



Ohel Chana אהל חנה

WERDIGER LEARNING INSTITUTE

Student Handbook

5786 - 2025/6



www.ohelchana.edu.au

under the auspices of Chabad Institutionis of Victoria Ltd



Hello there!

Welcome to OC! Ohel Chana Werdiger Learning Institute is a world renowned Chabad-Lubavitch tertiary-level learning institute. It caters specifically to the student who is committed to advanced Torah study and a Chassidische life-style. Students accepted into Ohel Chana should be prepared for a year of serious learning and personal growth. Ohel Chana students take an active role in the community, particularly with Beth Rivkah girls and their families, as leaders for the Bnos Chabad Programs and as individual role models. The program consists of a full learning day, combined with Shlichus responsibilities and opportunities. Our aim is to enable each and every one of our students to maximise her potential, and to have the most incredible, growth and inspiration filled experience possible!

Mrs Miri Loebenstein & Mrs Rivkah Groner



Our mission

Our seminary's mission is to empower you to become leaders in your communities and to foster a deep connection to Jewish heritage and values. Our program and curriculum emphasizes personal growth, community involvement, and spiritual development.

At Ohel Chana our goal is for you and your fellow students to have a wonderful and rewarding year. This year will comprise of a highly academic learning schedule in both Chassidus and Nigleh, coupled with a distinctively personal development program which integrates your seminary life into that of our vibrant and warm Melbourne community.

We are confident that this richly rewarding experience will help contribute to your personal goals for growth in Yiras Shamayim, Limud HaTorah and Chassidishkeit while assisting you in formulating the outlook and direction for your future.

When a student comes to Ohel Chana it is assumed that she is here of her own volition and has come for a year of serious learning and growth, creating an atmosphere of sincerity and diligence throughout the day within a warm and welcoming dorm environment.

Transitioning from the rigid structure and realities of regular schooling, our intention is to provide you with an entirely new and challenging yet exciting program, simultaneously affording you the tools and processes that will help you to develop both in your Yiddishkeit and personal goals.





Our history

Ohel Chana was established in 1971 at the direct initiative of the Lubavitcher Rebbe in the name of his mother, Rebbetzin Chana OBM. The Rebbe took a personal interest in the development of Ohel Chana and the progress of its students by enquiring regularly after their welfare and asking for regular reports. Since then, Ohel Chana has remained proudly dedicated to the continuation of the Chassidishe legacy of its founder.

The Ohel Chana Seminary program aims to position every one of its students to thrive and maximise her potential as a Bas Chabad, transitioning into the next generation of Chabad women. The goal is to develop strong, spiritually committed, and knowledgeable Jewish leaders who will positively impact their community while maintaining a deep connection to Hashem and the Rebbe.



Our program

In addition to maintaining a high academic standard, students must keep in mind the expectations of the Melbourne community. Central to the Melbourne Jewish Community are the dynamic Chabad Institutions which boast a flourishing Beth Rivkah School educating 700 students from pre-school to year 12. Ohel Chana students have a great influence on these girls both directly and indirectly as school students perceive an Ohel Chana student as a living example of a Chassidishe girl, and a Bas Chabad. It is therefore imperative that Ohel Chana students reflect the highest standards in attitude, conduct and dress.



Students accepted into Ohel Chana should be prepared for a year of serious learning. Students will experience personal growth and contribute to the creation of an atmosphere of sincerity and diligence. Ohel Chana students take an active role in the community, particularly with Beth Rivkah girls and their families, as leaders for the Bnos Chabad Programs and as individual role models. The relationships formed with the community are highly valued and continue long after our students have returned home.





Learning program

The Ohel Chana experience empowers its students with the tools and knowledge essential for a life deeply rooted in Torah and Chassidus. It nurtures their passion and equips them to become influential leaders in diverse roles and endeavors.

Our learning program is a rigorous program of advanced studies which aims to provide students with the tools and knowledge necessary to build their own positive Halachik and Chassidic identity. The program consists of a full daily schedule of classes Monday through Thursday, half-day Friday and evening classes on Sunday.

