



KARAITES **J**EWISH **U**NIVERSITY

KARAITES JEWISH STUDIES

Course Information Booklet and Application Checklist

KARAITE JEWISH STUDIES

Course Information for Academic Year 2021/22

Karaite Jewish University (KJU), now a Swiss corporation, was originally a California non-for-profit founded in 2005 to provide a religious education in Karaite Judaism. Our Mission is to promote the Mikra' (Tanakh, Hebrew Scriptures), the views of the Karaite Sages to the Jewish World, and to encourage Karaite Jewish studies in all its formats. Our courses in Karaite Judaism are thus open to both Jew and Gentile who seek to gain the knowledge and wisdom of the most authentic Jewish experience available.

KJU is an independent organization that collaborates with a broad spectrum of Karaite Jewish institutions including Karaite Jews of America, Karaite Jews of Europe, and Universal Karaite Judaism. The Karaite Jewish Mo'eseh Hakhamim/Council of Sages based in Ramla, Israel, an institution recognized by the State of Israel as representing Karaite Jews, has authorized KJU to teach courses in Karaite Jewish Studies.

In December 2006, the Council of Sages met with representatives of the Karaite Jewish University and welcomed its activities in teaching students interested in learning to keep the commandments of the Holy One Blessed Be He. The chairman of the Council of Sages wrote the following about our activities:

'Recently, an organization called *Karaite Jewish University* was formed. Made up of several members who are zealous for the word of the Lord, the organization has made as its goal the teaching of the Karaite halakha; to keep, observe, and perform in practice, the keeping of the commandments. The activities of the Karaite Jewish University were presented to the Council of Sages, and meetings and discussions were held concerning their activities. We see the Karaite Jewish University as an entity that has the ability to teach the Karaite halakha to anyone interested.'

In July 2007, fourteen non-Jewish graduates of the KJU converted to Judaism at the Karaite Jewish synagogue [Benei Israel] in Daly City, California. The conversions were carried out under the auspices of the Karaite Jews of America and with the approval of the Council of Sages.

KJU's course in *Karaite Jewish Studies* is a distance-learning program that extends for the duration of an academic year. The course requires a good deal of reading and studying. Most lessons are presented in PDF format while some maybe recorded as audio lectures. There are also regular live audio sessions held via Zoom, a web conferencing portal, as well as a Facebook group for discussions, both of which are required for successful completion of the course. Exams and tests are administered to assess the student's comprehension. Students need to have access to a computer with broadband Internet to participate in the course, and a command of English at a college-level. Our next course in Karaite Jewish Studies is expected, God willing, to commence on the 5th of September 2021. The course is designed to familiarise Jews of all denominations with Karaite Judaism and to facilitate those non-Jews who desire to convert to the religion of Israel out of love for the God of Israel, His holy Tora, and His people.

Please note that the duration of the course in *Karaite Jewish Studies* is one academic year. There are a limited number of places therefore acceptance onto the course is operated on a first come first served basis.

Course Fees and Related Expenses:

- **Application Fee:** A non-refundable application fee of CHF 50.00 (Swiss Francs) must be paid by bank/wire transfer. Payment by cash or cash-equivalents are not accepted.
- **Tuition Fees:**
The non-refundable course fee is CHF 2,500.00 per individual. The course consists of six modules at CHF 375.00 per module and an essay at CHF 250.00, totalling CHF 2,500.00. However, if fees are paid upfront the cost of the essay is reduced from the course fee, providing a 10% discount. Financial aid, in the form of a payment schedule, may be granted in some cases. This schedule can be arranged by contacting the Treasurer at zaqantov@gmail.com after your application has been reviewed and approved. We will schedule nine monthly bank transfers to your account; Initial payment of CHF 500 followed by eight monthly payments of CHF 250.
- **Textbooks:**
Students will also be required to purchase textbooks not exceeding the cost 100.00 (CHF).

