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"I know of no public event which has given me such delight as the proposal to establish a Hebrew University in Jerusalem"

ALBERT EINSTEIN, Nobel Laureate Hebrew University Founder, April 1921

(The Collected Papers of Albert Einstein)

# The Hebrew University in Numbers

### **GENERAL NUMBERS**

**BA Students** 13,300 MA Students 5.515 202 Diploma Mechina Students 360 International Students 840 PhD Students 2.350 Post-Docs 600 **Total Students** 23.290 **Faculty Members** 1,040

### Total # of Courses 6,250

Campuses 6
Faculties 7
Schools 14
Departments 315
Libraries 11
National Library 1

### **YISSUM**

Patents 11,780
Licenses 1,160
Spin-off Companies 260+
new companies established 14
Active start-up companies 160+

### **AWARDS & PRIZES**

9 **Nobel Prize** Fields Medal in Mathematics 1 **Holberg Prize** Turing Award in **Computer Science** 2 1 **Abel Prize Wolf Prize** 16 Canada Gairdner International Award Shaw Prize in **Mathematics Rothschild Prize** 111 **Emet Prize** 76 Rappaport Prize 5 342 Israel Prize

# **RESEARCH**

Researchers 1,422
Research Centres 100+
Research Projects 4,240
Affiliated Medical
Institutes 6
43% of Israel's Biotech
Reserch

### **RANKINGS**

Global Top ½%
Worldwide (ARWU) 88
In Mathematics #14
in Economics #51-75
in Law #42
in Communications #14

### **INTERNATIONAL DATA**

**500+** academic agreements with institutions Partners across **60** countries.

Student exchange agreements with over **90** institutions in over **30** countries.

90 courses for the study of some 30 languages.

308 post-doctoral researchers from 34 countries.

The Hebrew University produces ½ of Israel's civilian research & is ranked 12th worldwide in biotechnology patent filings and commercial development

# Letter from the Chair

As the Hebrew University marks its centenary and we, the British Friends, prepare to celebrate ours next year, the University continues to face some of the greatest challenges it has seen in its storied history. Each decade since 1925 has brought its own set of formidable challenges but, time and again, resilience and tenacity, coupled with a spirit of innovation and academic excellence, have defined the University's journey. In another year overshadowed by war, the Hebrew University has remained steadfast in upholding its core principles: fostering a shared campus society, embracing pluralism, and advancing knowledge across the globe. Of this we can justifiably be proud.

We the British Friends have also remained unwavering in our support - thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our donors, many of whom are multi-generational, who recognise how vital the Hebrew University is to Israel, and indeed, to the wider world.

For the past eight years, Professor Asher Cohen has provided measured and wise leadership as President of the Hebrew University, guiding the institution through turbulent times while remaining ever an optimist (see his latest report, page 8). As Chair of British Friends, it has been a pleasure to work with Asher and it was an honour to serve on the University selection committee charged with appointing his successor. We are confident that President-elect and current Rector, Professor Tamir Sheafer, will use his experience, vision and deep commitment in leading the Hebrew University into its next century. You can read his message to the HU community on page 4 here.

The last minute cancellation of the centenary Board of Governors meeting in June was understandably disappointing for the University, Friends, and our distinguished honourees. However, in light of the grave escalation of conflict with Iran, there was simply no alternative.

I thank our trustees and professional team for their unwavering dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work on behalf of the Hebrew University. In commenting "I know of no public event which has given me such delight as the proposal to establish a Hebrew University in Jerusalem" the great founder, Albert Einstein, continues to provide inspiration to us all.





# Letter from the Chief Executive

Where have the past 12 months gone? Has anything changed? Last year, I wrote that reaching the grand age of 100 is something to be celebrated for the Hebrew University it's a story of triumph over adversity.

The year has again been marred by conflict, affecting every facet of the Hebrew University life: students called to serve, disruptions to study and research, programmes to foster a 'shared society' campus, and increased demand for student support services. Internationally, the BDS movement has disrupted exchanges and important long-standing partnerships.

Most poignantly, our international Board of Governors event in June - two years in planning - was canceled due to the war with Iran. We worked to ensure the safe return of hundreds who had travelled to Jerusalem.

As in so many periods of adversity since the University's opening in 1925, our Friends have remained steadfast, supporting academic excellence in a haven of coexistence and pluralism.

British Friends continue to fund scholarships, diverse research, and a new floor for the Faculty of Social Science. Innovation and the drive to solve global challenges remain central to the Hebrew University vision. Locally, our events and webinars have continued throughout the year and will showcase further progress in the coming months.

While looking ahead with hope and prayers for peace and the safe return of hostages, we harbour optimism for 2026, when the British Friends will mark our own centenary. Thank you for joining our mission to ensure the Hebrew University flourishes and the torch of learning shines ever brightly.

I hope you enjoy this edition of FUTURE, finding it both informative and inspiring.

NIGEL SALOMON, Chief Executive



# Changing of the Guard

The Hebrew University's 100th year proved to be a tumultuous one, full of challenges, triumphs, and change. It is fitting, then, that as we embark on HU's next century, we shall be doing so guided by new leadership - trained and honed by their elders, but carrying their own goals, methods, and toolkit.

# PROFESSOR TAMIR SHEAFER Elected 15th President of the Hebrew University

Prof Tamir Sheafer has been elected President of the Hebrew University, succeeding Prof Asher Cohen after eight years. Formerly the Rector, Prof Sheafer led programmes supporting low-income students, students in reserve duty, and affected communities during the recent war, allocating 40m NIS of HU budget and fostering coexistence among Jewish, Arab, and international students.

A specialist in political communication, he has led international collaborations on democracy and directed the DeepStory Lab, developing innovative deep-learning tools.

Outgoing President Prof Cohen expanded fundraising, academic staff, and research centres, and oversaw major initiatives like the Gav-Yam Hebrew Campus to boost high-tech jobs in Jerusalem. His leadership navigated challenges including COVID-19 and the post-October 7 crisis. Prof Cohen praised Sheafer's leadership and vision.

Prof Sheafer pledged to build on the University's strengths in excellence, freedom, tolerance, and collaboration.



"I am honoured by the trust placed in me. I am committed to further advancing the Hebrew University as a global leader in research and education, upholding excellence, freedom, tolerance, and collaboration."



Prof Cohen recorded a heartfelt farewell video to summarise his tenure as Captain of the HU ship. To watch it, and another little surprise, click the QR code



# PROFESSOR ORON SHAGRIR Named Next Rector of the Hebrew University

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem has announced the election of Prof Oron Shagrir as its next Rector, following a Senate vote. Currently Vice-President for International Affairs, Prof Shagrir has played a pivotal role in expanding the University's global reach, building international partnerships, and navigating recent challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent conflict. He brings a distinguished academic background in mathematics, computer science, philosophy, and cognitive science.

Prof Shagrir takes office in October 2025, succeeding Prof Tamir Sheafer, who was

recently chosen as the University's next
President. University President Prof Asher
Cohen praised Prof Shagrir's commitment
to strengthening the institution's global
standing and advancing research
and teaching excellence. Prof Shagrir
has pledged to foster diversity,
research innovation, and new teaching
technologies in his upcoming tenure.

"I thank the University Senate for the selection and look forward to working alongside Prof Sheafer, the Hebrew University administration, and all faculty members to maintain the University's leadership in Israel, foster research excellence, and implement innovative teaching and learning technologies."

