

Extra-Academic Studies

The Open University has three branches of extra-academic studies: the School of Technology, the Unit for the Professional Advancement of Educators, and External Studies (*Ma'aleh*).

The School of Technology

The Open University's School of Technology, directed by Israel Zilberstein, trains practical engineers and technicians in electronics, electricity, software, and industrial management. The School also operates a preparatory technology program and practical engineering training in a format uniquely adapted for the ultra-Orthodox community.

Technology programs for the ultra-Orthodox Sector

The Open University's strategic multiyear plan sets the goal of reaching new populations including the ultra-Orthodox sector. Accordingly, a massive marketing thrust was undertaken via media appropriate for the ultra-Orthodox community, and new study centers were opened in locations with large ultra-Orthodox populations. In the past year, a preparatory technology program was inaugurated, which was attended by 110 students in five ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods in Jerusalem, Bnei Brak, Elad, Ashdod and Kfar Chabad. The students included a group of 30 soldiers from the Israel Defense Force's *Shachar* program for ultra-Orthodox men. Two mechanical engineering classes were opened in Bnei Brak, one for electrical engineers and another for software engineers. Both classes were made up of graduates of the technology preparatory course and others with appropriate academic preparation. In addition, new and continuing classes were offered in industrial engineering and management in a Netanya *Hesder* Yeshiva (program combining military service with Torah study).

The enrollment of students at the School of Technology in programs whose tuition fees are at least partly funded by government ministries or other foundations almost doubled, from 135 students in 2010-2011 to 260 in 2011-2012.

Activities and new courses

- The final edition of four volumes of the textbook *Microelectronic Circuits* was published, replacing previous study materials and two main courses for electronic engineers.
- The final edition of the book *Electronics Supply* Vol. I for electrical engineering students was published.

- Thirty new computerized laboratory kits were acquired this year as part of the updating of personal laboratories in the electrical engineering track. Experimental components and virtual measuring equipment were included.
- The School of Technology won a new tender issued by the Israel Electric Corporation to train Corporation employees as electrical technicians. The first employees' course opened with 36 students.
- A three-semester industrial and management technician's course was opened for Ministry of Defense employees.

Enrollment data (number of students)

Program	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Technician/Practical Engineer program (including the integrated program)	1,567	1,481	1,761
Continuing education for teachers and vocational courses	153	90	140
Total	1,720	1,571	1,901

Graduates

Area	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Technician/Practical engineer	62	65	68
Students from other colleges who completed their studies at the School of Technology	19	20	19
Technology teachers and vocational training	153	90	141
Total	234	175	228

The Unit for the Professional Advancement of Educators

During the 2011-2012 academic year, the Open University's Unit for the Professional Advancement of Educators, headed by Noa Bauman, increased its scope of activities, as part of its participation in the reform process taking place in the education system.

Professional advancement for educators as part of the New Horizon reform: The Unit for Professional Advancement spearheaded the professional development of senior educators under the New Horizon reform. The program is designed to empower teachers, offer tools for new educational practices and motivate educators towards enterprise, innovation and practical field research. The courses "Teachers Initiate and Implement Educational Programs" and "Teachers Investigate their own Activities" were attended by 120 educators in six groups around the country.

The Unit also contributed to the New Horizon reform by providing inservice programs for educators throughout Israel, covering themes such as the implementation of individualized instruction, higher-order thinking, and assessment of student achievement, as well as providing training for administrators.

Integration into the national teleprocessing program: The Ministry of Education introduced a national teleprocessing program for elementary schools, designed to bring the education system firmly into the 21st century. The goal is to introduce innovative pedagogy into the school system by integrating information technology and communications media. The Unit for the Professional Advancement of Educators held extensive training sessions throughout the country for principals, cluster coordinators and teleprocessing coordinators from all sectors (Jewish, Arab, Druze, and Bedouin). Ten groups of school principals, six groups of cluster coordinators, and fifteen groups of teleprocessing coordinators took part in the training, which focused on organizational, technological, and pedagogical aspects of implementation.