Students will receive a Diploma of Advanced Jewish Studies upon satisfactory completion of the program. Satisfactory completion comprises of an attendance rate of over 85% and a 75% and above average grade on assessments.

Ohel Chana transcripts are recognised locally and internationally for further study at institutions of higher education.

Informal programs

The informal program's primary objective is to nurture robust bonds within the student body while simultaneously deepening their connections to Hashem and the Rebbe. This is achieved through a variety of engaging activities, such as weekly workshops and farbrengens, dedicated initiatives to address focus areas, hands-on Shabbos preparation, including menu planning and programming, Shabbatons, Rosh Chodesh excursions, enriching summer trips, and festive celebrations of Yomei D'Pagra.





Shlichus program

CHABAD YOUTH

Chabad Youth is a vibrant community-based organisation committed to providing the highest quality range of religious, educational, social, recreational and cultural services and programs to all Jewish youth. Their aim is to cater to the vast needs and interests of primary, secondary and tertiary aged students and the wider Jewish Melbourne community. Chabad Youth is committed to instilling in youth a strong sense of identity, belonging and pride in their Jewish heritage.

Bnos Chabad is one section of Chabad youth which caters primarily for students in the Beth Rivkah. Ohel Chana students have a variety of responsibilities within Chabad Youth, such as:

OC students are madrichot/counsellors for the local Beth Rivkah girls' weekly Bnos Shabbos groups. This extends into the week as well with the OC students doing school visits twice a week at lunchtime.

Tzivos Hashem - OC students run weekly Tzivos Hashem meetings with the younger Beth Rivkah girls.

Through their work with Chabad Youth, Ohel Chana students are afforded the unique opportunity to exert a great positive influence on the Beth Rivkah students. It is important to be aware that whilst being a student in Ohel Chana you are looked upon to be a living example of a frum and chassidishe Bas Chabad.





In the community

HEBREW SCHOOL

There are opportunities for Ohel Chana students to work in local Chabad House Hebrew schools on Monday afternoons only. Your work in Hebrew school should not come at a cost to your classroom learning and Ohel Chana commitments. Prior to undertaking any shlichus work outside of Ohel Chana, permission must be obtained from Hanhala.

SUMMER

Part of the Ohel Chana experience includes preparing for and being a staff member in Camp Gan Yisroel Melbourne overnight camp. This is an incredible opportunity to connect and inspire the local children. As a reward for their investment, and to provide them with an opportunity to rest and rejuvenate, Ohel Chana students will be treated to a week-long trip to iconic Sydney. Upon their return to Melbourne, students will have a one week break. The dorm will remain open during this time, with supplies with which to prepare their own meals. They are welcome to explore Melbourne, or if they wish, they will be allowed to travel around Australia and New Zealand for up to 7 days. All travel plans must be pre-approved by the student's parents and the Hanhala.



Dorm life

Our dormitory is located in a majestic and heritage listed building in the heart of East St. Kilda – just around the corner from the main Yeshiva Shul and school complexes. It encompasses modern bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, dining facilities, a library, computer room, a student lounge and recreational areas.



Students of Ohel Chana have the privilege of high quality learning and exceptionally comfortable living amenities. The Ohel Chana Werdiger Learning Institute is housed in a magnificent period home which is protected by National Trust. The renovated dormitory now combines old world charm with the latest in modern amenities.

Our students enjoy the comforts of recently built bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, dining facilities, a library, computer room, lounge and recreational areas and beautifully landscaped gardens.

The \$7 million facility is one of Chabad's finest live-in Seminaries.

The cost of accommodation is included in your student fees.

We provide blankets and pillows.

There are washing and drying facilities on premises available for the students' use.





