



Call for Research Proposals

Renaissance Research Program for Jewish Education in Europe at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Paideia

Practical Research for Stronger, More Inclusive Educational Systems

The Renaissance Research Program for Jewish Education in Europe invites proposals for practice-oriented research that can contribute to strengthening Jewish education across Europe.

Led by the [Melton Centre for Jewish Education](#) at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and [Paideia – The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden](#), with the [Department of Theology](#) at Uppsala University contributing as an academic partner, the program seeks to generate practical knowledge that can support educators, communities, and decision-makers in addressing contemporary challenges in Jewish education. The program is part of the Renaissance Hub, a network of foundations and educational institutions committed to strengthening Jewish education in Europe.

Research Focus: Educational Frameworks, Identity, Belonging, and Engagement

The current research cycle of the Renaissance Research Program will focus on the role and effectiveness of educational frameworks in fostering Jewish identity, belonging, and engagement in contemporary European Jewish communities.

Across Europe, Jewish learning takes place in a wide range of settings, including Jewish schools, supplementary educational programs, youth movements, camps, adult learning initiatives, community-based educational activities, and emerging digital environments. While these frameworks differ in structure, pedagogy, and target audiences, they often share a common aspiration: to strengthen participants' connection to Jewish life, learning, and community.

At a time when Jewish communities are becoming increasingly diverse and patterns of participation are changing, educators and community leaders face important questions regarding the impact of educational programs. Which educational frameworks are most

successful in creating a sense of Jewish belonging? How do different educational settings contribute to identity formation and long-term engagement? Which approaches are most effective in responding to the needs of contemporary European Jewish communities?

The Renaissance Research Program seeks proposals that contribute to a better understanding of these questions and generate practical knowledge that can support educational practice and decision-making.

Proposals may address topics such as:

- The contribution of formal and informal educational settings to Jewish identity formation;
- Educational pathways that foster long-term engagement in Jewish life;
- Curriculum design and educational content related to identity and belonging;
- Educational experiences of mixed families, Jews-by-choice, Israelis living in Europe, and multilingual communities;
- The relationship between educational frameworks and community participation;
- Approaches to evaluating educational effectiveness and impact;
- Comparative analysis of educational models across different European contexts.

Applicants are encouraged to formulate focused research questions and to outline how their proposed research can contribute to a broader understanding of effective educational practice in European Jewish communities.

The selected projects will form part of a broader comparative research initiative coordinated by the Renaissance Research Program. Together, they will contribute to a comprehensive report presenting findings and practical recommendations for educators, community leaders, funders, and decision-makers working in Jewish education across Europe.

Eligibility

Applicants should:

- Demonstrate experience in educational research, Jewish studies, social sciences, or related disciplines;
- Demonstrate familiarity with Jewish educational contexts and/or European Jewish communities.
- A doctoral degree in a relevant field is preferred. Applicants currently enrolled in a PhD program, or those who can demonstrate equivalent research qualifications and experience, are also encouraged to apply.

Successful applicants will each receive a fixed research stipend of 30,000 USD for participation in the research project during the 2026-2027 academic year and will be expected to participate in related academic events, workshops, and conferences organized by the Hebrew University, Paideia, and other academic partners. The research project will commence on 11.10.2026.

Application Process

Applicants are invited to submit:

- A curriculum vitae;
- A research proposal (1,000–1,500 words) outlining:
 - the proposed research question;
 - its relevance to the theme of educational frameworks, identity, belonging, and engagement;
 - the proposed methodology;
 - expected contribution to educational practice and decision-making;
 - timeline, including a comprehensive research report to be submitted no later than 30.07.2027
- One writing sample, publication, or research report.
- Contact information for two references.

Shortlisted candidates may be invited for an online interview.

Applications, including all required documents, should be submitted electronically as a single PDF file by August 20, 2026, to: lukasz.gorniok@paideia-eu.org.

For questions regarding the call, please contact: nadia.beider@mail.huji.ac.il.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The Seymour Fox School of Education
The Melton Centre for Jewish Education

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