

# THE MONTEFIORE SEMICHA PROGRAMME

**Training a new generation of rabbis  
for the Anglo-Jewish community**



A part-time course designed for future community rabbis, teachers and lay leaders to be followed in parallel with a career or other studies. No fees are charged and a variety of bursaries are available to compensate for loss of earnings and other needs.



[www.montefioreendowment.org.uk](http://www.montefioreendowment.org.uk)

JUDITH LADY  
MONTEFIORE COLLEGE

# The Semicha

Students will be prepared for the award of Semicha Yoreh Yoreh on graduation. The Semicha will be issued jointly by the Montefiore College and by Eretz Hemdah Institute of Advanced Jewish Studies, Jerusalem; and it is expected that the diploma will be signed by the distinguished rabbis, whose names are listed on the right in alphabetical order.

The London Montefiore Semicha Yoreh Yoreh is recognised as qualification for membership of the Rabbinical Council of America.

The Montefiore Endowment aims to create rabbinical leaders who present Judaism pleasantly and without aggression, approaching Halachic decision making with depth of knowledge, whilst adopting a traditional view which stresses the middle way and avoids extremes. It stresses the virtue of inclusivity as well as the value of the world around us – and not merely tolerance of it for the purpose of earning a living. The Endowment believes in the desirability of a broad general education, preferably from university, combined with an uncompromising standard of Halacha and loyalty to Torah values.

- **Dayan Ezra Basri**  
LATELY AB BETH DIN, JERUSALEM
- **Rabbi Yosef Carmel**  
ERETZ HEMDAH, JERUSALEM
- **Rabbi Zalman Nechemiyah Goldberg**  
JERUSALEM
- **Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy OBE**  
EMERITUS SPIRITUAL HEAD OF THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE JEWS' CONGREGATION, LONDON
- **Rabbi Nahum Rabinovitz**  
ROSH YESHIVAH YESHIVAT MAALE ADUMIM, AND ERETZ HEMDAH, JERUSALEM
- **Emeritus Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks Ph.D.**



Students, Ashkenazi and Sephardi, are selected for their solid Jewish learning and also for their secular education – on the principle that study at university level is an enrichment to Torah learning and to effectiveness in Torah leadership. Only candidates who have reached a high standard in Yeshivah and have a broad general education are accepted. They must be committed to the concept of Torah in the everyday world - not in an ivory tower.

The Course's academic year comprises 36 weeks, divided into three terms.

Students are required to attend on average between 7 to 10 hours a week and to devote a roughly equivalent time to preparation and private study. Taught sessions, for which attendance is compulsory, currently take place between 6.30 pm and 10 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays, plus from 9 am to 2.30 pm on one Sunday a month. Sessions may also take place on up to 2 public holidays a year. Shabbatons, for which accommodation is arranged, are held as appropriate; and during the course students will probably spend a week or longer studying in Jerusalem.

The course is planned to last for just under **4 years plus one or two terms**, depending on progress, for those with good preliminary knowledge.



Rav Kook greets semicha students in Israel



Semicha students visit Rav Eliashiv during study-course in Jerusalem



Chairman of Montefiore Endowment, Lucien Gubbay, at Conference of Sephardi Rabbis



Sir Moses Montefiore Bart., 1881

# The Teachers



**Rabbi Asaf Mittelman LL.B**

Rabbi Asaf Mittelman is the principal lecturer in Yoreh Deah. After spending six years in yeshiva in Israel, Asi served as a paratrooper in the IDF before coming to England. He graduated with distinction from the Montefiore Semicha Course in 2012 and subsequently helped the late Dayan Amor z"l to teach the Course.



**Rabbi Harvey Belovski**

Rabbi Belovski, Rabbi of the Golders Green Synagogue, also holds a variety of leading positions in the Community. He read mathematics at Oxford and subsequently studied at the Gateshead Yeshivah, where he gained Semicha, and then at the Beis HaTalmud Kollel. He later completed a PhD at the University of London, where he researched Chassidic hermeneutics. Rabbi Belovski lectures on Tefillah and Practical Rabbinics.



**Rabbi Daniel Roselaar**

Rabbi Daniel Roselaar, the Rabbi of Alei Zion, has a strong background in learning, with a London University MA in Jewish Education. He studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion and is a talmid of both Rav Yehudah Amital z"l and Rav Aharon Lichtenstein. He received the semicha both from the Israeli Chief Rabbinate and from Rav Z N Goldberg. Rabbi Roselaar lectures on Hilchot Shabbat and Niddah.

The teaching of Yore Deah for Semicha is reinforced by the active participation of Eretz Hemdah, Institute of Advanced Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, under the personal direction of Rabbi Yosef Carmel and currently being delivered by Rabbi Ofer Livnat. Eretz Hemdah also delivers the Montefiore Dayanut Course.



