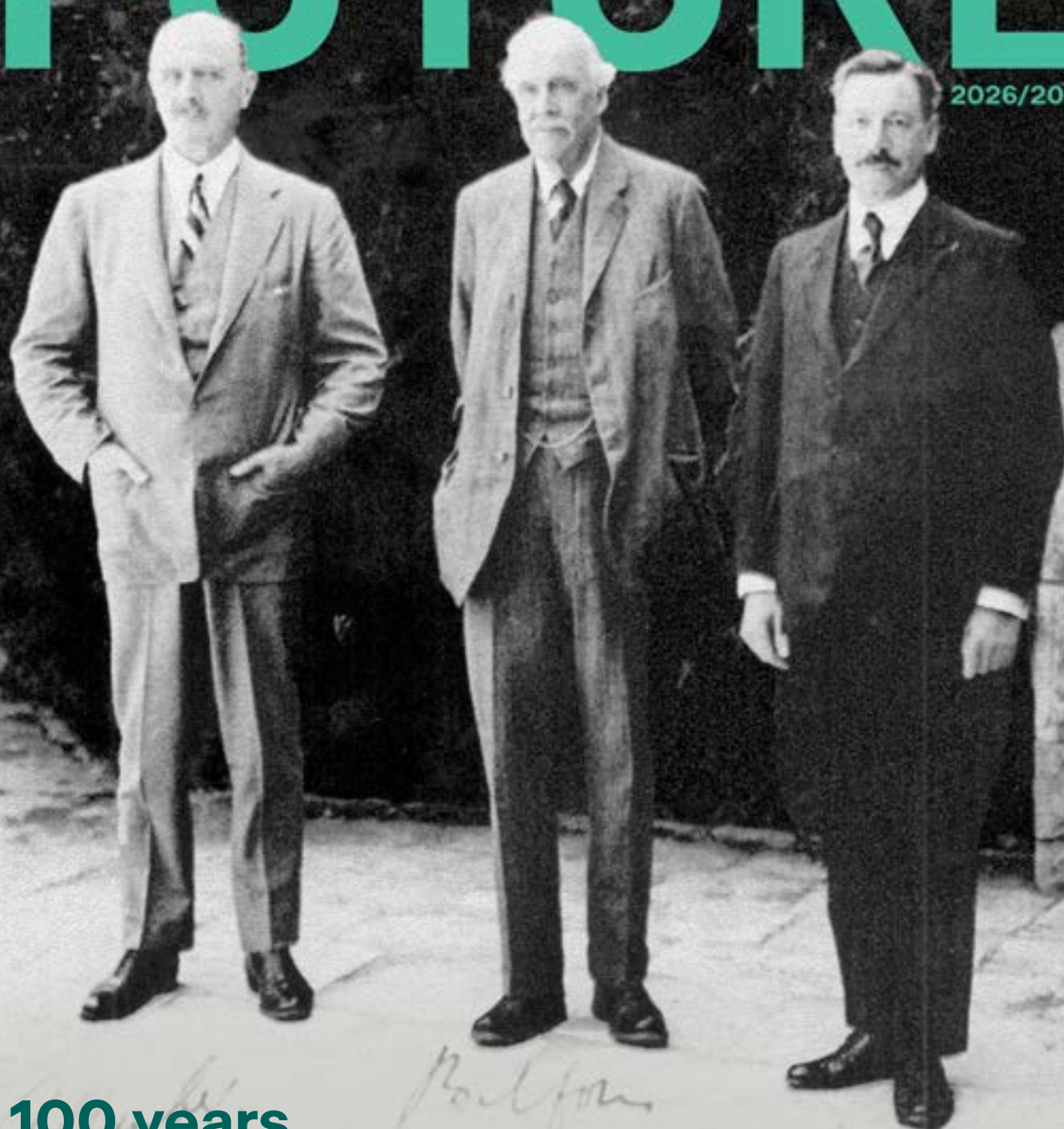


FUTURE

2026/2027



100 years
of the British Friends
of the Hebrew University

Table of Contents

2-3	Words from the Chair and CEO
5	The Architecture of Resilience: A conversation with VP Yishai Fraenkel
6-7	100 Years: In Photos and Letters
8	A Legacy of Devotion: the UK's Steadfast Bond with the Hebrew University
9-12	A Legacy of Devotion: Families who've Been Supporting the University for Generations
13	Student Letters: British Friends' Postgraduate Scholarship in the Exact Sciences
14-15	Student Letters: Medical students
16	Connecting Global Minds: The Annual International Scholar Joint Event
17	Frankfurt, Jerusalem, Frankfurt
18	The Max Shayngesicht Prize for English Poetry
19	The Glasgow Group
20	In Memoriam
21	The Holy Land Postcard Collection
22-23	A Year Together: Highlights from the British Friends' Calendar
24-27	News from the Hebrew University
28-29	At the Forefront of Global Science: Breakthroughs from the Hebrew University
30-31	Fostering Excellence and Rewarding Hard Work: Prizes Sponsored by British Friends Families
32	The Clinical Legal Education Centre
34-35	UK-HU Alumni
36	Save the Date
38	The Hebrew University in Numbers

