application Checklist

Applicants are required to submit the following:

- A non-refundable application fee:** Check should be made out to United Jewish Communities. For early decision candidates applying by January 4, 2010: \$125. For candidates applying after January 4, 2010: \$175
- 2 passport photos:** These photos should be taken at a photo store or pharmacy. No personal or home photos accepted.
- Online Application:** This can be found on our OTZMA homepage as Step #2. Click the link and you will be directed to fill out the online portion of our application.
- Personal Statement:** These questions can be found at the end of the online application. Your statement should be a maximum of 2-pages double spaced and can be emailed directly to otzma@ujc.org with subject heading OTZMA Personal Statement.
- Resume:** Applicants are required to submit a resume via email to otzma@ujc.org with subject heading OTZMA Resume. Resumes should not exceed 2 pages in length. Resume should include: employment and volunteer history, formal and informal teaching experience, extracurricular activities and interests, including any hobbies.
- Two References:** Applicants must get two online references. The form can be found on our OTZMA homepage under Step #3 as #1. References cannot be filled out by family or friends. References are online submissions. All references must go online.
- Adoptive Family Form:** Applicants must fill out an online Adoptive Family Form which can be found on our OTZMA homepage as Step #4.
- Psycho-Social Waiver:** Applicants must read and sign the psycho-social waiver indicating their waiver of confidentiality concerning the psycho-social interview. Psycho-social waivers can be faxed immediately to 212.271.7994.
- Medical Form:** OTZMA requires that all applicants have a complete physical examination as part of the application process. Only information from physical exams conducted during this academic year (beginning September 2009) will be acceptable. Applicants should complete the Personal Health History (pages 1-3 in the Medical form) prior to the physical examination. These 3 pages can then be faxed immediately to 212.271.7994. Applicants must then go to their physician for completion of the Physical Examination Form. The physical exam must be conducted by a licensed physician who is not related to the applicant. The applicant is responsible for returning the full medical form to OTZMA so all appointments must be made to coincide with application deadlines.

Application Submission

After filling out the OTZMA Fellowship Application, applicants should send in all the supporting materials.

PLEASE NOTE: Applications will not be considered unless they are complete!!

Send complete application packet and fee to:
OTZMA, United Jewish Communities
25 Broadway, Suite 1700
New York, NY 10004-1010

Interview Notification

In order to be considered for acceptance into the OTZMA Program, each candidate is required to participate in a committee interview and psycho-social evaluation conducted by volunteers and professional leaders within the local Jewish community. The selection committee will review all applications and contact applicants directly to set up an interview. (Every participant on OTZMA is selected by the OTZMA North American office in partnership with the local Jewish Federation. If an applicant does not have a sponsoring Jewish Federation, the North American OTZMA office will attempt to locate one. Please be aware that this might add additional time to the application process.)

Application Deadlines

It is policy of OTZMA to make our application process as accessible as possible to the most talented and promising young Jewish adults. As such, we have adopted an admissions policy that is tailored to the dynamic nature of the academic year. We have instituted an early application deadline of Monday, January 4, 2010 and final deadline of Thursday, April 15, 2010. Candidates submitting their applications should receive notification of their interview status by phone in the following weeks. Interview schedules vary depending on sponsoring federations. Applications submitted after April 15th will be reviewed according to space availability.

Final Notification

After completion of 2 local interviews, applicants will be notified of their status approximately two weeks after the interviews. All offers must be accepted or declined within two weeks of notification.

Financial Awards

The OTZMA is highly subsidized by local Jewish federations, UJC and the Jewish Agency for Israel. The cost of the program per participant — including housing, health insurance and activities throughout the year — is \$13,000. Local federations can support their local candidates with a \$3,000 sponsorship which brings the cost of the participant down to \$10,000. Substantial scholarship beyond the Federation subsidy is available. For more information on this, please contact our office or check out a list of additional organizations that have supported OTZMA in the past on our website at <http://otzma.org/page.aspx?ID=157816>.