**Rabbi Yosef Carmel**

Rabbi Yosef Carmel is the Rabbinical Dean of the Eretz Hemdah, Institute for advanced Jewish studies in Jerusalem, as well as the Av Beit Din of the Beit Din, "Eretz Hemdah – Gazit". He was a combat soldier in the IDF during the Yom Kippur war as well as the first Lebanon war. He is the author of *Tsofenat Eliyahu*, of *Tzofnat Yeshayahu* and of eight volumes of "Reponsa B'mareh Habazak".



**Rabbi Ofer Livnat**

Rabbi Ofer Livnat from Eretz Hemdah delivers a lesson pack and an interactive shiur by video-link every week to the Montefiore Semicha Programme to supplement the teaching of the Montefiore College's rabbis; and he also delivers a similar programme to the Montefiore Dayanut Course. Rabbi Livnat spends three consecutive days a month at the Montefiore College in London for more intensive teaching to both courses.

Rabbi Ofer Livnat received his Yadin Yadin ordination from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. He is currently a staff member of Eretz Hemdah, where he teaches a number of programs for training rabbis and dayanim.

## Other Course Teachers

THESE INCLUDE:

Dr Adrienne Baker  
Rabbi Jeff Berger  
Rabbi Mark Daniels M.A.  
Rabbi Israel Elia B.A.  
Lucien Gubbay M.A.(Oxon.)  
Rabbi Dr. Irving Jacobs  
Marilyn Lehrer M.A.(Oxon.), LLAM  
Rabbi Reuven Livingstone  
Rabbi Amrom Nemeth  
Prof. Stefan Reif

## Occasional Lecturers of Particular Distinction

THESE INCLUDE:

Dayan Ezra Basri  
FORMER AB BETH DIN, JERUSALEM  
  
Rabbi Dr. Abraham Levy OBE  
HON. PRINCIPAL OF THE JUDITH LADY  
MONTEFIORE COLLEGE AND EMERITUS  
SPIRITUAL HEAD OF THE SPANISH AND  
PORTUGUESE JEWS' CONGREGATION  
  
Rabbi Joseph Dweck  
SENIOR RABBI OF THE S&P  
SEPHARDI COMMUNITY  
  
Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis  
  
Emeritus Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks

During the Course, students are also exposed to a variety of visiting lecturers for short periods, both rabbinic and academic, as well as to lay leaders with prominent positions in the community

# The Curriculum

Study of Halacha is the core of the course. Its teaching of Yoreh Deah is intended not only to give students knowledge of Melicha, Basar Bechalab and Ta'aruvot, but also to transmit the essential skills needed to approach the Rishonim and the Shulchan Aruch. For Shabbat, Niddah and other areas of practical Halacha, learning is also very much text based; but greater focus is given to what rabbis need to know in order to advise on the more common Shailot that will come up in the course of their careers.

In addition to traditional Halachic learning, an increasing attempt will be made to provide guidance on the wide spectrum of issues arising as the result of the huge technological changes experienced in modern times. To address this challenge, the curriculum incorporates a section on contemporary Halachic topics such as fertility, end of life, Shabbat in automated surroundings, business in the modern marketplace, e-commerce and crossing time zones.

It will also aim to provide the tools necessary for approaching the further questions that will arise in future.

## Details of Semicha Curriculum

### Halacha

- Bishul Akkum and Chalav Akkum
- Melicha & Dam
- Basar Behalab
- Ta'aruvot
- Niddah
- Shabbat Umoadium
- Contemporary halachic shailot
- Avelut
- Kiddushin and Edut
- Contemporary Issues

### Tanach

- Ethics of Leadership:  
*Isaiah, Jeremiah & Ezekiel*
- Sefer Tehillim
- Yonah

### Chagim

- Insights

### Tefillah

- History and Analysis of Prayer

### Midrash

- Significance of Midrash

### General Topics

- Spiritual Coaching:  
*How to deal with Biblical Criticism, Torah and Science, Ethics.*

### Practical Rabbinitics

- Weddings and funerals
- Counselling:  
*Marriage, Bereavement*
- Public Speaking:  
*Theory, composition, practice*
- Voice Training
- Rabbinic Leadership

### History

- The rabbinical view of history
- The Babylonian Exile
- The coming of Islam
- The Mediterranean World
- Spain and the Conversos
- Northern Europe:  
the Church and the Crusades
- Poland and Lithuania
- The Ottoman Empire and  
the Alliance Israelite
- The European Enlightenment  
development of Torah
- The Anglo-Jewish Community.