Professional development of learning and diagnostic specialists: The Unit for Professional Advancement broadened its activities to include training of professionals in the Adult Learning Disabilities Diagnostic Center, which aims to integrate students with learning disabilities. Inservice training in learning-disability assessment for the Arab sector was conducted throughout the country

for teachers and specialists. The training offered teaching strategies designed to assist students with language difficulties, and focused on improving writing skills. In the Jewish sector, inservice training was conducted for national facilitators and for learning-disability assessment specialists. Seminars and professional development included lectures and workshops focused on junior high school students with learning issues.

Training of school principals – two-year Open University program: The first phase of a two-year OUI program to provide school principals with leadership training was completed. The program was developed in conjunction with the *Avney Rosha* leadership organization. A new group of school principals has begun the second course.

Additional activities

- Courses for teacher-mentors, and internships for OUI graduates entering the field of education as part of a "Specialization in Education" project
- Professional development program for school inspectors associated with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor: "Inspector as Leader"
- Course for religious-sector inspectors from the Ministry of the Interior's Ethnic Groups Department focused on developing religious educational leadership
- Inservice courses and seminars throughout the country for teachers of specific subjects, including social sciences, history, Russian language, Talmudic literature, and communications
- Designated courses for teachers on sabbatical on the following topics: tutoring students with Attention Deficit Disorder, pedagogical coordinators, remedial-teacher training, personal empowerment, nutrition and health, and writing personal memoirs



Work by Anton Shestakov, exhibited at Digital Happening 2012

External Studies (*Ma'aleh*)

External Studies (*Ma'aleh*) includes seven schools: *Ascolot*, *Hasifa*, *Tafnit*, *Tafnitech*, *Diploma*, *DiAlog* and *Meirav*. Over 20,000 students, who enrolled individually, studied in *Ma'aleh* in 2011-2012. Extensive activity continued this year in peripheral areas, and cooperation with the ultra-Orthodox sector was expanded. Programming has also begun in the Arab sector, specifically in Umm al-Fahm and Haifa.

Ascolot – School of Interdisciplinary Studies

This year *Ascolot* offered a wide variety of programs. The number of enrollments rose by 3%, to 18,000 students. In the course "Government and Strategy," taught by Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eitan Ben-Eliahu, guest speakers included former Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi and author and journalist Dan Margalit.

The "Friday Finance" course, taught by economics editor Sever Plotzker, hosted Finance Minister Dr. Yuval Steinitz, Histadrut Chairman Ofer Eini, and others.

Prominent composer-conductor Gil Shohat taught seven different courses and hosted many artists and performers, including singer Shlomit Aharon, actress Rama Messinger, and dancer Rina Sheinfeld.

The "Pre-Premiere at the Movies" series continued in Haifa, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Ra'anana and Omer, screening quality films prior to their general release. Thirty "Tour Israel" programs were offered, each including six tours, which attracted 1,500 participants. This year's Writers Festival hosted, among others, Israel Prize-winning author Amos Oz, writer Tzurya Shalev, editor and author Amnon Dankner; and novelist Eshkol Nevo.

Beit Ayala: The *Beit Ayala* branch of *Ascolot* is located in the former home of the late philanthropist Ayala Zaks-Abramov. The building retains its original residential design. Classrooms are located in the family's guest and living quarters, thus creating an intimate and comfortable atmosphere. This year, with the family's cooperation, a project was undertaken to curate the art collection in the house. New courses designed to attract young students were offered this year. These included a conducting course with Ronen Borshevsky, deputy conductor under Zubin Mehta; and a course on the Beatles, led by singer-songwriter Danny Robas. The basement of the house was renovated to create a kitchen, washrooms, and a coffee corner for students.

