

# Brooklyn College

The JLIC educators at Brooklyn College are Rabbi Reuven and Shira Boshnack.

## Demographics:

There are about 3,000 Jewish undergraduate students at Brooklyn College. Approximately 50% of the Jewish students are Orthodox and attend Shabbat services regularly. Most have not spent a year of study abroad in Israel prior to enrolling at Brooklyn College.

## Kosher Food:

While there are many kosher restaurants close to campus, Brooklyn College provides its own kosher food in a separate section of the cafeteria (Vaad of Flatbush, Dairy). Brooklyn Hillel hosts *Hillelicious*, a meat option open in the afternoons supervised by Rabbi Reuven Boshnack, the JLIC educator.

## Programming and Shiurim:

The Orthodox club at Brooklyn College runs numerous programs, including Shabbatonim, a spa day, a Lag B'omer barbecue and bonfire, a Shavuaton (Shavuot Shabbaton), and Simchaton (Simchas Torah Shabbaton.)

Some current Jewish learning opportunities include: two weekly women's Shiurim, weekly Mishmar and Parsha classes, a weekly Wednesday lecture series, Beit Midrash program, women's learning lab, Chavrutot with Rabbi and Shira Boshnack.

## Orthodox Community:

Brooklyn College is located in a Jewish hub with many kosher restaurants located within walking distance from campus, as well as many nearby Battei Midrash, Orthodox schools and Yeshivot and Orthodox synagogues. Indeed, Brooklyn is home to one of the largest Orthodox Jewish communities in the world.

Brooklyn College is a commuter campus and students typically live at home or in student apartments.

The Orthodox club at Brooklyn has a board which meets to organize events. There are five elected officials in the club, as well as volunteers who work on different projects. The Hillel board is predominantly Orthodox as well.

Most students at Brooklyn College live at home, and most are reasonably close to campus. Some travel via public transportation from various boroughs in New York, with a few from New Jersey or Far Rockaway, New York. Some students rent apartments in the Brooklyn area.

There are daily Mincha, and early Maariv (during the winter) Minyanim at Brooklyn College.

**Shabbat:**

There is no real Shabbat atmosphere at Brooklyn College because most students commute, but the JLIC educators have worked to create a Shabbat experience for students starting in the 2008-09 school year that includes bi-weekly Shabbat Onegs and a Shabbat Minyan for those in the area. In addition, the JLIC couple opens their home to students every Shabbat for meals and has invited guests such as Chaim Dovid to spend an uplifting Shabbat with Brooklyn students.

The Eruv in Brooklyn is a matter of dispute: some rabbis accept it, while others do not.

**Additional Resources:**

Brooklyn is one of the largest concentrations of Orthodox Jews in the world so there are many resources available to Jewish students at Brooklyn College. Many local families open their homes to students for Shabbat meals or other needs.

The Orthodox community at Brooklyn College was strengthened through the addition of a JLIC couple five years ago. The couple brought Orthodox students to Hillel and created a vibrant Orthodox life through programming and their presence on campus.

There is a Jewish Studies major and minor available at Brooklyn College.

“Rabbi Boshnack and Shira are great, their home is open to everyone. If you ever have a question or want to learn something or just want to talk, they always have time.”

-- Akiva Dym '10

“For a Rabbi, he makes really good sushi.”

--Ksenia Bundarianko '08