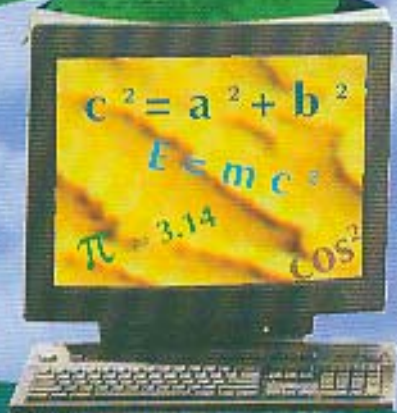


higher education IN ISRAEL

2005



THE STUDENT AUTHORITY

אסגולית

Higher Education in Israel

What kind of higher education studies to pursue, and where to pursue them, are questions that will, to a large extent, determine your future.

This flyer presents a brief look at study options in Israel and absorption tracks for immigrant students. For more detailed information, you can consult with the Student Authority (see addresses at the back). If you are still overseas, you can consult with an aliyah shaliach at your nearest Aliyah Center or Department.

The System of Higher Education

The system of higher education and post-secondary education in Israel is highly diverse and includes the following types of institutions:

- Universities.
- Academic colleges.
- Technological colleges.
- Teachers colleges.
- Schools for the arts (art, photography, film/television, theater/acting, fashion, etc.).
- Schools for paramedical and nursing professions.
- Schools for physical education, sports, and recreation professions.

Altogether they offer hundreds of study possibilities. The quality of higher education in Israel attracts students from around the world.

From Diploma to Doctorate

Different educational tracks lead either to an academic degree or various types of professional diplomas or certificates. The following are just a few examples:

Academic tracks:	Bachelor's degree: 3-4 years. Master's degree: 2-3 years. Doctorate (Ph.D.)
Teaching:	Senior Qualified Teacher's Certificate: 3 years. Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.): 4 years.
Arts:	Academic degree: 3-4 years. Professional certificate.
Technology:	Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Engineering: 3-4 years. Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.) in applied engineering: 4 years. Technical engineering diploma: 2 years.
Nursing:	Academic track: 4 years. Certification: 3 years.

Basic Admissions Requirements

The basic requirements that new immigrants are expected to meet for admission to a post-high school framework, or institution of higher education in Israel, are generally as follows:

- A matriculation certificate or high school diploma accredited by institutions of higher education in your country of origin.
- The Psychometric University Entrance Examination, administered by the Israeli National

Institute for Testing and Evaluation (NITE), for the majority of institutions, or the American SAT 1.

- Proficiency in Hebrew and English. Applicants to programs in the sciences and engineering must also pass a mathematics exam.
- Departmental entrance exams and/or interviews.

Note: Immigrant undergraduate students from countries where the matriculation certificate or high school diploma is not the equivalent of the Israeli matriculation certificate (*te'udat bagrut*) are usually required to successfully complete the pre-academic *mechina* for new immigrants before they can register for a university academic program.

What is the Psychometric University Entrance Examination?

The Israeli NITE Psychometric University Entrance Examination is the Israeli university entrance examination.

The exam is divided into 3 parts:

- Verbal reasoning and logic (use of language).
- Quantitative reasoning (mathematics).
- English

The Psychometric University Entrance Examination is multiple-choice in format, and may be taken in any one of the following languages: Hebrew, Arabic, French, Spanish, and Russian. There is also a combined Hebrew/English version in which difficult Hebrew words are translated into English.

Each university reserves the right to determine the minimum score required for admission to any given faculty, and to revise it periodically. Grading ranges from 200-800 points. A minimum score of 450 is usually required for university acceptance.

The Y.A.E.L. Hebrew knowledge exam is required of students who take the Psychometric exam in a language other than Hebrew, or who completed high school abroad.

The Pre-Academic *Mechina* for New Immigrants: Requirement or Option?

The pre-academic *mechina* for new immigrants is a one-year university preparatory program that is designed to strengthen immigrant students' skills and knowledge in various subjects, and to introduce them to Israeli instructional and study methods. It also helps to prepare you for the Psychometric University Entrance Examination, and bring you up to the level required for various academic tracks.