Front cover, left to right: General Lord Allenby,
Lord Balfour and Sir Herbert Samuel at
Mt Scopus, 1925, for the inauguration
of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Looking Back on a Century of Foresight: A Conversation with Alan Jacobs

As the British Friends of the Hebrew University (BFHU) marks its centenary, Chair Alan Jacobs reflects on the enduring power of the Zionist vision, the evolution of multi-generational philanthropy, and why academic diplomacy has become a key frontier for Israel.

Alan, one hundred years is an extraordinary milestone. What does it mean to you personally to mark the centenary of BFHU?

Alan Jacobs: One hundred years is a big round number, but for me, it is a sharp reminder of true foresight. Over a quarter of a century before the State of Israel was created, British visionaries recognised a fundamental truth: if a Jewish state was ever to become a reality, it would require a higher education establishment of the highest global standards.

Rather than just bask in the post-Balfour Declaration optimism, a cohort of academic, financial, and political trailblazers lobbied and built an institution of world-class stature under the British Mandate. To look back on a century of BFHU is to look back on a legacy of great people doing great things.

You have served five years as a trustee, and four as Chair. Looking back at your tenure, what stands out most?

What has been deeply reassuring is the extraordinary loyalty of our supporters across multiple generations. The sense of pride passed down through families - exemplified by foundations like Wolfson and Kennedy Leigh, and families like the Sachers, Spitzs and Kayes - is the absolute bedrock of our organisation.

Beyond philanthropy, I have been struck by the University's integrity. Prior to October 7th, during the national tensions surrounding proposed judicial reforms, the University took a brave, principled stance under then-President Asher Cohen to warn against weakening democratic pillars. They had real skin in the game - their own intellectual freedoms were on the line - and handled it with immense professionalism.



How has the relationship between BFHU and the University evolved over the decades?

In the early days, Friends organisations were involved in every aspect of creation. As Israel's economy grew, the University began to view Friends groups primarily as suppliers of capital. Under my chairmanship, we have worked hard to shift the paradigm back to what it says on the tin: *Friends*.

We are a "critical friend" and a strategic partner. In a post-October 7th world, Israel faces a diminished global reputation in academia that will take time to repair. The Hebrew University embodies the very best of Israel - it is democratic, pluralistic, brilliant, and cutting-edge. By championing the University, we also create a vital bulwark against growing anti-Israel sentiment in our own UK universities.

How is BFHU navigating the current climate within British academia?

This is where our role shifts into soft diplomacy. While top-level leadership at British universities remains largely well-disposed, faculty-level reality is more challenging. It is often easier for individual academics to look elsewhere rather than face hostile peers.

However, modern research is inherently collaborative. BFHU is actively bridging this divide, deepening partnerships between Jerusalem and UK elite institutions like Cambridge University, King's College London, UCL, and Imperial College to preserve the collaborative lifeblood of global science.

Looking toward the next century, what are the primary challenges ahead?

The University's new president, Prof Tamir Sheafer, has set bold priorities: doubling medical education capacity alongside major expansions in engineering and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Simultaneously, we face economic headwinds from reduced government funding and currency fluctuations. To attract top international minds, we must innovate. We are pushing for more English-language taught courses and prestigious joint-degree programmes with leading UK universities, ensuring top Diaspora students spend meaningful time on campus in Jerusalem.

What is your ultimate wish for BFHU's future?

While we cannot match North American fundraising volume, BFHU punches well above its weight and offers geographical proximity for active on-campus partnership. I am immensely proud to work with our CEO Nigel Salomon, our professional team, and our dedicated trustees.

Crucially, our new **British Friends Postgrad Scholarship Fund** is already supporting 30 exceptional students a year. By growing this fund, we honour our past by investing directly in the minds that will build Israel's next century.

Letter from our Chief Executive

This past year has been operationally and emotionally demanding. Yet, a century ago, the founders of the British Friends faced even more daunting challenges as they rallied behind the pioneers who dared to establish the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Throughout it all, our UK community has remained unwavering in its dedication to fuelling academic excellence at Israel's premier centre of research and learning.

Our Chair, Alan Jacobs, recently paid special tribute to our multi-generational donors - devoted families who continue to fund groundbreaking discoveries and nurture a resilient civil society in Israel.

