

Extra-Academic Studies

The School of Technology

Course development and operation

This year we completed the development of learning materials in a new study track, Electrical Technician, of the courses "Electrical Machinery," "Capacity Systems and Electricity Facilities I," and "Electrical Propulsion and Transducers."

Evaluation Committee

The President of the Open University appointed a committee for evaluating the work of the School of Technology. The Committee submitted its recommendations in September 2005, some of which were implemented this year. The main recommendations are:

- Increased integration of Technician Certificate studies in the School of Technology with academic studies at the Open University.
- The School of Technology must meet annual output goals in 2006-2010. The goals pertain to the number of enrollments, students and graduates, the use of integrated programs and the development of printed and online study materials.
- Development of new study areas that can be integrated into academic studies and will meet proven needs and demand for these study areas.
- The School's volume of activity demands managerial flexibility, including reducing management overhead from 35% to 30% and increasing organizational efficiency.
- Maintain a balanced budget in 2006. Work plans should be adjusted in order to realize budget goals.

New Study Programs

In 2005-2006, the School of Technology offered two new integrated programs approved by the relevant academic departments and the University Committee for Accreditation of Prior Studies:

- Software Technical Engineer combined with a B.A. in Computer Science or in the Sciences. The program enables students to accumulate at most 59 of the 108 credits required for the academic degree from among the courses of the School of Technology.

- Industrial Management Engineering Technician combined with a B.A. in the Social Sciences: Emphasis on Management. The program enables students to accumulate at most 63 of the 108 credits required for the academic degree from among the courses of the School of Technology.

Study program at the Israel Electricity Company – The School of Technology won a tender issued by the Israel Electricity Company for a two and a half year training program for retraining electrical technicians employed by the Israel Electricity Company as electrical engineering technicians. The first group will commence its studies in Fall 2007.

New program for professional training of "under-represented population groups" – This year the School of Technology will offer a training program in "Computer Network Maintenance", combined with studies towards Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certification. Seventeen men and women – unemployed, individuals receiving income support, single mothers, etc. – began the course and 13 completed the course successfully despite the complexity of the topic and their prior educational limitations. The course was ordered by the Training Division of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor.

Enrollment Data

Field	Enrollments
Technician/Practical Engineer program (including the integrated program)	974
Electrical Technician/Practical Engineer - new program	65
Continuing education for teachers and vocational courses	254
Total	1,293

Graduates

In 2005-2006, 35 graduates were awarded practical engineering or technician degrees. 20 students from other colleges completed their studies at the School of Technology and received practical engineering degrees from their home colleges. 25 students were awarded certified electrician degrees. 137 teachers completed continuing education courses in technological subjects.

The In-Service Teacher Training Unit

The In-Service Teacher Training Unit developed and operated study programs and projects for employees of the education system connected to programs of the Ministry of Education, government offices and public entities dealing in the advancement of the education system in Israel. In 2005-2006, the Unit conducted 70 advanced professional training courses attended by 1,330 teachers.

Studies Toward a Teaching Certificate, a Teaching License and a Teaching Internship

In recent years, OU academic departments have offered several study tracks towards a teaching certificate. The In-Service Teacher Training Unit coordinates between these departments and the Administration for Teacher Training in the Ministry of Education, in order to adapt the study tracks to Ministry of Education requirements. The Unit counsels students on all matters concerning Ministry of Education requirements for seeking employment in teaching.

Courses toward a Teaching Certificate in Civics are offered by the Unit in collaboration with the interdisciplinary Master's program in Democracy Studies, funded by the Ministry of Education. Students in this unique program are certified teachers with Bachelor's degrees in Political Science, Sociology and History, who teach Civics in practice but do not have a teaching license in Civics. 35 teachers took the course "The Didactics of Teaching Civics," and 24 students took "Religion, State and Politics."

Teaching internship – Teaching certificate graduates are required to complete internship in their first year of teaching. Successful completion of the internship entitles students to a Ministry of Education teaching license. The Ministry accredited the universities to accompany these teachers during their internship year through support workshops for interns, and train mentor-teachers. The OU accompanied its graduates during their internship year.

Course for training mentor-teachers – Qualifies teachers to serve as mentors and to accompany teaching interns.

