

Graduates

In 2006-2007, the Open University conferred a Bachelor's degree on 2,095 students (58% female; 42% male), an increase of 10% compared with last year. 313 students (46% female; 54% male) were awarded Master's degrees, an increase of 71%. Seven students completed certificate studies in Computer Science; 12 students were awarded teaching certificates in the Social Sciences, 8 in Psychology, 8 in Literature, and 7 in Computer Science. For the first time this year, the OUI awarded B.Sc. degrees in sciences, Master's degrees in Education and degrees in Industrial Engineering and Management. 11% of the graduates indicated that they did not have a matriculation certificate.

Distribution of Bachelor's degrees, by discipline

Discipline	Graduates	%
Humanities	50	2.4
Humanities and Social Sciences	91	4.3
Social Sciences and Humanities	548	26.1
Social Sciences	403	19.2
Social Sciences: Emphasis on Behavioral Sciences	10	0.5
Social Sciences: Emphasis on Education – Learning Disabilities	9	0.4
Social Sciences: Emphasis on Management	159	7.6
Accounting with a Division of Studies in Economics	13	0.6
Economics	5	0.2
Economics with a Division of Studies in Accounting	1	0.1
Economics and Political Science	1	0.1
Economics and Computer Science – Systems and Applications	2	0.1
Education (Curriculum & Instruction Studies) and Computer Science – Systems & Applications	1	0.1
History	2	0.1
Management	120	5.7
Management and Computer Science – Systems and Applications	116	5.5
Management with a Division of Studies in Communication	5	0.2
Management with a Division of Studies in Political Science	2	0.1
Management with a Division of Studies in Psychology	1	0.1
Management and Economics	186	8.9
Management and Education (Curriculum & Instruction Studies)	2	0.1
Management and Sociology	31	1.5
Management and Political Science	27	1.3
Political Science and Sociology	2	0.1
Psychology	24	1.1
Psychology and Education (Curriculum & Instruction Studies)	33	1.6
Psychology and Management	20	0.9
Psychology and Sociology	8	0.4
Psychology and Political Science	1	0.1
Sociology and Education (Curriculum & Instruction Studies)	4	0.2
Sciences	32	1.5
Sciences: Emphasis on Mathematics	2	0.1
Natural Sciences	22	1.0
Life Sciences	12	0.6
Life Sciences and Management	3	0.1
Mathematics	5	0.2
Mathematics and Computer Science – Systems and Applications (BA)	2	0.1
Mathematics and Computer Science – Systems and Applications (BSc)	1	0.1
Computer Science (BA)	130	6.2
Computer Science (BSc)	1	0.1
Industrial Engineering and Management (BSc)	8	0.4
Total	2,095	100.0



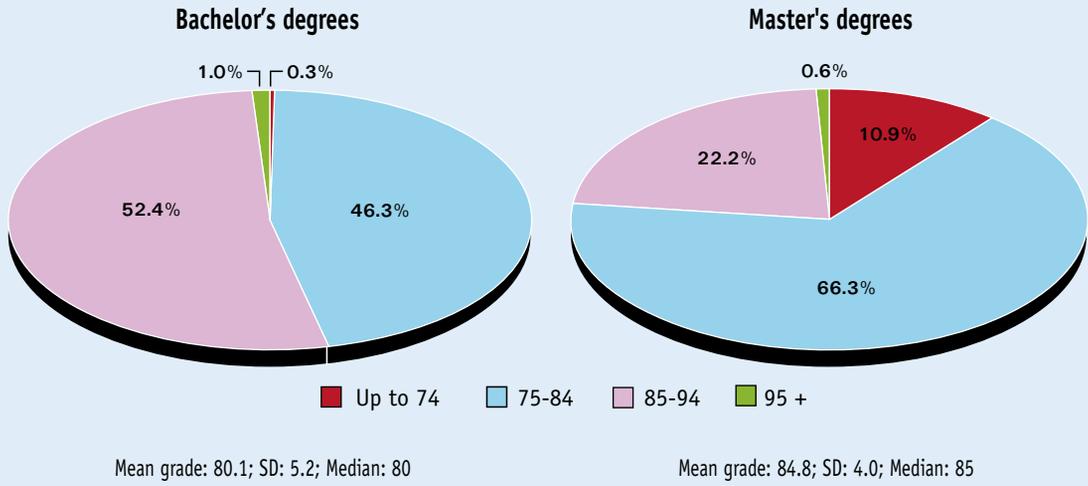
Distribution of Master's degrees, by discipline

Degree	Graduates
Business Administration (MBA)	260
Democracy Studies – Interdisciplinary (MA)	33
Computer Science (MSc)	15
Biological Thought (MA)	2
Education: Learning Technologies (MA)	2
Education: Learning Systems (MA)	1
Total	313