The following institutions require students with foreign matriculation certificates or high school diplomas that are not the equivalent of the Israeli matriculation (*te'udat bagrut*) to complete one year of *mechina* study, before they may enroll as regular students:

- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Tel Aviv University
- Some academic colleges
- Haifa University obliges students under the age of 23, who do not know Hebrew, to study in a *mechina* preparatory program. Each overseas student is considered on an individual basis.

- The Haifa Technion does not obligate study in a *mechina* program, but in order to be accepted students must successfully pass the final exams of the *mechina* program.

Bar Ilan University and Ben Gurion University, like most other Israeli institutions of higher education, do not require *mechina* study as a condition of admittance. However, completing a *mechina* may significantly increase your chances for admission, as well as contribute to your success throughout your studies.

In most cases, the following categories of students are exempt from studying in a *mechina*:

- Students holding matriculation certificates that are the equivalent of the *te'udat bagrut*, on condition that they have achieved a sufficient grade point average.
- Students who studied for at least one year at an accredited university or college abroad and are able to submit official transcripts from the institution.
- Students holding Bachelor's degrees who plan to study at the graduate level in Israel.

To verify whether or not you will be required to enroll in a pre-academic *mechina* for new immigrants, contact the admissions office at the institution you plan to attend.

Mechina Studies

There are different *mechina* tracks designed to prepare students for specific academic fields. You should enroll in the *mechina* program that corresponds to the faculty or department that you plan to study in:

- Humanities.
- Social sciences.
- Life and medical sciences.
- Technological and exact sciences.

Acceptance to a specific track is dependent upon your level of knowledge of mathematics and of the subject matter of your chosen track.

The *mechina* curriculum is composed according to the requirements of the given faculty, and generally includes courses in Hebrew, English, Jewish studies, and mathematics, in addition to elective and specialized courses.

Preparatory courses for the Psychometric University Entrance Examination may be held in languages other than Hebrew, provided that there is sufficient enrollment. Note that the courses are available at an additional cost, which must be paid by the student.

The *mechina* programs begin in the summer – usually during July or August – and continue throughout the academic year.

The *mechina* program at the Technion commences twice a year – usually in September and April.

Haifa University and Bar Ilan University have *mechina* programs that begin in January or February. They do not include ulpan *alef*, and therefore require a reasonable level of Hebrew knowledge prior to enrollment. Note that opening of programs is subject to sufficient student enrollment.

Further Studies for Holders of Undergraduate Degrees from Abroad

Students holding Bachelor's degrees from accredited universities in their countries of origin may choose from the following study options:

- Master's degree programs at Israeli universities.
- Professional certification or retraining programs for holders of academic degrees.
- Teaching-certification programs for college graduates.

Admission to graduate level or diploma studies is generally dependent on the following:

- Meeting the specific requirements of the faculty or program.
- Proficiency in Hebrew and English.
- Final undergraduate school grades.
- GRE, GMAT, or other international admissions examination, for specific faculties or programs.

Master's degree programs generally demand at least two years of study.

Note that students holding degrees equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from a foreign university are often required to finish one year of supplementary courses, which may be subsidized by the Student Authority within the framework of the three years of assistance.

Hebrew Studies

Although immigrant students may study Hebrew at any of the Hebrew ulpanim offered throughout

the country, they are strongly encouraged, if eligible, to learn Hebrew within the framework of one of the pre-academic programs designed especially for immigrant students. The programs help prepare you for academic demands, including the Hebrew placement exams at universities, while the dates of operation are coordinated so that studies conclude prior to the opening of the fall or spring semesters. The initial, basic ulpan, known as ulpan *alef*, runs for approximately five months.

Hebrew Ulpanim for Students

There are two ulpan programs under the supervision of the Student Authority that are designed especially for immigrant students:

- Tochnit Klita Academit (Academic Absorption Program, *Taka*).
- Kibbutz Ulpan for Students.

