

Community Resources and Cultural Events

The OUI hosts a variety of cultural events every year, including symposia, conferences, cultural evenings, and science, art, music and academic happenings. The events are open to the general public and participants enjoy talks delivered by top lecturers and researchers on a range of subjects.

Scientists' Night is sponsored by the EU and held annually in cooperation with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Space. At the evening event, scientific and research activities, lectures, and demonstrations geared for all ages are presented. Other programs open to the general public include MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), which are available worldwide.

Selected Symposia

- Analysis and Data Processing as a Tool for Managing and Improving Quality
- China and the Middle East
- Fraud and Integrity in Learning and Academia
- Is Technology out of Control? Morality and Ethics in New Communication Technologies
- Middle-Eastern and Israeli Societies: A Cultural, Social, and Historical Perspective
- New Media and Visual Arts
- Nobel Prizes 2016
- "Psychologically Speaking. . ."
- Public Administration in Israel as a Driver of Reform
- Six Days Plus Fifty Years: A Shattered Peace 1967-2017
- The 21st Century Management Challenge
- The Constitutional Revolution, 25 Years Later
- The Impact of the Six-Day War on Religious Zionism and the Morality of Warfare

Selected Cultural Events

- Annual concert: The Sound of Esperanza
- Morning concert: Dual Shades
- Jazz concert series
- Lunchtime concert series
- Sounds: Concert series with commentary by Anat Sharon

Exhibitions

- *Forty Titles*: Marking the OUI's 40th Anniversary
- *Fragile Spaces, Fragmented Identities*: The exhibition examined the interface between visual art and new media. Contributing artists: Ilan Green, Peleg Dishon, Guy Yitzhaki, Shahar Freddy Kislev, Dana Levy, Ofir Liberman, Nadav Assor, Liliana Farber, Shirley Shor and Lilach Shatiat. The curator was Dr. Yael Eylat Van-Essen of the Holon Institute of Technology and Tel Aviv University. The exhibition received technical sponsorship from Niio, which develops solutions for the presentation and preservation of new media art. It was also awarded a Mifal Hapais grant for art exhibitions in Israel.

- *Light and a Box: Two Photographers and the Early Days of Photography*: Contributing photographers Dror Maayan and Yanai Menachem presented a retrospective of early photographic processes. The curator was Dr. Hava Aldouby of the OUI's Department of Literature, Language, and the Arts. The closing event included a lecture, and demonstration of a rare 150-year-old photographic process, along with an exhibition of original nineteenth-century cameras and photographic equipment.

The OUI Alumni Association hosts cultural events, shows, and tours for alumni and the general public. One such event is the flagship "Academic Cinema" series, which includes the screening of films with the participation of faculty members.

Entrepreneurs and Business Club

The club was established in order to encourage entrepreneurial spirit among alumni and students and the promotion of technological and commercial ventures. Each month, the club hosts open forums for alumni, students, and the general public, and features prominent leaders from Israel's business community.

Academia Online

Academia Online Ltd. (<http://onl.co.il>), a subsidiary of the Open University, was established in 2014-2015 to create a national service center for the production of online learning resources geared towards Israel's higher education system.

Established against a backdrop of growing interest in Israel and abroad in innovative learning technologies, Academia Online offers consultation services, development, and production for higher education institutions wishing to outsource such services.

In cooperation with Shoham, Academia Online addresses the challenges of developing academic courses and identifying the necessary learning technologies.

Academia Online has continued to maintain the "Academic English" website launched last year (<http://study.onl.co.il/>). The venture was established and funded by the PBC – and comprises four online courses for the study of English for university academic requirements. To date, over 28,000 students have signed up for the website, and research is underway into the nature of learning via the site. Examinations are held at the National Institute for Testing and Evaluation, located at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Academia Online has offered a variety of courses over the past year, some as part of a nationwide CHE program and the Digital Israel national initiative. These included courses specifically designed for various institutions of higher education, including Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the University of Haifa, Bar-Ilan University, and the Holon Institute of Technology.

Academia Online led the OUI's proposals for online courses, and will be responsible for production of the courses that were selected to receive funding.

Lamda – The Open University Bookstore

This year, 20,541 OUI books were sold by the Lamda bookstore. Of these, 10,890 were sold to individual customers, 2,083 to bookstores and distributors, and 7,568 to institutions and universities.