

Extra-Academic Studies

The School of Technology

Course development and operation

This year we completed the development of study material for several courses in the new study program for electrical technical engineers for individuals holding a certified electrician license, and updated the course "Data Communication Networks" in the Software Technical Engineering track. We also began updating two key courses in the Electronic Technical Engineering track.

Increased Integration with Academic Studies

- A new integrated program approved by the Department of Natural Sciences and the University Committee for Accreditation of Prior Studies: Electrical Engineering combined with a B.A. in the Sciences. The program enables students to accumulate from among the School of Technology courses at most 48 of the 108 credits required for the degree.
- The course "Microwaves and Antennas" in the Electronics track has been recognized as a 6-credit academic course in the B.A. in the Natural Sciences program.

New Study Programs

In 2006-2007, the School of Technology offered two new study programs:

- A new training program for electrical technical engineers, for individuals holding a certified electrician's license
- A new program for Microsoft Certified Professional Developer (MCPD) certification: Design and Development of Network Applications for a Microsoft.Net Framework 2.0 Environment.

Study program at the Israel Electricity Company: The first group of 36 students began their studies in Fall 2007. The 30-month program that includes 11 courses and a final project aims to retrain electrical technicians employed by the Israel Electricity Company as electrical engineering technicians.

Program for industrial management technical engineers in collaboration with the neighborhood reconstruction project in Petah Tikva: In spring 2007 a group of 21 individuals began their studies towards an industrial management technical engineering degree with a specialization in marketing and management. The training program is conducted with the collaboration of the neighborhood reconstruction project in the city of Petah Tikva and partially funded by the project. The training spans about two years and includes 16 courses.

Enrollment Data

Program	2005-2006	2006-2007
Technician/Practical Engineer program (including the integrated program)	974	951
Electrical Technician/Practical Engineer - new program	65	228
Continuing education for teachers and vocational courses	254	235
Total	1,293	1,414

Graduates

In 2006-2007, 41 graduates were awarded practical engineering or technician degrees. 21 students from other colleges completed their studies at the School of Technology and received practical engineering degrees from their home colleges. 15 students were awarded certified electrician degrees. 13 graduates of the training program in "Computer Network Maintenance" received certificates from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor. 170 teachers completed continuing education courses in technological subjects.

The In-Service Teacher Training Unit

The In-Service Teacher Training Unit offers a variety of study programs for employees of the education system and is involved in major Ministry of Education projects. The Unit increased the scope of its activities in 2007. Year-long continuing education activities were conducted for training professionals in the education system and continuing education activities were held in study centers as well as activities in various knowledge fields – a total of 79 advanced professional training courses attended by 1,857 teachers. Several new programs were offered this year, including the study programs specified below.

Training Position-Holders

Certification studies in the program for training diagnostic specialists in learning functions: The Ministry of Education authorized the OUI to operate a certification studies program for training didactic diagnostic specialists. The program qualifies specialists with knowledge in learning disabilities and diagnosis methods that will work in the education system as learning disabilities coordinators. The two-year training program also imparts knowledge about integrating special needs children and leading interdisciplinary teams in educational institutions. The program includes theoretical studies, among them OUI academic courses, as well as a variety of relevant content fields, acquaintance with diagnostic tools and field training in leading diagnostic centers. This prestigious program began this year with 18 students. An additional group will begin studies in 2008. At the request of the Ministry of Education, two groups in the Arab sector will begin their studies towards a certification program for diagnostic specialists in the coming year funded by the Ministry.

Training programs for teaching staff: The Unit continues to develop training programs for school teaching staffs in collaboration with the Ministry of Education on topics related to diagnosing and promoting learning processes among individuals with learning difficulties. Eight professional training programs were conducted throughout the country in the past year.

Studies toward Teaching Certificates

With the expansion of study programs that qualify teachers to receive teaching certificates through OUI academic departments, the In-Service Teacher Training Unit operates as the professional link that coordinates the OUI's academic study programs and the Ministry of Education requirements pertaining to teaching certificates, granting teaching licenses and integration of OUI graduates into the formal education system.