Tochnit Klita Academit (Academic Absorption Program, Taka)

Tochnit Klita Academit (Academic Absorption Program, Taka) is a special pre-academic program designed for immigrant students (holding a *te'udat oleh*) who are exempt from *mechina* studies:

- A student who has studied for at least one year at an institution of higher education abroad, and intends to continue studies in Israel.
- A student who has completed a Bachelor's degree abroad, and plans to pursue a Master's degree or graduate level studies in Israel.

- A student who has been exempted from *mechina* studies by a university.
- A student with a high school matriculation that is equivalent to an Israeli *bagrut*.

In addition, all students must meet the following conditions:

- Hold a matriculation certificate or high school diploma accepted by institutions of higher education in your country of origin.
- Comply with Student Authority criteria for assistance (age, date of aliyah, background, educational credentials, etc.).
- Complete ulpan *alef* (either before or as part of the program) and pass a placement exam in Hebrew.
- For *Taka* Hi-Tech Jerusalem it is necessary to pass a final exam in math.

Taka programs are offered at three locations:

- Ashkelon College, which is an extension of Bar Ilan University. Residence is at the Calanit Absorption Center.
- Jezreel Valley College, an independent regional college, located north of Afula. Residence is at the Upper Nazareth Absorption Center.
- *Taka* Hi-Tech Jerusalem, located at Hadassah College, with accommodation at an absorption center in Jerusalem, or in student dormitories. This option is designed for students who intend to pursue studies in the sciences, engineering, or hi-tech.

Note: Students are responsible for covering their rental fees, which are subsidized.

There are currently two *Taka* tracks that you may choose from, depending on your Hebrew level:

1. Five-month ulpan *alef*, followed by the five-month *Taka* program, for those who have not already studied in an ulpan.
2. The standard five-month *Taka* program, for those who have already completed ulpan *alef* at another ulpan, or who have demonstrated a sufficiently high level of Hebrew proficiency.

The curriculum consists of Hebrew, English, math, computers, and an academic elective. At *Taka* Hi-Tech Jerusalem, the emphasis is on math and computers.

In addition to the regular *Taka* curriculum, a preparatory course for the Psychometric University Entrance Examination (entailing 100 hours of class time) is offered. Classes may be held in your native language, on condition that there are enough students for each language. Participation in the course requires a separate fee, in addition to the fees for the program.

All *Taka* programs commence twice a year – September/October and February/March – and run for approximately 5 months.

Professional career counseling and guidance are available to students during the course.

Ulpan *alef* for the Ashkelon *Taka* track is offered at the Pre-Academic Ulpan at the Calanit Absorption Center in Ashkelon. For the Jezreel Valley College program, the initial ulpan is held at the Upper Nazareth Absorption Center.

In addition to rent and daily expenses, students are responsible for covering fees for registration, counseling, and the Psychometric University Entrance Examination preparation course.

In order to register for *Taka*, you must have a *te'udat oleh*, and copies of your diplomas and degree certificates.

Note: The period of study is **not** included in the three years of Student Authority assistance for which new immigrants are eligible.

Kibbutz Ulpan for Students

There are two kibbutz ulpan programs designed especially for students:

- At Kibbutz Ramat Yochanan; intended for students with some Hebrew proficiency. The program lasts for five months, and begins twice a year, in August/September, and in January/February.
- At Kibbutz Ein HaShofet; intended for students in need of learning Hebrew at beginners' level. The program lasts for ten months, and opens in September only.

Students live and work on the kibbutz during their ulpan studies. Student Authority staff are available for counseling and guidance throughout the program.

What is the Student Authority?

The Student Authority (*Minhal HaStudentim*) is a body operated within the auspices of both the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption and the Jewish Agency, which deals with all affairs concerning

immigrant students in Israel. Its services include educational guidance and counseling, information on educational options, and financial aid for eligible students. The Student Authority also organizes social and cultural activities, seminars, and tours around the country. All of the programs preparing immigrant students for academic study in Israel are run in association with the Student Authority.

