



Enhancing Jewish Studies at Northeastern

At Northeastern, we provide opportunities for meaningful and varied engagement in Jewish Studies. Our students, faculty, and staff benefit from a diversity of voices, perspectives, and ideas, as we strive to represent the fullness of the global Jewish historical experience.

The serious study of Judaism and Jewish experience incentivizes the best prospective students to choose Northeastern. Ensuring that our Jewish Studies Program remains robust results in elevated academics and young people who are prepared to confront complexity, find common ground, and tackle the most pressing problems of our time.

Making an Impact through Jewish Studies

Gaining knowledge and insight into varied cultures is integral to becoming an educated citizen of the world. Enhancing and expanding the Jewish Studies Program at Northeastern will give students, faculty, and staff a richer understanding of Jewish contributions to global culture. The following funding opportunities will enable us to reach our objectives:

Academic Opportunities

- **Expanding the Jewish Studies Minor**
Jewish Studies courses at Northeastern explore Judaism as a religion, Jewish texts and interpretations, the Jewish historical experience including the Holocaust, and diverse aspects of the modern State of Israel. An expanded Jewish Studies minor will offer a more robust curriculum, allowing students to integrate their work in Jewish Studies into their major field.
- **Enhancing the Israel Studies Program**
The Israel Studies Program seeks a full-time professor of Israel Studies. A regular faculty position in Israel Studies, with a focus on political science and international affairs, will enable students to have a fuller, more balanced

“In the Jewish Studies Program, we have tried to shed light on knots of confounding complexity. We have brought guests to campus who have helped us laugh even as they opened our hearts to the tragedy of the comedy. And we have tried to illuminate the values of democracy. Each initiative of the Jewish Studies program represents the efforts of our team to encounter hard realities with knowledge and wisdom.”

—Lori Lefkovitz, Ruderman Professor of Jewish Studies and Director, Jewish Studies Program

perspective on the Middle East. We seek philanthropy to fund an endowment or support a teaching professorship and enhanced Israel Studies programs.

- **Fostering Scholarship Support for Jewish Studies Students**

To continue to attract the most promising students, the Jewish Studies Program is prioritizing scholarships for students who minor in Jewish Studies. These funding opportunities reward the best students who focus on learning about the Jewish historical experience and Jewish religion and culture.

- **Supporting a Jewish Studies Writer or Artist-in-Residence**

Working with multiple academic departments, this artist or writer will interact with Jewish Studies students, exposing them to artistic and academic excellence. This faculty member-in-residence, who may sit at the Boston or New York City campuses, will run workshops, give public presentations, and collaborate with others within the Jewish Studies Program to reach a broad spectrum of the student population at Northeastern.

Jewish Studies Program 2025 Achievements

- Hosted the Morton E. Ruderman Memorial Lecturer, **the Honorable Rosalie Silberman Abella**, one of Canada's most prominent jurists and legal scholars and **the first Jewish woman and first refugee to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada.**
- Co-sponsored an event for participants in **50:50 Startups**, an entrepreneurship program that **fosters equal partnerships between Jewish and Arab business entrepreneurs.**
- Advanced the **Jewish Migration Project**, which is building a crowdsourced archive of Jewish migration online.
- Hosted the **award-winning comedian Alex Edelman** for a humorous conversation with **Dr. Charles Steinberg, president of the Worcester Red Sox**, about Edelman's roller coaster career going from Brookline to Broadway.
- Welcomed the prominent **screenwriter, novelist, and essayist Sayed Kashua**, who **gave a lecture about his experiences as a Palestinian writer** in Hebrew literature, journalism, and popular culture, and the challenges of telling a Palestinian story to Israeli readers.
- Led a Dialogue of Civilizations experiential learning trip abroad titled **"Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Medieval Spain and Morocco: History, Literature, and Memory."**

Experiential Opportunities

- **Increasing Co-op Offerings with a Jewish Focus**

Formalized funding for an unpaid or underpaid cooperative education assignment at a nonprofit will enable a Jewish Studies major or minor the opportunity to work and learn, while receiving a stipend that the organization could not otherwise afford. Possibilities include supporting a co-op for a Jewish-focused healthcare organization, social justice promoter, museum, think tank, or other nonprofit.

- **Supporting Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Week**

Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Week distinguishes Northeastern University through a full week of programs that include lectures by renowned scholars, performances, discussions, film screenings, and more. Funding will ensure the continued excellence of this signature Northeastern program.

- **Growing the Dialogue of Civilizations Program**

Northeastern University's Dialogue of Civilizations program brings students from all corners of the university to global destinations for immersive learning experiences led by Northeastern faculty. Beyond current programs to Israel, Spain, and Morocco, support to create new Dialogue of Civilizations programs will enable students to learn about the full global Jewish experience, including in Latin American countries such as Argentina and Chile.

- **Growing Partnerships**

The expansion of Jewish Studies, co-op, and other experiences at Northeastern will be enhanced through partnerships with compatible institutions in the U.S. and abroad. Northeastern's D'Amore-McKim School of Business can explore a joint venture with an Israeli business school, just as the Northeastern College of Engineering collaborates with Israel-based Technion. These relationships may include hosting visiting Israeli entrepreneurs, professors, retired faculty, and postdoctoral students.

Your Support and Partnership

Expanding and enhancing the Jewish Studies Program, its events, and its experiential opportunities at Northeastern will help students widen their perspectives and develop their skills in critical thinking. We greatly appreciate your support in enabling access, growth, and innovation in the field of Jewish Studies at the university. Thank you for your consideration of these integral funding opportunities.