# HU at 100: Its Foundation, and Britain's Role

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, marking its centenary in 2025, stands as one of Israel's greatest intellectual achievements-a beacon of scholarship, resilience, and vision whose significance resonates far beyond its borders. Its founding was not simply a local or national affair, but an international milestone rooted in the hopes of early Zionist pioneers and made possible through outstanding British partnership.





Left: Prof James Bieberkraut unrolls one of the Dead Sea scrolls 1954

Right:
Prof Martin
Buber accepts
an honorary
doctorate
from University
president
and rector
Prof Benjamin
Mazar (centre)
and Prof Hugo
Bergmann, 1953

# **Early Visionaries and British Connections**

The idea of building a Hebrew University in Jerusalem first took root in the late 19th century. Zvi Hermann Schapira, a mathematician and ardent Zionist, was among the earliest advocates, proposing the idea at Zionist congresses as early as 1884 and 1897. But it would take the work of stellar minds - such as Chaim Weizmann, Martin Buber, Sigmund Freud, and especially Albert Einstein - to turn the dream into reality.

These luminaries rallied support, combining intellectual firepower with organisational determination.

The influence of Britain was present from the earliest planning stages through to the inauguration. Britain's stewardship of Palestine at that time made the dream viable. The University's land on Mount Scopus was secured in part thanks to a pro-Zionist British lawyer, John Gray-Hill. As plans proceeded after the First World War, British administrators provided essential permits, and the British Jewish community - wellestablished, philanthropic, and influential stepped up as both financial and spiritual partners.

When the University officially opened in 1925, the event was itself a pageant of Anglo-Jewish collaboration and enthusiasm. The British High Commissioner, Sir Herbert Samuel, played a prominent role, and the former Foreign Secretary, Lord Balfour - author of the historic Balfour Declaration - delivered the keynote address. Their presence underscored the deep ties between British supporters and the University. Over a third of the first Board of Governors, which steered the University in its formative years, was British, including James de Rothschild, Harry Sacher, Sir Herbert Samuel, and Sir Alfred Mond.





Top: Workmen at the site of the Givat Ram campus, 1954

Bottom: Over 5,000 attended the University's Silver Jubilee celebrations, 1950

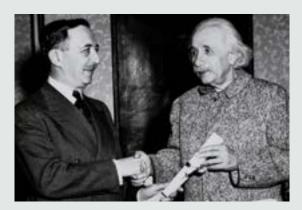
# The Early Years and Major Milestones

The University began modestly, its cornerstone laid in 1918 and academic activities officially launched in 1925. Its initial focus reflected both Jewish intellectual tradition and the scholarly ideals of European academia: microbiology, chemistry, and Jewish studies took pride of place.

Rapidly, the Hebrew University became a nucleus for learning and innovation in the region. In an age when Jewish students were increasingly excluded from European universities, its opening signaled a new chapter, both as a haven for persecuted scholars and as a beacon for Jewish Renaissance.

Key milestones soon followed:

- Expansion of Research: The University fostered disciplines now central to Israeli life: medicine, agriculture, law, science, and the humanities.





- World War II and the British Mandate:
  During the war and under the Mandate,
  faculty and students alike contributed
  to national defense, scientific research,
  and the broader Zionist movement. HU
  opened an undergrad programme, and
  sent letters of acceptance to thousands
  of young European Jews; these letters
  entitled them to a permit to move to prestate Israel, thereby saving their lives.
- 1948 War and Beyond: The War of Independence forced the evacuation from Mount Scopus and dispersal across Jerusalem. Despite war's interruption, the University adapted and flourished, moving some activities to new campuses and continuing to serve as a vital academic force.
- Six Day War and Reunification of Jerusalem: After 1967, the Mount Scopus campus was rebuilt, signaling a return to its origins and renewal of ties between the University and its birthplace.





Top left: Elbert Einstein, at Princeton, receiving his honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University

Bottom left: Prof Hugo S. Bergman. Hebrew University Rector 1935-1938

Top right: HU President Selig Brodetsky, Prime Minister Ben Gurion, & the Chairman of the Board arriving at HU's 25th anniversary celebrations

Bottom right: Young agricultural researchers accompany dean Prof Itzhak Volcani on the grounds of the new School of Agriculture in Rehovot, 1942



Prime minister David Ben-Gurion addresses the audience at the dedication of the Givat Ram campus

# Shaping Israeli Academia and Society

From its earliest days, the Hebrew University has been at the heart of Israeli intellectual life. It has produced generations of leading scientists, Nobel laureates, and national leaders, while serving as an engine for research and innovation throughout Israel's modern history.

The University's commitment to diversity and academic excellence has made it a magnet for students from across the world and from all communities within Israel. Many of its graduate and exchange programmes have roots in international partnerships first seeded by its British and European founders.

Its archives preserve treasures of Jewish achievement, including the original handwritten manuscript of Einstein's Theory of Relativity, donated in lieu of his attendance at the inauguration. This act hints at the enduring bond between the University's legendary global supporters and its mission in Israel.

# A Living Legacy

Today, as it celebrates its centenary, the Hebrew University continues to stand on the firm foundation laid by its original founders and British allies. Their shared vision - not only for a centre of Jewish scholarship but for a world-class seat of learning - has come to inspire countless students and academics, shaping both

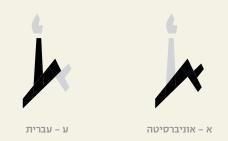
Israeli society and the wider world. The connection between Britain and the Hebrew University is not merely historical; it endures in ongoing collaborations, shared research, and, above all, in a legacy of friendship and aspiration that helped build one of the great universities of our time.

# The Hebrew University Logo - Meaning & History

The logo of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is rooted in both tradition and innovation. Originally designed in 1954 by Zelig Segal, the logo features a vibrant torch flame symbolising the torch of learning, alongside the Hebrew letters Aleph and Ayin, which reference the University's name in Hebrew.

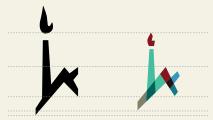
The alef is the first letter of the Hebrew word for University אוניברטיטה

The ayin is the first letter of the Hebrew word for Hebrew עברית



Throughout the decades, this symbol has guided generations of students, academics and visitors, serving as a marker of excellence and diversity in Israeli higher education. As the University grew, so did its visual identity: updates have brought geometric clarity, a broader colour palette, and a logo that appears in Hebrew, English and Arabic, reflecting the inclusive spirit and pluralism at the heart of campus life.

The coloured mosaic style of the current logo represents variety, transparency and accessibility, while the original elements endure. Each faculty now has its own colour variant drawn from this design, strengthening unity and recognition across disciplines. The careful revival of the "Universal" font, originally designed for the University's 1958 Givat Ram campus, brings a compelling link between past and present.



BFHU orginal 1954 HU new Logo 2016

Altogether, the logo's evolution reflects the University's long-standing commitment to blending heritage with modernity. As it marks 100 years, the emblem remains a clear and welcoming symbol of knowledge, a torch of learning, a light unto the nations as well as community and aspiration - a steady flame lighting the way into the next century.

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM الجامعة العبرية في أورشليم القدس



# **Impact Report 2024-25**

# This passing year has been a pivotal one for the Hebrew University, in more ways than one:

Closing the hugely successful 7-year campaign, marking the University's Centennial, dealing with the aftermath of the October 7th attack and sending forward the crucial funds raised through the We Are One campaign, and a changing of the guard - with Prof Asher Cohen finishing his 8 year tenure as HU President, and welcoming in Prof Tamir Sheafer, starting his.

This makes this year's Impact Report a particularly poignant read.