It has been a year of intense activity across the UK, even if travel to and from Jerusalem was regrettably reduced. To mark the twin centenaries of the Hebrew University and the British Friends, we launched a landmark appeal at our November gala. Together with matching support from the University, the new British Friends Postgraduate Scholarship Fund in the Exact Sciences will deliver 200 generous grants over the next decade to attract and retain Israel's brightest minds. Remarkably, despite these difficult times, research breakthroughs continue unabated - as highlighted in our regular e-newsletters - and the Hebrew University has actually advanced its standing in several prestigious international rankings.

Our 1926 founders were relentlessly driven, refusing to compromise on their vision. Today, with fresh energy across our professional team and lay leadership, we share that same determination to cut through the noise and ensure the torch of learning shines ever brighter.

Following the cancellations of the Board of Governors meetings in Jerusalem in June 2025 and June 2026, we look forward to gathering on campus this October, where several outstanding UK supporters will be honoured.

I hope you enjoy this centenary edition of *FUTURE*, and find its stories both informative and inspiring.

Nigel Salomon
CEO



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.

As the BFHU marks its centenary, we celebrate its enduring commitment to education, community and shared values.

Dean Lush
Executive Vice Chairman

Rothschild & Co Wealth Management UK
020 7280 5000
dean.lush@rothschildandco.com

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.

The Architecture of Resilience: A Conversation with VP Yishai Fraenkel

The Hebrew University's new VP for Advancement & External Relations outlines how the institution is fusing academic rigor with tech-sector agility, navigating polarisation, and modelling the future of Israeli society.

You spent highly successful years in tech before moving to university leadership. What does academia still get wrong about innovation, and how does your background help fix it?

Yishai Fraenkel: I often view the relationship between academia and tech through the *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus* analogy. It is an essential partnership, yet both sides routinely misunderstand what the other brings. In corporate tech, I didn't fully appreciate academia's greatest superpower: knowing how to ask profound questions and enduring years of deep research. Industry rarely pauses to look that deep.

Conversely, industry brings speed, agility, and practicality. When both sides understand these complementary strengths, the relationship becomes incredibly potent.

We are bridging this planetary divide on our Edmond Safra campus with our new Hebrew Tech Park - the Gav Yam campus. The core philosophy is physical co-location. We want professors working in their research labs in the morning and inside a tech company in the afternoon. Crucially, we want students doing corporate internships to absorb real-world problem-solving. It brings the best of both worlds together.

The tech sector thrives on speed, while universities are built on patience. How do you reconcile these competing cultures?

Yishai: A thriving economy desperately needs both. Academia represents an almost glacial movement - deep, profound, and slower by design. But a modern economy also demands immediate, "we-need-it-now" solutions.

The goal isn't a lukewarm middle ground where both cultures are diluted, but allowing them to robustly coexist. Balancing deep research with the rapid

pace of modern enterprise is a delicate art, but it is exactly what makes our ecosystem work.

Higher education is operating under increasing political scrutiny. How do you protect academic freedom without becoming detached from national reality?

To navigate this layered challenge, we look to the University's three-part mission: groundbreaking research, teaching the younger generation, and acting as an intrinsic part of society.

Sometimes people ask, "How do you step out of your academic shell to support society?" But supporting society is our shell; it is in our DNA. Take the unique fabric of Jerusalem, a complex demographic tapestry of secular Israelis, East-Jerusalem-Arabs, and the ultra-Orthodox. The Jerusalem of 2026 is a microcosm of what the rest of Israel may look like by 2050. Our campus is a living laboratory proving we can live, study, and create world-class science together.

Simultaneously, we cannot ignore the global tension between the political and academic echelons, fuelled by a polarised world and soaring education costs. Within Israel, we walk a fine line. We respect the authority of elected officials to define policy, but we remain utterly resolute in safeguarding our academic freedom and institutional autonomy.

How do you convince top international researchers and students that the University remains a place where ambitious work can be done freely?

The proof is in the pudding. Beyond our global rankings and Nobel Laureates, look at the daily data: over the past five years, our scholars have co-published 105 peer-reviewed papers with Cambridge and 122 with MIT. This world-class collaboration speaks for itself.

What does "resilience" mean for the Hebrew University right now, practically speaking?

Resilience operates on two levels. The first is KTBR: Keep the business running. It is the operational determination to ensure our students, including reservists, complete their degrees and our doctors and lawyers finish their training. Under the

shadow of conflict, this has required monumental effort. A significant portion of our student body has been called up. Tragically, we have lost students who were killed, and others have been severely injured. Keeping classrooms and labs open amidst that profound grief is our first line of resilience.

The second level is strategic: refusing to lose hope and ensuring our global stature remains undiminished. We fight relentlessly for global research grants, we publish, and we push boundaries. Even when our researchers must run to a safe room three times a night due to sirens, they keep their cool and keep working.

