



Dear Members of the University Community,

We are excited to open the academic year in a cautiously optimistic manner. Students are back on campus!

This year is a festive year for the university community - we are celebrating 50 years since the university was founded. This is a significant milestone for our University.

In the last fifty years, the University of Haifa has transformed from a branch of the Hebrew University into an outstanding academic institution in the north of the State of Israel. Gradually we have created a community of students and alumni, friends and supporters, that the University of Haifa has played a significant role in their life journey. At the same time, the management of the university worked all these years to cultivate the connection with the community around us, and for positioning the University as a scientific and cultural anchor. This year we are expected to complete the construction of the Data Science Campus in the Downtown area, which will integrate into the social fabric of urban life and contribute to improving the socio-economic ecosystem in the area. In addition, we are pleased to update on the merger that is taking place with WIZO School of Design, which will add a different and innovative variety to the University, in the form of an Architecture and Design School. In addition, the construction of the cable car has been completed, the construction of a sculpture garden of modern Israeli art will be completed and will overlook our unique view and will begin the expansion of the Hecht Museum by building a new wing.

The Minister of Education, Dr. Yifat Shasha Bitton, alumna of the University, opened the year with an official visit to the University, and we are full of pride for the exposure of our faculty and community of wonderful students to the Minister and her staff.

In examining our academic vision, the University of Haifa is a research university rooted in the geographical space of a mountain, city and sea and at the heart of a unique ecological-socio-economic fabric. The University strives to be a beacon of science and multidisciplinary research excellence in the city of Haifa, in the north, Israel and around the world. The University of Haifa views social and environmental commitment as a strategic goal for changing the future of humanity and its public commitment is intertwined with the social, cultural, communal and geographical fabric of the residents of the State of Israel. Therefore, we will be the engine for the development of social, public and business leadership and we will promote real and daily coexistence between members of all religions and communities in Israel.

- This year, seven new academic entities were established: The School of Archaeology & Maritime Cultures (led by Prof. Israel Finkelstein); The Inter-University Center for Artificial Intelligence and Ethics (led by Prof. Meir Hemo); Haifa Center on the Study on Politics of Inequality (led by Prof. Meir Yaish); The Multidisciplinary Unit for Polish Studies (led by Prof. Marcos Silber); Sustainable Non-Academic Training Center for Social Innovation and Impact Entrepreneurship (led by Dr. Maayan Agmon and Ms. Stav Bar Shani); Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies (led by Dr. Uriel Simonson).

It is important to note that the University adopts the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as part of a global and Humanistic approach to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all human beings.



At the same time, the university places emphasis on quality teaching that combines frontal studies and a variety of different learning modes that have gained momentum in the last year and a half such as, hybrid learning, online learning, e-learning courses, synchronous and asynchronous learning. To this end, the University has made and continues to make great efforts in upgrading classrooms and teaching staff in collaboration with the e-teaching unit that builds and develops dozens of new e-learning courses on a variety of topics.

We have all been waiting to meet with students both new and continuing students; create our meeting with you and the students among themselves after a long time of social disconnection; to see new faces despite the masks that protect us and at the same time allow us to arrive to campus every day. We also have learning, teaching and development challenges ahead of us and we promise to do our best to meet them successfully. Our goal is to accept the future by developing project-based learning, peer learning, research learning and more through a combination of digital communication and face-to-face meetings. These modes of learning come in line with the pedagogical goals defined in the course in the first place, while enhancing the learning experience of the new and continuing students.

As promised, first-year students - it is important to us that you get to know the relevant university units that provide unique services according to the following details:

Dean of Students Activities:

Tutoring - including writing help for those of you who are struggling to submit papers.

For first-year students: As part of the "Beginning Together" program, the students are assigned to groups that will be led by student mentors. Students in the same group will receive holistic guidance from the mentors throughout the first semester.

The Unit for Psychological Counseling, please call 04-8249334.

Hotline for any problem or distress at *5986 The line will operate from 08:00 - 22:00.

You are also welcome to be updated on the Dean's website: <https://dekanat.haifa.ac.il> and to contact us by email: yberger1@univ.haifa.ac.il, or rbraz@univ.haifa.ac.il.

Library Services:

All questions can be directed to the Circulation Department - phone 04-8249770 / 1, by email circ@univ.haifa.ac.il, or by fax number 04-8249146.

Student Support Center:

The support center of the Computing and Information Systems Division will work in a limited format in accordance with the academic activities and preparations for the opening of the 2021-2022 academic year. For more details you can access the website - <https://bit.ly/2ZJN14w>.

Student Dormitories:

The dormitories are open as usual and are ready for the admission of students, including those required by the following isolation from abroad. In case of questions, please contact Ms. Osnat Weinstein at oweinst1@univ.haifa.ac.il.

The Students' Association:

At the students' disposal is the full-time academic office for dealing with individual academic problems and for guidance and assistance in any academic issue - student rights, study materials and more. In case of questions, please contact Yuval Goren, Director of the Academic Office, at Academics@univ.haifa.ac.il.



The Accessibility Office works to protect the rights of students with disabilities and learning disabilities. You are welcome to contact the association's accessibility coordinator, Omer Maimon, by email at specialneeds@univ.haifa.ac.il.

Advice provided by a lawyer will also continue to operate remotely in a telephone meeting, which must be arranged in advance via email ahiat@univ.haifa.ac.il.

We invite, in particular first-year students, to join our virtual tour at the following link:
<https://virtualtour.haifa.ac.il/>

The corona virus will probably continue to accompany us, and yet, reality shows that when most of us act responsibly - we, as a community, can overcome. Your health is important to us, which is why we do our best to help you and you cope with the adjustment back to campus, and place special emphasis on first-year students, in order to allow them a complete and full campus experience.

We waited and hoped that the day would return and would meet again, and the day is finally here. Waiting to see you all!

Wishing you great success and health.

Prof. Ron Robin, President
Prof. Gur Alroey, Rector
Bradley Bloom, CEO