Life at Ohel Chana

Supporting our students and providing emotional and spiritual guidance throughout their time at Ohel Chana is a key component of our program. Individual student wellbeing is our primary consideration in the planning of staffing and weekly activities. To ensure student's needs are being met, there are many provisions for support, including:

- Regular individual meetings with Hanhala members to chart progress and strategies for growth
- Dorm supervisors who look after welfare and wellbeing
- Program director who organises and facilitates regular extra curriculum programs in the dormitory
- Dorm mother who oversees all aspects of dormitory life and assists with personal, medical and other needs
- Opportunities for interaction and friendships with many families and girls in our community
- Regular weekly Farbrengens to inspire growth and progress
- Life coach lessons
- Guest speakers with diverse professional backgrounds to inform and guide students in many life skill areas



Schedule

There are approximately 7 hours of classes each day Monday through Thursday, a half-day on Friday and evening classes on Sunday.

There are additional evening programs facilitated by the dorm counsellor and student volunteers as well as weekly Farbrengens and guest speakers.

Shabbatons, excursions and other designated activities are compulsory and part of the program.

You are expected to be punctual and prepared for all classes. Attendance is closely monitored and a 85% attendance record is required to receive credits at the end of the year, as well as a 75% average for all assessments.

MONDAY - THURSDAY

7:30 - 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30 - 9:10	Davening
9:10 - 10:00	Class 1
10:05 - 10:55	Class 2
10:55 - 11:15	Recess
11:15 - 12:05	Class 3
12:10 - 1:00	Class 4
1:00 - 2:00	Lunch
2:00 - 2:50	Class 5
2:50 - 3:00	Break
3:00 - 3:50	Class 6
3:50 - 4:00	Mincha
4:00 - 7:30	Break & dinner
7:30 - 8:30	Evening Program





Leadership team



Mrs Rivkah Groner
Director

Mrs Devorah Goldhirsch
Dorm mother



Rabbi Menachem
& Miri Lipskier
Shlichus Directors



Hanhala with heart

Mrs Miri Loebenstein
Principal



Mrs Rivky Gopin
Informal Programming

Mrs Hadassah Gestetner
Administrator



Trips



At Ohel Chana, in addition to our exceptional academic and community involvement programs, students enjoy the benefits of Shabbatons and Retreats in serenely beautiful country Victoria. They also have the opportunity to tour the stunning surrounds of Melbourne Australia. Catching a tram and exploring our city is a fun way to get to know it. Excursions are organized for our students to some of Australia's tourist highlights such as:

The magnificent Great Ocean Road is one of the most scenic and breathtakingly beautiful stretches of coastline in the world.

Visiting Phillip Island is a favourite trip along the southern coast of Australia. Among the highlights there is the parade of little penguins that come ashore at sunset.

On the Sydney trip, students embark on an unforgettable journey through this stunning Australian city, exploring world-famous landmarks like the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbour Bridge, and the historical Rocks area. They also immerse themselves in the captivating natural beauty of the region, from the golden sands of Bondi Beach to the lush Royal Botanic Garden. What makes this experience truly unique is the warm welcome and introduction to the vibrant Chabad community.







General information

OVERSEAS AND INTERSTATE STUDENTS

Out of town students sleep in the dorm at all times.

If for any reason, a need arises for a student to sleep out of the dorm, she must acquire permission from Hanhala prior to leaving the dormitory.

CURFEW

Nightly curfew is at 11:00 PM and all students must be in the dormitory at that time.

In the case of unforeseen circumstances, please contact Hanhala or the dorm counsellor. If a student is found to be out post curfew without prior permission or valid explanation, there will be significant consequences. Strict adherence to curfew is crucial for student safety and we ask you to please cooperate accordingly.

MEALS & ROSTERS

During the week meals are provided for the students each day. Students are responsible for leaving the kitchen and dining room in a neat and tidy state and maintaining general order in the building. There is a job roster, which rotates on a weekly basis. Students are responsible for having their daily job completed by 11:00pm each night.

