Israeli institute prepares rabbinic PhDs

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

If you thought they don’t give out PhDs in Halachah, think again. It’s not a degree you can obtain at York University or the University of Toronto, but if you travel to Israel to an educational institute called Eretz Hemdah, they’d be happy to prepare you for one. Of course, you’ll have to devote seven years to an intense program of study and then pass five gruelling exams before you will be granted the prestigious Yad Yadin certification from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, the highest level of rabbinical ordination and which is recognized by the government of Israel as a PhD equivalent.

Founded about 12 years ago by three rabbis, “Eretz Hemdah tries to be the...