Netina 2025 - FAQs

About FZY & Netina

What is FZY?

The Federation of Zionist Youth UK (FZY) is a Jewish Zionist Youth Movement, strengthening Jewish and Zionist identity whilst creating a strong and vibrant Jewish community for tomorrow. At FZY we strive to challenge, stimulate, educate and excite British Jewish youth through an array of programming. FZY works within a pluralist framework and therefore welcomes and respects members from different Jewish and political backgrounds, whilst providing a space to explore your own Jewish identity and that of others. Check out this <u>short video</u> and the <u>FZY website</u> to understand more about FZY's ideology and programmes.

What is Netina?

FZY is a lifechanging journey and this summer we are offering an 11-day travel, adventure and social justice experience in Thailand for young people finishing school year 12. Netina will provide a soft landing into the UK's oldest and largest Zionist youth movement for those who have not experienced FZY before, but also a fun and exciting way for participants to spend part of their summer holiday. **As an educational and ideological youth movement, Netina reflects this framework.** Netina is based in Thailand, where the group will travel the country getting a better understanding of the Thai culture whilst engaging in both adventure activities and social justice projects. The programme will include educational aspects and recreational/social ones. Netina methods may include and range from volunteering, learning through personal stories and NGOs, educational activities in a classroom setting, city tours, and adventure and cultural activities. Netina brings together young Jewish people from across the UK providing a safe space to meet new friends whilst spending quality time within their existing relationships. For further information, explore FZY's summer programme section of its website.

Who are Justifi?

Justifi, founded in 2009 by Rabbi Jamie Cowland and his wife, Ilana, is a social activism driven organisation connecting Jewish students and young professionals who want to make a difference to circumstances, people and places where they can. Justifi takes you to far away places - into communities plagued by terrible problems but blessed with amazing organisations and people. It's for Jews who want to build a better world, not just imagine one. It's for Jews who believe that they have a role to play in ending hunger, suffering and exploitation. It's for Jews who believe that their heritage has something very powerful to say about making this world a better place. It's for Jews who know that outrage is not enough. It's for Jews who know that real action is the solution and who want to be a part of it.

What are the dates of Netina?

Participants will be in Thailand from the 18th – 28th August. Depending on several factors, including final group size which impacts on flight availability, the flight to Thailand may leave on 17th August and arrive back to the UK on 29th August. Although not expected, dates are subject to change.

What age participants is Netina for?

Netina is for young people that are finishing school year 12 (S6 in Scotland) at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. FZY are running other summer programmes for participants who will be concluding school years 8, 9, 10 and 11 this summer, plus providing leadership

opportunities for our members who are graduating from Year 13 or are currently in university. To find out more about FZY's other summer programmes, visit <u>FZY's website</u>.

What will the participants do on Netina?

A detailed schedule will be sent to applicants and their families nearer the time of departure. There will be a mixture of educational, volunteer-based, fun and adventure activities which will be safe, engaging and ideological. The itinerary will include educational aspects and recreational/cultural/social ones. Methods may include and range from volunteering, learning through personal stories and NGOs, educational activities in a classroom setting, city tours, and adventure and cultural activities.. More details can be found in FZY's summer camp section of its website.

Where will Netina be based?

This summer, Netina is based in Thailand. For security reasons, the exact locations will only be provided to families after they have registered and been accepted on the programme. Netina will explore Bangkok, Chang Mai and Chang Rai in Thailand. Other groups and Jewish organisations from across the world have been on a very similar trip organized by Justifi.

What type of accommodation will Netina be staying in?

Safe and comfortable basic hotel, guest house, and/or lodge accommodations will be provided for all nights of the programme (except for overnight bus rides or flights where applicable). Participants will be sharing bedrooms. Wi-Fi is generally available, however FZY shall not be responsible for outages or quality of service.

How many participants will sleep in a room?

Rooming throughout Netina will be based on shared occupancy. The different accommodation generally ranges from two to four people in a room. All participants will share a room with at least one other person from Netina.

How many participants will there be on Netina?

The final size of Netina will partially depend on how many people apply. We hope to take a group of 20-30 participants; however, we are likely able to cater for both smaller and larger groups. There are limited spots on Netina. Although we are hopeful that we can accommodate everyone who wants to go, this may not be possible.

Will the participants be with their friends?

FZY's plan is to place participants with their friends whilst at the same time ensuring they get to spend time with new people. The Netina group will remain together as one united group for the entirety of the Programme. As part of the application process, you will be asked to highlight some people you would like to be roomed with. FZY and the Organisers will then attempt to split the rooming as best as we can based on friendship requests and the room breakdown we will have in Thailand. Throughout Netina, participants will have plenty of time they can spend with all participants even if they are not placed in the same rooms as them.

Can I join Netina for a selection of days or a shorter time?

The basic answer to this question is no. However, if you have a personal situation that you believe may be 'exceptional' then please be in contact with the FZY Office who can determine whether there is anything that can be done about your specific case.

Will transport be provided?

Yes. FZY will provide flights to and from London and Thailand. Depending on the size of the FZY group and where they live, transportation may also be provided to/from the London airport to the main centres.

Who are your staff?

FZY as a youth movement is 115 years old. We have decades of experience running activities for young people and we do so in a professional manner. Most of our staff are graduates of one of FZY's leadership development training courses and many have previous experience of leading activities for young people. The majority of FZY's leaders will have been a participant on an FZY summer international programme or another FZY activity over the last decade so will understand where the young people are coming from. FZY's leaders will be no younger than 20 years of age. In addition to the FZY leaders of Netina who will accompany the group from the UK, Justifi have staff with many years of experience, including many full-time permanent staff. Professional staff based between FZY's London and Israel offices, plus in Thailand itself, between them have decades of experience building these types of programmes.

