



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Dear International Community,

We hope this message finds you well.

In follow up to the below email, as you probably realize the decision to postpone again the start of the academic year was a very difficult one and we assume has an impact on your study and personal plans. As such, we would like to kindly advise you of the following:

1. International Programs Academic Start Dates:

Following the decision to postpone the start date of the 2023-24 academic year, please note the following:

- **Rothberg International School Programs**— all undergraduate, graduate, preparatory programs have commenced and are currently being taught online.
- **Faculty International Master Programs** – some may have started online/hybrid and some not. In case of uncertainty regarding your program, we recommend that you contact your academic program coordinator to inquire regarding the status of your program start date.
- **PhD/Post Doc/VRF research students** – in the case of uncertainty, please be in direct contact with your research supervisor regarding the start/continuation of your studies.

In general, in the case of any academic queries, we recommend that you contact your academic programs/faculties.

2. Scholarship payments for research students (MA, PhD, Post Doc):

The university policy is that supervisors are permitted and encouraged to continue to pay scholarships of students who have left the country during October-November 2023.

In the case of any queries, we recommend students to be in direct contact with their supervisor regarding their scholarships.

3. Your location:

Your well-being is our top priority, and during these challenging times in Israel, we are committed to maintaining our connection with you. In the coming days, we are reaching out to you by phone to ensure that we have your most up-to-date contact information and a better understanding of your personal situation.

In general, in the case that you have left Israel, we currently do not recommend you return to Israel until the end of the war.

If you are in Israel, please be reassured that the university international student services and staff are working continuously to ensure your safety and well-being. Please be reminded of the following services available for you:

Students support services:

[HUJI Psychological Service](#)

Due to the situation, the university has opened a hotline for those interested in a telephone conversation with a psychologist from the Psychological Service team.



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The line will be open between 08:30 - 18:30, all days of the week. To schedule an appointment, please email: psyserv@mail.huji.ac.il

In case of an emergency or if students feel stressed or confused due to the situation, they can contact the Rothberg 24/7 emergency line at 0548820217.

General Information and support:

Jerusalem	Rehovot
madrichimlife@savion.huji.ac.il	International Faculty Students Mahyan Gon: mahyang@savion.huji.ac.il ; Jonathan Cohen: jonathanco@savion.huji.ac.il International MSc program coordinators: Keren Ohayon: kerenoha@savion.huji.ac.il Edit Hakim: editha@savion.huji.ac.il

Latest safety and security information:

Keep up to date with our latest safety and security information through the Rothberg International School's dedicated [update page](#).

4. Dorm Policy:

- New students who paid deposit and did not arrive yet – cancellation possible up to 10 days after start of year (ie 3.12.23 currently) and receive a refund of full deposit;
- Students who left and cancelled their rooms (paid for number of days they spent in dorms) will have to re-register and rooms will be allocated based on availability.
- Students who left and are still paying for their rooms – the policy is currently under discussion.

Please note that students who left their belongings and need assistance with packing/shipping – should be contact with madrichimlife@savion.huji.ac.il

We look forward to better and brighter days ahead.

Best Wishes

Raz.

Email from the Rector of Hebrew University, 24.10.23

Students, academic and administrative staff, the Hebrew University community,

The Hebrew University, together with the other research universities in Israel, made the following decision regarding the opening date of the academic year:



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The opening of the academic year will be postponed given the war situation and the high percentage of draftees into the reserves among both students and faculty members. The semester will open at all research universities with the beginning of the release process of those recruited into the reserves, but not before December 3, 2023. Two weeks' notice will be given before the start of the semester to allow everyone to return to routine and the academic track, at the end of which studies will begin. We aim for the academic year to be held in full and to include two full semesters. As the need arises, the academic year will also run into the summer period.

Due to our lack of knowledge regarding the war, we do not specify an exact date for the opening of the academic year. However, it is important to clarify:

- We intend to have a full academic year of two semesters.
- The opening of the academic year will occur close to the beginning of the process of releasing the reserve units. As long as this process starts before January, we should be able to have a reasonable academic year.
- Most likely the length of each semester will be shortened. We will know this only when the academic year begins. The exam period between semesters will also be shorter than usual, and it is certain that the academic year will run into the summer months. There is no doubt that all of us, faculty and students alike, should change our plans for next summer.
- Once the academic year opens, we will do everything possible to assure that all of us, students and faculty, begin on the right foot and that the year ends successfully.

Assistance to reservists and their families

Even when the academic year begins, it is likely that some of the students, as well as first-degree relatives, will still be drafted into the reserves. We will ensure optimal integration and provide help to you by any means we can: financial support, tutoring, assistance in completing the course material, extending deadlines and more. Detailed information about this will be released at the beginning of the academic year.

Assistance will also be given to faculty members who are recruited into the reserves, or to those whose spouses are recruited. Information about this will be provided separately.

What can be done in the meantime?

We encourage all students who are not recruited and who have time to volunteer where they see fit, to do so. You are invited to join our initiatives listed on a special page [HU at the Forefront](#), which offers a wide variety of options for volunteering.

Also, some of the course pages in Moodle have been opened or will be opened soon for students who registered for the course. You can see the course syllabus and start going through the reading materials. The faculties will also hold various activities on campus or online, for the benefit of students who wish to take part in them. Notices about these activities will be sent later.

Our hearts are with you

Our hearts go out to the families of our two students who were murdered, Majed Ibrahim and Tsur Saidi, may their memories be blessed. Our hearts go out to the many members of our community whose loved ones were murdered or injured. Our hearts are with the men and women in the reserves and with the evacuees from their homes in the north and south. Our hearts go out to Carmel Gat, our occupational therapy student, who was kidnapped to Gaza. Our hearts are with our friend, Prof. Yonatan Dekel-Chen, whose son Sagi, was kidnapped to Gaza. We pray, each and every one of us, in our own way, for their safe return home together with the other abductees.

Yours,

Tamir



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