

Extra-Academic Studies

The Open University has three branches of extra-academic studies: the School of Technology, the Unit for the Professional Advancement of Educators, and External Studies (*Ma'aleh*).

The School of Technology

The Open University's School of Technology, directed by Israel Zilberstein, trains practical engineers and technicians in electronics, electricity, software, and industrial management. The School also operates a preparatory technological program and practical engineering training in a format uniquely adapted for the ultra-Orthodox community.

Technological training in the ultra-Orthodox sector

The Open University's strategic multi-year plan sets the goal of "reaching new populations – the ultra-Orthodox sector." Accordingly, a massive marketing thrust was undertaken via media appropriate to the ultra-Orthodox community, and new study centers were opened in locations with large ultra-Orthodox populations. This year, a preparatory technology program for practical engineers, specifically targeting ultra-Orthodox men, opened for the first time in the School of Technology, with an enrollment of 98. Studies took place in four centers of the ultra-Orthodox population around the country: Elad, Bnei Brak, Ashdod and Jerusalem. Students included a group of 17 soldiers from the Israel Defense Force's *Shahar* program (for the recruitment of ultra-Orthodox men).

There was a marked rise in the enrollment of students at the School of Technology in programs whose tuition fees are at least partly funded by government ministries or various foundations. The number of enrollments increased from 23 in 2009-2010 to 135 in 2010-2011.

Activities and new courses

- This year the course "The Experiential Environment" was updated and new study materials were developed for the laboratory in the courses "Micro-Computers" and "Computer Systems" in the Electronics Practical Engineers track. New text books were also published during the year: *The Electronics of Capacitors Part I* for Electrical Engineering students; and two books for high school Computer Science, *Programming in C#* and *Programming in Java*.
- The School of Technology (together with CET, the Center for Educational Technology) completed study materials for three *Malam* projects (the Amos de Shalit Israeli Science Education Teaching Center) designed for high school Electronics studies: *Experiments in Micro-Computers and Micro-Processors*, a book of experiments and a teacher's guide; *Parallel and Digital Electronics*, a book of experiments and a teacher's guide; and student's and teacher's guides to preparing a final project in Electricity and Electronics.
- The second and third groups of Israel Electric Corporation employees studying toward Electrical Engineering Technician certification at the School of Technology have completed their studies.

Enrollment data (number of students)

Program	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Technician/Practical Engineer program (including the integrated program)	1,456	1,567	1,481
Continuing education for teachers and vocational courses	326	153	90
Total	1,782	1,720	1,571

Graduates

Area	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Technician / Practical engineer	57	62	65
Students from other colleges who completed their studies at the School of Technology	18	19	20
Technology teachers and vocational training	326	153	90

The Unit for the Professional Advancement of Educators

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the Open University's Unit for the Professional Advancement of Educators, headed by Noa Bauman, offered a range of courses and continuing education programs. These included:

- Courses for teacher-mentors and intern workshops for university graduates going into teaching, as part of the educational specialization project
- Professional development for inspectors in Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor schools: "The Inspector as Leader"
- A program designed to improve school learning processes, conducted in collaboration with the Amal network of vocational schools: "Training Tools for Success in Learning"
- Nationwide continuing education programs in various disciplines and seminars for teachers on different topics
- Professional development of training programs and holding workshops on "Learning Disabilities and Diagnostic Methods," designed to train learning disability diagnosticians and teaching professionals in different sectors
- Designated courses for teachers on sabbatical: training mentors, interpersonal communication, personal empowerment, nutrition and health, writing personal memoirs.

New projects

Integration of the OUI into the national teleprocessing program: The Unit for the Professional Advancement of Educators was selected to lead training processes on implementing a national teleprocessing program, for office holders in the education system. The program aims to adjust the education system to the 21st century and bring about a new pedagogy in the school system, using information technology and communications media. The first stage involved training school principals in the northern region from all sectors (Arab, Druze and Jewish).

Training of school principals – a new two-year Open University program: After winning a tender by the Ministry of Education and the Center for Training School Principals, the Unit developed a two-year program for the qualification of prospective principals. The program is unique in that it takes place in a diverse and modern environment that combines IT and teleprocessing.

External Studies (*Ma'aleh*)

External Studies (*Ma'aleh*) includes seven schools: *Ascolot*, *Hasifa*, *Tafnit*, *Tafnitech*, *Diploma*, *DiAlog* and *Meirav*. The number of courses granting credits toward an OUI academic degree was expanded this year. Over 20,000 students, who enrolled individually, studied in *Ma'aleh* in 2010-2011. There was extensive activity in the periphery, and cooperation with the ultra-Orthodox sector was expanded. This year we completed the incorporation of the Call Center for the schools in *Ma'aleh* and new study centers were opened.