What are FZY's staff to child ratios?

FZY's <u>Safeguarding & Child Protection</u> policy aims for there to be at least one leader to every eight young people. We are likely to see a greater number of staff to young people than this so we can best cater for everyone's needs whilst also overseeing the camp generally, dealing with the logistics, and managing the group leaders.

What is the price of Netina and what does this price include?

FZY has an early bird price in addition to our standard price. These are the prices:

- Netina Early Bird Price £2,999 (Before Friday 7th February 2025)
- Netina Regular Price £3,199 (From Friday 7th February 2025)

The price includes accommodation, three meals a day, return flights between London and Thailand, travel to and from the site from major centres, staffing, activities, health and travel insurance, and security. The price does not include spending money (i.e., for tuck shop and merchandise) and a refundable damage deposit.

Will the participants need spending money?

There will be some limited time on the programme when the group will be out and about around Thailand, so it is possible participants may want to purchase snacks and/or souvenirs. We recommend participants bring with them a small amount of money to purchase these things if they want.

What food will be provided?

FZY provides a fully kosher programme under rabbinic supervision and will provide three substantial meals a day. After decades of running international trips, seminars and camps, FZY understand what our participants want to eat, and we provide a nutritious menu of healthy tasty food.

Can FZY cater for special dietary requirements?

FZY will cater for all dietary and allergy requirements if we are made aware of these in advance.

What does Shabbat look like in Netina?

There will be one Shabbatot during Netina. Shabbat is often one of the best days on Netina as we create a real 'Shabbatmosphere' that encapsulates the whole site. FZY is a pluralist youth movement. As such, we do not dictate or educate how participants should / shouldn't observe Shabbat. Where possible, we will provide different services / options for participants to engage

in on Friday night and Shabbat morning. All the activities that we offer operate within the laws of Shabbat. In public places we ask that the participants do not break Shabbat, but in their rooms and private spaces they are able to as they wish.

Can participants use their phones?

Mobile phones, tablets and other communication devices will be limited during their time at Netina. We do this to create a positive and inclusive environment where participants can focus on programming and each other rather than be distracted by technology. It is expected that at various times throughout Netina, and in designated areas, participants will have access to their phones to make calls home should they wish. The frequency of access to phones will be shared with families closer to the time of Netina starting.

What is the procedure if a participant is unwell?

At least one of the staff with the group will be a UK qualified first aider. If a participant is feeling unwell or requires extra support, the staff will be available to organise a local medical professional to see the participant. If needed, staff will accompany a participant to a clinic, medical centre or hospital.

What happens with medication during Netina?

FZY will collect all medication at the start of Netina to ensure this will not get lost or misused. The first aider(s) and/or other relevant staff will make this medication available to participants as and when required. For those participants that have a headache or something similar, the relevant staff will have medication to provide participants. Parents/Guardians will need to approve through the online application form that these medications can be administered if there is a need during Netina.

Application Process

How do I sign up?

To sign up you need to complete a short online application form which can be found on <u>FZY's website</u>. This must be accompanied with a deposit which is also be paid online via the application form. A more thorough application and medical form will be sent later in the process.

How and when do I pay?

A deposit is required upon initial application and there is a section in the initial online application that can process payment of this. The full balance of the Programme is due and must be paid no later than 23:59 on Thursday 8th May 2025. Payment using credit / debit card through FZY's online payment system is preferable, although other payment methods are accepted. Contact Eliana (eliana@fzy.org.uk) at the FZY office to explore additional payment methods.

What if I can't afford the full cost of the Netina?

FZY is an inclusive youth movement and we understand, especially during the challenging financial times brought about by inflation and the Covid-19 pandemic, that not everyone can pay the full price for Netina. Therefore, there is some financial assistance available for families that are unable to pay the full price of the programme from FZY and the Friends of FZY. As part of the initial online application form there is an opportunity to request financial assistance. If you require further information and/or your circumstances have changed and you did not request financial assistance on the initial application form, please contact Claire

(<u>claire@fzy.org.uk</u>) at the FZY office in confidence. She will be able to explain the financial assistance process further and answer any questions you may have.

Are there limited spaces on Netina?

Yes, there are a limited number of spaces. FZY is hopeful we can cater Netina for all those that want, but there may be limits as to the number of participants that we can cater for based on applications and other factors.

Will my child have priority if they have been on an FZY programme this year or within the last 12 months?

Yes. Those participants that have been on an FZY programme in the last 12 months will receive priority if they apply before 23:59 on Thursday 6th February 2025. After this deadline passes, FZY can no longer provide priority to anyone. Even within the time allocated for priority placement, FZY will still operate on a first-come first-serve basis and there may be other factors, i.e., ensuring a balanced group with regards to gender, etc. or governmental regulations that may impact the acceptance process. We recommend applying quickly to maximise your chance of getting a place.

Will there be an information evening?

Absolutely. FZY will be setting dates for an information evening closer to the time, approximately 4-6 weeks before the start of Netina. We will share this date and other information about the meeting with parents/guardians in due course.

Cancellation

Will I get a refund if FZY cancels the programme before or during Netina?

If is not possible to operate Netina for legal, safety or other reasons, FZY will be forced to cancel. FZY will use its best endeavours to safeguard money paid to it to be able to offer as close to a full refund as possible should the Programme have to be cancelled by FZY. Read FZY's cancellation policy for details on cancellation.

Do I need to take out my own insurance?

FZY will provide a basic medical and travel insurance policy, some details of which can be found in the Important Information Booklet. FZY suggests the participant understands what is and what is not covered by this policy to determine whether they want to take out additional cover for pre-existing conditions or anything else. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to take out any additional insurance policies and to check whether cancellations or curtailments for reasons relating to Covid-19, security cancellations, etc., will be covered.