Below are some highlights we've picked for you, and you can read the full Report by scanning this QR code



# A Tradition of Innovation Closing a 7 Year Capital Campaign

Marking its centenary, the Hebrew University launched a seven-year \$1 billion campaign, "Tradition of Innovation", inspired by the seven years between its 1918 founding and 1925 opening. The campaign supported groundbreaking research, leadership training, and solutions for global challenges, solidifying the University's influence across diverse disciplines. Focusing on seven strategic priorities - including High-Tech Jerusalem, Human Health, Global Collaboration, and Sustainability - the campaign ensures the Hebrew University remains dedicated to shaping a better future for humanity and the planet.



# We Are One Campaign

On October 9th, 2023, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem embarked on a global fundraising campaign to raise \$6,000,000, with the primary goal of supporting students affected by the conflict.

1,500 donations came in from around the world, totaling over \$6,000,000.

Of the 23,778 students enrolled at the Hebrew University, nearly 6,000 faced disruptions to their studies. Many students, faculty, and staff were displaced from their communities.



### **Financial Aid**

2,000 NIS one-time for for student stipends.

Grants for 140 doctoral students.



### **Psychological Services**

200% increase in inquiries.

Increased access to therapy and resilience-building workshops.



### Infrastructure Enhancements

42 classrooms outfitted with multimedia equipment for recording lectures.

1,780 additional library hours.



### **Academic Support**

29,067 hours of tutoring (up from 20,000 the previous year).

10,000 hours of academic marathons (up from 5,000 the previous year).

370 additional hours of monthly staffing for students.



### **Community Impact**

5 appeals filed before the United Nations on behalf of the hostages.

845 nights of shelter provided for displaced people.

438 dental patients treated nationwide. 80 small businesses benefited from mentorship programmes.

# The Gav-Yam Hebrew University Campus

Strengthening the ties between Industry & academia: The Gav-Yam Hebrew Campus is a key centre for innovation and sustainability, enhancing the University's global leadership in research and technology. Its location on the Edmond J. Safra Campus will boost student employment and strengthen ties between industry and academia.



# Gav-Yam Hebrew Campus

# 270,000 m<sup>2</sup>

state-of-the-art office space, laboratories, research facilities, and collaborative work areas

# 11,000 m<sup>2</sup>

of open-air balconies and lush green rooftops, blending nature with innovation

# 12,000

employees, students, and faculty members forming a dynamic academic and research community

# 6,000 m<sup>2</sup>

of vibrant commercial space, a modern conference center, and a range of complementary amenities

# 1.4 billion NIS

invested in creating a cutting-edge campus that sets new standards in science, technology, and sustainability

# International Students

International Students join the Hebrew University for a Masters degree in community development, public health, or agriculture, gaining world-class knowledge and skills which they then take back to their home countries. This expertise empowers them to improve the food supply, health, and nutrition of their communities. Over the past 40 years over 1,000 students from 110 countries have graduated from these prestigious programmes.

# Roots and Wings: A Tanzanian Scholar's Journey at the Hebrew University

Gasper Gwamaka Mpokigwa grew up in Dar es Salaam, where agriculture was more than a subject - it was a lifeline and responsibility for future generations. After graduating with distinction in Crop Science and Technology at the University of Dar es Salaam, he was entrusted to lead 99 peers to Israel's Arava International Center for Agricultural Training (AICAT). In the Arava desert, he learned that vision, patience, and collaboration can overcome the harshest challenges. Long days in the fields tested his resolve, but it was the camaraderie with fellow students from around the world that left the deepest mark.

Gasper describes his International MSc scholarship at the Hebrew University as transformative. "Living and learning with people from so many backgrounds has changed how I see the world," he reflects. "I've gained not just academic knowledge, but the practical skills that truly matter - how to listen, how to lead, how to give hope." The Environmental Quality Sciences programme, he explains, is widening his perspective on global agricultural challenges,

"Sometimes the quiet work of growth, whether sowing crops or kindling a young scientist's hope, bears the sweetest fruit." from climate change and water pollution to supporting Tanzania's smallholder farmers.

Leadership and compassion run through Gasper's work. He has spearheaded crop research, guided farmers in sustainable practices, and secured a \$6,000 grant for innovative studies on amaranthus, his nation's cherished leafy green. To him, science means little unless it serves ordinary people and uplifts their aspirations.

Israel, he says, has taught him the power of community. "The support from donors, lecturers, and administrators has been invaluable. There are challenges, of course - long hours, tough subjects-but I know I am never alone." His ambition is to channel every new skill into tangible benefits for Tanzanian farmers: healthier soils, better yields, and lighter burdens for men and women who work tirelessly yet remain unseen.

Gasper's journey shows how investing in education nurtures change that crosses borders. His gratitude to those who make his path possible is matched only by his determination to give back.



Gasper is a recipient of the BFHU International M.Sc. Grant in Agricultural Science

Degree: M.Sc. in Environmental Quality Sciences

# A Journey of Purpose: My Time in Israel and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

My name is Ngohide Mary Andiir, a 27-year-old public health professional, microbiologist, and Executive Director of Aidwell Foundation, an NGO in Nigeria dedicated to girl child empowerment, youth development, and sustainable community health. Born and raised in Benue State, my life has been shaped by a resolve to create inclusive spaces where women, girls, and marginalised populations can thrive.

From an early age, I was drawn to health and the science of disease. This inspired me to study microbiology at the University of Mkar, where I graduated with distinction. Serving as Student Union President broadened my awareness of systemic barriers faced by girls, sparking my passion for leadership and activism. Over time, this evolved into a deep commitment to public health, especially mental health, gender-based violence prevention, and community education.

Through Aidwell Foundation, I have led interventions to improve community health, advance gender equality, and advocate for sustainable social change. These programmes not only align with the Sustainable Development Goals but have sharpened my skills in project design, monitoring, research, and inclusive leadership.

When the opportunity arose to study for an International Master of Public Health at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, I recognised it as a defining step. For me, Israel holds spiritual meaning, and my time there was much more than education - it was a realignment with purpose.

The programme exceeded all expectations.

Taught by leading experts, the courses were rigorous, multidisciplinary, and directly applicable to real-world health challenges.

Every module - from global health policy to communicable diseases - strengthened my capacity to respond to crises at both regional and global scales. The demanding environment encouraged resilience and critical thinking.

Beyond academics, the warmth of staff and classmates created a genuine community. Field trips, cultural exchanges, and shared experiences brought Israel's heritage to life while emphasising resilience and inclusivity. Comfortable student housing, accessible health services, and responsive support made the programme both rigorous and nurturing.

I was motivated to join this programme by the urgent need to strengthen Nigeria's health system. The Ebola and COVID-19 crises exposed its fragility, and I sought training that blended technical competence with strategic foresight. This programme delivered both, leaving me equipped with refined skills, broader vision, and renewed determination.

Moving forward, I aim to expand Aidwell Foundation's impact through grassroots initiatives, evidence-based health policies, and partnerships with measurable outcomes. My long-term ambition is to contribute to public health reform - removing barriers to mental healthcare, advancing reproductive rights, strengthening infrastructure, and promoting gender inclusion.

I am profoundly grateful to the Hebrew University, Pears Foundation, and to the British Friends of the Hebrew University for their unwavering support. Israel has become a second home, one that has deepened my sense of purpose. My journey is just beginning - but I return to Nigeria ready to illuminate my world with knowledge and hope.





Ngohide Mary Andiir IMPH Student



We remain grateful to all sponsors of the international students, including Pears Foundation for their significant ongoing support for international scholars in all three programmes: public health, agricultural sciences and Glocal (local community development).