Course Requirements:

- You must have Internet access, a computer, a microphone & speakers (or headset), telephone access, a civic address, and a Gmail email address.
- Download Adobe Acrobat PDF reader www.adobe.com
- **The language of the course is English. All students must have a college-level command of the language to successfully participate in the course.**
- **You must be in regular attendance of online classes and participate in the KJU Forum (Facebook) until the conclusion of the course.**
- You are required to check your Gmail email address every day, excepting the Shabbath, and reply promptly to emails by the KJU staff. No email exchanges are to be carried out on the Shabbath and Jewish Holy Days.
- Assignments and exams must be completed within the time constraints outlined in the Student Handbook given to students upon approval of their application.
- You will be required to write a final essay on an approved topic of your choice. The academic staff, to assure your mastery of the subject matter, will review your essay.

The success of this course depends upon honest communication and an exploration of Judaism shared by students and teachers.

Additional Information:

- Successful completion of the KJU course in *Ḳaraite Jewish Studies* is a prerequisite for all Gentiles who desire to convert to Ḳaraite Judaism, and for all Jews of patrilineal descent who wish to affiliate to Ḳaraite Judaism.
- Successful completion of the course **does not** automatically guarantee conversion or affiliation.
- Conversion and affiliation to Ḳaraite Judaism **can only** be conducted by an **official Ḳaraite community**: in the USA, Ḳaraite Jews of America; in Europe, Ḳaraite Jews of Europe; and in Israel, Universal Ḳaraite Judaism (under Israeli law conversion in Israel can only be conducted if the potential convert is an Israeli citizen). Please note each community might have their own specifications peculiar to them.
- Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be awarded a *University Certificate in Ḳaraite Jewish Studies*.

Conversion and Affiliation:

Even though each community might have their own specifications peculiar to them, they will all follow the same general outline.

Conversion (or becoming an Israelite):

1. Successful completion of the KJU course.
2. ALL males including male minors of household (if applicable) need to be fully circumcised. All males need a letter from a doctor or urologist confirming that they are fully circumcised, i.e., the foreskin has been completely removed.
3. If married you need to convert as a couple. Remember Judaism is a people with its own ways, which centres on the family and household, and is not truly a religion.
4. With point 3 in mind, the word "conversion" is used for convenience. One does not actually "convert" to Judaism but becomes a naturalised Child of Israel (this is different from receiving Israeli citizenship, one must apply separately via the Jewish Agency), and thus an ethnic Jew – my God becomes your God, my ancestors become your ancestors, my blood is your blood! This means there is NO going back once the vow has been taken. If you become lapse after becoming an Israelite and attempt to throw off from yourselves the yoke of the Tora and your affiliation to the Jewish people, then YHWH will not look kindly upon it and will judge you VERY severely.
5. With points 3 and 4 in mind, when the day comes as it has many times in the history of the Jewish people, they will attempt to exterminate you with every other Jew. YHWH will look favourably upon you and bless those who stand high, and curse those who abandon His people. Please bear in mind that the level of anti-Semitism in the world today is at the level, and beyond, just prior to the Holocaust!

Affiliation (for those already Jewish):

1. Successful completion of the KJU course.
2. ALL males including male minors of household (if applicable) need to be fully circumcised. All males need a letter from a doctor or urologist confirming that they are fully circumcised, i.e., the foreskin has been completely removed.
3. If married you need to affiliate as a couple. Remember Judaism is a people with its own ways, which centres on the family and household, and is not truly a religion.
4. Evidence needs to be presented of Jewish patrilineal descent, i.e., one's parent's kethuva etc. Matrilineal Jewish descent is not acceptable. The Tora stipulates that descent is through the father's line.

5. If one has already converted to Judaism via another branch or denomination, then evidence of conversion needs to be submitted.

After "conversion" or affiliation ALL couples will have to undergo a Karaite wedding ceremony and will be presented with a Karaite kethuva. A Karaite wedding can only be conducted AFTER "conversion" or affiliation and not before.

KJU Course in Karaite Jewish Studies 2021 Application Check List

Preliminary Check List

Things to do before you consider applying:

- ❑ Read up on Karaite Judaism. A good place to start is <https://thekaraitepress.com> or purchase a copy of *Karaite Anthology* by Leon Nemoy, which is mandatory course reading.
- ❑ Married couples: husband and wife must download their own **separate** applications.

