The first year of the BASIS program, also called the Foundation Year, is based on the RIS Mechina program. BASIS students participate in many of the Mechina courses, including some that they are not required to attend.

The key Mechina staff members in charge of BASIS include:

- Luba Glikin: Administrative director of the Mechina; coordinator and advisor for Spanish-speaking students in the Mechina; M.A. in Education; experienced in education and advising. Tel: 02-5881612.
- Dalia Roth-Gabison: Academic director of the Mechina and Hebrew teacher at the RIS; M.A. in Hebrew Language, experienced in education. Tel: 054-7551222.

The BASIS program frees participants from the requirement to take the psychometric examination as a condition for admission to the Hebrew University. The BASIS program is designed for students who attained excellent matriculation scores and would like to be admitted to prestigious departments at the Hebrew University. Students in BASIS have already been accepted to the University; however, they must be required to take certain courses in the RIS Mechina. Moreover, they must achieve a minimum grade of 85 in these courses in order to continue their studies at the Hebrew University. In addition, all BASIS students must study Hebrew and English according to their level.

The students must be on Hebrew level Bet (those who are not on this level will have to study Hebrew level Aleph in the Summer Ulpan so that they can begin their first semester at level Bet). By the end of the year in the Mechina, they must complete Hebrew level Gimel, since that is a condition of the University for Admission to studies. Students on levels Bet and Gimel study 14 hours a week, while those on level Dalet study 10 hours a week. During the first year of University studies following the Mechina, the students study Hebrew with other regular undergraduate Hebrew University students. By the end of their undergraduate studies, they must complete level Vav and receive an exemption from Hebrew studies. The student’s level is determined by the Placement Examination.

In addition, the students must reach English level 3 to continue their studies at the University. All BASIS students must be at a minimum on level 4 in their first semester of studies in order to meet the English requirement. The student’s English level is determined by the Placement Examination.

### Hebrew

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04101</td>
<td>Alef</td>
<td>- not offered in the autumn and spring semesters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04111</td>
<td>Bet</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14h 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04121</td>
<td>Gimel</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14h 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>04131</td>
<td>Dalet</td>
<td>10h 5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>04141</td>
<td>Heh</td>
<td>8h 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04151</td>
<td>Vav</td>
<td>6h 3</td>
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</table>

**English**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04201</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16h 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04210</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>13h 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04211</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>04221</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>04238</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6h 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11181</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4h ---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mathematics**

**A. Humanities & Social Sciences Trend**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04260</td>
<td>Introduction to Probability</td>
<td>5h 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The course provides fundamental concepts in probability theory. Course topics include: groups, binary relations between groups, Venn diagrams, and cardinal number of finite groups. Definition of probability, tables, conditional probability, Bayes formula, independent events and combinatory.

Mr. Kanevsky Boris
Mr. Sheyn Aviv

**B. Exact & Lifes Science Trend**

This trend accepts students who successfully pass the Mathematics Placement Test. Candidates will be placed into either the basic or intensive level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04500</td>
<td>Introduction to Calculus I</td>
<td>11h 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The purpose of the course is developing tools and understanding of single variable functions as well as applications. Course topics include - limits, continuity and derivative, fundamental theorems of calculus, the investigation of the function and applications such as solving equations and inequalities, Taylor polynomial approximation and integrals. An introduction to geometry will be given as well.

Mrs. Lewi Debora
Mrs. Sobol Rima
48088  Basic Calculus   11h   8 credits
The course deals with the functions of a single variable, limits, in the notion of
continuity and the derivative, the fundamental theorems of calculus, investigation of a
function and its use in solving equations and inequalities, approximation using the
Taylor polynomial and integrals. In addition, the course will include a number of
topics from Introduction to Geometry.

Mr. Kanevsky Boris
Mr. Sheyn Aviv

48074  Calculus for the Sciences   11h   8 credits
The course deals with calculus of functions in several variables. Course topics
include: contour lines, limits, partial derivatives and directional derivatives, Gradient
and applications, finding extreme points, Lagrange multipliers, double integrals and
their applications, line integrals, vector fields and Gaustheorem. In addition, students
will study methods for solving ordinary differential equations.

Mr. Kanevsky Boris
Mr. Sheyn Aviv

04515  Physics   8 credits   10h   Dr. Bloch Meron
The course consists of 5+ school learning units and is studied during two semesters.
Basic university-level physics is studied in the course. The classes consist of lectures
and training tasks accompanied with quizzes after every topic as well as midterm and
final exams. The semester grade is based on 80% of the final exam grade and 20% of
the midterm grade (or the final grade only, more of them). Basic mechanics
(kinematics, dynamics, momentum and energy), electrostatics and direct current are
studied in the first semester, while magnetism, optics, gases and modern physics are
studies in the second one.

