

# Teaching

The office of the dean of academic studies, headed by the Dean of Academic Studies, Prof. Haim Saadoun, is responsible for all university-wide and interdepartmental issues pertaining to studies at the OUI. The dean's office formulates teaching policies and procedures, as well as rules and regulations that apply to students; tutorial format; procedures for opening new study groups countrywide, and the instruction and training of teaching personnel.

Three divisions operate under the auspices of the dean's office: The Department for Teaching and Learning, The Department of Academic Counseling, and the Unit for Student Retention. Together, they promote and provide teaching and learning services. Last year, 5,624 study groups were opened for 792 academic courses in 74 study centers throughout Israel.

## New Study Programs

- Dual-disciplinary BA in art history
- A division of studies in African studies
- A division of studies in humanities for students of other disciplines
- New academic track in art management for a BA in the arts

## New Courses

### History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies

Brothers and Aliens: The Role of the Other in Shaping National Identity in Biblical Historiography (MA)  
Between East and West: Inter-Cultural Meetings in the Hellenistic Era (MA)  
Between Mishna and Midrash: The Birth of Rabbinic Literature  
Journalism as a Formative Tool in Modern Arab History (MA)  
Gender and Revolution in the Middle East (MA)  
Modern Jewish Messianism  
Issues in the History of Consumption and Consumerism (MA)  
Thesis Seminar (MA)  
Prague and the Czech Reformation: Jewish and Christian Lives in a Multicultural Reality (MA)  
Colonialism and Modernization, Jews of Muslim Countries in the Modern Era: Fundamental Questions (MA)  
Individual tutoring: Multicultural History (MA)

Individual tutoring: History of the Middle East (MA)

Individual tutoring: Jewish History (MA)

Women's Movements in the Modern Middle East

### Language, Literature, and the Arts

The Golem Legend from Late Antiquity to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
Selected Great Works of Western Literature  
Traversing Sounds: Critical Discourses of Music

### Education and Psychology

Diagnostics: Occupational Assessment through Analysis and Interpretation of Psychological Tests (MA)  
Honors Research Seminar: Attention and Cognition  
Attention and Cognition (MA)

### Management and Economics

Introduction to Law and Business Law

### Sociology, Political Science, and Communication

The World's Largest Democracy: Modern India: Past and Future  
Introduction to Law  
Research Seminar: Gender and Politics (MA)  
Research Seminar: State and Globalization: Anthropological Perspectives (MA)  
Contemporary Cultural Cosmopolitanism (MA)

## Mathematics and Computer Science

Introduction to Natural Language Processing (MSc)

Workshop on Penetration Testing

Data Science Workshop

Seminar: Natural Language Processing (MSc)

Research Seminar: Deep Learning for Natural Language Processing (MSc)

## Natural Sciences

Physical Organic Chemistry

Introduction to Surface Science

Topics in Physical Chemistry

## Teaching and Learning

The Department for Teaching and Learning leads intensive university-wide latitudinal processes for promoting teaching and learning. To this end, it operates in two complementary areas: development of student learning skills, and pedagogical development of teaching.

The division for the development of study skills offers students a variety of workshops and individual tutorials to improve their academic learning skills. In 2019, the section's activities expanded by 33%, and its services were extended to additional centers (Akko, Dimona, Sahnin and Umm al Fahm). The list of available workshops now includes a workshop to strengthen learning skills in the exact sciences, a mindfulness workshop, online learning workshops, and an academic writing workshop for students in advanced courses.

The division for teaching promotion has focused its efforts on formulating guidelines for integrated teaching processes that link all teaching and learning interfaces (tutoring, online learning environments, evaluation elements, etc.), creating an integrated complex of learning products. Teacher training was expanded accordingly, and a wider variety of professional workshops was offered to accommodate the needs of diverse target audiences, such as coordinators of heterogenic multicultural groups, teaching centers, online academic advisors, and advisors in specific departments. Individual tutoring of teaching staff

was significantly broadened. A newly introduced service, "another look", offers learning center-focused pedagogic counseling in a variety of fields related to development of course teaching and staff management. Another new improvement is a computer system developed especially for teaching staff that enables online personal management of professional training programs.

Teaching and Learning Day, which was held this year for the second time, focused on "Presence in Teaching." Attendance was impressive, as was the positive feedback of the participating staff members. To acknowledge the innovative and significant work undertaken by the OUI in the fields of teaching and learning, the department has initiated an Academic Dean Award for Initiative and Innovation in Teaching, in memory of Prof. Sonia Roccas, a senior faculty member of the Education and Psychology Department who passed away this year. In addition to recognizing outstanding faculty members, the competition is also a platform for sharing insights and new ideas that help enhance individual and organizational learning.

