

External Studies

Professional Development

The professional development unit of the OUI offers professional development opportunities for teachers and other educators, and implements processes of educational and technological innovation. In 2019, the unit offered the following programs:

- A unique training program was introduced this year, to foster leaders capable of promoting innovative teaching and learning processes in the education system, using advanced technologies and initiating education-oriented digital change processes. The program was based on independent collaborative research, peer teaching, and project planning. The program was attended by 45 leading digital experts.
- After winning the Ministry of Education and Aneq Rosha RFP for an academic training program of school principals for the third time, the program was implemented in 2019 in a new format that underscored gaining practical experience during the internship period of future principals.
- The three-year training of inclusion coordinators appointed following the recommendation of the Special Education Law of 2018 continues. The program provides coordinators with tools and skills for comprehensive management of teaching and learning in a heterogenic class, and for approaching students with special educational needs. About fifty groups were set up nationwide.
- This year, a 300-hour basic program, and a 200-hour advanced religious-educational leadership program were offered for Muslim imams in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior's Department of Religious Communities. The programs are designed to empower, advance, and enrich the participants professionally and personally, and provide content, skills, and tools that are relevant to their work.
- After winning a newly issued RFP, the unit ran a new training program for teaching gifted students, in addition to the training program which continued to be offered in its previous format.
- As part of the Etgarim program for developing leadership in Arab sector schools, a training program for educational leaders was launched in Umm El Fahm.
- Elementary school teachers underwent training for teaching computer science and robotics in the 4th–6th grades. The training was offered countrywide, in the Jewish, Arab, and Druze sectors.
- The unit offered diploma studies in a variety of fields, such as remedial teaching and training for professionals in guidance for parents of children with learning disabilities.
- Courses and symposia were offered to teachers in various fields, such as social sciences, Russian language, Talmudic literature, and computer science, in conjunction with the relevant academic departments.

External Studies Center (Ma'aleh)

Ascolot – School of Interdisciplinary Studies

At Ascolot, registration increased this year by 7%, to 29,870 students. In addition to the existing Ascolot forums – The Government and Strategy Forum, chaired by Maj. Gen. (res.) Eitan Ben-Eliahu, and the Legal Forum chaired by Yuval Yoaz, Adv. – , the following forums were added: a Legal Forum in Ra'anana, coordinated by Adv. Kobi Sudri, and attended by senior members of the legal system, and a Legal Forum in Jerusalem, coordinated by Prof. Yedidia Stern, attended by retired Supreme Court Presidents Prof. Aharon Barak and Dorit Beinisch, and other retired Supreme Court judges. In Tel Aviv, a new course – Gatekeepers of Israeli Democracy – opened with a lecture by State Comptroller Judge Haim Shapira, attended by Deputy Attorney General Adv. Dinah Zilber and other gatekeepers.

The course Former Heads of the National Security Council Speak, exploring different aspects of Israel's national strength was offered this year in the Haifa and Tel Aviv OUI branches, with great success. Another new course that proved very popular in all branches was What Were They Thinking? in which Dr. Yossi Halamish and Dr. Yitzhak Noy analyzed the minds and conduct of influential historical figures.

The Ascolot Pre-Premiere movie series continues to develop and benefit cinema lovers who wish to be the first to see quality films and hear fascinating lectures. The joint venture "Ascolot at Tzavta – A Masterpiece Series about Hebrew Poets" has expanded. This year, it was presented by Noam Semel and hosted noted Hebrew Poetry researchers and popular Hebrew singers. The Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra joined Ascolot's music course in Ra'anana under the musical management of Orit Wolf, doubling the number of registrations to the course.

Hasifa – School of Communication, Television, and Multimedia

Hasifa, a partner in the OUI Center for Media Studies, offers several study tracks, some of which are recognized for academic credits towards undergraduate studies. In the past year, the school held two fascinating symposia. One, on the subject of e-sport, and the other, "Innovative, Daring and Digital! Web Series you will not find on Your TV," was offered in cooperation with the OUI Center for Media Studies.

Tafnit – Continuing Education for Managers

Tafnit further expanded its programs this year. Professions such as business consulting, human resource management, group facilitation, information management and mental training have been rapidly developing, with fast-growing registrant numbers and activity volume, and are now regarded as core professions. In addition to programs in the private sector, Tafnit also conducted quality projects with leading industrial and economic entities and organizations, and management workshops throughout Israel. The school hosts the OUI Enterprise Forum, offering its programs to managers and businesspeople throughout the country.

Diploma – Certificate Studies

Diploma offers professional training in a variety of fields, such as tourism, accounting, event management, and design. In some fields, Diploma prepares its students for licensing exams. The Center for Interior Design Studies – the school's largest division – allows students to enroll in short study modules rather than taking a full program. Subjects include interior design and planning, furniture design, lighting design, and home decor. In 2018-2019 the school developed in new directions, and now includes fields such as tourism and a private investigation course.

Dialog – School of Languages

Dialog offers numerous courses to different sectors and business organizations around the country. This year, it carried out a wide range of programming in the business sector for a variety of Israeli companies. As part of the training offered to senior executives, the school runs a national training course to help Israeli representatives improve their English communication skills for work with foreign entities and international media. The training includes individual tutoring for senior officials and Israel Police officers, courses and workshops for Ministry of Health senior personnel, individual tutoring for Ministry of Economy and Industry delegates and their families, etc. Training courses in Arabic were offered to officials in the Israel Police, the Israel Tax Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture, etc. Courses in other languages, including Hebrew, Russian, Spanish, and French, were offered to various businesses and companies.

Meirav – School of Complementary Medicine

Meirav has developed enrichment courses and new content matter for the private sector in the fields of complementary medicine, personal enrichment, and individual empowerment. The school also runs complementary medicine sessions in various business organizations, according to their specific requirements. This year, emphasis was put on courses offering health and lifestyle recommendations.

Beit Daniel

In 2018-2019, Beit Daniel hosted a variety of one- and multiple-day programs for numerous companies and organizations. These included vocational training and development workshops for managers and employees of Israeli organizations and companies; national and international conferences on various current topics; team-building for employees and managers; training of organizational coaches and counselors; empowerment workshops; conferences for social and community organizations; customer conferences; instruction and training for government and public organizations; development workshops for local and international work teams; and meetings of creative artists and poets.

In keeping with its longstanding tradition, Beit Daniel hosted three musical weekends for the general public, managed by Smadar Carmi-Giberman. This year's weekends focused on the music of Bach, Beethoven, and Schubert.

This year, as in the past, Beit Daniel hosted symposia, conferences and meetings of lecturers and students from Israel and abroad. It was also the venue of annual conferences for university faculties and departments, vocational courses for teaching staff, and the venue for the organization of annual work plans and professional training programs in various fields. The OUI organized conferences in Beit Daniel for its academic departments, to which researchers from other universities and members of its administrative departments were invited.



Photo: Gideon Markowicz