04532  Biology   8 credits   10h   Dr. Cohen Assaf
The course provides students with a foundation for academic studies in biology and
biology-related areas.
The course is divided into two sections: (a) theoretical knowledge in the various
foundational fields of biology, and (b) a cognitive approach to the world of biology.
The course consists of lectures, experimental demonstrations and the study of material
through scientific articles.

Jewish and Israel Studies
Required in the first semester; each student must take at least one course.

Choose the course 48063 or for students on level Heh, Vav or Exempt from
Hebrew studies course 04330

48063  Archaeology of Israel   4 credits   4h   Dr. Avisser-Lewis Rona
The course explores archaeological research methods, what is archaeology and what
is an archeological excavation, as well as the relationship between archaeology and
history. Topics by period – the Prehistoric period: human development, making stone
tools and hunter-gatherer societies; the Neolithic period: the beginning of pottery, the
agricultural revolution and the domestication of plants and animals; the Bronze Age:
the early dynasties in Egypt and the urbanization in our region; the Iron Age: the
Bible and archaeology, the arrival of the sea people and the Israeliite settlements in the
hill country; the Classical period: Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine empires: the
buildings, religions and some material culture.
04330  Modern Jewish Thought  4 credits  4h  Mrs. Maayan Yael
The Modern age undermined the foundations of traditional society. In the age of secularization religion was displaced in favor of a secular order of things. Under such circumstances personal conscience and self-determination became the new cornerstones of identity. The world brought about by modernity and secularization challenged Jews in particular to reconfigure the relationship between their lives and their religion: Does being a Jew allow one to partake in modern politics, economy and culture in a non-Jewish setting? Does it entail certain choices such as observance of religious rituals or national Jewish sympathies? Can traditional Jewish life be justified as a rational moral choice? Could professional research uncover a particular Jewish history and philosophy? The course will address answers to these questions while looking at various sources of Jewish thought and culture in Modern times.

04309  Topics in the History of the Jewish People  4 credits  4h
Dr. Bibelnik Pinhas
For students in levels Bet, Gimel, Dalet
The course deals with the cultural, religious, social, economic and political history of the Jews from antiquity till the 20th century.
Central topics of the course: Main spiritual trends (in the Biblical, Second Temple, Medieval and Modern periods), the organization of the Jewish community, the reciprocal influences and the relations between Muslims, Christians and Jews, the emergence of the Modern Jewish world: Hassidic movement, the process of Emancipation, Anti-Semitism, Zionism, the Holocaust, and the State of Israel.

History Courses in Different Languages

English

04329  Topics in the History of the Jewish People  4 credits  4h
Dr. Berkowitz Abraham
This course introduces the students to various topics in Jewish History beginning with the Biblical narrative and ending with the re-birth of a Jewish State in the Land of Israel. The breadth of this course means that most subjects will be covered in a manner suitable to a survey course – lightly and concisely. That said, certain thematic concepts which appear over and over again in Jewish history will be developed during the semester providing the students with the tools to explore various topics in more detail. In this connection, students should consider the thematic concepts that guide the course from topic to topic as the material which binds together the two parts of this course – the weekly lectures and the writing component. The weekly lectures – and the required readings – will be designed to provide the students with a tactile sense of the narrative. And the writing component will make it possible for the students to grapple with a particular topic or subject within the historical narrative in a more serious and in-depth manner.

French

04307  Israeli Society  4 credits  4h  Dr. Mischler - Herfroy Eliora
The course aims to give French-speaking students a basic knowledge of Israeli Society (from 1943 until 2006). We will transmit general knowledge about the key periods in a classical way, and students will participate in various types of activities where they will personally be in touch with the history, the politics, socio-economic issues and cultural richness/complexities of Israeli society.
Arabic

04342 Israeli Society 4 credits 4h Mr. Hayek Nidal
The course provides an introduction to regime, society and politics in the State of Israel, through review and discussion of central topics shaping the Israeli regime and society. The course encourages continued discourse between students, in order to develop their willingness to hear one another and handle constructive debate, but also provides statistics and information. The course strives to expose the students to the complexity of the central issues and presents dilemmas and unsolved questions found deep within the divisions of Israel, in an attempt to distance them from a black-or-white perspective and to focus on the problems and their solutions as well as the possibility of multiple opinions and legitimate options.