Courses toward a Teaching Certificate in Civics: This year 37 students who met the prerequisites studied in this track, funded by the Ministry of Education. Two groups took "The Didactics of Teaching Civics," and 33 students received a scholarship from the Ministry of Education in exchange for their commitment to teach in high school after completing their studies.

Teaching internship: The Ministry of Education requires teaching certificate graduates to complete their internship during their first year of teaching. This year we accompanied ten OUI teaching certificate graduates working in the schools.

Course for training mentor-teachers: 16 veteran teachers took a course qualifying mentor-teachers this year. The course is funded by the Ministry of Education and its graduates are entitled to a Ministry of Education Mentor-Teacher Certificate.

Courses and Continuing Education in the Arab Sector

The Ministry of Education funds a program for schools in the Arab sector with the aim of advancing their pupils. This year the OUI conducted 16 continuing education courses in Arab towns and villages throughout the country. The main topics were: teaching methods, learning, assessment and teaching staff development.



Evaluation of Curricula

The In-Service Teacher Training Unit won a tender issued by the Ministry of Education Curriculum Division for evaluation of curricula. Together with academics from the OUI and other universities, personnel from the Unit will conduct five studies focusing on literature reviews on the following topics: the process of curriculum development around the world, development and integration of content standards into curricula in various countries in the world, integrating higher-order thinking into curricula, mathematics curricula around the world in preparation for the development of a new mathematics curriculum in Israel, following a Civics teaching trial.

Center for Training in Writing

Following inquiries of education personnel seeking training in writing personal projects, the OUI opened a Center that provides individual counseling services on writing adapted to the writer's needs. The Center provides suitable individuals with a work plan and assigns a project advisor who is a specialist in the field of the project. Seven writers took advantage of these services in the current academic year, and six completed their projects. The number of inquiries has grown for the coming academic year.

Continuing Studies

The Continuing Studies Center includes seven schools: *Ascolot*, *Hasifa*, *Tafnit*, *Tafnitech*, *Diploma*, *DiAlog* and *Meirav*. This year we continued to expand our activities in the periphery and to penetrate new target populations in the ultra-orthodox and Arabic-speaking sectors. All the school websites were redesigned, short contact forms were added and an emphasis was placed on optimal usability: information is accessible and users can conveniently search the sites. The development of a study planning and operation system in the Center was completed and is currently in advanced stages of assimilation in all schools, and a computerized seating system was developed for courses with many participants that include films or performances.



Meirav. More natural
School of Complementary
Medicine



Diploma. More professional
Certificate Studies



DiAlog. Understand more
School of Languages



Ascolot. Know more
School of Interdisciplinary Studies

Ascolot – School of Interdisciplinary Studies

12,600 students studied at *Ascolot* in 2006-2007. A new branch of *Ascolot* opened this year on the University campus in Raanana and the variety of "Study Seminars Abroad" was expanded. "Cultural Tastes" events were held throughout the year to diversify the school's activities and bring in more culture enthusiasts as registered students. We also expanded our intra-organizational activities, in which we offer every organization a program 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 2,150 students in 2006-2007. In the evening, courses in music, philosophy and art are offered to the general public, with 1,500 students in 2006-2007. Sixteen new courses were offered at *Beit Ayala* this year.

Hasifa – School of Communications, Television and Multimedia Arts

Over 500 students studied at *Hasifa* in 2006-2007. The school held several events this year:

Posters for the play "La Gazetta" at the Simta Theater in Jaffa: In a special project of the *Hasifa* Visual Communication track, students designed posters for the play at the Simta Theater in Jaffa. Collaboration with the theater afforded students the opportunity to

experience the production of actual theater posters. The posters were exhibited on opening night.

"From Einstein to Ninette": A unique exhibition of masks created by students shown at a colorful Purim event held in the school.

World Usability Day: World Usability Day was marked in collaboration with the Israeli chapter of the Usability Professionals' Association (UPA). This day aims to ensure the ease of access and use of technological products, software, applications and websites, while at the same time protesting that the "wonders of technology," intended to make our lives easier, in fact create frustration. On this day, 204 events were held in 39 countries under the slogan "Making life easy." Many participants from academia, industry and business participated in a conference held at the OUI campus in Raanana.