Application Consideration Check List

Important (but not exhaustive) list of financial and religious concerns to consider before you apply:

- ❑ Carefully read the *entire* application more than once to understand what is required of you.
- ❑ Understand that you need reliable Internet access to join the course. You will need to have the ability to download lessons, take exams online, and interact with others during live online classes.
- ❑ Understand that you must check your Gmail email account daily and respond to all staff emails in a timely manner, i.e., promptly and without delay.
- ❑ Understand that you are expected to read and understand all assignments.
- ❑ You are expected to complete all exams and assignments on time.
- ❑ Understand that the KJU does not conduct any business transactions on the Shabbath or the Holy Days. Please be certain to take this fact into account for all your dealings with the University. You must also take into consideration the various time zones when conducting any transactions with the University.
- ❑ Understand that tuition payment is by bank transfer.
- ❑ Understand that if you have a disability that affects your capability to access the course and you require specialized software and/or equipment, you will be responsible for purchasing that software and/or equipment.
- ❑ Understand that you are required to purchase a copy *Karaite Anthology* by Leon Nemoy, which is mandatory course reading.
- ❑ Understand our **Copyright Agreement**: Karaite Jewish University will be providing you with a number of lectures, reading material, videos, and other course material. These are only for your personal use and may not be

redistributed, posted on the Internet, or otherwise used by any student commercially.

- ❑ Understand that the non-refundable tuition fee is 2,500.00 (CHF) or 2,250.00 (CHF) if the fees are paid upfront.
- ❑ Understand that successful completion does not guarantee, suggest, or imply that you will be permitted to convert or affiliate via one of the official Karaitе communities.

Application Checklist

- ❑ After having read the *Application* and having taken into consideration the financial and other obligations required, fill out the application, **printing legibly in black ink only** (this makes the application easier to read having been scanned).
- ❑ Remember there are **two** places to sign on the application.
- ❑ Please scan any **application/s**, and **colour copies of government photo ID/s for each person applying** (such as a driver's license, passport, or I.D card for identity verification). Remember to use separate applications and identifications for married couples or your application will be considered incomplete.
- ❑ Please provide a coloured passport sized picture for each applicant.
- ❑ Email your **complete, scanned application/s**, and **scanned colour copies of government photo ID/s for each person applying**; to **zaqantov@gmail.com** It is preferable that you include all of these in **one** single attachment, if possible.
- ❑ **By submitting your Application, you certify that you have thoroughly read, considered, understood, and agreed to abide by the requirements of the course including all its financial and religious commitments.**
- ❑ Once the Dean of Students has approved the form for completeness, you will be billed a non-refundable 50.00 (CHF) Application Fee per application by the KJU Treasurer. Pay the fee via bank/wire transfer. Cash or cash-equivalents are not accepted.
- ❑ Once the KJU receives the non-refundable 50.00 (CHF) Application Fee, your application/s will be submitted to the KJU staff for review and approval.
- ❑ You will be notified via email whether you have been accepted into the University.
- ❑ If you are accepted, you will receive further information about obtaining course materials, registering for our Internet forum, and paying tuition.

REMEMBER:

THE KJU WILL NOT ACCEPT AN APPLICATION WITHOUT ALL REQUIRED PARTS.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Dean of Students at **zaqantov@gmail.com**

May YHWH be with you!

Gabbai Yochanan Zaqantov
Dean of Students
Karaites Jewish University
zaqantov@gmail.com

				Mobile:
11. Preferred Email addresses:				
12. Nationality:				
13. Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Married	<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/> Separated	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed	<input type="checkbox"/> Single	Other:	
14. Living Situation: please indicate whether you are:				
<input type="checkbox"/> living alone, <input type="checkbox"/> living with roommate/s, <input type="checkbox"/> living with family, <input type="checkbox"/> in a relationship living with that partner, <input type="checkbox"/> in a relationship, but not living with that partner				
Use this space to further explain your living situation, if needed.				
15. Native Language (If other than English):				
16. Occupation or Profession:				
17. If male, are you circumcised?				
18. Do you have any tattoos or religious symbols etched into your skin?				
19. PARTNER'S DETAILS				
Surname or Family name:				
First name/s:				
Hebrew Name:				
If married female, indicate maiden name:				
Date of Birth	D/	M/	Y/	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female		
Nationality:				
Native Language (If other than English):				
Occupation or Profession:				
If male, is he circumcised?				
Do they have any tattoos or religious symbols etched into their skin?				
20. PLEASE LIST YOUR AND/OR YOUR PARTNER'S CHILDREN, IF ANY				