The Student Authority offers assistance in the following areas:

- Tuition for up to 3 years of study, including the year of *mechina* studies.
- Funding of pre-academic programs and *ulpanim* for students.
- Partial funding of English language courses.
- Funding of preparatory courses for technological tracks.
- Counseling, information, and guidance regarding higher education options.
- Tutoring.
- Individual psychological counseling and support.
- Social activities, cultural events, field trips, hikes, seminars, and workshops.
- Student loans.
- Counselors to assist and guide students throughout their studies.

Who is Eligible to Receive Student Authority Assistance?

The following categories of students are generally eligible for Student Authority assistance, provided that they have immigrant (*oleh*) or returning minor

(*katin chozer*) status in Israel, will enroll at an Israeli institution of higher education within **36** months of receiving *oleh* status, and will complete their studies within **7.5** years:

- Students holding a matriculation certificate or high school diploma accepted by institutions of higher education in their country of origin, who plan to study at the undergraduate level in Israel.
- Students who hold a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education abroad, and plan to pursue a Master's degree or graduate level studies in Israel.
- Students who wish to study in institutions that are not government funded, and in which the tuition fees are significantly higher than university studies, will receive funding from the Student Authority at a rate equivalent to the basic university tuition, and must make up the difference themselves.

Note that the period of eligibility for Student Authority assistance may be extended for those serving in the Israel Defense Forces during the period of mandatory military service.

Age Requirements for Student Authority Assistance

In order to be eligible for Student Authority assistance, you must meet the following age requirements:

- Candidates for the pre-academic *mechina* must be under the age of 23 upon commencing *mechina* studies (i.e. you must be before your 23rd birthday).

- Candidates for Bachelor's degree studies must be under the age of 27 upon commencing studies in Israel.
- Candidates for Master's degree studies must be under the age of 30 upon commencing studies in Israel (two years of assistance).
- Students must commence studies in practical engineering before the age of 28 (up to two years of assistance).

Eligibility for Immigrant Students Who Graduated from Israeli High Schools

Students who graduated from Israeli high schools are eligible for Student Authority assistance according to the following conditions:

- Students who studied up to 2.5 years to completion of high school in Israel are eligible for 2 years of tuition assistance.
- Students who studied for 1.5 years to completion of high school in Israel are eligible for 3 years of tuition assistance.
- Graduates of special high school programs such as "foreign language matriculation," or the "Na'aleh Program," who studied for up to 3 years in Israel at the high school level, are eligible for 2 years of Student Authority assistance.

Eligibility for Immigrant Students Who Lived in Israel as Tourists Prior to Aliyah

Students who lived in Israel with the status of tourist for a continuous or cumulative period, and who changed their status to *oleh*, may be eligible for Student Authority assistance based on the following conditions:

- Students who lived in Israel as tourists for up to 3 years are eligible for 3 years of Student Authority assistance.
- Students who lived in Israel as tourists for between 3 to 5 years are eligible for 1 year of assistance only, on condition that the assistance is utilized within 36 months from the date of receipt of *oleh* status.
- Students who lived in Israel as tourists for over 5 years are **not** eligible for Student Authority assistance.

Academic Stipulations

- In order to receive Student Authority assistance, you must be enrolled as a regular student (*min ha'minyan*) at an accredited institution of higher education recognized by the Student Authority. Students accepted on a conditional basis are **not** eligible for Student Authority assistance.
- Students must demonstrate academic achievement on a yearly basis.
- Assistance will **not** be given to pursue a second degree of the same type; in other words, a student who arrives in Israel holding a Bachelor's degree from a foreign university will not be awarded aid for an undergraduate program in Israel. Nor will assistance be provided for a degree equivalent to one already earned in Israel.
- Assistance is not available to students studying in Israeli branches of foreign universities.
- The Student Authority does not assist doctoral students (PhD) students. Doctoral students should consult with the Center for Absorption in Science: **omrii@moia.gov.il**, Tel. (02) 6752795.

The Student's Obligation: *Shahak*

All students who receive Student Authority tuition scholarships are required to perform a total of 120 hours (4 hours/week) of volunteer community service work during the third year of assistance, within the framework of the *Shahak* (*Sheirut Chevrati Kehilati*) program.