Courses and Continuing Education in the Arab Sector

Course for violence prevention – Part of the efforts of the Ministry of Interior to prevent violence in cities with a mixed-ethnic Arab population. Two workshops conducted by the University trained teams to undertake educational activities opposing violence.

Training educational leadership for kindergartens in the sciences and technology – At the Wadi Ara center, the University offers a unique course for science instruction for

kindergarten children. This is a two-year, 224-hour course for leading kindergarten teachers in the Arab sector.

Training religious leaders for leadership positions in the community – 32 Moslem religious figures took part in this one-year course.

Training supervisors in the Ministry of Interior – The course focuses on the development of management and training skills.

Continuing education for teachers was conducted in the Ministry of Education's Teachers Center in Taibe.

Training Diagnosticians and Assessors of Learning Functioning

Eight courses were conducted this year for training didactic diagnosticians who plan to enter the education system. The studies focus on diagnosis, advancement and screening of pupils with learning difficulties. The project has been conducted over the past five years. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, a study program was developed for certificate studies at the Open University to train didactic diagnosticians, which will be offered beginning in 2007.

Evaluating Learner Achievements

The Ministry of Education established a National Measurement and Evaluation Authority, of which a representative of the OU is a member of the staff and participates in planning training programs on evaluation. The University conducted five training programs for teachers and for position-holders involved in evaluating learner achievements on various topics concerning evaluation.

Continuing Education for Teachers

The unit conducted continuing education programs for teacher enrichment in the areas they teach. The contents were determined in collaboration with Open University faculty and lessons were given by OU teaching staff.

English as a Foreign Language

Reading Comprehension Courses: The rewriting of B and C level courses, and the development of courseware for an online C level course, continued. The first stage of an online level E course was developed using InterWise. Teaching pilots are conducted for all levels, alongside development activities.

A special English course for the Haredi sector was developed for students who have no knowledge of English. The course begins with the English alphabet to enable students to enter the lowest reading comprehension level. The course was taught successfully over one semester.

The course for improving academic presentation skills in English was offered for the first time this year.

Continuing Studies

Continuing Studies includes seven schools: *Ascolot*, *Hasifa*, *Tafnit*, *Tafnitech*, *Diploma*, *DiAlog*, and *Meirav*. This year we continued the accelerated effort to computerize the organization: we expanded the customer relations system for all schools, and developed a study planning and operation system.

Ascolot – School of Interdisciplinary Studies

12,338 students studied at *Ascolot* in 2006, with significantly increased registrations in the Jerusalem and Haifa branches. New courses opened this year alongside existing courses, for example, "Study Seminars Abroad": an art seminar in Florence and Rome, and a seminar in western Turkey. This year we offered students a free benefit: participation in three lectures about cinema at the Tel Aviv cinematheque. This year *Ascolot* opened a center for intra-organization training in the area of cultural enrichment programs, which offers every organization a program particularly suited to its unique characteristics.

Beit Ayala: *Beit Ayala* is a branch of *Ascolot*. In the morning hours, it operates as a school for retirees, with 2,143 students in 2005-2006. In the evening, courses in music, philosophy and art are offered to the general public, with 1,500 students in 2005-2006. Eighteen new courses were offered at *Beit Ayala* this year.

Hasifa – School of Communications, Television and Multimedia Arts

Over 500 students studied at *Hasifa* in 2005-2006. This year, for the first time, the school offered the practical workshop, "Directing and Producing – Master Class," intended to enhance personal expression in film and television. The school also offered a unique course, "Psychology for Scriptwriters," that teaches personality theories and terms in psychology with the aim of providing scriptwriters with tools for understanding psychological phenomena and enhancing their ability to write about them.

The animated movie, "The Interpretation of Dreams," by Max Grishkan, a graduate of *Hasifa*, was selected to represent Israel at the Jerusalem film festival and was screened in "The Best of International Animation" among 15 selected animated films from around the world. The movie was also shown at the Virtuality Conference in Torino, Italy. Three films by *Hasifa* graduates reached the final stage in the national competition category of the 11th International Student Film Festival at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque.

At the traditional end-of-year event, "Digital Happening 2006," dozens of graduates exhibited their works: animated movies, design exhibitions, documentary and feature films, etc. To view the gallery of student works, see <http://www.openu.ac.il/hasifa/gallery.html>.

