

# Graduates



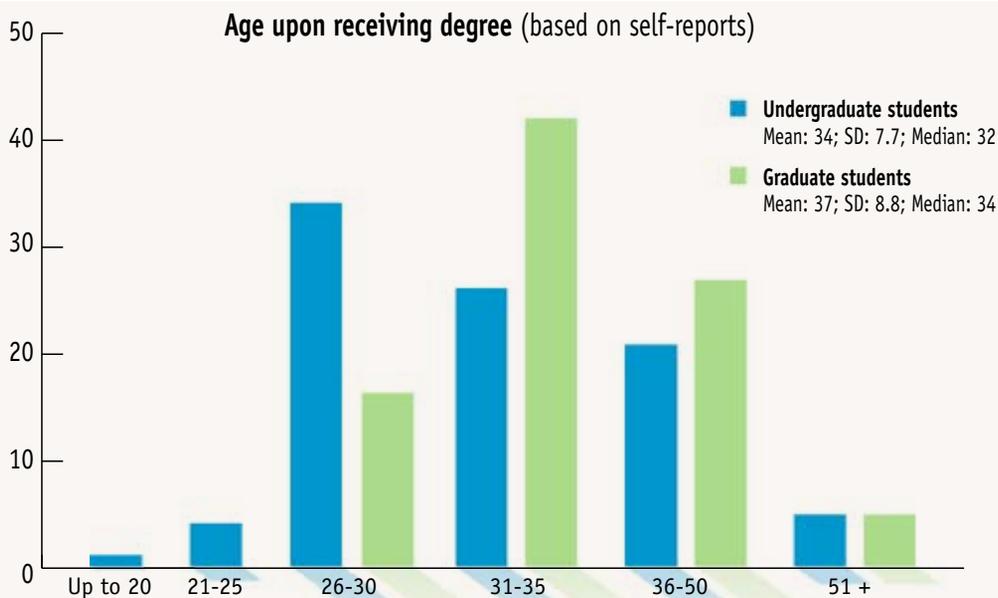
In 2007-2008, the Open University conferred a Bachelor's degree on 2,259 students (59% female; 41% male). 331 students (50% female; 50% male) were awarded Master's degrees. Two students completed certificate studies in Computer Science. 52 students were awarded teaching certificates: 10 in Social Sciences, 9 in Civics, 11 in Psychology, 9 in Literature, 2 in Oral Law and Jewish Thought, 5 in History and 6 in Computer Science. 11% of the graduates indicated that they did not have a matriculation certificate.

## Distribution of Bachelor's degrees, by discipline

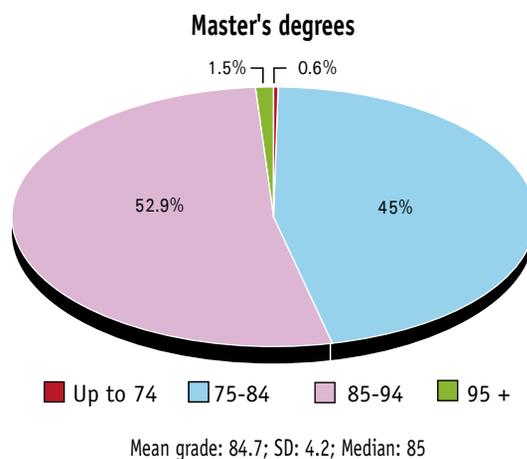
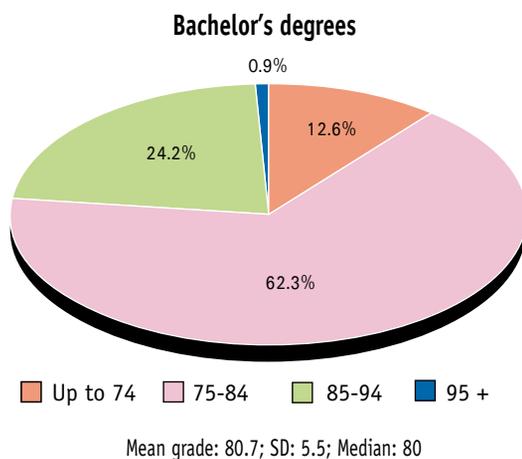
Discipline	Graduates
Humanities	44
History	5
Humanities and Social Sciences	116
Social Sciences and Humanities	573
Social Sciences	394
Social Sciences: Emphasis on Behavioral Sciences	12
Social Sciences: Emphasis on Education – Learning Disabilities	12
Social Sciences: Emphasis on Management	161
Management	146
Management with a Division of Studies in Economics	1
Management with a Division of Studies in Political Science	1
Management with a Division of Studies in Sociology	1
Management with a Division of Studies in Communication	8
Management with a Division of Studies in Psychology	4
Management with a Division of Studies in Education	3
Management and Economics	192
Management and Sociology	48
Management and Political Science	34
Management and Education (Curriculum & Instruction Studies)	4
Management and Computer Science – Systems and Applications	100



Discipline	Graduates
Economics	8
Economics with a Division of Studies in Accounting	4
Economics with a Division of Studies in Management	1
Economics with a Division of Studies in Social Sciences	3
Economics and Computer Science – Systems and Applications	7
Accounting with a Division of Studies in Economics	35
Sociology and Education (Curriculum & Instruction Studies)	2
Political Science and Sociology	4
Psychology	63
Psychology and Economics	3
Psychology and Management	36
Psychology and Sociology	10
Psychology and Political Science	2
Psychology and Education (Curriculum & Instruction Studies)	37
Sciences	32
Sciences: Emphasis on Mathematics	1
Natural Sciences	10
Natural Sciences: Emphasis on Chemistry	2
Life Sciences	19
Life Sciences and Management	1
Mathematics	7
Computer Science (BSc)	2
Computer Science (BA)	100
Mathematics and Computer Science – Systems and Applications (BSc)	1
Industrial Engineering and Management (BSc)	9
Undefined	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,259</b>



### Final Degree Grade



**High school students:** In 2007-2008, 54 students who began their studies when in high school received a degree; of these, 50 received Bachelor's degrees, and 4 received Master's degrees. 27 students completed their studies with honors and two with highest honors.