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# Letter from our Medical Student

By DEVORA AMAR 5th year medical student Jerusalem, Israel



Dear British Friends of the Hebrew University,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generous scholarship, which has supported me throughout my medical school journey. As I enter my fifth year, I find myself reflecting on how much I have grown, both academically and personally, and how invaluable your support has been in allowing me to pursue my dream of becoming a doctor.

This year has been particularly meaningful for me as I was recently accepted to work as a physician assistant in the pediatrics department at Shaare Zedek Hospital. This new role is an incredible opportunity to gain hands-on experience, and it has deepened my passion for pediatrics. I find great fulfillment in working with children, and I am strongly considering a future in this field. Additionally, I am conducting research for my thesis in pediatrics, which has given me an even greater appreciation for the complexities of medicine and the continuous learning it requires.

At the same time, this past year has been incredibly challenging due to the ongoing war in Israel. The uncertainty and concern for my family, friends, and the country as a whole weigh heavily on daily life. Yet, in the face of these difficulties, I have witnessed remarkable resilience within the medical community. The unwavering dedication of doctors, nurses, and hospital staff has been a powerful reminder of why I chose this path: to be there for others in their most vulnerable moments, no matter the circumstances.

As I navigate the final stretch of my studies, I am more motivated than ever to absorb as much knowledge as I can and make the most of every opportunity that comes my way. The hospital environment is both challenging and inspiring, and every interaction with patients reinforces my commitment to this path.

Your support has played a crucial role in my ability to focus on my studies and clinical training without added financial burdens. I truly appreciate the confidence you have in me, and I hope to one day pay it forward by making a meaningful contribution to the medical field.

With deepest appreciation and warm wishes, Devora Amar

# **HU at 100**

# Events on campus and around the world

### **Encounter at the Vatican**

In February 2025, Pope Francis welcomed young Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders - including students from the Hebrew University and Tel-Aviv University - to the Vatican for "Meaning Meets Us," a unique interfaith dialogue co-organised with Middle Meets. Inspired by the tragic events of October 2023, this pioneering initiative aims to promote understanding and bridge divides through open and honest conversation. The gathering highlighted the role of education, compassion and candid exchange in building lasting peace and offered hope for genuine coexistence among future generations.



**Columbia University Delegation of Solidarity** On 29 May 2025, the Hebrew University welcomed a solidarity delegation of 20 academic and administrative staff from Columbia University, New York. Representing medicine, public health, social sciences, and more, most visitors were not Jewish, making their gesture especially meaningful amid international challenges for Israeli academia. The visit featured opening addresses from senior University leaders, a moving student presentation, and roundtable discussions fostering professional and personal connections. In a period of global tension, this visit stood as an inspiring example of academic solidarity and the enduring power of open dialogue and shared values.

# President of Argentina Javier Milei Visits the Hebrew University

On 12 June 2025, President of Argentina Javier Milei visited the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, delivering a keynote address on his economic policies and the enduring friendship between Argentina and Israel. During the event, University President Professor Asher Cohen presented Milei with the Jerusalem Crown Bible, the official edition used in Israeli state ceremonies. Milei highlighted his commitment to peace, free trade, and strong alliances with the United States and Israel, sharing a poignant story of a young boy who gave him a cloth with the Israeli flag during his campaign. He also met with Daniel Lischinsky, father of HU alumnus Yaron Lischinsky, tragically killed in a recent terrorist attack. The visit underscored the deep ties between the two nations and the Hebrew University's role in fostering international cooperation and dialogue.



Robes Make a Debut at Doctors' Convocation In honour of the Hebrew University's centennial, academic robes were reintroduced at this year's Doctoral Convocation ceremony.

Worn by PhD graduates, deans, and senior leadership, the robes added a striking new level of formality and tradition to the event. Held in the packed Ezequiel Liwerant–Fomento Mexico Hall, the ceremony was filled with pride and excitement, culminating in the jubilant moment when graduates tossed their caps into the air. This new standard is set to enrich future ceremonies and celebrate academic achievement in a memorable way.

# **Global Partnerships**

The Hebrew University and Georgetown University's Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center Establish Groundbreaking Cancer Research Collaboration

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Georgetown University's Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center have launched a strategic international partnership to advance cancer research, innovation, and training. Combining the Hebrew University's research strengths with Lombardi's clinical expertise, the collaboration aims to foster breakthroughs in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment through a multidisciplinary approach spanning basic science, clinical trials, epidemiology, and public health. A key feature is an exchange programme for students and fellows, nurturing the next generation of cancer researchers through mentorship and cross-institutional training. Both universities are also working to establish a multimillion-dollar endowment to support sustainable research funding, symposia, and educational exchanges, reflecting their shared commitment to impactful discovery and improved global cancer outcomes.



The Hebrew University Business School
Partners with National Sun Yat-sen University
The Hebrew University's School of Business
Administration has announced a landmark
partnership with National Sun Yat-sen University
(NSYSU) in Taiwan, aimed at strengthening
academic collaboration and fostering global
business innovation. The agreement will see joint
research projects, student and faculty exchanges,

and the development of shared academic programmes, connecting two leading institutions in a dynamic exchange of ideas and expertise. This partnership reflects Hebrew University's commitment to expanding its global network and preparing graduates to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

# **Bridging Borders in Science: IMPH Graduates Gain Advanced Research Exposure**

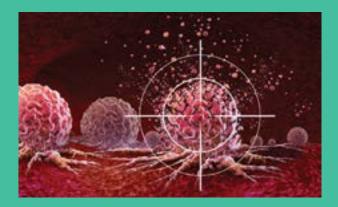
A new partnership between the Hebrew University's International Master of Public Health (IMPH) programme and the Weizmann Institute of Science offers outstanding IMPH alumni from low and lower-middle income countries, mainly Sub-Saharan Africa, the opportunity to spend three months as visiting students in world-class research labs. Designed by Prof Hagit Hochner (HUJI) and Prof Neta Regev-Rudzki (Weizmann), the Bridges of Science pilot placed five graduates in labs matching their interests, spanning malaria drug resistance, ocean carbon cycles, cancer biology, MRI molecular probes, and vascular health. The programme fosters cross-disciplinary ties between public health and basic science, equipping participants with new skills, global collaborations, and transformative experiences. The inaugural cohort's symposium featured keynote speaker Dr Judy Omumbo, an African climate change and health expert, who urged scientists to prioritise research addressing Africa's pressing needs.



# A Century of Discoveries

# Powering Up T Cells: A New Path in Cancer Immunotherapy

Researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, led by PhD student Omri Yosef and Professor Michael Berger, have discovered a groundbreaking way to enhance the immune system's T cells to fight cancer more effectively. By blocking a protein called Ant2, they reprogrammed T cells' metabolism, making them more active, resilient, and better at targeting tumors. This metabolic rewiring increases T cells' stamina, replication speed, and tumorkilling precision. Importantly, the change can be induced not only genetically but also by drugs, opening the door for potential new cancer treatments that improve the body's natural defenses with fewer side effects. The study, published in Nature Communications, offers promising avenues for more powerful and durable immunotherapies.



# Drones and Genetics Join Forces for Drought-Resilient Wheat

Researchers at the Hebrew University's Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment, together with the Volcani Institute, have pioneered a cutting-edge method to accelerate the development of climate-resilient wheat. By deploying drones equipped with advanced thermal and hyperspectral cameras, they rapidly and accurately measured critical plant traits - such as stomatal conductance, leaf density, and chlorophyll content - across hundreds of wheat varieties grown under both normal and drought

conditions. Using machine learning to analyze this data, the team identified 16 genetic markers linked to superior drought tolerance and growth performance. This innovative approach, validated through follow-up field trials, represents a major leap forward in breeding wheat varieties capable of withstanding increasing climate stresses, thereby supporting global food security.



