Mission

The Open University of Israel stands for equality, diversity, social inclusion, and excellence. OUI is the only university in Israel that makes university higher education accessible, without prerequisite admission requirements, for truly everyone. It allows students from any background from all over the country to fulfill their dream to study towards a high level academic degree.

For over 40 years OUI has served as a leading force for social inclusion and academic empowerment by closing social gaps and reaching out to the geographic and socio-economic periphery, while maintaining excellence in academia. As of 2022, OUI is proud to also offer a doctoral program in education: Technologies in Learning Systems. This program is one of a kind and with that OUI is the only university in Israel which gives students who could, due to their financial and geographic circumstances, only dream of a doctorate the opportunity to translate these dreams into reality.

The Need

Today, Israel is a global leader in science and technology. However, Israel already has a shortage of 15,000 job placements in high-tech and is projected to face an even stronger shortage of the highly-skilled tech workers and entrepreneurs who are critical to maintaining the country’s high-tech economy. Hence, the State of Israel called to action to help fill critical gaps in the country’s computer science expertise. In response and with the understanding where the real human capital exists, OUI created BA and MA programs in Computer Sciences with specializations in cyber security and data science - and even found its place in the midst of IDF intelligence army bases across Israel.

OUI has hence made a critical contribution to Israel’s defense, existence, and continuation of staying on top as a global leader and as the Start-up Nation. OUI’s activities are crucial in education and hold the key to powering Israel’s high-tech economy.
Our Proven Success and Impact

OUI is totally unique in that it is the only university in Israel that has ZERO entry barriers - no high school certificate is needed or SAT/ GMAT. High motivation is the key: Once a student is registered to their first course, we, the university do everything in order to fulfill their dream of an undergraduate degree for our students while strengthening Israel’s most important capital - its Human Resources - for a more resilient Israel.

Beyond their academic achievements, students report acquiring skills through their OUI studies that they would not have in any other setting - including self-discipline, high motivation, curiosity, the ability to cope with challenges, stellar analytical skills and especially, perseverance. These abilities enrich their skills and employability, as well as enable their academic path towards graduate studies. Indeed, a recent governmental study across all Israeli university graduates five-years out found that OUI graduates earn in the top one-third highest salaries in a variety of fields including Computer Science, Life Science, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Thousands of our alumni are stellar examples of professional success who go on to study at Ivy League universities and reach top positions in their fields, including 16 members of the current Knesset, the founders of the last 6 leading hi-tech exits in Israel, and many business, municipal and IDF leaders all across Israel.

Our student body consists of 35-40% STEM students, and includes the largest number of working professionals, active duty IDF soldiers in the most elite units including intelligence and cyber warfare, as well as the largest program for gifted high school students in Israel – in other words the next generation of Israel’s most important resource – its human resources. Without a doubt, OUI plays a vital role in enabling and empowering Israel’s Innovation Nation.

OUI’s Unique Teaching Model

The Open University of Israel is one of Israel’s nine Universities. Studies are at a high university level on par with all other universities in Israel and at identical cost. Over 53,000 students are currently enrolled at OUI, studying from home as well as from our 70 physical campuses spread all across Israel, and are offered over 750 courses in 7 different academic departments.

This not only makes OUI the largest of the nine universities in Israel, but makes us also the only hybrid learning option in Israel. The combination of state-of-the-art digital learning platform, advanced analytics that enable tailored made learning programs, and cutting edge teaching methods are all
combined with close guidance and support alongside independent study, and is stunningly effective and attuned to today’s realities. The full remote accessibility, superb physical infrastructure and high level of studies allows our students to both work and study at their own time limitations, and with this makes OUI a leading academic institution, a pioneer for virtual learning, and the most attractive and only choice today in Israel for a distance online and hybrid degree. Our DNA is social inclusion and uncompromising academic excellence.

**Our Students and Scholarships**

Our students are a reflection of Israel’s diverse society, including students of all abilities, different cultural and religious backgrounds, single-mothers, outstanding IDF soldiers, and gifted high-school students among many others. We include and bring together the largest number of Haredi, Arab-Israeli, Ethiopian, Bedouin, and Druze students every year.

It is critical that as many citizens in Israel attain higher education, especially from Israel’s struggling periphery who often do not have the means - financially or geographically - to attend a university that requires physical presence at a campus. The impact of adamantly reaching all corners of Israel’s complex society and doing all we can to graduate tens of thousands of people with undergraduate degrees and place them in Israel’s dynamic workplaces is national and international resilience at the highest level - realizing the full promise of Israel’s strong brain power for the future of the State of Israel.

Our dedicated partners and supporters provide these underprivileged but brilliant-minded students the opportunity to pave a better future and fulfill their dream of getting one step closer to acquiring a university degree. Thanks to these supporters, we help make outstanding and competitive Higher Education accessible and open to all. Indeed 80% of our students are FIRST GENERATION to higher education - from Israel’s periphery towns, development towns, small villages and from all walks of life. Many of our students must rely on these scholarships due to their limited financial capabilities, their responsibilities to provide for their families, and their personal circumstances.