**First graduates of the OUI's academic program in the CIS:** The first 7 graduates – citizens of Russia, the Ukraine and Azerbaijan – completed their studies this year and were awarded a B.A. in Humanities and Social Sciences from the Open University, in the Russian language.

### Distribution of Master's degrees, by discipline

Degree	Graduates
Business Administration (MBA)	265
Democracy Studies – Interdisciplinary (MA)	46
Computer Science (MSc)	9
Biological Thought (MA)	4
Education: Learning Technologies (MA)	5
Education: Learning Systems (MA)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>331</b>

## From the speech by David Zachs at the graduation ceremony



It is my honor tonight to speak on behalf of my fellow graduates and I sincerely hope that I will faithfully represent them. Before reaching this moment, we all made a long journey that it had highs and lows. It is not a trivial matter to complete a full cycle of studies at this educational institution. It requires perseverance, determination and will power that would not put an Olympic marathon runner to shame.

My personal story begins sometime in the beginning of the 1980s. I was a Mathematics student at Bar Ilan University, preparing for my military service when, near the end of my studies, they were disrupted by the First Lebanon War. After that, life led me on different paths, starting from military service in the IDF computer unit, through entrepreneurship in high-tech companies in engineering, marketing and management positions, to VP of the company, and to CEO positions in high-tech companies. The rapid pace of the information industry and the development of the information age instilled in me the feeling that I was at the center of major developments, thus pushing aside all other activities having to do with personal development.

It was only several years ago, entirely by chance, through my sister who also studied at the Open University, that

I registered for a philosophy course at the University. I admit that from that moment, I caught the virus of love for studies at the OUI and I fell in love with philosophy – and have been in their grasp ever since. I am glad to have had the opportunity to enrich myself and to expand my education, alongside my commitments at work and toward my family.

Due to a heavy workload and frequent travel abroad, I found myself preparing assignments and sending them to the OUI from train stations, airports and flights at an altitude of 35,000 feet. The air up there is very thin and its effect on grades is not particularly positive, however I stand here before you today, just like you, at the finish line.

For me, the studies were a defining experience in terms of independent study, self-discipline, personal behavior and intellectual stimulation. As a high-tech person for many years, I drank with thirst from the well of thought and philosophy – "the queen of sciences" – from which scientific developments derive, and enjoyed every minute.

I, like many of you, was able to study at the university during these years only because of the opportunity the University offers to study and work simultaneously – even at the most demanding job. I am thankful for the second chance I got to deepen my knowledge in fields I love, and even to continue to a Master's degree.

Like all of you, I enjoyed the benefit of high quality textbooks, advanced learning technologies, a flexible and accessible study method and a caring and supportive OUI staff. Every student in his own way and every graduate according to his aspirations. I feel, and I hope that this was your experience as well, that the atmosphere and studies at the Open University differ immensely from other educational institutions – the study method promotes personal development, which in turn guarantees academic success.

I would like to mention that at Tel Aviv University, where I am studying toward a Master's degree, students are referred to Open University textbooks in Philosophy and other fields. I would also like to add that the Open University prepared me very well for the myriad challenges we face. Furthermore, Open University graduates are highly valued in the employment market.

## Letter from Dana Aluf, OUI Graduate, to the Head of the Dept. of Education and Psychology



Dear Dr. Bogler,

My name is Dana Aluf, currently in the last semester of my psychology studies at the Open University. I am writing this letter because I would like to share something wonderful that happened to me, thanks to the OUI. I began my studies four years ago, with low expectations, no psychometric score and countless doubts.

My studies at the OUI opened doors for me – I fell in love with the field of psychology, was an outstanding student (three times President's list), combined studies with work, published a children's book, volunteered in my community, enriched my knowledge, and this year, I also applied for admission to a Master's program in psychology.

Yesterday I was informed that I had been accepted to the Master's degree program in the research track at Bar Ilan University. This was followed by a telephone call from the head of the track informing me that I had been selected as one of two outstanding students to whom they would like to offer a direct doctoral track and a President's scholarship for four years. Needless to

say, I was overjoyed.

Now that I know that in October I will begin my studies at a "closed" university, I feel that I no longer represent Dana Aluf, the student, but rather the Open University. I promise to represent the OUI well, because the University deserves that.

I wanted to express my immense gratitude. Thanks to the OUI, I was given one of the greatest opportunities of my life. I am proud to be a graduate of this academic institution.

I would like to pass this message on to psychology students – we can be accepted for a Master's (and a PhD!). My impression is that OUI graduates are respected by other universities. At the OUI, everyone has the opportunity for self-realization, irrespective of where he or she started. I am convinced that those who are capable and strongly motivated can achieve their goals.

Once again – my utmost gratitude. I definitely studied one of the most amazing fields and I also learned a lesson for life – with motivation, ability and belief, the sky is the limit.

Sincerely yours,  
Dana Aluf