Academic Writing

04370 Academic Writing Skills in Different Languages 2 credits 2h
Required course for students on Hebrew levels Bet and Gimel.
Students studying 11 weekly hours in the Exact & Life Sciences trend are exempt from this course.

Arabic Dr. Sofer-Vital Shira
This course is aimed at introducing the conventions of academic writing and improving academic writing skills. We will focus on the fundamentals of scientific writing and conducting thorough research. Ways of developing academic arguments as well as counter-arguments supported by appropriate and relevant evidence will be discussed. Writing in effective, concise, clear and critical manner, which meets the accepted scientific standards, will also be addressed. Individual tutoring as well as peer learning will take place during the course.

English Mrs. Salzberg Alieza
The course teaches students the skills and conventions of academic writing necessary for university paper writing. The class focuses on thesis construction, close reading, library research, developing an academic tone and appropriate organization for a research paper, as well as the conventions of citation. In addition, students are encouraged to be peer readers and to learn through commenting on each other's papers. Students are given several short assignments to help build these skills as well as a midterm and final paper. The importance of writing drafts and revising is stressed throughout these assignments. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor for feedback on drafts and revisions.

Writing in Hebrew for Students in Level Dalet Mrs. Chazani Shlomit
During the course students practice and improve their writing skills in Hebrew while working on an individual academic research project in the humanities. Each student picks his or her own research topic, finds and uses relevant sources critically, suggests a hypothesis and forms an argument to support it. The course focuses on writing skills and helps students to become their own editors and critics. The students are given classroom instruction and individual tutorials.

Required for students on level Dalet Hebrew, who do not speak Arabic, English or French.
Students studying 11 weekly hours in the Exact & Life Sciences trend are exempt from this course.

Writing in Hebrew for students in level Heh, Vav, Ptor  Mrs. Maayan Yael

During the course students practice and improve their writing skills in Hebrew while working on an individual academic research project in the humanities. Each student picks his or her own research topic, finds and uses relevant sources critically, suggests a hypothesis and forms an argument to support it. The course focuses on writing skills and helps students to become their own editors and critics. The students are given classroom instruction and individual tutorials.

Required for students on levels Heh and Vav Hebrew or exempt. Students who are studying physics or biology are exempt from this course.

Additional courses:

48079 Introduction to Micro Computers (Excel) 2 credits  2h  Dr. Czaczkes Benjamin

In this course students learn fundamental techniques to make spreadsheet creation, data entry, and presentation much easier. This course teaches participants the basic functions and features of Excel 2010.

After completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand spreadsheet terminology, environment, and navigating a worksheet
- Enter and edit labels, values, and formulas in a worksheet
- Modify a worksheet, insert and delete ranges, rows, and columns
- Understand relative and absolute references
- Use functions.
- Find data with a formula
- Format text, numbers, rows, columns and use conditional formatting
- Print setup and options
- Create, format, and modify charts
- Manage large workbooks and work with multiple worksheets
- Use Conditional formatting and SmartArt graphics

48061 Human Aspects in the Bible 2 credits  2h  Mr. Eldad Oded

This course deals with philosophical issues of human existence such as Man’s relationship to himself and others, love and jealousy, the nature of love, sexuality and family, parenthood as an initial framework for all human life and the socialization that largely determines a person’s future. It also addresses free will and human liberty.

Is there free will or are all human opinions, attitudes and behaviors defined unknown to us by biological and social factors? Do we in fact have absolute free will? We will deal with the parameters of law, charity, and relationship to Nature and so on. Study of these topics will include close reading of Tanakh passages such as the Cain and Abel, Sodom and Gomorrah, Babel and Jonah narratives. Students will write a research paper comparing the biblical text with various Midrashim, using studies by prominent scholars, from the contemporary period as well as earlier periods.
04308 Hebrew in the Streets of Jerusalem 4 credits 4h Mrs. Chazani Shlomit
This course will explore how in 19th-century Jerusalem, a fairly insignificant small town, was transformed into one of the most important cities in the Middle East, playing a dominant role in the international political arena. It will also look at how Jerusalem became the first city in modern times to have Hebrew-speaking residents! A field trip will be taken to charming Nevi’im (“Prophets”) Street. By the end of the course, the students hopefully will understand a bit more of the puzzle surrounding the most complicated and beautiful city in the world.

04705 Preparatory Course for Introduction to Economics 4 credits 4h Mrs. Lewi Debora
The course deals with basic concepts and analytical tools in economics: production possibility frontier and alternative cost, economic growth and international trade, production function and resource allocation, competitive market mechanism, economic behavior of producers and consumers, supply and demand, equilibrium, government intervention.