### Relationships

- Emergence of Christianity  
and Islam
- Islamic fundamentalism today
- Relations between:  
Muslims, Christians & Jews  
and between Jews & Jews

# The Montefiore Endowment



The Montefiore Synagogue, Ramsgate



The Montefiore Mausoleum, Ramsgate

The Montefiore Endowment was established in 2007 as a charitable company limited by guarantee and governed by independent trustees. Among the aims set out in the governing instrument of the Charity are:

*The promotion of the advanced study of the Holy Law as revealed on Sinai and expounded by the revered Sages of the Mishna and the Talmud; and teaching the benefit of tolerance, mutual understanding, social harmony and integration in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Law as expounded by the revered sages of the Mishna and Talmud and as demonstrated in the life of Sir Moses Montefiore.*

In addition to owning and maintaining the Synagogue and Mausoleum at Ramsgate, together with extensive Montefiore collections of manuscripts, books, ritual silver and textiles deriving from them, the trustees emphasise the educational aspect of their work. This includes:

- **Running the Judith Lady Montefiore College** with its:
  - London Montefiore Semicha Programme
  - Montefiore Dayanut Programme
  - Gap-Year Scholarship Programme: based in Jerusalem at a yeshiva and a seminary for carefully selected school leavers with leadership potential
- **Supporting the Montefiore Kollel** at Sha'are Tefillah, Manchester
- **Supporting a variety of other organisations** with similar aims
- **Sponsoring M.Phil/Ph.D candidates** as well as research and publication in advanced Torah learning
- **Running lay-leadership programmes**

For further details see [www.montefioreendowment.org.uk](http://www.montefioreendowment.org.uk)



Letter from the Ger Rebbe to Sir Moses Montefiore 1845



A rare silver-gilt rimon, Montefiore Collections 1771



Letter to Sir Moses from a scribe asking for work



Objects from the collections



UK and Dutch participants at the Montefiore Dayanut Course opening, November 2016

# The Montefiore College

The Judith Lady Montefiore College was re-opened in London in 2005 as a centre for higher Torah education, with Rabbi Dr. Abraham Levy OBE as its Honorary Principal, and is registered with the Department for Education and Skills. It occupies premises on the Schaller House Campus at 44a Albert Road, London NW4 2SJ. For its first year, it concentrated on establishing a kollel and building up the necessary teaching staff but its scope and volume of activity has much developed since then.

In January 2006, the College opened its part-time Semicha Programme to train future rabbis for the Anglo-

Jewish community as a whole. A Further courses followed regularly every four years with some students joining between. Many of its students have graduated as rabbis and are now serving the Community in a variety of ways.

The College's teaching of Yore Deah is strengthened by the active participation of Eretz Hemdah Institute of Advanced Jewish Studies, Jerusalem. This is the only such structured course in the United Kingdom and, apart from a single institution in France, is the only one in Europe.



Graduates from leading UK universities at Montefiore Leadership Course, Jerusalem 2015



## The Honorary Principal Rabbi Dr. Abraham Levy O.B.E.

Emeritus Spiritual Head of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation London, is actively involved in the running of the College and its associated Kollel.

Rabbi Levy was born in Gibraltar and attended Carmel College. He took his B.A. degree at Jews' College and his doctorate at University College London. Ever an educational innovator, he founded the Young Jewish Leadership Institute which served as the model for many of the adult educational programmes current today, and then went on to create the flourishing Naima Jewish Preparatory School.



## The Chairman Lucien Gubbay

Chairman of trustees of the Montefiore Endowment, participates actively in the day-to-day administration of the College and in the planning of its courses.

Born in Argentina and educated in Manchester and at Balliol College, Oxford, Lucien Gubbay then served in the Royal Air Force in Germany. He is a former president of the Board of Elders of the Spanish & Portuguese Jews' Congregation and a trustee of LSJS (formerly Jews' College). A consulting engineer by profession, he has lectured and written extensively on religious history and related subjects, and is an Honorary Research Fellow of University College London.

Levantar Backing Cloth, early 18th century, from the Montefiore Collections.





## Eretz Hemdah

Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies, Jerusalem

Eretz Hemdah was founded in 1987 by Rav Moshe Ehrenreich and Rav Yosef Carmel under the presidency of HaGaon Maran Harav Shaul Israeli zt"l to fulfil a perceived need both in Israel and in the diaspora to train a new generation of leading Torah scholars, leaders with broad horizons who will work on uniting the nation through active rapprochement.

It runs an intensive and comprehensive seven-year programme to prepare students for certification as dayanim and rabbis of cities, and to serve as Ramim (lecturers) and deans on college level and graduate level yeshivot. Its certification as a dayan is officially recognized as a Ph.D. equivalent.

Eretz Hemdah's areas of activity include a Beit Midrash, spreading Torah, 'Eretz Hemdah Gazit' Rabbinical Court for Monetary Matters. For further details see [www.eretzhemdah.org](http://www.eretzhemdah.org)

Apply with brief CV to:  
[administrator@montefioreendowment.org.uk](mailto:administrator@montefioreendowment.org.uk)

**The Montefiore Endowment,  
44a Albert Road, London NW4 2SJ**

**For further details see website,  
[www.montefioreendowment.org.uk](http://www.montefioreendowment.org.uk)**



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