SHABBOSIM & YOMIM TOVIM

Students will be hosted for Shabbos and Yom Tov meals at local families, however they are still required to sleep in the dormitory. When placed at a meal students **MUST** show up and be polite and helpful. Once a month there is an In - Shabbos where all students work together to prepare Shabbos meals and eat together in the dorm. Under certain circumstances, students may get special permission from Hanhala to sleep outside the dorm.



Policies

TRAVEL POLICY

The objective of coming to Australia for seminary, is to learn and grow through the classes and Shlichus work. Travelling to see this great country will happen as part of our program. Please be aware that we do not cover the entire country or even a fraction of it. Please do not plan individual trips during the school year. Private travel can take place during the break before and after Pesach as long as no classes are missed and parents take full responsibility. During the school year, students may only travel as part of the Ohel Chana program.

PESACH

Ohel Chana Seminary is closed over the month of Nissan. Students are encouraged to travel home or they may travel interstate, provided they return on time for the commencement of the next term. If students travel to locations other than home, their parents are responsible for their care during their time away. The dorm will remain open during the month of Nissan for students unable to travel. Students are rostered to eat yom tov meals at local homes. There will be an additional charge for students remaining in the dormitory over Pesach.

When traveling, it is required that any itinerary created is in line with the Hora'ah of the Rebbe so as not to cross the international dateline, in order to prevent interference with Sefira and Shavuot.

DRIVING

Overseas and interstate students are not allowed to drive a motor vehicle. Outside of seder, the local students may drive with their parent's permission. The students MUST follow VIC roads rules of only carrying one passenger while on their red P's. Cars should not be parked in the Ohel Chana carpark. The car park is for the use of Staff only.

INSURANCE

International students purchase health insurance during the visa application process. It is recommended that overseas students arrange basic personal travel insurance before leaving their home country. Student belongings are not covered by our insurance.



Policies

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS - VISITS HOME

It is our recommendation that your daughter's seminary experience at Ohel Chana should be viewed holistically as a complete years' experience spent in Melbourne. We believe that it can be counterproductive and disruptive when overseas students visit home during the year unless the reasons are compelling. As such, general visits home are not permitted.

Compelling reasons include the wedding of a sibling but must be discussed before any tickets booked and written permission from Hanhala is received.

Generally, two weeks including travel time is the maximum allowed. There are strict time frames given for specific, permitted travel.

COMPUTERS & SMART DEVICES

The dorm includes a well-equipped computer room where computers have limited internet access for email exchange and school/hafotzoh work. Students are not permitted to bring laptop computers or ipads to Ohel Chana. If, for some pressing reason, a student must bring a laptop or tablet, the device must be filtered (at the student's expense) and be kept in the office when not in use.

SMART PHONES

We understand that it is important for students to be able to communicate with their family and friends overseas. Most overseas phones can work with an Australian SIM Card, however the phone must be unlocked by your phone company prior to leaving the country. It is advisable to check with your local cell provider before your daughter leaves as carrier policies change often and some carrier's phones will not work with other SIM cards. Prepaid SIM cards can be easily purchased locally at 7/11 or the local supermarkets. Mobile phones are not allowed to be taken into the classroom under any circumstances. Students are required to place their phones into the designated holding space prior to all classes. If a phone is used in class it will be confiscated until the end of the day. All students' phones will be fitted with a filter. This filter will not allow streaming of movies and will limit the social media platforms students can access.



Conduct

TZNIUS

The way you dress must be in accordance with Chabad Halachic Tznius requirements. It must be befitting a student of Ohel Chana. We expect the laws of Tznius to be upheld at all times. There will be a grade for dress-code which may affect your transcripts.

