

Fellowship Testimonials - 2021

“The institute has really helped me keep in touch with the pulse of the Jewish community. Often I want to learn more about Jewish politics and culture, but do not know where to start. I am not necessarily in agreement with everything that we discuss here at the institute, but it has broadened my understanding of what is going on, how people are talking about it, the Jewish perspective, and how to have healthy conversations about hard topics. It is also a nice way to meet new people!”

“I enjoyed having a group of students where we engaged in discussion about Israel - I feel like the topic is pretty taboo on the Berkeley campus, so it was nice to be able to actively explore the subject in a safe space while simultaneously being exposed to different political perspectives.”

“The Institute has had a large impact on my Cal experience. It has given me many connections with both alumni and the campus community. It has also provided me with resources to plan my own events and programs.”

“I really enjoyed the community of the fellowship and how connected I feel to the staff and other fellows. I think having tough, intellectual and political conversations with each other, where we sometimes disagree and push each other, has made me feel closer and even more comfortable with this group. I feel as though we can challenge each other while still having great respect and admiration for everyone in the group. The Institute has really had so much more of an impact on my Cal experience than I would have imagined and I'm really grateful for all that I have learned, the people I have met, and the skills the Institute has helped me build.”

“The Institute has completely changed my college experience. I came to Cal thinking that I might get involved in some Jewish social groups, but I never thought that I'd have the opportunity to be a part of a cohort focused on Jewish professional networking and programming. I feel closer to my faith, I feel 100x more educated on Israel and affiliated topics, and I feel so much more connected to other students who have similar professional interests as me.”

“The Institute has greatly enhanced my Cal experience, it gave me more of an opportunity to explore the topic Israel from an academic lens along with a community of others. Especially with an online year, it was wonderful to get continued support and encouragement from the Institute.”