

December 27, 2023

Dear Students,

Subject: **The opening of the 2023-24 academic year**

This Sunday (December 31, 2023), the 2023-24 academic year will begin, and we are looking forward to receiving you on our beautiful campus.

After all we have been experiencing since the outbreak of the "Swords of Iron" war, this will be a particularly challenging year; the Bar-Ilan University administration has been preparing for it for quite some time and is doing everything possible so that it will be a successful one for all of you.

Attached is the [academic calendar](#) for your convenience. In three weeks time (on January 21, or on some other date to be determined in coordination with the IDF), we will be joined by many dear students who will be discharged from reserve duty or standing army duty, and we will be conducting a week of 'return to academic competence' for them. During that week we will hold special sessions mainly for them to allow them to close the gaps.

For these students and anyone who served in reserve duty during this time and all those affected by the war, we have prepared a special accommodations framework (details can be viewed [here](#)); this is additional to [all other rights of students who serve in the reserves](#).

Many operations were put into place by Bar-Ilan to ease your return to academic studies. We have established a WhatsApp support hotline for students in military service at 077-3643590, we have established an [large financial aid scholarship fund](#) for eligible students, we've created an academic support framework for [tutoring sessions](#), mentoring and study marathons, we've reduced the content of material to suit a 10-week semester, and we've decreased the number of exams to relieve some of the pressure in the exam period.

Additionally, all lectures will be recorded and loaded onto the Moodle platform (LAMDA). Many will also be broadcast in real-time via Zoom. We do know from experience, however, that instruction is more meaningful and effective when it takes place face-to-face in classrooms, allowing interaction among the students, encouraging participation in discussions and enabling questions during the lecture.

On an emotional level, too, it is important to go back to the daily routine, to meet fellow students, to form study groups and to live student life.

In such a short, intensive period, it is important that you maximize the instructional resources we have placed at your disposal. On our part, immense effort has been invested to teach the material and to impart skills for learning, thinking and research, but we need earnest collaboration on your part, of course.

Let's all enlist for the success of the academic year, and to help our students on military duty who will be joining us later. . Students wishing to assist in mentoring such students should send an email message to Secretariat@biu.ac.il.

Sincerely,



Prof. Arie Reich

Vice-Rector