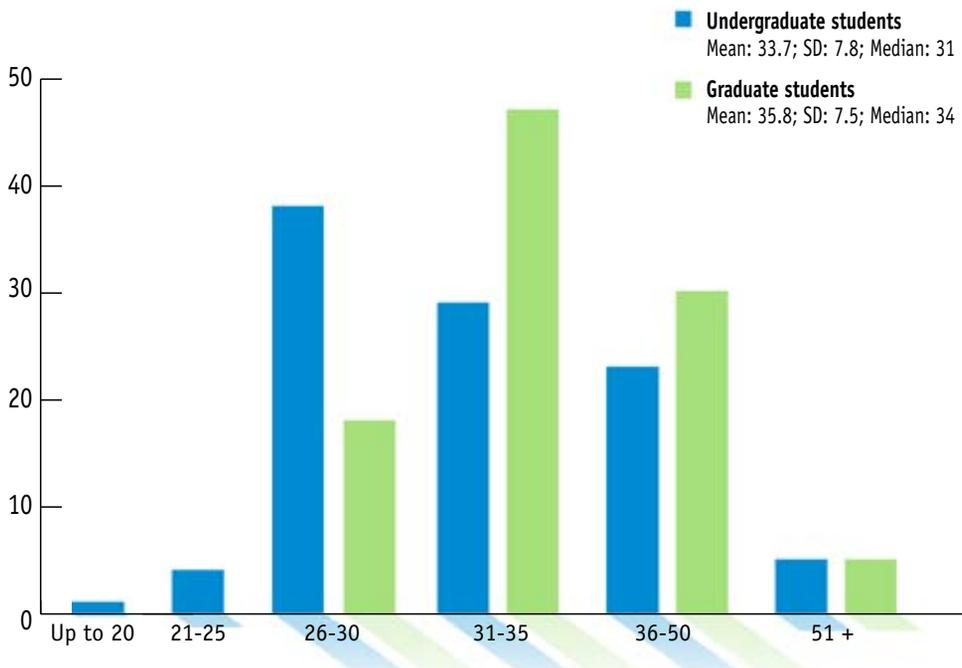
Students with Learning Disabilities among OUI Graduates

Between 1997 and 2007, 523 students with learning disabilities successfully completed their studies (261 men and 262 women). Among them, 505 (97%) received a Bachelor's degree, 11 (2%) received a Master's degree and 7 completed certificate studies. The four most prevalent fields in this group were: Humanities and the Social Sciences (23%), Social Sciences (22%), Management and Economics (11%) and Computer Science (8%). The proportion of students with learning disabilities among all graduates increases annually.

Final Degree Grade



Age upon receiving degree (based on self-reports)



From the speech by Aharon David Cooperman at the graduation ceremony

My love affair with the OUI began when I was a soldier in compulsory military service. At the time, I served in a *Nahal* outpost in south Har-Hebron and did nothing except patrol missions. I listened to music for many hours, stared at the breathtaking view of the Lachish area and talked extensively with my girlfriend. But after even the music became repetitive, the landscape didn't change and my girlfriend left me, I had to find something to do. [...]. At that point, when I began studying at the OUI, I didn't choose the Open University because of its wonderful characteristics, but rather because it was the only university that gave me, a soldier in compulsory military service, the option to take the course "Problems in Moral Philosophy" on a remote hilltop in south Har-Hebron, without having to come to class twice a week or to take the psychometric exam that scared me [...]. However looking back today, I can say wholeheartedly that I took one look and fell in love with the OUI. I fell in love with the wonderful and professional academic

faculty that always ensures that the textbooks are comprehensive but also readable and clear. I fell in love with the fact that they always make sure that the learning experience through the Internet and the tutorials will be as productive and enjoyable as possible. But perhaps most important, I fell in love with the fact that the OUI gave me the opportunity to live in a way that no other university could: if I had studied at a regular university, I suspect that I would have only been able to work "on the side," if at all, and would have actually started my life as a civilian only at the end of my B.A. or M.A. studies. But the OUI actually enabled me to gain five years and to significantly advance in my professional life. In my eyes, the uniqueness of the OUI is that it is like Easypark – you put it on the windshield in any city and pay only for the time you park. Similarly, at the OUI, I could study wherever and whenever I wanted. Anywhere I was, as a soldier in south Har-Hebron, a student at a Hesder Yeshiva or a real estate consultant in Tel Aviv, my room became a virtual branch of the OUI and every free hour I had became a study hour in the OUI's formal course schedule.

When I completed my studies, even the slight apprehension whether my studies at the OUI would be accredited by other academic institutions quickly faded. [...] I completed my Master's degree at Tel Aviv University and in the coming months I plan to apply for doctoral studies in the US. Furthermore, I was recently accepted to the National Security Research Institute that deals in diplomacy and security, a field I studied in my graduate degree, and I serve as personal assistant to General Giora Eiland, former Head of the National Security Council. As part of my responsibilities, I meet with top security figures in Israel and with senior foreign diplomats, deal with sensitive and important issues, and I hope that I am influencing, if only partially and in a small way, the security, success and survival of Israel. I could not have realized this dream if I had not studied at the OUI. [...] I believe that the sky is the limit with a degree from the OUI; you only have to aspire.

The OUI also taught me that nothing stands in the way of willpower and that those who "sow with tears" ultimately "reap with joy." Only those who reached the admirable point of completing a degree at the OUI know how hard it is; how many crises we overcame in the process. When we opened the course package we received in the mail, didn't we all think, "Are you crazy? Are you going to learn all this?" Didn't we often think of giving up when we had difficulty submitting an assignment on time or preparing for exams? Of course we did. But nobody who is at this ceremony today gave up. I think that every graduate can honestly pat himself or herself on the back and say "I did it!" The OUI showed all of us that we should not diminish our self-worth; it proved to us that we have the ability to study large amounts of material in a comprehensive and in-depth manner and to persevere with determination for years, in order to realize an important goal we set for ourselves.