Ascolot – School of Interdisciplinary Studies

This year, *Ascolot* offered new courses in a variety of subjects. The number of enrollments rose by 5%, to 17,870. The “Government and Strategy” course, taught by Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eitan Ben-Eliahu, attracted 400 students and culminated in a fascinating simulation exercise; the Middle East was studied more extensively this year in courses given by Dr. Guy Bechor and Prof. Uzi Rabi, in light of changes in the region. The number of places available for the “Pre-Premiere at the Movies” was also expanded this year. Thirty “Tour Israel” series were offered, each including six hikes, and a total of 1,500 people joined us in touring the country. Enrollment numbers increased significantly at our Jerusalem branch and there was closer cooperation between *Ascolot* and the Jerusalem Theater.

Beit Ayala: The *Beit Ayala* branch of *Ascolot* is located in the home of philanthropist Ayala Zaks-Abramov. The building remains as it was originally designed, as a residence, and the classrooms are located in the family’s guest and living quarters, thus creating an intimate and leisurely atmosphere. *Beit Ayala* offered 40 courses this year. *Ascolot* continues to organize cultural and educational activities there on various subjects.

Hasifa – School of Communications, Television and Multimedia

Hasifa offers various study tracks, some of which enable students to accumulate academic credits that can count toward an academic degree; it is a partner to the Open University Center for Media Studies. Two study tracks operated this year that are suitable for OUI students studying toward a BA in Communication: “Professional Specialization in Journalism and Radio,” and “Advertising and Brand Management.” A unique training course held for *Marom* (an association for the education and advancement of students with learning disabilities), trained students in digital editing. Two exhibitions were held this year:

- A **Social Photography** competition was held on the *Hasifa* Facebook page. The virtual competition provided a forum for dozens of photographers to exhibit hundreds of photographs, from which a winning picture was selected.
- The traditional **Digital Happening 2011** was held at the end of the academic year. Dozens of graduates exhibited their creations in design, animation, documentary and feature film, and more.

Tafnit – Continuing Education for Managers

This year *Tafnit* continued to expand its activities as well as its accessibility. The School developed new content areas and existing courses were updated in light of market trends and professional developments in management. The school continued to offer numerous projects that expose participants to the varied study opportunities at the Open University, among them:

- **Workshops for demobilized soldiers:** The school won a tender for workshops designed for soldiers on the point of discharge from the IDF, to teach them the skills they will need as they enter the world of work and education.
- **Workshops for new-immigrant and lone soldiers:** *Tafnit* offers courses on preparing for civilian life for new-immigrant soldiers and soldiers on their own, who are at the end of their military service, to help in the transition to civilian life. The workshops provide essential information about the academic world and the work market, and boost motivation to view academic studies as a vital tool for their future integration in the work market. As in previous years, in 2010-2011 over 1,500 soldiers received training through these workshops, which are made possible by the cooperation of the Jewish Agency, the IDF, the Gruss Fund and Operation Queen Esther.
- **Jewish Agency directors’ course:** The course is designed to teach theoretical and practical knowhow for directors. Some 45 employees in directorial positions (or potential directors), from different branches of the Jewish Agency, participated.

Tafnitech – School of Computers

What is unique about *Tafnitech* is its practical approach that aims to provide graduates with applicable skills and tools. *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. With funding from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor, courses were held throughout Israel during the year to retrain unemployed high-tech personnel in the skills needed for the software and media market. The unique program that trains ultra-Orthodox *Kolel* graduates in computer software is continuing.

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. This year the School continued its activities in the ultra-Orthodox community at Beit Rivka Haredi College in Kfar Habad and in Bnei Brak, via the local municipality's Welfare Department.

DiAlog – School of Languages

DiAlog offers a variety of courses to the general public and business organizations. The number of instruction hours in English courses increased this year. Students in language courses include outstanding soldiers after their military service, who finance their studies with vouchers provided by the IDF, as well as the ultra-Orthodox community.

Meirav – School for Training Complementary Medicine Professionals

Meirav, in collaboration with "Maccabi Natural," expanded its activities this year in the Haredi sector as well as in study tracks that include courses granting academic credits. A study center was opened during the year in Modi'in. Second year students were involved in extensive volunteer activities during the year and treated children from various non-profit organizations, schools and institutions, including *Elem* for at-risk youth, Abarbanel Psychiatric Hospital, and *Kfar Ofarim* (an institution for autistic children).

Beit Daniel

In keeping with *Beit Daniel* tradition, several special activities were held there this year. These included workshops, conferences, courses, meetings and seminars. Among the various companies and organizations that organized activities were high-tech companies, industrial, commercial and financial companies, organs of local authorities and academic institutions. There was also a variety of events carried out by various musical organization, as well as music weekends open to the general public.

Throughout the year, *Beit Daniel* was also the site of meetings of the OUI senior faculty, as well as symposia of the academic and administrative departments and workshops.

Construction was carried out on the building: the dairy kitchen was moved and upgraded and the dining room was expanded so as to allow the new wing to be divided into small spaces for use in different activities.

The Lange Estate

Work on one of the buildings on the Lange Estate, the Carriage House, continued this year, and the building is expected to open for activities in the near future. In collaboration with the Society for Preservation of Israel Heritage Sites, the Open University continues restoration and preservation work on this important family home and historic garden.