



## JOB DESCRIPTION & PERSON SPECIFICATION

### BRISTOL & WESTERN

### CHAPLAINCY COUPLE

#### LOCATION

Bristol, England

#### REPORT TO

Employer: Chief Executive Officer for University Jewish Chaplaincy

#### MISSION STATEMENT OF UNIVERSITY JEWISH CHAPLAINCY

University Jewish Chaplaincy provides a permanent communal framework for all Jewish students at universities across the UK. Officially recognised by the Universities, our Chaplaincy couples are trained husband and wife rabbinic teams, equipped to deal with every aspect of student life. From personal and health issues through to navigating bureaucratic challenges, the Chaplains are experienced in traversing the complexities of university life. The Chaplaincy couples also create a warm and open-minded environment in which Jewish students can comfortably live an inspired Jewish life whilst away from home.

Chaplaincy works with Jewish communities and organisations across the country to plan and develop for the future of Jewish student life. Whilst students come and go, Chaplaincy ensures that the infrastructure is in place year-after-year, providing consistency and stability in the ever-changing university environment.

#### JOB DESCRIPTION

The Chaplaincy couple will be based in Bristol near a vibrant and diverse Jewish student population and travel across the region to give strength to students on their campuses including: University of Bristol, University of South Wales, Bath Spa University, Swansea University, Cardiff University, Plymouth University, University of Exeter, University of the West of England, University of Gloucestershire, University of Bath, University of Wales Trinity St David and Aberystwyth University.

The couple will work closely with the universities' Jewish Societies and the Union of Jewish Students developing leadership, fostering a commitment to Judaism amongst the entire Jewish student body, providing education and welfare support. Candidates must be open and tolerant towards the full range of students' Jewish backgrounds, denominations and levels of commitment, and actively engage this diverse group.

The Chaplaincy couple will provide a home away from home for Jewish students on campus and also serve as a liaison to all Universities covering Jewish student needs ranging from Shabbat and Festival exam clashes to personal welfare needs.

7 key areas of activity give a full description of the Chaplains' work and they are summarised as follows (in no particular order):

- 1) Student Welfare
  - a. Offer pastoral welfare support to Jewish students through one-to-one meetings when required
  - b. Be proactive in identifying students who may need support and create an environment in which the chaplains will be the first port of call for their welfare needs
  - c. Signpost / refer who need professional assistance students to university social services or other agencies
  - d. Deliver / oversee programming to enhance and develop Jewish students' wellbeing e.g. mental health awareness, self-care and protection, conducting healthy relationships etc.
- 2) Jewish Education
  - a. Deliver Torah classes and workshops as needed
  - b. Where appropriate, study one-on-one with students
  - c. Facilitate learning and other Jewish educational opportunities and programming for Jewish students
- 3) Home Hospitality
  - a. Host Shabbat and Yom Tov meals to complement JSoc-led provision
  - b. Host periodic weekday events for groups of all sizes
  - c. Create a 'home-away-from-home' that encourages students to drop in for a drink, a snack or just to talk
- 4) Campus Community Building and Support
  - a. Work in conjunction with the JSoc to create and develop Jewish student infrastructure
  - b. Devise and deliver joint events, where appropriate, with the local JSoc
  - c. Encourage student participation and activism on their campuses
  - d. Visiting outlying campuses and providing remote support
- 5) Multi-faith Engagement
  - a. Engage with university chaplains of other faiths individually and, where appropriate, in the context of the local multi-faith chaplaincy
  - b. When possible, represent UJC / Jewish students at events hosted by the university or multi-faith chaplaincy
  - c. Help and support the JSoc to foster good and working relationships with other faith societies
- 6) Religious Provision and Support
  - a. Where appropriate, facilitate and organise tefillah for Jewish students
  - b. Enable religious observances for Jewish students – e.g. Sukkah, mezuzah, arba minim, advise on kosher food, Shabbat etc.
  - c. Answer and give guidance in response to questions on Jewish Law
  - d. Providing universities with support and advice regarding Jewish practice and belief, including but not limited to the provision of for example kosher food and prayer spaces
- 7) Representation and Official Duties
  - a. Communicate with university authorities to ensure Jewish religious freedoms – e.g. to manage examination and lecture clashes with Shabbat and Yom Tov
  - b. Represent Jewish students' interests to the university to promote Jewish life – e.g. room availability for Jewish student events, advance warning to authorities about Yom Tov dates, etc.
  - c. Represent Jewish students' interests to the university to protect Jewish life – e.g. cancellation of antagonistic speakers, response to anti-Jewish hostility

## SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

| Criteria (in no particular order)  | Essential | Desirable |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Orthodox semicha which is recognised by the Office of the Chief Rabbi  | √         |           |
| Secular education to degree level from recognised secular university   |           | √         |
| Excellent communication and relationship building skills showing clarity, assertiveness, consideration and sensitivity as will be meeting a wide range of students as well as university staff | √         |           |
| Culturally attuned to Bristol campus environment   | √         |           |
| Sensitivity  | √         |           |
| Able to show a genuine interest in the Jewish community in the UK and Israel   | √         |           |
| Ability to think up, follow through and be comfortable with different ideas for social and cultural events which may be held in a more secular environment                                     | √         |           |
| Inclusive approach   | √         |           |
| Flexibility  |           | √         |
| Organised  | √         |           |
| Sense of humour  |           | √         |
| Good judgement   | √         |           |
| Non-judgmental approach  | √         |           |
| Good listening skills  | √         |           |

## COMPETENCIES

| Criteria (in no particular order)   | Essential | Desirable |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Good communicator   | √         |           |
| Competence in use of social media   | √         |           |
| Orthodox role model   | √         |           |
| Capable ambassador  | √         |           |
| Pro-active Israel advocate  | √         |           |
| Capable host and hostess  | √         |           |
| Competent public speaker/shiur giver  |           | √         |
| Sensitive to Halacha  | √         |           |
| Ability to drive a car  | √         |           |
| Leadership ability  | √         |           |
| Team player   | √         |           |
| Ability to understand and discuss courses taken by students   | √         |           |
| Shares University Jewish Chaplaincy's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our service users | √         |           |

Background checks and a DBS check of the appropriate level will be required.

## COMPENSATION

- £32,000 salary per annum (between the couple)
- Accommodation in heart of the student community, fully furnished and fully equipped kosher home
- Utilities allowance
- Expense account including full cover of home hospitality, events, travel reimbursement (mileage, taxis and other transportation), 2 mobile phones, landline and Wi-Fi

- Auto-Enrolled pension
- Six weeks' holiday entitlement
- Full cover of flights, visas and healthcare surcharge plus generous relocation package
- Ride to Work Scheme
- Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) offering mental health support, 24/7 medical support through a free online GP for the employees and their children and a free physical and mental wellbeing app offering rewards and discounts