Digital Happening: At the traditional end-of-year event, "Digital Happening 2007," 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 *Tafnit* were opened and websites serving as virtual study centers were launched. Approximately 1,600 managers and employees in the public and the private sector studied in intra-organizational programs offered by *Tafnit*. The school expanded its collaboration with the Civil Service Commission this year 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 about 9,000 soldiers at the end of their military service participated in workshops specifically designed to prepare them for civilian life and for academic studies.

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.

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. In Jerusalem, specially designed courses were held for this population in collaboration with the Haredi College.

DiAlog - School of Languages

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

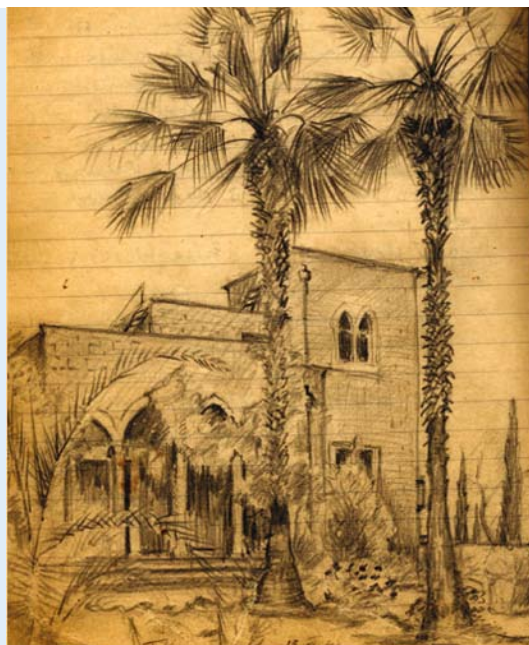
Bank of Lessons for organizations: This activity provides private lessons and courses on all levels for employees in leading organizations in Israel.

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, expanded its activities this year in the Haredi sector. In collaboration with Ma’ayanot College, about 300 women in Jerusalem are studying towards a certificate in complementary medicine.

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 children with special needs), as well as children with learning disabilities at the Kfar Hayarok boarding school, and pupils at a junior high school in Ramat Hasharon.



From the guest book of Beit Daniel. The text in the drawing says "Beit Daniel – A garden of Eden!"

Beit Daniel

The efforts continuously invested in upgrading Beit Daniel and in ensuring the quality of service offered continue to bear fruit as reflected in a rise in the scope of activities this year as well. Many institutions and organizations – including the country's leading businesses – regularly hold workshops for managers and employees on the site. Activities are day-long or conducted for longer periods, in which case they include sleeping accommodations in the guestrooms. One of the activities offered to companies and organizations is a food preparation and table arrangement workshop conducted by the chef of Beit Daniel together with an organizational consultant, as part of the participants' learning process. A variety of events were held at the site this year, including a reunion of all the Technion's MBA alumni, conferences held by the Psychology and the Philosophy departments at Haifa University, the launching of a book on child nutrition, and an international poet workshop.

The OUI holds internal events at Beit Daniel. Events conducted this year included a management development workshop, departmental and study center symposia as well as an inter-university workshop for researchers of the Middle Ages organized by the Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies.

In the best tradition of Beit Daniel, musical events were also held this year, including musical weekends for the general public, workshops and musical activities organized by various bodies, concerts of the Zichron Yaakov Local Council for local residents, as well as music courses offered by Mishkanot Shaananim for youth and soldiers, including a two-week summer course.

Like in previous years, social and community organizations conducted activities at Beit Daniel, among them a workshop on the Arab-Israeli conflict organized by the international organization Responding to Conflict (RTC), and a conference of artists for the benefit of the environment organized by Shatil.

Radio Lectures in Russian

This year we continued our collaboration with Radio Reka (the Israel Broadcasting Authority's immigrant absorption channel). Our course coordinators gave 184 lectures in Russian on topics such as Jewish Thought, contemporary Israel and Hebrew Literature.