

Students



This year, 2008-2009, 42,386 students were enrolled in undergraduate courses, compared to 41,371 who were enrolled in 2007-2008. In addition, 3,367 students were registered for seminar papers only.

A total of 3,274 graduate students were enrolled this year in OUI courses (including supplementary courses) in comparison to 3,051 in 2007-2008. In addition, 78 students were registered for seminar papers only, 53 for final papers and 53 for dissertations.

A "student" at the OUI is a person who has registered for one or more courses and did not cancel or defer studies. The total number of students represents the number of people studying at the OUI. A student taking two or more courses is counted only once.

The study method at the OUI does not require students to take a structured program and complete it within a specific period of time. Therefore, in addition to absolute numbers, collected data 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, 18,884 undergraduates were enrolled at the OUI in 2008-2009 (compared with 18,554 in 2007-2008).

OUI Students' Achievements in the International Mathematics Competition

Two OUI mathematics students participated in the Israeli Delegation for the International Mathematics Competition for University Students (IMC) held in Hungary. Both students won prizes.

Sports at the Open University

OUI athletes participated in a wide range of sports this year with outstanding competitors receiving study grants of varying amounts. The men's ping-pong team won first place in the International Academic Sports Association (ASA) games, held in Eilat. The University's strong chess team, including a chessmaster, took second place. The women's basketball team took 3rd and 4th places in the International ASA games. OUI athletes won individual medals in ping-pong, Taekwondo, chess and tennis. In-house championships open to students and employees were held again this year in chess, ping-pong and rowing instruments. Three students represented the OUI at the World University Summer Games held in Belgrade, Serbia.



Financial Assistance and Scholarships

In 2008-2009, the OUI awarded 3,283.4 scholarships (a full scholarship covers the fees of one course) in various categories. Of these, 2,026.1 were financial assistance grants and the rest were for academic excellence, community service, sports and tutoring. Additional scholarships were awarded to soldiers and to people in national service or to those who completed their military or national service. 2,340 students received scholarships amounting to 10% of their tuition fees, and 404 combat soldiers received scholarships amounting to 50% of their tuition fees.

Computerized Services for Students

Virtual services for students continue to grow and diversify and include the following innovations:

- This year the course guide was published for the first time in digital form only, for many courses, and was available on the course website and on the computerized *Sheilta* system. The course guide, unique for each course, outlines the study material of the course, provides detailed information about the recommended method of study and an explanation of

the prerequisites of the course. Nonetheless, students wishing to receive a printed copy of the course guide were able to order it.

- A computerized registration pilot was implemented for seminar paper writing workshops.

Student Involvement in the Community

Perach, Sachlav and ISEF Projects

This year, 1,024 OUI students took part in the *Perach* project and 37 students participated in the *Sachlav* project. Seven students, two of whom are graduate students, received certificates of excellence for their participation in *Perach* and the OUI awarded each a scholarship amounting to half the tuition fees of a course. 25 OUI students, including two graduate students, are members of the ISEF International Education Foundation. One of the students received an additional scholarship from ISEF for social and academic excellence.

The *Sela* "Students for the Community" Project

The *Sela* project is implemented in cooperation with Loewenstein Hospital, a rehabilitation center in Raanana. Psychology students accompany adults who have been hospitalized in the Neurological Rehabilitation department of Loewenstein Hospital as they reintegrate into the community, assisting them and their families in their return to an independent life. The students also take part in guided group meetings with the medical staff, where they receive updates on the progress of the patients and discuss their own experience. To date, one group consisting of seven students has participated in this project.

Student Chapter of *Megama Yeruka (Green Trend)* at the Open University

The Open University student Chapter of *Megama Yeruka* continued to work towards its goal of increasing student awareness of environmental protection and implementation. Campaigns were held to explain issues of regional public transportation and of beach cleansing. A blog was initiated with information on activities, events and plans.

For data on students and enrollments, see Appendix B, pp. 57-59