# How AI Might Be Narrowing Our Worldviewand What Regulators Can Do About It

A new study from the Hebrew University scholar Prof Michal Shur-Ofry highlights a crucial challenge posed by advanced generative Al systems like ChatGPT: their tendency to produce generic, mainstream content that limits the diversity of perspectives users encounter. This issue arises because AI models are trained on vast datasets dominated by English-language and popular cultural content, causing lesserknown voices and minority cultures to be overlooked. Prof Shur-Ofry warns this narrowing effect threatens cultural diversity, social tolerance. and democratic discourse. She calls for a new Al governance principle called multiplicity, advocating AI designs that present alternative answers, foster diverse AI ecosystems, and enhance user literacy to critically engage with Al-generated content. This approach aims to safeguard the richness of human experience and ensure AI supports a pluralistic society.

# Early Detection of Parkinson's with Novel RNA-Based Blood Test

Researchers at the Hebrew University have developed a simple, cost-effective blood test that detects Parkinson's disease (PD) long before symptoms appear.

The test analyses specific transfer RNA fragments (tRFs) in the blood, revealing molecular changes linked to early neurodegeneration. It focuses on two key biomarkers: an increase in PD-specific tRFs carrying a conserved sequence motif (RGTTCRA-tRFs) and a decrease in mitochondrial tRFs (MT-tRFs). Measuring the ratio between these biomarkers via a dual qPCR assay distinguishes presymptomatic PD patients from healthy individuals with a diagnostic accuracy of 0.86.

Led by PhD student Nimrod Madrer under Prof Hermona Soreq's supervision at the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences and the Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences, the study involved collaboration with Shaare Zedek Medical Center and UK institutions. Published in Aging Nature, this breakthrough offers a minimally invasive, rapid, affordable diagnostic tool that could enable early interventions and improve patient outcomes. Remarkably, the test also reflects changes following deep brain stimulation treatment, linking RNA biomarkers to disease mechanisms and therapy response.

This advancement marks a major step in shifting Parkinson's diagnosis to earlier, more treatable stages, offering hope to millions worldwide.



# Building the Future of Food: Experts Gather at Food Systems Conference to Tackle Sustainability and Efficiency

The inaugural Brian Y. Davidson Food Systems Conference, hosted by the Hebrew University's FOOJI Center for Sustainable Food Systems in partnership with leading industry players and academic institutions, united experts, entrepreneurs, and researchers to address urgent challenges facing global food systems. Panel discussions and keynote presentations explored innovative strategies for enhancing sustainability, efficiency, and food security. With a holistic focus on climate change, economic viability, and biodiversity, participants highlighted the need for collaboration and transformative solutions to nourish both people and planet ensuring resilient food systems for generations to come. The event also showcased pioneering HU research, from alternative proteins to precision agriculture, underscoring the University's leading role in shaping the future of sustainable food.



# **Prizes and Awards**



# Win Prestigious ERC Advanced Grants The Hebrew University of Jerusalem proudly celebrates Professors Dorit Aharonov, Israel Nelken, and Tamar Ziegler, each awarded the highly competitive European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant under the EU's Horizon Europe programme. These grants support

**Three Hebrew University Researchers** 

ambitious, curiosity-driven projects in quantum computing, auditory learning and memory, and advanced mathematics connecting number theory, dynamics, and geometry.

Hebrew University's Dr. Roni Porat Named CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar for 2025-2027 Dr Roni Porat, senior lecturer in Political Science at the Hebrew University, has been named one of twelve CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars for 2025-2027 for her research on reducing prejudice and discrimination in deeply divided societies. Grounded in the Israeli context, her work examines how education, policy, and daily interactions can disrupt stereotypes and foster coexistence between Jewish and Arab communities. As part of CIFAR's Boundaries, Membership & Belonging programme, she will collaborate globally to enhance understanding of inclusion and exclusion, supported by CAD \$100,000 in unrestricted research funding.



**Hebrew University Researchers Win** 2025 Krill Prize for Scientific Excellence Dr Gabriel Stanovsky (Engineering & Computer Science) and Dr Yiska Weisblum (Medicine) have won the 2025 Krill Prize, one of Israel's top honours for early-career scientists. Dr Weisblum studies respiratory virus interactions with lung cells to find new antivirals and vaccines. Dr Stanovsky develops advanced AI for natural language processing, with applications ranging from ancient language deciphering to personalised cancer treatment.





**Dual Honour for Hebrew University's Faculty of** Law: 2025 Landau Prize Awarded to Prof Yuval **Shany and Edut 710 Project** 

The Hebrew University celebrates a rare double achievement as two Faculty of Law members receive the prestigious 2025 Landau Prize, one of Israel's top awards. Prof Yuval Shany is recognised for his influential work in international law, human rights, and cyber law, as well as his leadership as former Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee. The Edut 710 Project, led by Dr Renana Keydar, is honoured for documenting survivor and evacuee testimonies from the October 7 attacks, creating an important digital archive for education, research, and remembrance.



We are proud to support the British Friends of The Hebrew University

For more than 200 years we have proudly lent our support to the communities in which we operate, always aiming to combine business with humanity, without neglecting either.

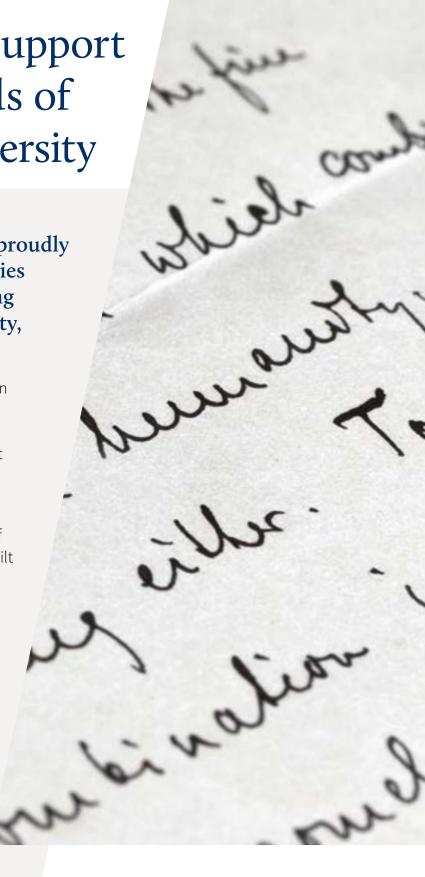
Rothschild & Co Wealth Management provides an objective long-term perspective on investing, structuring and safeguarding assets, to preserve and grow the wealth of some of the world's most successful families, entrepreneurs, foundations and charities.

Celebrating a century of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the BFHU, we honour a legacy built on education, community, and shared values.

Dean Lush
Executive Vice Chairman,
Rothschild & Co Wealth Management UK
020 7280 5000
dean.lush@rothschildandco.com

Extract from 1924 letter from Siegmund Warburg to Lionel and Anthony de Rothschild, thanking them for teaching him about business and 'the fine tradition of New Court, which combines business with humanity without neglecting either.'