Hasifa – School of Communications, Television and Multimedia

Hasifa offers various study tracks, some of which enable students to accumulate academic credits that can count toward an academic degree; it is a partner to the Open University Center for Media Studies. New courses were offered this year, including: "Professional Specialization in Journalism and Radio," which are suitable for Open University students studying for a BA in Communication. Other new courses were offered in radio announcing and music editing. Additional *Hasifa* activities included:

- An **illustration competition**, with the illustrator Michel Kichka heading the adjudicating panel
- A **Purim Festival**, featuring an exhibition of masks created by *Hasifa* students and attended by 300 participants
- **Digital Happening 2012**, a traditional end-of-year event at which dozens of graduates exhibited their works in design, animation, documentary and feature films, and more

Tafnit – Continuing Education for Managers

This year, *Tafnit*, continued to expand its programs and its accessibility. The school developed new content areas and existing courses were updated in light of market trends and developments in management. The school's projects continue to expose participants to the many and varied study opportunities offered at the Open University, including:

- **Workshops for demobilized soldiers:** The school continued to operate a workshop for soldiers prior to discharge from the IDF, to provide them with the skills they will need as they enter the world of employment and education. The workshops present the soldiers with a range of options available at OUI in a half-day format dedicated to higher education in Israel and presented by an advisor from the academic counseling program.
- **Workshops for new-immigrant and lone soldiers:** *Tafnit* offers courses on transitioning to civilian life for new-immigrant soldiers and lone soldiers who are at the end of their military service. The workshops provide essential information about the academic world and the employment market, helping soldiers to view academic studies as a vital tool for their future integration into the workforce. As in previous years, in 2011-2012 over 1,500 soldiers received training through these workshops, which are made possible by a cooperative effort of the Jewish Agency, the IDF, the Gruss Fund and Operation Queen Esther.
- **Empowerment workshops and job-seeking:** For the third consecutive year the school offered workshops designed for unemployed students enrolled in Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor training courses and for various targeted sectors of the population, such as the ultra-Orthodox, Arabs, single mothers and Ethiopian immigrants. In 2011-2012 these workshops were attended by 1,000 participants. Each workshop was specifically tailored to its target group, offering personal empowerment tools, as well as skills-training designed to assist in navigating the job market and creating initiative in business ventures.
- **Advancement for managers and health and pharmaceutical organization teams:** This is the third year that the school has successfully organized training for the global pharmaceutical conglomerate Roche. The training, developed according to the company's requirements, is aimed at developing managerial skills for nurses in management positions in medical centers around Israel. This year, an additional client, the Mayanei HaYeshua Medical Center in Bnei Brak, hosted a management course for nurses, a course for formulating service agreements, seminars on service topics, and orientation days.
- **Multicultural course for the Jewish Agency and United Israel Appeal:** This course was created out of a need on the part of Jewish Agency and UIA employees whose work brings them into contact with the many subcultures that make up Israeli society. It studies the most prominent subcultures with the goal of promoting understanding, tolerance, and sensitivity when dealing with issues relevant to life in a multicultural society. Response to the course was so positive that it was repeated three times during the 2011-2012 academic year.
- **Women in the Arab Sector:** As part of the *Otzma* ("Strength") program, *Tafnit* runs a course to train directors, organized under the auspices of Jasmine, the Association of Businesswomen in Israel. The course was offered in collaboration with the New Israel Fund, the Nathan Cummings Foundation and the Hadassah Women's Foundation.

***Tafnitech* – School of Computers**

What is unique about *Tafnitech* is its practical approach that aims to provide graduates with applicable skills and tools. *Tafnitech* training enables even individuals with no prior background in computers to enter the world of technology, and provides a simple means to remain current for those wishing to keep up with new technologies. With funding from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor, courses were held throughout Israel during the year to retrain unemployed personnel in the skills needed for the software and media market. The unique program that trains ultra-Orthodox *Kolel* graduates in computer software is continuing.

***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. This year the school continued its programs in the ultra-Orthodox community via the Bnei Brak municipality's Welfare Department in a wide range of fields, including tourism, accounting, secretarial studies, and software.

