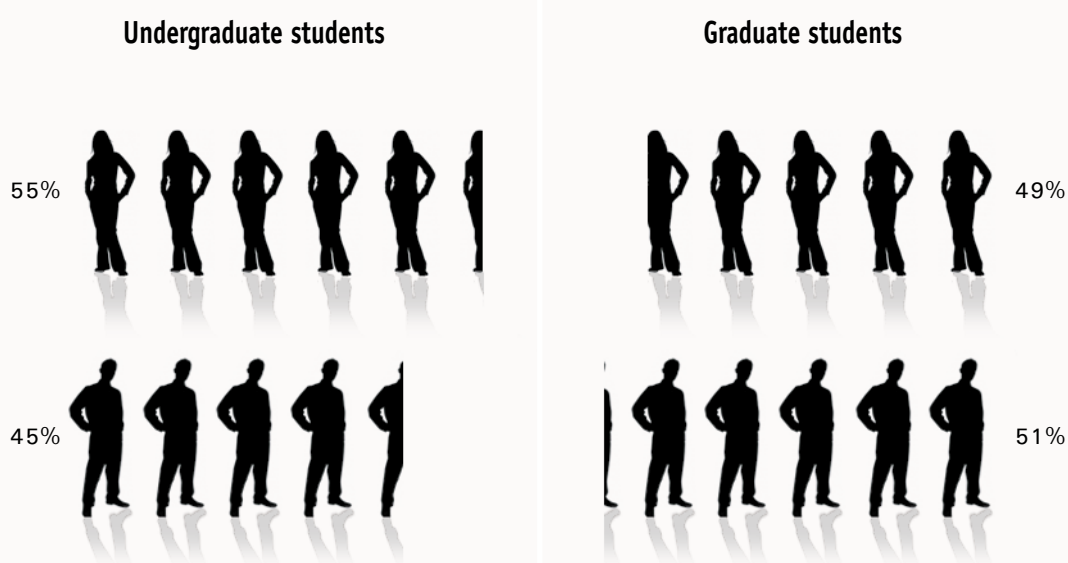


Students



In the 2007-2008 academic year, 41,371 students were enrolled in undergraduate courses, compared with 39,816 in 2006-2007. An additional 3,171 students who were close to completing their degrees were registered for seminar papers only. There were 3,051 students enrolled in graduate studies (including students taking qualifying courses), compared with 3,082 in 2006-2007. An additional 116 graduate students were registered for seminar papers, 43 for final projects and 34 for theses. About 27% of the graduate students have undergraduate degrees from the Open University.

A “student” at the Open University is a person who registered for one or more courses and has not cancelled or deferred studies. The total number of students represents the number of people studying at the Open University. A student taking two or more courses is counted only once.

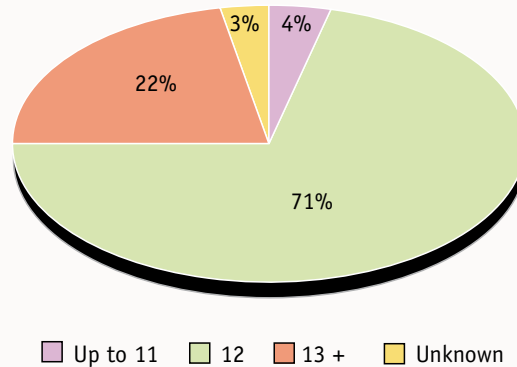
The study method at the Open University does not require students to take a structured program over a specific period. Therefore, in addition to absolute numbers, we are presenting data that enables a comparison with students pursuing a full program towards a degree (FTE – Full Time Equivalent). The calculation is based on the number of course enrollments divided by a factor that expresses the number of annual enrollments that would allow the student to complete a degree in three years. In FTE terms, 18,554 undergraduate students were enrolled at the Open University in 2007-2008 (compared with 17,417 in 2006-2007).

