

1. What is CFIE?
2. Who is eligible for a scholarship?
3. When must my trip take place?
4. What if I'm not sure yet whether or not I'm going to go to Israel?
5. What if I'm not sure which gap year program I'm applying to?
6. What are the scholarship amounts?
7. When is the deadline?
8. How many steps are there to the application process?
9. I already filled out a FACTS application to **pay tuition** at my child(ren)'s school, do I have to fill one out again?
10. I have already completed a FACTS Scholarship Application for the current school do I need to do anything?
11. There is a section in the FACTS application that asks me to enter student name, school name, tuition amount and the out-of-pocket tuition I pay, do I need to enter this for all of my children?
12. FACTS is for K-12 grades, I am applying for a gap year program, what should I do?
13. FACTS is for K-12 grades, I am applying for a gap year program, what should I put down for tuition I'm paying?
14. FACTS is asking me to submit my 2018 tax returns and they have not been completed yet, what should I do?

1. CFIE, Community Fund for Israel Experiences, is a needs-based program for families seeking financial assistance for their child to travel to Israel. Although anyone can submit an application, it is important that your application reflects financial need.

2. Any Jewish teen in grades 9-12, or first year post high school, living in Baltimore City or Baltimore County OR a student participating in a class trip of a Jewish school located in Baltimore City or County.

3. Student must plan to travel to Israel on an educationally validated program (no family trips) that begins during the 2019 calendar year.

4. Fill out an application, even if you are only considering a trip. **We do not consider applications past the deadline.**

5. Apply anyway! Answer the question "I have Applied to the Following Israel Experience" with your first choice program. Should you be awarded a scholarship you will be required to submit the Federal Employer ID# for the school, the correct mailing address and a copy of the letter of acceptance. If your program choice has changed since you submitted your application, you can let us know then.

6. Up to \$1,000 for class trips, single semester or summer programs; Up to \$2,000 for gap year programs. A scholarship cannot cover more than one third of the cost of the trip. In the event that only a portion of the trip will take place in Israel, CFIE funding will cover up to one third of the cost of the portion of the trip that will take place in Israel. Students have a lifetime cap of \$2,500.

7. The deadline for completed applications for class trip and January semester programs is **November 15, 2018**; Deadline for completed applications for gap year, summer and all other programs is **April 1, 2019**.

8. There are 3 elements – an applicant Financial Summary report which is produced upon completion of a FACTS Scholarship application (I have questions about this process (a)); a CFIE 2019/20 application (I have questions about this process(b)); a letter of recommendation (c).

(a)The application can be found at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. In order for FACTS to verify your application you will be required to submit to FACTS your tax returns and any other financial documentation that FACTS requires in order to process your application. Please check your inbox regularly to make sure FACTS has everything they need to process your application.

(b)This can be found at <https://www.cjebaltimore.org/CFIE>. The application is an online fillable form. You have the option of beginning to fill out the application and saving it for completion at a later date. When you click on "Save my progress and resume later" you will receive an email with a link that will take you back to the form you have begun. Please make sure to check your SPAM filter and make sure that you enable delivery of mail from "Machform."

(c) An appropriate source would be anybody who can attest to your need for financial assistance. In the event that you do not share that information with anyone, then a rabbi, principal, teacher or community professional may write a character letter for your child. Please ensure that it is submitted by the deadline. **The ideal letter is one that addresses both your family's financial reality as well as the character of your child.** You may download the form for the recommendation letter at

<https://www.cjebaltimore.org/CFIE> and hand it to your reference for completion or you may give this link <http://forms.cjebaltimore.org/view.php?id=77590> to the person writing your letter and s/he may complete the letter as an online fillable form. **The letter must be typewritten and must reach us before the deadline.**

9. **Yes** - if you filled out a FACTS **tuition** application – **it is not the same thing as the FACTS Scholarship Application that we require.** There are very few schools in the Baltimore area that require a FACTS Scholarship application. Unless your child(ren) attend(s) Beth Tfiloh or Krieger Schechter, or another local independent school that requires a **verified FACTS Scholarship Application**, and you have applied to those schools for a scholarship, you have not completed the application we require.

10. Yes. If you have already completed a FACTS application for the current school year call FACTS at 866-315-9262 and ask them to add “Center for Jewish Education”, to your completed application. You must also make sure to go to the student section and add Center for Jewish Education to the student for whom you’re applying. Please make sure that when completing the CFIE application you enter the date that you called FACTS to add CJE to your application.

11. Yes. It is vitally important for you to include this information. If your tax return indicates that you have 5 dependents and the scholarship committee sees tuition listed for only one child they will question the accuracy of the entire application. Therefore it is essential that you list all the tuitions you are paying out-of-pocket (other than college) whether those schools require a FACTS application or not. Failure to include this information will result in FACTS determining you have greater resources than you really have and may result in your not receiving a scholarship.

13. The grade should be the applicant’s current grade and the school name should be the Center for Jewish Education. If you are paying tuition for other children, and you are applying for a gap year program scholarship, the grade(s) listed for your other children should be the grade they will be in next year. If you are applying for a class trip, semester or summer program the grade(s) listed for your other children should be the current grade just like the applicant.

14. The tuition for the child applying should be the **out-of-pocket** cost to you for the Israel program. If you are paying tuition for other children, the tuition should be the **out-of-pocket** tuition you will actually be paying for each of them next year. If you are applying for a class trip, semester or summer program the tuition(s) for your other children should be the **out-of-pocket** amount you are paying for the current school year.

15. You may submit your 2017 tax returns if you will not have your 2018 tax returns available by the deadline.