

International Academic Initiatives

Widespread international activity is an Open University tradition, with faculty members maintaining links with universities around the world. The OUI regularly hosts visiting delegations from universities and organizations from other countries, and OUI courses and exams are used by hundreds of OUI students around the world.

The MOOCs Project

This new OUI initiative consists of courses that are openly available to the general public in Israel and abroad. MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) constitute one of the most high profile higher education trends to emerge in recent years. The OUI currently offers MOOCs in four languages, thanks to technologies that make it possible for students in any location in the world to take courses free of charge on the basis of open study materials and collaboration between students in the learning process. At this stage, graduates of MOOC courses will receive confirmation and a certificate of participation in the course, but will not be awarded credit points towards an academic degree. The project is a European venture on the part of the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU) and has European Union funding.

As part of the MOOCs project, Prof. Yoav Yair and Dr. Yoram Kalman accepted a European Union scholarship on behalf of the OUI, for their work on *Higher Education Online: MOOCs the European Way*. The objectives of the research are:

- To characterize European cooperation in MOOCs and develop it according to European values of openness, equality, quality and diversity
- To clarify and develop didactic and pedagogical models for MOOCs, according to European standards
- To develop conditions for collaborative services and infrastructures for European MOOCs
- To develop sustainable business models for European MOOCs on organizational, national, European and global levels

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF ISRAEL MOOCs

עברית العربية English Русский

האניברסיטה הפתוחה מציעה מאות קורסים בחינם לנשואים אלו תלמידים רשומים בארץ ובעולם. כעת את משיקים קורסי MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) פתוחים ברושט בחנם לכל, במספר שפות

Registration is now open

בשלב הראשון יפתחו הקורסים הבאים:

קורס	תאריך הרשמה	תאריך תחילת
היסטוריה של ישראל	23 באוקטובר 2013	9 בספט
מספרים	23 באוקטובר 2013	9 בספט
רשמי (רצת עם)	6 במרץ 2014	9 בספט
החזרה התיכון בימים	21 בספטמבר 2013	9 בספט

- To build a sustainable network of open information to be used on open MOOCs worldwide
- To initiate pan-European activities aimed at evolving the development and tuition capacity of MOOCs in different learning communities
- To draw up directives and policies that will serve as an incentive to developing an open knowledge base for the development and teaching of MOOCs

At the initial stage, the following courses will be produced as MOOCs: The Middle East in the Present Day (Hebrew); Genocide (English); Psychology in Education (Arabic); Between Jews and Christians: Jews and Christians in Western Europe up to the Dawn of the New Age (Russian).

Overseas Students

The Open University continues its tradition of helping OUI students residing abroad. The results of a survey designed to ascertain the special requirements of such students resulted in the implementation of new processes.

The Bologna Process

The Bologna Process is part of a European initiative aimed at enhancing compatibility between academic standards and qualifications in different European countries. In the near future, European universities will be able to request a transcript and diplomas that comply with the Bologna Process. Beginning next year, OUI graduates wishing to continue studying at European universities will be able to receive a transcript specifying ECTS (the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) for every course studied.

Cooperative Agreements

- A visit by Prof. Anja Oskamp, Rector of the Open University of the Netherlands, in May 2013, culminated in the signing of a cooperative agreement with the Dutch University.
- The Open University has signed translation agreements with overseas publishing houses for the translation of the following OUI books: *Strategic Thinking: Game Theory and its Application in Finance and Management* (with Truth and Wisdom Press); and *Mass Media in Israel* (with Berghahn Books).
- Contracts have also been signed to translate two courses into Hebrew: The French Revolution (with Oxford University Press) and Thermodynamics (with Taylor & Francis).