Birth Name/Hebrew Name:	Date of Birth D/M/Y	Gender	If male: circumcised?	With whom does the child live?
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

21. Do you have any specific learning, physical, or communication disability that would make accessing the course difficult? (you must provide a doctor's letter describing your disability and limitations)

Section B
Religious Background

GENERAL:

1. What religious group/s have you identified yourself with in the past?

2. What religious group/s did your parents/guardians identify with?

3. Have you ever considered converting to any other religious group/s? If yes, please specify.

4. Do you have your own website that reflects your religious beliefs?

5. Is there anyone in your family's background who referred to themselves as a Qaraite?

6. Do you believe that YHWH is the one and only God, Who has no form, companion, partner, or offspring? If not sure, please explain.

7. Do you believe in any form of polytheism, pantheism, dualism, or trinitarianism? If yes, please explain.

8. Do you believe in the Tanakh in its entirety as the sole religious authority to the exclusion of all other writings? Clarification: Tanakh, also called "Mikra" or "Qara" refers to what Christians erroneously call the "Old Testament", in Hebrew: Genesis through Chronicles (in the English order from Genesis through Malachi) **If not sure, please explain.**

9. Do you believe that any of the books of the Tanakh are not divinely authored and/or inspired? If yes, please specify.

10. Do you believe in the Documentary Hypothesis (source criticism)? Clarification: The Documentary Hypothesis states that the Tora is composed of several documents written several centuries apart from each other which were then combined by an editor/redactor.

11. Do you believe in the Qabbala or any other esoteric teachings?

12. Do you believe in any prophet outside of the Tanakh? If yes, please explain.

13. Do you believe Jesus/Yesu/Yeshua/Yahshua etc. is a god/messiah/prophet/righteous teacher, other? If yes, please explain.

14. Do you believe that Mohammad was a prophet of any kind?

15. Do you aspire of living in Israel?

16. Do you work with any non-kosher foods?
17. From what you know about Qaraite Judaism, are there any issues that you disagree with?
18. What attracts you to Qaraite Judaism?
SPECIFICALLY FOR JEWS:
19. Do you regard yourself as Jewish by birth?
20. If you regard yourself as Jewish by birth, are you patrilineal (father's father's etc), matrilineal (mother's mother's etc), or both?
21. Are you a convert to Judaism? If so by which branch/denomination
22. What branch/s of Judaism have you identified yourself with in the past?
23. Do you desire to affiliate to Qaraite Judaism?
SPECIFICALLY FOR GENTILES:
24. Do you wish to take this course in order to convert to Qaraite Judaism?

25. If applicable, why do you desire to convert through **Ḳaraite Judaism rather than **Rabbanite Judaism**?**

26. Are you currently in the process of converting to another branch of Judaism? If yes, please specify.

27. If you seek conversion do you intend to adhere to the commandants of the **Tōrā and lead an observant life?**

Section C Educational Background

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR GENERAL EDUCATION

Name of high school:	Year completed:	Did you graduate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Name of college:	Year completed:	Did you graduate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Please tell us about your formal Jewish education, if any:

Please tell us anything else that you feel is important to disclose:

I understand that there is a non-refundable processing fee of 50.00 CHF (Swiss Francs) per application. The course in Karaite Jewish Studies is primarily designed to appeal to; Karaite Jews who want to learn more about their Karaite Judaism, Jews who desire to affiliate to Karaite Judaism, Gentiles who are seeking conversion to Karaite Judaism, and Jews and Gentiles who seek knowledge. KJU makes no representation that any candidate will be accepted by the admissions committee. KJU makes no representation that a Karaite Beth Din will accept its graduates as converts or affiliates to Karaite Judaism.