Courtesy of The Rothschild Archive.



rothschildandco.com

# Celebrating Excellence at the Hebrew University: The Kaye Awards and Polonsky Prizes

Each year, two prestigious awards - the Kaye Awards and the Polonsky Prizes - honour exceptional ingenuity and scholarship at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. They reflect not only individual achievement but also the enduring generosity of the Kaye and Polonsky families.

# The Kaye Awards: Innovation with Impact

Established in 1994 by Isaac and Myrna Kaye, these awards recognise academic innovation with practical, commercial, or societal value. Open to faculty, researchers, and students, they have supported breakthroughs in medicine, agriculture, and technology, often leading to patents and real-world impact.

This year's laureates exemplify the spirit of research that transforms science and society:

- Prof Yinon Ben-Neriah: Groundbreaking work on inflammatory pathways in cancer and disease treatment.
- **Prof Yossi Buganim**: Advances in cellular reprogramming and regenerative medicine.
- Prof Nadav Katz: Research in novel materials and nanotechnology.
- **Dr Omer Deutsch**: Biomedical engineering innovations to enhance health.



# The Polonsky Awards: Inspiring the Humanities

Founded through the vision of Dr Leonard Polonsky and family, these awards honour original thought in the humanities, especially work that crosses disciplinary boundaries and deepens cultural understanding. Like the Kaye Awards in science, they celebrate scholarship that reshapes perspectives on the past, present, and future.

This year's Polonsky Prize recipients include:

- **Prof Gal Ventura**: For Hush Little Baby, a study redefining Iullabies in modern Hebrew culture.
- **Dr Tamar Groswald Ozery**: For outstanding contributions to humanistic scholarship.
- **Dr Micka Ullman**: For significant achievements in the humanities.
- Gabriel Abensour: For original scholarly contributions.

These laureates highlight Hebrew University's leadership in history, linguistics, literature, and musicology.



A Shared Tradition of Giving and Achievement.

Together, the Kaye, Polonsky, Birk, and Sternberg

Prizes celebrate knowledge that changes lives-powered
by vision, generosity, and a commitment to excellence
for the public good.

# The Ellis and Alma Birk Prizes in Agriculture and Law

The prestigious agriculture and law prizes, awarded since the early '90s, made possible by a fund established by Ellis and Alma Birk, dedicated British supporters of the Hebrew University for over 70 years.

The prizes in Agriculture are presented in memory of Professor Yehudith Birk.

The six worthy recipients of the 2024-5 Birk Prizes are:

LAW:

Dr Renana Keydar, Gadi Peri

LAW CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION: Tair Peri, Avi Shirkin

AGRICULTURE:

Yana Beizman-Magen, Dr Hila Keidan Toporik



# The Sternberg Prizes in Interfaith Understanding 2025

The Sternberg Fund, established through the generosity of the late Sir Sigmund z"I and Lady Hazel Sternberg z"I (London UK), encourages interreligious understanding through the promotion of a wide range of academic and social activities. The Department of Comparative Religion of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is the beneficiary of this generous support.

This year's awardees showcase the breadth and depth of scholarship in our department, from Buddhist ethics and philosophy of mind to Islamic art history and immersive field research in India.

- Aviran Ben-David: PhD on Buddhist ethics; now post-doc researching Theravada Abhidhamma mind philosophy with psychology collaborators.
- Noa Teubal: M.A. student exploring compassion's roots in nondual consciousness; B.A. in Asian Studies.
- Shachar Grosman: M.A. thesis on heart-shaped objects under Fatimid rule, redefining their Islamic-European cultural history.
- Tom Schwartz: M.A. research on a sacred north Indian pilgrimage route, which he will walk-in summer 2025.

# A Strategic Bridge Between Academia and Industry: CEO Alon Natanson on Leading YISSUM into the Future

Yissum is the Hebrew University's Technology Transfer Office (TTO), serving as a bridge between research and industry by protecting intellectual property, commercialising it, and guiding discoveries into the marketplace.



Just months into his role as CEO,
Hebrew University alum Alon Natanson
spoke with BFHU about strengthening
this vital link. With a BA in Economics
and Philosophy, an MBA in Finance,
and over 20 years in pharma, biotech,
medical devices and digital health, he
has accompanied ventures from ideation
to global commercialisation. "Almost
every role I've held has been tied to tech
entrepreneurship," he says. "Now, at
YISSUM, I'm building precise connections
between market needs and the
University's unique research capabilities."

Founded in 1964, Yissum has registered over 11,680 patents and launched around 260 companies. In 2024 alone, 14 companies, 60 patents, 41 licensing agreements and 56 research and service contracts were signed. "The numbers are impressive," Natanson notes, "but success is measured by those technologies that reach the market and change lives."

The challenge, he explains, is the low survival rate of new ventures. "Dozens of patents are filed each year; five to fifteen companies start, but only a fraction make it to market. Our mission is to identify

strengths and weaknesses early, craft an IP strategy, and decide whether to patent, collaborate, or form a company." He points to successes that combined market need, science and business leadership: Prof Zvi Peleg's vertically growing sesame plant enabling efficient mechanical harvesting; and Salignostics, which evolved from a saliva-based COVID test into pregnancy and oral cancer diagnostics.

Natanson follows Dr Itzik Goldwaser as CEO. While inheriting a strong track record, he aims to expand into underrepresented fields such as physics, chemistry, psychology and business. "Psychology can yield digital therapies; social sciences can become decision-making tools. Researchers must know that their knowledge can and should have global impact."

Yissum provides a comprehensive support framework: feasibility assessments, IP strategy, legal, business development and investor outreach. "When we form a company, we stay close until it grows. We're not a venture fund, but we build long-term trust."





Top left: TriEye ovi ref camera raven sensor

Top and Bottom right: The Mobileye autonomous vehicle operating system, under the Moovit/AV mobility services brand, partnered with Sixt Group

Bottom left: 'Future Meat' hamburger



Proactive initiatives under his leadership include partnerships where global corporations present challenges, researchers propose solutions and projects worth millions advance to negotiation. "It's a classic case of matching need with capability - producing economic and scientific value."

He also highlights a cultural shift: "Applied science is no longer the younger sibling of fundamental science. More researchers today want to create social impact - fertile ground for our work."

Alongside HUJI's R&D Authority, the ASPER Innovation Center and BioGiv, Yissum is drafting a strategic paper to map the academia-industry interface and offer tools to strengthen it. "Our goal is a clear path for every researcher, from entrepreneurship courses to early-stage support."

"The wider British Jewish community", Natanson adds, "can contribute through investment, opening doors abroad, and mentorship. If you believe in Israel, entrepreneurship or science, this is your chance to support an innovation engine with a proven record."

Closing with optimism, he sums up: "Our mission is to close the gap between discovery and market-ready product.

When we succeed, researchers gain recognition, industry gets innovation, and society benefits worldwide. My role is to ensure this journey is fast and built on trust, so that ideas born in Jerusalem touch lives across the globe."



# The Hebrew University's Technology Transfer Company

Founded in 1964, it serves as a bridge between cutting-edge academic research and a global community of entrepreneurs, investors and industry. Yissum's mission is to benefit society by converting extraordinary innovations and transformational technologies into commercial solutions that address our most urgent global challenges. With over 11,500 Patents, 1,140 Licensing Deals, 3,490 Inventions, 245 Portfolio Companies, YISSUM is the

# **Board of Governors at 100**



Kibbitz Kfar Rupin as seen from Jordan by Noam Tamir

# It Was the Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times

London, June 13, Early Morning

"As the day began in London, news from Israel quickly changed the tone of the morning. Messages arrived from friends and colleagues: "Have you seen the news? I'm in my mamad [safe room]." What was meant to be a celebratory occasion for the Hebrew University's Centennial Board of Governors gathering instead became a time of concern and rapid adjustment.