- Necklines must be higher than the collarbone and not loose.
- Sleeves must cover the elbow including when bent and arm raised.
- Skirts and dresses must cover the knees at all times, even when sitting.
- Legs must be completely covered at all times. If footless tights are worn, they must be worn with CREW socks so that there is no gap.
- When leggings are not worn, students must wear knee socks even with long skirts.
- Shirts must be long enough to cover the top of the skirt (including when arms are raised).
- Slits in skirts for the purpose of enabling easier movement must begin at least 20cm / 8 inches below the knee.
- Tight fitting and sheer clothing are not allowed.
- Only one earring is allowed in each ear throughout the entire seminary year, including Shabbosim, days off, vacation week etc.
- Girls in nightwear may not leave their bedroom without an appropriate robe or dressing gown.

All laws of tznius apply downstairs in the dorm at all times.

If a girl is dressed inappropriately she will be asked to change immediately, hand in the item not in accordance with our standards, or pay to purchase an item to replace that which was worn (such as knee socks, a longer skirt, etc.) Pyjamas are not to be worn in class.



APPROPRIATE CONDUCT

Non-Jewish and other unsuitable books and magazines should not be brought. If they are found in the dormitory or other areas of the school, they will be confiscated and not returned. The dormitory rooms will be inspected periodically for tidiness.

While a student in Ohel Chana, there cannot be any contact with boys at all, even under the controlled auspices of a formal shidduch process. These are grounds for immediate dismissal. There are certain venues which may never be visited by an Ohel Chana student. This includes purchasing membership or visiting a mixed gym. There are female only gyms available if desired. A student may not go to a non-Jewish concert or festival. Ohel Chana students may never go to a bar or other such venue. Consumption of alcohol, smoking cigarettes or any other substance including vaping will not be tolerated whether on Ohel Chana premises or elsewhere. There will be a grade for behaviour which may affect your transcripts.

DISPUTE POLICY

In the unlikely event of an unresolved dispute, Ohel Chana will attempt to resolve all disputes via an internal process:

Students should raise any complaints and appeals they may have to a staff member. All complaints/appeals will be investigated and every complainant will receive a considered response either verbally or in writing.

Should the complaint not be resolved, the student should contact Rabbi Shlomo Barber to raise the complaint before the CIVL board for their consideration. Should the student feel that this complaint process has not been followed, the matter can be referred to an independent party for an assessment of procedural adherence.

A nominee of the student may be included if the student so chooses. A copy of the complaints/appeals procedure is available from the administration office.



Contact

Director: Mrs Rivkah Groner

Mobile: +61 438 613 660 Email: rivkah.groner@ohelchana.edu.au

Principal: Mrs. Miri Loebenstein

Mobile: +61 427 873 748 Email: miri.loebenstein@ohelchana.edu.au

Head of Informal Learning: Mrs Rivky Gopin

Email: rivky.gopin@ohelchana.edu.au

Eim Habayis: Mrs Devorah Leah Goldhirsch

Email: devorah.goldhirsch@ohelchana.edu.au

General Manager: Rabbi S Barber

Mobile: +61 422 455 565 Email: sbarber@civl.org.au

Administrator: Mrs Hadassah Gestetner

Email: ohelchana@ohelchana.edu.au

Dormitory:

6 Balaclava Rd, East St Kilda (residential address only)

Ph: +613 9452 4723 Ph2: +613 9452 4729

All correspondence and deliveries should be addressed to:

Student's Name c/o


Ohel Chana Seminary

6 Balaclava Rd East St Kilda Victoria 3183, AUSTRALIA

For further information and regular updates of student activities, please visit our website at www.ohelchana.edu.au



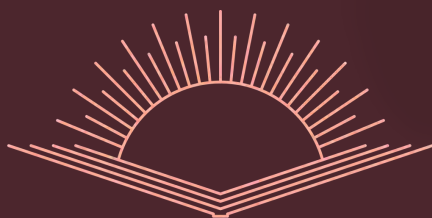




Upon accepting an offer to enroll in Ohel Chana Seminary, you are acknowledging that you have read, understood and that you accept all the rules and guidelines outlined in the preceding pages, as well as in the 'Student Agreement' document. The 'Student Agreement' will be signed upon arrival at Ohel Chana Seminary.

We look forward to seeing you soon!





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