Applicant's Signature:	Date:
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Candidate Affirmation

Read Carefully & Sign

1. Karaite Jewish University does not accept or receive email nor conduct commercial transactions on the Shabbath.
2. I am aware that giving false information is a violation of the Tora and will invalidate my registration in the course. I hereby affirm that all the details on this form are correct.
3. I accept the obligation to fulfil all the University's regulations extant today and those that will be enacted during my studies.
4. I am aware that as a student, I may be required to purchase textbooks.

5. I hereby affirm that I understand that tuition for the course in *Karaite Jewish Studies* is 2,500.00 (CHF or Swiss Francs) per individual. The course consists of six modules at CHF 375.00 per module and an essay at CHF 250.00, totalling CHF 2,500.00. However, if fees are paid upfront the cost of the essay is reduced from the course fee, providing a discount of 10%. Financial aid, in the form of a payment schedule is available. Such arrangements will be administered by monthly bank transfer or direct debit from your bank. Payments will be CHF 500.00 for the first payment and then eight monthly payments of CHF 250.00 each. Payment of the CHF 50.00 application fee or fees (in the case of a couple) will be billed after the review and approval of application by KJU staff. If I cannot afford the tuition, it is my responsibility to inform the Treasurer before the commencement of the course. Also, it is non-refundable tuition once payment is made.

6. I am also aware that admission into the course does not guarantee, suggest, or imply that I will be permitted to convert or affiliate to Karaite Judaism. Conversion or affiliation is based upon Theological and Religious considerations independent of successful course completion. Conversion or affiliation to Karaite Judaism is the prerogative of the various Karaite communities, for example the Karaite Jews of America and the Karaite Jews of Europe.

7. **Copyright Agreement:** Karaite Jewish University will be providing me with a number of lectures, reading material, videos, and other course material. These are only for my personal use and may not be redistributed, posted on the Internet, or otherwise used by any student commercially.

8. I understand that if my living situation changes, I will inform the university as soon as possible.

9. All disputes arising out of or in connection with the present contract, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ALL CLAIMS ARISING IN TORT, NEGLIGENCE OR QUASI-CONTRACT LAW, shall be finally settled under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce by THREE arbitrators appointed in accordance with the said Rules. The place of the arbitration and the law applicable to

the merits SHALL BE ZURICH, SWITZERLAND, AND SWISS LAW. The language of the arbitration shall be German.

No award or procedural order made in the arbitration shall be published.

EACH PARTY TO THE ARBITRATION AGREES THAT ARTICLE 19 OF THE ICC SWISS ARBITRATION RULES SHALL BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH THE RULES OF DISCOVERY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION, ADOPTED BY A RESOLUTION OF THE IBA COUNCIL 29 MAY 2010 WHICH ARE AVAILABLE AT:

<HTTPS://WWW.IBANET.ORG/DOCUMENT/DEFAULT.ASPX?DOCUMENTUID=68336C49-4106-46BF-A1C6-A8F0880444DC>

10. Disability Accommodations: The KJU is a small private religious, limited liability company that has neither the staff nor the resources to accommodate all disabilities. Before we can consider accommodation for any disability, we must have a doctor's summary letter of your condition and what accommodation you require before being accepted into the course. We present an online course that requires extended periods of time in front of a computer screen. Should this cause you difficulty to attend and complete assignments, we recommend that you provide for a personal accommodation that does not change the character of the course. The KJU is a Swiss private independent religious school, and therefore is not bound by Title III of the ADA.

I understand that if I require special software or equipment to access the course due to the nature of my disability, that I will be responsible for purchasing and/or obtaining that software and equipment. (Please note: The KJU is willing to facilitate to the needs of your disability to the best of its abilities, i.e., being given more time to finish assignments in order to complete the course). However, the facilitation cannot result in the penalisation of fellow students.

11. By submitting my application, I certify that I have thoroughly read, considered, understood, and agreed to abide by the requirements of the course including all its financial and religious commitments and that I have read and understood the course information contained in this packet

X_____