Student Housing

The majority of immigrant students do not have parents who live in Israel. The Student Authority places a high priority on finding suitable housing for these students both during the *mechina* program and their first year of higher education studies. Housing options for immigrant students include the following:

- Jewish Agency hostels and absorption centers.
- Student dormitories on university and college campuses.
- Apartment rentals on the private market.
- Living with relatives.

Note that young adults without parents in the country may be eligible to receive government rental subsidies from the Ministry of Housing, following the conclusion of the period of Absorption Basket payments. The student is responsible, however, for covering additional living expenses.

Student Expenses

The Student Authority awards scholarships that cover basic tuition fees only. The student is responsible for the following additional expenses:

- Registration, examination, and book fees.
- Library and laboratory use, and tutoring.
- Tuition fees for studies that need to be repeated due to failure or change of academic major.
- Apartment rental or dormitory fees, and living expenses.

Important! At some institutions of higher education, tuition fees exceed the basic tuition rate subsidized by the Student Authority. In such a case, the student is responsible for covering the difference. Students in need of financial aid may apply for loans through the Student Loan Fund of the Student Authority.

Tips for Students

- Before making any decision regarding your higher education studies, it is advisable to consult with a Student Authority representative.
- Verify that the Student Authority recognizes the institution (or academic program) that you plan to attend, and that you are eligible to receive assistance.
- Make sure that you have the following original documents, as well as sufficient photocopies of each of them:
 - Matriculation certificate or high school diploma.
 - University or college transcript.
 - Degree certificate(s)/diploma(s).
 - Academic references (if applying for a master's degree).
 - *Te'udat oleh* (immigrant certificate).
 - Registration documents from an institution of higher education in Israel.

- Military service documents.
- Copies of overseas examinations (SAT, GMAT, GRE, etc.)
- Admission to academic programs at Israeli universities can be highly competitive. You should apply for admission to several schools, and not limit yourself to just one.
- Thoroughly investigate all of the study options relevant to your specific field of interest.
- In most cases, those planning aliyah are advised to begin Hebrew study even before coming to Israel, which will enable you to begin and finish ulpan on a more advanced level.
- If you are still overseas, you may obtain information and counseling regarding higher education options, as well as begin registration procedures for Student Authority programs, through your local aliyah shaliach. You may also contact the Student Authority directly: National Coordinator for English Speaking Students, Naomi Shmuel, Tel. (02) 6214589; e-mail: naomis@moia.gov.il.

Student Authority Offices

The Student Authority's offices are located at each of the four district offices of the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption listed below, and are open from Sunday to Thursday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Jerusalem and Southern District

15 Rehov Hillel
Jerusalem 94581
Tel: (02) 6214543/40/38/59
Fax: (02) 6222807

Tel Aviv District

6 Rehov Esther HaMalka
Tel Aviv 64398
Tel: (03) 5209155
Fax: (03) 5290835

Haifa and Northern District

15 Sderot HaPalyam
Kiryat HaMemshala
Binyan Alef
Haifa 33095
Tel: (04) 86331111
Fax: (04) 8632336

Beer Sheva and Negev District

Beit Oshira
31 Rehov Zalman Shazar
Beer Sheva 84105
Tel: (08) 6261229
Fax: (08) 6261220

The Student Authority reserves the right to periodically revise its criteria for assistance.

The Student Authority assists eligible immigrants, on an annual basis, with the option to continue assistance decided at the Student Authority's discretion.

Original Hebrew text: **Orit Mor-Sela, Director, the Department of Academic Studies, the Student Authority.**

**Produced by the Publications Department
Ministry of Immigrant Absorption**

Ida Ben Shetreet, Director, Publications Department
Laura L. Woolf, Chief Editor, English Language Publications



Eighth Edition



הופק על ידי:

אגף מידע ופרסום

המשרד לקליטת העלייה

רח' הלל 15

ירושלים 94581

© כל הזכויות שמורות

מק"ט 0103605080

Produced by:

Publications Department

Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

15 Rehov Hillel

Jerusalem 94581

All Rights Reserved ©

Catalogue number: 0103605080

www.moia.gov.il

e-mail: info@moia.gov.il