Graduate students, by degree (including those taking qualifying courses)

Degree	Students
Computer Science	221
Democracy Studies - Interdisciplinary	248
Biological Thought	37
Business Administration	2,241
Education, ‘Learning Technologies’ and ‘Learning Systems’	305
Total*	3,052

* In 2007-2008, there were 3,051 graduate students, one of whom was registered for more than one graduate degree.

Undergraduate students, by years of schooling (based on self-reports)



The Student Union

Elections to the Open University Student Council were held in the summer. The Student Council will act to establish an OUI Student Union and shape its goals. 3,619 students (10.2% of the eligible voters) elected 35 representatives to the Council. At its first meeting, the Council selected the Council chair, Dvir Goldstein; the chair of the Student Union, Sagi Ben Hur; and other position holders. The Student Union is in the initial stages of organization.

Social Involvement Projects

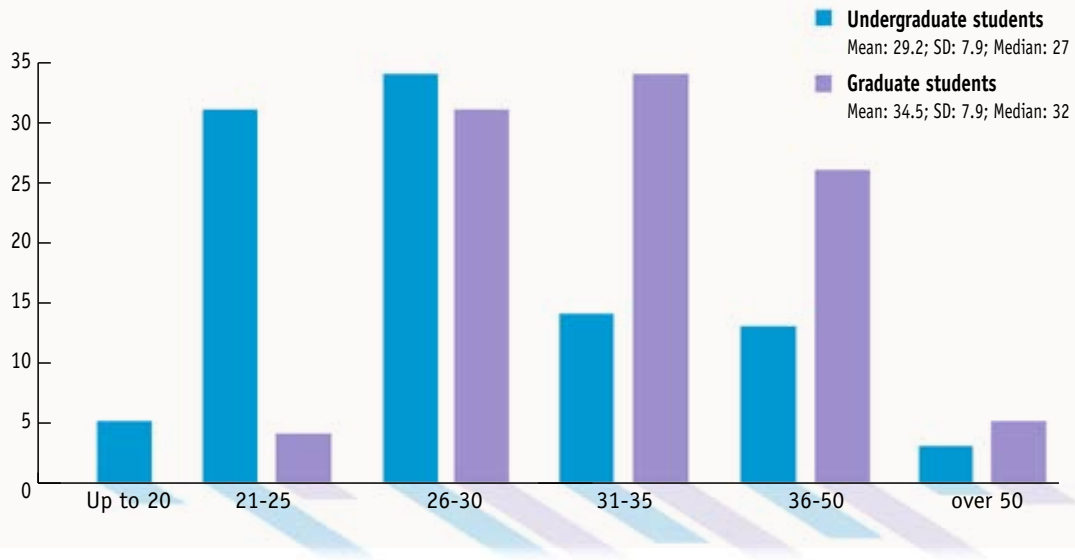
OUI students take part in various social involvement projects, including ISEF, the International Education Foundation; Impact; the Gross Foundation; *Perach* and *Sachlav*. In 2007-2008, 776 OUI students tutored through the *Perach* project and 40 through the *Sachlav* project. Ten OUI students received certificates of excellence for their activities in *Perach* and the OUI granted each of them a scholarship amounting to 50% tuition for one course. One student received a national excellence award. This year, 29 OUI students tutored through the ISEF Fund and one of them received an additional ISEF central region scholarship for outstanding social and academic achievements. The Gross Foundation awarded scholarships to 48 OUI students and 15 students received Impact scholarships.

The Sela Project: The *Sela* project (Hebrew acronym for "Students for the Community") was launched in the Spring 2008 semester as a joint project of the Department of Education and Psychology, the Dean of Students and Loewenstein Hospital. Seven students took part in the initiative this year. The aim of the project is to accompany adults after hospitalization in the Neurological Rehabilitation department of Loewenstein Hospital in their reintegration into the community, and to increase the community involvement of veteran students as part of their studies toward a degree in Psychology. The students meet with the patients in the Rehabilitation Department prior to their discharge from the hospital and accompany their return to independent life in the community for one year. Students participate in tutorials with hospital personnel to discuss their experiences with the patients and their families and receive information about the patients' medical progress.