DiAlog – School of Languages

DiAlog offers a variety of courses to the general public and to business organizations in ten study centers around Israel. This year, thanks to cooperation with the IDF and the Teachers Federation Fund for Professional Advancement, many soldiers and teachers joined the courses. Collaboration with the non-profit organization *Be-Atzmi* allowed ten English-language courses to be offered to the ultra-Orthodox population. The Union of Local Authorities in Israel (ULAI) joined forces with *DiAlog* to provide English courses for mayors and deputy mayors, providing them with relevant professional terminology. Courses in English designed for IDF widows and orphans are also offered by *DiAlog*, in conjunction with IDF widows-and-orphans organizations.

Meirav – School for Training Complementary Medicine Professionals

Meirav, in collaboration with "Maccabi Natural," continued to expand its activities this year, to include soldiers serving in the regular army and IDF retirees. The Maccabi pharmacy chain also participated in enrichment and empowerment courses. *Meirav* second-year students were involved in extensive volunteer activities during the year, including offering complementary therapies to women escaping drug abuse and prostitution via the *Saleet* organization; and to women recovering from cancer, via the non-profit *Nitzanei Modi'in* organization.

Beit Daniel

In keeping with *Beit Daniel* tradition, various musical groups were hosted during the past year. These included: "Singing from Memory" (country singers), *Yanshuf*, the Israel Wind Instrumentalists Club, the Israel Classical Music Club; the *Kol Hamerkaz* orchestra, *Mishkenot Sha'ananim*; Kfar Yona choir; music weekends; a program by the Givataim Conservatory together with the Leo Kestenberg School youth orchestra from Berlin; and more.

Other special activities also took place during the year at *Beit Daniel*: workshops on biological diversity for the SPNI (the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel); a poetry-writing workshop by *Helicon*, the Society for the Advancement of Poetry; the annual meeting of Haifa University's group facilitation program personnel; a meeting by the forum of Israeli-Palestinian peace organizations;

a Bank Discount staff advancement workshop; the annual conference of the *B'Ruach* spiritual support organization; a workshop for the educational staff of Danciger School in Kiryat Shmona; a Transport and Sustainability conference held by the Transport Today and Tomorrow organization; an Interdisciplinary Center workshop; a conference for employees of the *La'Merhav* educational organization, which helps young people with no family support network; the annual memorial conference of the Hebrew *Reali* School of Haifa; a seminar for the IDF Intelligence branch; and a tango dance weekend organized by the Baron Tango Group.

Throughout the year, *Beit Daniel* was also the site of Open University seminars and workshops for its own academic and administrative departments. These included a seminar for OUI students studying for a graduate degree in biological thinking, and a workshop for inter-university researchers organized by the History Department.

The following corporations and organizations held activities at *Beit Daniel* during the 2011-2012 academic year: Intel, Electra, Motorola, Elbit, Amdocs, Teva, Tambour, Clalit Health Services, SuperPharm, Even Derech, Paz, Strauss, ICC-CAL Israeli Credit Cards, Microsoft, Netivey Lechet, Nice Systems, Ofek Organization-Person-Group, Tnuva, Ophir Tours, Hardoof Business Support, the Israel Police Force, the Prime Minister's Office, Pelephone Communications, the Israeli Center for Excellence in Education, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, the Israel Post, the Green Environment Fund, Menora Insurance Group, the Institute for Democratic Education, Israel Railways, Marvell Technology Group, Camtek, the Israel Association of Community Centers, the Institute for Quality Leadership, Galil Engineering, Delta Galil Industries, Ministry of Defense, Holmes Place, Osem, Arab-Israel Bank, Mizrahi Tefahot Bank, Magid Institute, Rosenzweig Institute, Soglowek, etc.

The Lange Estate

Work continued this year on restoring the estate buildings. Carriage House is scheduled for opening and for programming during the coming year. The Open University is working in collaboration with the Society for Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites to complete restoration and preservation of this important family home and historic garden.