In addition, the following courses are held in the second semester:

48085 Introduction to Psychology 6 credits 6h Dr. Duniec Eduardo
The course focuses on basic theoretical concepts and research methods in psychology. It presents the different sub-areas of the field, as well as the different approaches to the investigation of psychological phenomena. The course examines the work of the most important experimenters, theoreticians and theoretical schools in the areas of psychological development, perception, learning, memory, motivation, emotion, personality, social psychology, stress, psychopathology and methods of treatment.

48057 Introduction to International Relations 4 credits 4h Mrs. Auslender Viki
This course seeks to introduce its students to the wide world of international relations and to provide them with the necessary, basic tools with which they can explore analytically, scientifically and critically the questions related to this field of study, such as: Why do states go to war? What explains states’ foreign policies? What explains or shapes interstate and regional cooperation? What role do leaders play in the political world? Although this is a theoretical, rather than historical, course, the theoretical tools learned here enable students to analyze the various events and developments in world politics. By the end of this course the students should be able to develop independent theoretical and empirical argumentations with regard to contemporary political issues, along with historical ones, from the world of international relations and the politics which shapes it.

48064 Business Administration 4 credits 4h Mrs. Matar Hanean
The course deals with the major fields of business administration and the basic business terms. The course focuses on three main subjects: finance, marketing and organization behavior. The goal is to become familiar with the decision-making processes in management and to understand the management process.

48086 Introduction to Statistics for the Social Sciences 4 credits 5h Mrs. Lewi Debara
The course provides knowledge of basic statistics for reading and understanding articles and studies.
The course will deal with the following topics:
1. Theoretical statistics: Measurement scales, tables, graphs and measures of dispersion measures.
2. Random variables: Discrete random variables, continuous random variable, uniform distribution, normal distribution.
4. Estimation: Point estimates, confidence intervals, confidence levels.
5. Statistical tests: What is a statistical test? Neiman-Pearson tests, type I error, type II error.

**04492 Hebrew: Dramatical Junctions in the History of Modern Israel 4 credits**

4h Mrs. Chazani Shlomit

This course deals with certain episodes in Israeli life that triggered public interest. We will explore cases which confronted Israeli society with various dilemmas, examining the diversity of each case and the differing viewpoints that arose. Use will be made of scholarly articles adapted to the Hebrew level of the class as well as poetry, fiction, movies and works of art related to the topics studied in the course.

**Core Courses by Faculty**

Students will study core courses in accordance with the major department they have chosen. The list of core courses for the BASIS program will be coordinated with the decisions of the various faculties at the University.

**Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment**

Basic Calculus, 8 credits  
Calculus, 8 credits  
Biology, 8 credits

**Faculty of Science**

Basic Calculus, 8 credits  
Calculus, 8 credits  
Biology, 8 credits

**School of Administration**

Basic Calculus, 8 credits  
Calculus, 8 credits  
Introduction to Statistics, 5 credits  
Introduction to Finance, 3 credits (this course is taught in English in the second semester on Mondays, 18:00-22:00. Students who wish to take this course must register through the Business Administration department.  
All these courses will be recognized as part of the student's bachelors in Business Administration.
Economics Department
Basic Calculus, 8 credits
Calculus, 8 credits

As an exception to the rule, students are permitted to complete their core courses with an overall average of 80.

Faculty of Social Sciences

Course # 48144 taught by Professor Yochanan Friedman, "Belief and Ritual in Islam" (Course is taught in the RIS Undergraduate Division)
Course # 48407 taught by Dr. Ronen Zeidel, "The Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Documentary History" (Course is taught as part of the undergraduate program)
Course # 48146 taught by Dr. Simcha Epstein, "Anti-Semitism from the 19th Century to the Present" (Course is taught as part of the undergraduate program)
These courses are recognized as fulfilling requirements towards students' bachelor's degree.

School of Education
48085 - Introduction to Psychology (Course taught in the Mechina program)

Elective courses:
48407 - Professor Nafez Nazal, "Perspective on Islam: Religion, History and Culture. (Course is taught as part of the undergraduate program)
48803 - Dr. Sarah Schmidt, Community and Changes in Modern History: The Last 200 Years (Course is taught as part of the undergraduate program)
48144 – Professor Yochanan Freidman, "Belief and Ritual in Islam", (Course is taught as part of the undergraduate program)
48146 - Dr. Simcha Epstein, "Anti-Semitism from the XIXth Century to the Present" (Course is taught as part of the undergraduate program)
The Intro to psych course will be recognized as part of the undergraduate program in Education and similarly any 4 credit course from the choice of elective courses.