Financial Assistance and Scholarships

The OUI awarded 3,142 scholarships in 2007-2008 in various categories: financial assistance, academic excellence, high school students requiring financial assistance, and sports scholarships. Thanks to earmarked donations, a

Undergraduate and graduate students by age (based on self-reports)



large number of students benefit from scholarships. Through the support of various organizations, scholarships were awarded to students living in northern Israel, as well as to students of Ethiopian origin and ultra-orthodox students.

New Immigrant Students

The Student Administration in the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption funds the tuition of new immigrants, who, during their third year of studies, volunteer in the *Shahak* (Community Social Service) project. To be included in this arrangement, students must demonstrate a specified level of reading comprehension in Hebrew. Students register for studies through the office of the Dean of Students and receive special considerations such as permission to submit assignments in a foreign language (if feasible) and extended time on exams. The OUI and the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption maintain contact with these students throughout their studies and offer cultural and social welfare activities. This year, 186 immigrant students were enrolled at the Open University.

Virtual Perach: Virtual *Perach* is a project that enables students with special needs to coach children with physical disabilities similar to their own, via e-mail and the Internet. The virtual environment enables pupils to expand their social relations and to enhance their written and technological skills. The coaches, students who themselves have disabilities, contribute their personal experience and serve as role models. Four of our students coached through Virtual *Perach* this year.

OUI Students' Success at the International Mathematics Competition

Two OUI mathematics students, Amos On (18 years old) and Gal Dor (13.5 – the youngest participant in the competition) won Silver and Bronze medals, respectively, at the South-Eastern European Mathematical Olympiad for 1st and 2nd year University Students (SEEMOUS), held in Athens. The two were part of the six-member Israeli delegation. Amos On was selected to be part of the Israeli delegation to the International Mathematics Competition for University Students, IMC, which took place in Bulgaria, at which he won second place.

Current and former OUI students also participated in the International Mathematical Olympiad for high school students, IMO, held this year in Madrid. The achievements of the Israeli delegation were notable and received extensive coverage in Israeli media.



Yasmin Feingold, OUI student and champion rower

High School Students

In the 2007-2008 academic year, 878 junior high and high school students (enrolled in 1,593 courses) and 542 continuing students (enrolled in 1,798 courses) who began their studies at the University as high school students (48 studying toward a Master's degree), studied at the OUI. They took courses in the exact sciences (56%), social sciences and humanities (27%) and in the pre-academic course, "A Glance at Academia" (17%).

Sport at the Open University

The number of OUI participants in sport competitions grew in the past year and achieved favorable results. The OUI men's beach volleyball team once again won first place in the International Academic Sport Association (ASA) games and led the OUI's team achievements. The University's chess team took second place with an especially strong team that included, for the first time, a chessmaster. The men's karate team won second place for groups for the first time. Our women's rowing team participated for the first time in a group competition in which it came in third.

The number of participants in the OUI's in-house chess championship increased, as well as the number of women participants in the ping-pong championship and the rowing instrument championship. In-house championships are open to students and employees.

Sports excellence scholarships: About 40 students received scholarships of varying amounts for their achievements in representing the Open University in competitions during the year.

Employment Counseling and Placement

The Placement website, *OpJob*, was improved and job offers are now displayed differently. Employers can now post their job offers themselves. Contact continued with large companies, which submitted attractive job openings for students and graduates to the Dean of Students. These openings were transmitted via e-mail to the relevant population segment. Workshops on choosing a profession and a job search workshop were conducted this year.

A New Service: Online Password Renewal through the Password and Personal Details Management System

The OUI established a new advanced system, *Masof*, that enables students to renew their passwords and to update personal details. As in all secure OUI Internet systems, students are required to identify themselves using three identifying details: username, ID number and a new *Masof* password provided them by mail.