## Academic Counseling

The Department of Academic Counseling serves thousands of students throughout their academic studies at the OUI. Due to the unique nature of OUI studies, the university offers targeted academic counseling intended to strengthen self-management skills. This is achieved by identifying needs and strengths, building trust, coordinating expectations, defining counseling products, and tightening ties.

Academic counseling is available to students from the very first stages of planning studies for the semester or the year. It includes assistance with choosing study subjects, building study programs, and facilitating access to university support systems. Counseling is provided in person, by phone, email, or via distance technologies. Extra attention is given to special populations, such as candidates for the IDF academic program, high school students, soldiers, prison inmates, Arabic-speaking students, ultra-Orthodox students, and students of Ethiopian descent. Faculty members from all OUI departments provide comprehensive academic counseling.

In the past year, about 62,000 meetings and advising sessions were conducted with potential and registered students. Evaluation studies conducted by the evaluation department have consistently indicated a strong correlation between receiving regular counseling during the period of study, and higher rates of student retention and academic success.

## Transfer Tracks

Transfer tracks allow students to begin their bachelor's degree studies in the flexible framework of the OUI's open admission policy. Successful completion of a cluster of courses (in accordance with specific requirements for each study program) allows students to complete their degree at the OUI or transfer to another university.

This year, three new transfer track options were added:

- Business Administration at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Life Sciences at Bar-Ilan University
- Law at Haifa University

## School for Local Government

The School for Local Government, founded in 2013, is a cooperative endeavor of the Federation of Local Governments and the OUI, intended to promote higher education among local government employees. To date, about 1,500 undergraduate students have studied towards bachelor degrees in social science and the humanities, with a diploma in local government studies. About seventy local authorities, from Majdal Shams in the north to Eilat in the south, participate in fifty study groups. In addition to undergraduate studies, approximately seventy students are registered for postgraduate studies in government and public administration (as part of the program for interdisciplinary democracy studies). The school is constantly expanding. To date, about 400 students have received their BA degrees after completing a four-year study program. Mifal HaPais, the national lottery of Israel, participates in funding the studies. In 2019, Mifal HaPais approved an increase in the amount of scholarships provided to NIS 5,000 per year of study.



Photo: Oded Karni

Graduation ceremony, School for Local Government

## School of Public Policy

The School of Public Policy for Civil Servants was founded in October 2018. Graduates of the school receive a bachelor's degree in social science and the humanities, as well as a diploma in public policy. The Civil Service Commissioner has approved it as a cross-service program, and it is being promoted in collaboration with the Civil Servants' Union. This year, about 200 students participated in the program in five study groups.

## The Library

In 2019, the periodical database JSTOR was expanded to include 15 art and science collections. A newly procured movie database, Movie Discovery, comprises over 1,000 films, some with Hebrew subtitles, and others solely in English.

This year, the library incorporated a collection of approximately 120 books on cinema and direction (mostly in English), donated by Dr. Dafna Hirsch, Head of the Sociology, Political Science and Communication Department, in memory of Israeli documentary director and cinematographer Yachin Hirsch.

The OUI management decided to launch a project for partial clearing of the mobile shelving system (Compactus), which has served as a closed storage space with no direct access to readers. It holds extra copies of books, reference books, copies of every textbook published by the OUI since its foundation, a collection of courses translated into different languages, etc. Following the decision to clear the space, about two-thirds of the items were transferred to the archive or logistic storage facilities.

## New Study Centers and Teaching Institutions

In view of the increase in student numbers in the North, and after a thorough investigation of needs, the OUI, in cooperation with the Haifa Municipality, opened a new study center in the Port Campus, after exploring several alternative venues around Haifa. The new study center is a sister to Beit Biram, where approx. 4,000 undergraduate and graduate students study. The Port Campus is located next to the

train station, the Metronit rapid transit system, and other public transportation. Given its convenient location, the campus will serve students from the Greater Haifa area and the North, who can easily reach it and take advantage of its new, modern building and vibrant academic campus that also offers social and cultural events. The campus, located in a developing neighborhood, covers six floors that house classes equipped with advanced learning devices and computers, an administrative floor, learning spaces, a library and a beautiful cafeteria on the roof, overlooking the port and the sea. The campus is accessible to people with special needs.

In July 2019, the campus was inaugurated in a festive ceremony attended by members of the university management, the new manager of the center, Judith Goldstein, heads of study centers, employees, students, Haifa's deputy mayor, Adv. David Etzioni, and other guests.

The Port campus will offer various undergraduate and graduate study programs, as well as external study programs of Ma'ale, and other activities for students and members of the public who wish to enrich their knowledge.



Photo: Shlomi Mizrahi

Opening ceremony of the Haifa Port Campus