Many guests were already in Jerusalem, while others were still en route when Israel closed its airports and airspace. Group chats kept lines of communication open across continents, with questions arising about safety, travel alternatives, and ongoing arrangements.

Once the announcement came that all Centennial BoG events would be cancelled, attention shifted to logistics-ensuring accommodations, arranging meals, and discussing refund and travel information. The Hebrew University's leadership coordinated efforts on the ground, providing updates and

assistance to guests as the situation unfolded. Staff and guests worked together to respond to changing plans and support each other, even as responses to alerts and safe room visits became a part of the routine. Along the way, a Shabbat dinner was organised, offering brief relief and a sense of community.

Through it all, the commitment and adaptability of those involved were evident. University colleagues, including Merav Shany returning to the Hebrew University from the British Friends, played a central role, helping to offer reassurance and pragmatic solutions."

This account is a recognition of the cooperation and perseverance shown by everyone, and a testament to the supportive spirit of the Hebrew University community.

# A view from the other side

Ruth & Noam Tamir made their way to Amman via the Sheikh Hussein crossing south of Beit She'an. Noam grew up on Kibbutz Kfar Ruppin adjacent to the crossing right on the border. He always wondered what life was like 'on the other side'. And he finally got to find out, taking a photo of his kibbutz from Jordan.



# Unlock the potential for a better tomorrow

Glocal is a graduate program offered by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. We translate academic research into a practical understanding of community development – an approach empowering communities in need across the world to prosper and succeed.



# THINK GLOBALLY - ACT LOCALLY

# A diverse student body

There is no better way to study the complex systems and realities of communities whose lives are touched by the dynamics and interventions in the international development field than grappling with them in a diverse classroom. That is why we invest great care in assembling our interdisciplinary and intercultural cohorts.

# Theory and practice

specialization tracks

Field internship seminar

research track

1 semester

1 semester

4 months

2 months

# Core curriculum + Closing Optional

**Pablo Sassoon from Buenos Aires** Glocal graduate and Masa scholarship recipient

Student testimonial

At Glocal, I found a cohort of good-hearted and intelligent people who taught me much. My 4- month internship with a grassroots environmental conservation NGO in rural Kenya was a life-changing experience. There, I learned about the benefits of tree planting, their maintenance, and sustainable work processes. In Glocal's core curriculum, I learned about monitoring and evaluations as tools to constantly improve our projects, striving for them to be more impactful and meaningful to the communities we work with.



# Glocal at a glance

- 18-month interdisciplinary program taught entirely in English and offered at a top 100 university
- 2-semester core curriculum with theoretical courses and practical workshops on topics such as community development, ethics, development economics, project design, and program evaluation
- Broad selection of elective courses such as global health, innovation, conflicts, migration, and gender
- ➤ Specialization tracks in migration or gender studies
- Optional research track
- More than **15 years** of experience
- Exposure to the civil society landscape in Israel
- Guidance before and throughout the tailor-made internships
- Worldwide alumni network with more than 300 graduates

# Connect with us

glocal.huji.ac.il

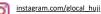
glocal.admission@mail.huji.ac.il



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# A Century of Friendship

From James de Rothschild to today's British Friends, the UK connection has been at the heart of the Hebrew University's story for 100 years - nurturing innovation, driving research, and building bridges across continents.

# Celebrating Legal Heritage at the Hebrew University

The 2025 Lionel Cohen Annual Lecture, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Faculty of Law and the University's centenary, featured a fascinating dialogue between Lord Pannick KC and former Supreme Court President Justice Dorit Beinisch.

Together, they illuminated the shared foundations and ongoing influence of British legal traditions

on Israeli law, reinforcing the importance of judicial independence and access to justice.

The event underscored the enduring ties between the UK and Israel's legal communities, inspiring the next generation of legal scholars.

YEARS רביקולטה למשפטים הפיקולטה למשפטים האינורים האינורי

# Supporting Children after 7 October - Lecture

At a moving JW3 event, Professor Asher Ben-Arieh, Dean of the School of Social Work at the Hebrew University and CEO of the Haruv Institute, detailed Israeli academia's rapid response to the trauma faced by children after the 7 October Hamas attack.

Prof Ben-Arieh stressed the importance of listening to children and pioneering creative approaches for their recovery, highlighting the new Israeli National Centre for Innovation in Children's Resilience and Mental Health as a beacon for future support.

The lecture, sponsored by Marc Iarchy in memory of his grandmother, Thea Zucker z"I, recipient of a HU Hon Fellowship and a leading member of the Belgian Friends, brought together BFHU supporters and the University community in solidarity and hope.







# Shaping the Law, Upholding the Law

In April, the British Friends Legal Group gathered at Fladgate LLP for a memorable evening with Lady Vivien Rose, Justice of the Supreme Court, and Lord Pannick KC, Chair of the BFHU Legal Group.

Marking the centenary of the Hebrew University and the Faculty of Law's 75th anniversary, their in-depth conversation offered unique insights into judicial life and British-Israeli legal ties.

The occasion also honoured retiring colleagues Gill Benson and Alison Baker, whose dedication has left a lasting legacy within BFHU.



# From Vision to Reality: A Century of the Hebrew University and Its British Connection

On 18 March 2025, the BFHU, in partnership with UCL's Institute of Jewish Studies, hosted a special online lecture with Ambassador Yossi Gal, Vice President for University Advancement and External Relations.

Marking the University's upcoming 100th anniversary, Ambassador Gal traced its 1925 origins, when a third of its pioneering Board of Governors - including James de Rothschild, Harry Sacher, Sir Herbert Samuel and Sir Alfred Mond - came from Britain. This enduring UK–Israel bond helped shape the University's growth and even paved the way for Israel's creation in 1948. Indeed, 3 of the Universities 15 Presidents to date, have come from the UK.



# Tzameret: Israel's Future Elite Doctors Hosted in the UK



Four final-year students from The Hebrew University's elite medical Tzameret track visited the UK for a course in emergency medicine at Birmingham University Hospital.

Graciously hosted in London by Ruth and Noam Tamir, they shared inspiring stories of volunteering with Magen David Adom, growing up in nonacademic families, and their commitment to emergency medicine practice.

Despite war-time disruptions, these students are dedicated to their studies, and to supporting trauma patients across Israel - often in remote areas where they may be the only doctor available.





# **Alumni**

The UK-based Israeli HU Alumni community was designed by the Hebrew University to test the viability of building a global HU Alumni network. It is now a thriving, growing community.

Kick-started by Merav Shany, it is now helmed by Shlomit Divinsky-Livne - both HU alumni themselves. Merav has now moved on to captain the Israeli and global Alumni chapters from Jerusalem.



Professor Asher Cohen visited London and met with several University alumni from the UK working in banking, law, entrepreneurship and high-tech.

The President and alumni gathered for an informal breakfast at Fishers Café in central London. Professor Cohen shared updates about the University, discussed the challenges of managing an Israeli academic institution in the current international climate, and emphasised the importance of community and fostering strong ties with students and graduates. The alumni showed interest, asked questions about the University's plans and explored possibilities for collaboration.

# Nurturing the bonds: Amb. Yossi Gal's meeting with Israeli Alumni in London

During his London visit, Ambassador Yossi
Gal met with HU alumni to discuss expanding
engagement and support for affected students.
He addressed antisemitism, boycotts, and
the value of academic excellence and global
collaboration, while encouraging alumni to
actively promote the University's values in the
UK and pledging ongoing support.

