



# Penn-Kalaniyot

**ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE. BUILDING COMMUNITY.  
CONNECTING PENN AND ISRAEL.**

## **A Pivotal Moment**

In recent years—and with growing urgency—the University of Pennsylvania has deepened its commitment to supporting Jewish life at the University through the work of its presidential commission and task force on antisemitism and campus culture, increased support for Jewish Studies, and landmark philanthropic investments. Penn-Kalaniyot builds on this momentum with a faculty-led, academically grounded chapter of the national Kalaniyot Foundation.

Penn-Kalaniyot offers a distinctly Penn-based platform for scholarship, community, and exchange—one that complements and extends the University's broader commitments to resilience, inclusion, and academic freedom. It brings Israeli scholars from all backgrounds to campus, supports the intellectual and cultural life of Penn's Jewish and Israeli-affiliated communities, and fosters U.S.–Israel academic partnerships.

Philanthropic support for Penn-Kalaniyot offers a practical and highly visible way to advance its mission.

## **Penn-Kalaniyot's Origin Story**

Rising national and global tensions have increasingly limited opportunities for Israeli scholars and students who historically contributed significantly to U.S. academic life and collaborative research. Penn-Kalaniyot was inspired by Jewish faculty at MIT who, after October 7th, recognized the need for proactive campus engagement and stronger research ties with Israel.

Penn faculty were already mobilizing to support students, staff, and alumni, and working to protect and strengthen research partnerships. Penn-Kalaniyot is the outgrowth of those early efforts that fills a critical gap by supporting direct, sustained academic and cultural exchange with Israeli scholars. Founded in September 2024, Penn-Kalaniyot joins chapters at peer universities, including MIT, Cornell, Columbia, and Dartmouth.

## **A Meaningful Name**

Kalaniyot (קלניית מצויה, pronounced *Ka-la-nee-yot*) is the national flower of Israel. This vibrant red poppy symbolizes hope and resilience, reflecting the rejuvenation of the Israeli landscape after winter rains. Likewise, the Kalaniyot Foundation and its chapters represent renewal and growth on campus following the events of October 7, 2023.



## **Giving Opportunities for Penn-Kalaniyot**

Kalaniyot at Penn sits at the heart of the University's renewed commitments to Jewish life, academic excellence, and global engagement. Philanthropic support for Penn-Kalaniyot helps transform these commitments into sustained, visible, and impactful programs—benefiting the students, faculty, scholars, and communities who call Penn home.

The exchange programs described below, administered by Penn Global, provide donors with clear philanthropic avenues for meaningful impact.

### **PENN-KALANIYOT POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS**

**Recent PhD graduates from Israeli institutions are invited to spend up to two years at Penn, contributing to research, teaching, and community life.**

Postdoctoral Fellows are selected through a rigorous application process that includes statements describing their contributions to their communities in Israel, their research agendas, and their plans for engagement at Penn—particularly with the Jewish or Israeli community. Applications are due in early February, acceptances are announced in mid-April, and Fellows begin the following fall.

#### **How can you help?**

A naming gift of \$270,000 fully supports one Postdoctoral Fellow for two years, covering a stipend, benefits, modest discretionary research funds, and relocation expenses.

#### **The impact of philanthropy**

Donors who support Penn-Kalaniyot Postdoctoral Fellows help ensure that emerging Israeli thinkers and leaders find a welcoming academic home at Penn—planting seeds of friendship and collaboration destined to flourish throughout their careers.

### **PENN-KALANIYOT SABBATICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

**Established senior Israeli faculty are invited to spend their full sabbatical academic year at Penn, contributing to research and collaboration.**

Candidates, who must hold appointments at Israeli research institutions, are required to describe their contributions to their communities in Israel; identify and connect with a Penn faculty host; and outline their plans for engaging with the Jewish or Israeli community while at Penn. Applications are due in early February; acceptances are announced in mid-April, and selected Scholars begin their sabbatical year the following fall.

#### **How can you help?**

A naming gift of \$62,000 fully supports one Sabbatical Scholar for one year, covering a stipend for living expenses and medical insurance for the scholar and their immediate family.

#### **The impact of philanthropy**

Donors who support Penn-Kalaniyot Sabbatical Scholars will have their names linked with a flagship Penn-Kalaniyot initiative that builds relationships and knowledge across disciplines.

## Giving Opportunities for Penn-Kalaniyot (Continued)

### PENN-KALANIYOT STUDENT SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Emerging scholars from Israeli institutions are invited for a one-month residency at Penn during which they become fully immersed in the campus experience by living in residence halls, attending classes, and participating in extracurricular activities on campus and in Philadelphia with their Penn faculty and student hosts.

Candidates must be full-time undergraduates at an Israeli university. They must provide an academic transcript, at least two letters of reference, and a 500-word essay outlining why they wish to participate. Applications are due in early February; acceptances are announced in mid-April, and selected Scholars come to Penn the following fall or spring.

#### How can you help?

A gift of \$12,000 fully supports the short-term residency of one Student Scholar, covering a stipend and medical insurance.

#### The impact of philanthropy

Donors who support Penn-Kalaniyot Student Scholars help introduce Israeli university students to Penn, fostering the interpersonal connections so essential to cross-cultural understanding.

### PENN-KALANIYOT DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Discretionary Fund provides critical unrestricted resources that allow Penn-Kalaniyot to respond to emerging needs and opportunities.

These may include lectures and symposia; faculty seminars and graduate workshops; cultural and community-building gatherings; and small conferences.

#### How can you help?

Gifts to the Discretionary Fund ensure that Penn-Kalaniyot has the flexibility to pursue its core mission—deepening ties with Israeli scholars and strengthening a supportive campus community.

#### The Impact of Philanthropy

Donors to the Penn-Kalaniyot Discretionary Fund help ensure that the program can respond in innovative and responsive ways as challenges and/or opportunities arise.

#### For more information:

Inquiries about Penn-Kalaniyot program may be directed to the program director:

**Brian S. Englander**, MD, FACR

✉ [brian.englander@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:brian.englander@pennmedicine.upenn.edu)

To make a gift to Penn-Kalaniyot, contact:

**Paul Mischler**, Chief Philanthropy Officer,  
Development and Alumni Relations

✉ [mischler@upenn.edu](mailto:mischler@upenn.edu) ☎ (215) 746-8844