Tafnit – Continuing Education for Managers

This year *Tafnit* expanded its activities as well as its accessibility and its use of advanced technologies. The school developed new content areas and existing courses were updated in light of market trends and professional developments in management. New branches of the school and websites serving as virtual study centers expanded the school's geographic dispersion. *Tafnit* offers several courses that grant credits toward a Bachelor's degree in the Social Sciences and the Humanities. 1,500 managers and employees in the public and the private sector studied in intra-organizational programs offered by *Tafnit*. This year we expanded collaboration with the Civil Service Commission and hundreds of employees and managers studied at *Tafnit*.

The school continues to conduct a wide range of projects that expose participants to study opportunities at the Open University. This year there was a rise in the number of soldiers at the end of their military service who participated in workshops specifically designed to prepare them for civilian life (7,000 students) and for guidance in pursuing academic studies (1,300 students).



Tafnitech – School of Computers

Tafnitech views the employee as central to the performance of the organization. *Tafnitech* training enables even individuals with no prior background in computers to enter the world of technology, and provides a simple means to remain up-to-date for those who wish to keep up with new and future technologies.

This year, a project was conducted for senior Air Force officers to retrain them in the software field. These intensive studies were held at the Raanana campus.

Diploma – Certificate Studies

Diploma offers study tracks for professional training and for preparing students for licensing examinations in a variety of areas: tourism, finance, graphic design and real estate. *Diploma* conducts a wide range of activities in the Haredi sector and in the past year, in collaboration with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, conducted a course for qualifying investment consultants and their placement in this sector. The school also held training courses for men and women in collaboration with the Bnei Brak municipality and with the Neighborhood Rehabilitation Project Administration; courses in design, graphics and accounting for women in Kfar Habad; and more.

DiAlog – School of Languages

This year *DiAlog* offered a variety of courses to the general public and business organizations. The school doubled the number of instruction hours in courses in Chinese and Japanese, with a significant increase in the number of instruction hours in English language as well.

The **Technical English for Pharmacists** project was developed for Clalit Health Services to train its employees. The courses take place at Open University study centers in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beer Sheba and Jerusalem.

Bank of Lessons for organizations – This activity provides private lessons and courses on all levels for employees in leading organizations in Israel.

DiAlog for the benefit of the community – During the past year, the school held volunteer activities to strengthen the English of students, most of them new immigrants from Ethiopia, at the Kfar Hayarok boarding school.

Meirav – School for Training Complementary Medicine Professionals

Meirav, in collaboration with “Maccabi Natural,” part of Maccabi Healthcare Services, offered training in new professions this year, including clinical herbalists. This is the only study program in Israel accredited by the American Herbalist Guild (AHG).

Meirav for the benefit of the community – This year students of naturopathy and Chinese medicine treated children at Kfar Ofarim (an institution for autistic children) and at the Korchak school (for special needs children), as well as children with learning disabilities at the Kfar Hayarok boarding school, and pupils at a junior high school in Ramat Hasharon. Graduates also worked with dancers of the Batsheva Dance Company. During the war in the north, various population groups were given treatment: Members of AKIM (an organization that cares for the mentally disabled) who were evacuated from the north and were hosted by AKIM in Raanana, and others who were evacuated to tent cities in the center of Israel.

Beit Daniel

The growth trend in the scope of activities and in the number of clients at Beit Daniel continued this year. Many institutions and organizations have already made Beit Daniel their regular location for day-long activities and also for longer periods of time, with lodging at the site.

Training, qualification and learning activities conducted by the Open University and other institutions and organizations took place at Beit Daniel in 2005-2006, including a seminar for OU graduate students in Biological Thought; a workshop on the Middle Ages held by the Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies; a music course for teachers conducted by the In-Service Teacher Training Unit; seminars organized by various OU departments, concerts and musical weekends hosted by Beit Daniel for the general public, as well as conferences, workshops, symposia and events organized by various bodies.

Studies in Russian for the General Public

Lectures on the Internet – The Project Russia website was redesigned and new contents were added. Fifty lectures from courses broadcast on “Radio Reka” (the Israel Broadcasting Authority’s immigrant absorption channel) in 2005 are now available through the website:

<http://www-r.openu.ac.il/>

Lectures on CDs – Two series of CDs were produced that include lectures about Jews of Russian origin, such as the fathers of modern Hebrew literature, and about the period prior to the establishment of the State of Israel (between 1881 and 1948).