# Leadership in Action: Prominent HU Graduate Shaul Meridor Speaks to London Alumni on Navigating Tech and Policy Challenges

Prominent Hebrew University graduate Shaul Meridor, CFO at Lightricks and former head of Israel's budget department, met HU alumni in London to discuss leadership in today's era of constant crises. Meridor shared insights on managing public and private sector challenges, rapid decision-making, and optimism amidst uncertainty. Lightricks, founded by HU alumni and based in the Gav Yam Hebrew Campus, has navigated both the pandemic's shocks and recent conflicts, supporting reserve soldiers and employees. The event, organised by Iris Altman, Director at Lightricks, showcased strong alumni ties and left participants inspired by Meridor's with and experience, reinforcing the University's global community.



# העברית היא תמיד בית

בוגרי העברית בבריטניה האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM העברית היא תמיד בית

בשנת המאה של האוניברסיטה העברית, אנו מברכים את חברי וחברות קהילת הבוגרות והבוגרים הישראליים בבריטניה ואת הבוגרים שיגיעו בקרוב, ומזמינים אתכם ואתכן להצטרף לקהילה המשגשגת.

הקהילה מקדמת מפגשים ופעילויות משותפות, מפתחת חיבורים בעולם המקצועי, העסקי, האקדמי והחברתי בקרב הקהילה ועם סגל בכיר וסטודנטים, ופועלת להרחבת רשתות מקצועיות וחברתיות, ליצירת קשרי מחקר ושיתופי פעולה, למינוף מומחיות וליצירת הזדמנויות ייחודיות.



As we mark the Hebrew University's centennial, we extend our greetings to Israeli alumni in the UK and alumni who will be coming soon, and we invite you to join our thriving community.

The HU Alumni Community promotes gatherings and mutual activities, fosters connections in the professional, business, academic and social worlds among community members along with senior faculty and students, helps to expand professional and social networks, and facilitates research collaborations and unique opportunities to leverage expertise and connections.

מוזמנות ומוזמנים לעדכן פרטים באתר הבוגרים ולהיות בקשר עם מנהלת הקהילה, שלומית דיוינסקי–ליבנה Please update your details and get in touch with the Community Manager, Shlomit Divinsky-Livne <u>uk.alumni@mail.huji.ac.il</u> | <u>bit.ly/hujilondon</u>

# In Memoriam



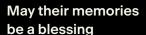
# JOSEPHINE URBAN z"I

Born in Newport, Isle of Wight,
Josephine Urban witnessed World
War II's pivotal moments before
pursuing academia in Venezuela,
where she met her husband Harry.
A committed supporter of British
Friends of the Hebrew University,
she was active in the Jewish
community and endowed student
housing in Harry's memory. Josephine
is remembered for her dedication to
education, culture and Jewish heritage.



### **GORDON HAUSMANN z"I**

British solicitor and businessman Gordon Hausmann founded CH Hausmann & Co. Active in student activism for Soviet Jewry, he served as trustee for many charities, including British Friends of Hebrew University, UK Friends of JRV and IDC, and Ezra Lamarpeh. His philanthropic efforts strengthened UK-Israel academic and cultural links.





### PROF STUART STANTON z"I

Emeritus Professor Stuart Stanton pioneered UK Urogynaecology, training generations of specialists and publishing extensively.

He held a personal chair at St George's, co-authored 13 textbooks, and was BSUG Honorary President.

As patron and chair of the British Friends medical group, his leadership and innovation shaped the field.



### SIMON ARENSON z"I

Simon Arenson, who passed away at 66 after a brave battle with cancer, is remembered for his warmth and dedication. As Director of Development for the British Friends of the Hebrew University from 2015, he forged lasting relationships and inspired colleagues. His legacy endures in the community he so devotedly served.



# DR LEONARD S. POLONSKY, CBE z"I

Visionary philanthropist Dr Leonard Polonsky founded Hansard Global and championed access to education and cultural preservation through the Polonsky Foundation. He established landmark digital projects at major institutions and the Polonsky Prizes in humanities at the Hebrew University. His legacy, carried on by his family, reflects a lasting commitment to public knowledge.



### TERRY ETHERTON z"I

Rt Hon Lord Etherton, former
Master of the Rolls and Chancellor
of the High Court, was a passionate
advocate for access to justice.
A supporter of the British Friends
Legal Group and UK-Israel legal ties,
he was recognised as an LGBT+ role
model. He leaves a legacy of justice,
mentorship and friendship, survived
by husband Andrew Stone.



### FELIX POSEN z"I

Felix Posen, Jewish-American philanthropist, died aged 96 in New York. Fleeing Nazi Germany as a child, he helped shape global Jewish education, founding the Posen Foundation and supporting key centres at Hebrew University and Oxford. His vision and the Posen Library will inspire future generations.

# Save the Date



Dates and details subject to change, please continue to check news & events: www.bfhu.org as well as our periodic email newsletters.

### SEPTEMBER 2025

### 16 Sept

British Friends Honours Club late summer tea



# **NOVEMBER 2025**

Alumni event with Profs. Sheafer and Broude



Jewish Film Festival



### DECEMBER 2025

Winter Limmud



### **JANUARY 2026**

Sacher annual memorial lecture – at HU

HU alumni '100' gathering, special venue @ City of London



JW3 – partner speaker event



### FEBRUARY 2026

Biennial Neuberger lecture

Anglo Israel Archaeological Society - Prof Yossi Zaidner



UCL – HU Webinar in partnership with the Institute of Jewish Studies Speaker: Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller



### **MARCH 2026**

Jewish Book Week



The Sir Sigmund & Lady Hazel Sternberg Prizes for Interfaith Understanding - webinar



British Friends Medical Group parlour meeting – 'Tzameret' – HU elite medical students programme

# **APRIL 2026**

JW3 partner speaker event



Annual Ellis & Alma Birk Prizes Agriculture, Law and Clinical Legal Studies – webinar

### MAY 2026

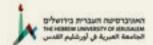
Annual Lionel Cohen law lecture – HU



British Friends Centenary Legacy Mission

### **JUNE 2026**

**12-16 June**Hebrew University
Board of Governors



International HU Friends gathering – Jerusalem

The Polonsky Prizes & Kaye Awards Ceremonies at Mt Scopus Campus

### **NOVEMBER 2026**

Special event marketing the British Friends Centenary 1926-2026





# Join us for a remarkable free trip to Israel and to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in its special 100th year!

**FULLY PAID FOR BY OUR SPONSOR** 

The British Friends of the Hebrew University is privileged to offer an unmissable and exciting FREE 8 day Living Legacy Mission to Israel, Jerusalem and the University. Explore Jerusalem with its unique history and culture. Visit some of Israel's most interesting and historic places. Be inspired when you visit all four main campuses, where you will meet some of the world's leading scholars and brightest students. Whether you travel as a couple, with friends or on your own, you are sure to meet like-minded people, make new friends and thoroughly enjoy the experience.

- Scheduled daytime flights from and to London
- Top-class 5-star hotels
- English-speaking guided tours in air-conditioned coaches
- Delicious kosher cuisine at top restaurants
- Exclusive meetings with the University's eminent professors and students
- Return travel date can be changed in advance for an extended holiday

To qualify, you must be over 60, agree to participate in the full programme, and be willing to commit to a legacy to the University of £15,000 per person (£25,000 per couple).

For more information call 020 8349 5757 or email friends@bfhu.org





# Global Friends of the Hebrew University

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