Looking ahead, what kind of leadership will universities need to navigate the 21st century?

It boils down to three core capabilities for everyone from the University president to an undergraduate:

Multidisciplinary Mindsets: The luxury of saying "I am strictly a finance or law specialist" is over. Today's dilemmas are too complex for siloed thinking.

Increased Speed: Academia is historically slow, but we must move faster. With the rise of AI, we must immediately embed these tools into how we research chemistry or teach law.

Mastering Teamwork: The myth of the isolated academic genius is dead. The world is too complicated for any individual to encompass alone. We must learn to listen, collaborate, share credit, and keep our egos out of the way.



100 Years: In Photos and Letters



Logbook for the British Friends
Medical Group, 1926



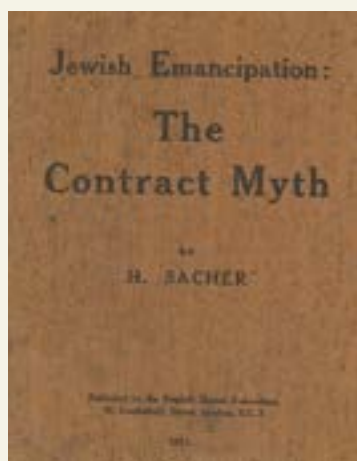
Ellis Birk, former British Friends Chair, at the Board of Governors



New Veterinary and Agricultural
colleges 17.11.1937



Honorary Dinner 1956



Paper by Harry Sacher in 1917



Cocktail party at the Dorchester

100 Years: In Photos and Letters



Unveiling of the Kennedy Leigh Library, 1973



L-R: Carmela Yadin, the Honourable Henry Gluckman, Yigal Yadin, Joyce Leibowitz



At Mt Scopus, mid 1960s



At the 1954 Gala



L-R: Dr Gluckman, Mr Hilliard Leibowitz, & Mr Rudy Frankel, 28th June 1967, just after the liberation of Mt Scopus



L-R: Judge Felix Landau, the Honourable Henry Gluckman, Rudy Frankel and Hilliard Leibowitz at Mt Scopus



The UK's Steadfast Bond with The Hebrew University

100 years ago, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem opened its doors to the first Israeli students, providing higher education in the land of Israel. It was the first Israeli university, established even before the State of Israel itself. Among its founders were prominent Zionist entrepreneurs such as Sigmund Freud, Martin Buber, Chaim Weizmann, Albert Einstein and Ahad Ha'am.

Shortly after the formal opening ceremony, the first Board of Governors convened. Its members numbered illustrious figures such as James de Rothschild, Harry Sacher, Sir Herbert Samuel and Sir Alfred Mond, among many others. Approximately one third of the Board were British, reflecting the profound connection between Britain's Jewish community, the Zionist movement and the founding of the University - laying the groundwork for the establishment of a Jewish state, which would emerge 23 years later.

In 1926, just a year after the University's opening, the Friends of the Hebrew University (FHU) was established as a UK-based charity. Its mission was to strengthen ties between the United Kingdom and Mandate Palestine by raising funds to support the University, its scholars and its students. A century later, these bonds are stronger than ever, thanks to the generosity of thousands of families, individuals and trusts - many of whom are descendants of the original supporters who have maintained their connection with the University and the Zionist enterprise for decades.

As we celebrate 100 years of the University and 100 years of the British Friends, we reached out to some of our supporters. They shared with us the spark that connected them to the Hebrew University, what excites them each time they visit the University's campuses, and what motivates them to continue the legacy begun by their predecessors.

A Legacy of Devotion: Families Who've Been Supporting the University for Generations

In the Very Roots: The Sacher Family's Century of Vision

The story of the Sacher family is one of early faith in an extraordinary idea. Long before the State of Israel existed, Harry Sacher - a passionate Zionist, lawyer, and public intellectual - was among the Hebrew University's primary ideators and founders. For Harry, the University was not merely a place of learning, but the intellectual anchor for the renewal of Jewish life. Though personal tragedy eventually brought Harry and his wife Miriam back to the UK, their bond with the University blossomed into a multigenerational lineage of devotion. The torch of commitment passed to Michael Sacher, then John, who became Chair of the British Friends, and later Jeremy - each generation honouring the connection in its own way.

The family's impact on Israeli jurisprudence was cemented in 1959 with the establishment of the Harry and Michael Sacher Legal Institute. Today, the Institute serves as the prominent research arm of the Faculty of Law and stands as Israel's leading academic publishing house for legal scholarship.

For Jeremy, this legacy has taken on a renewed urgency. What began as familial loyalty has transformed into a deep belief in the Hebrew University's

contemporary relevance. In supporting an institution that fiercely champions diversity, inclusion, and democratic values, the family actively carries forward the ideals Harry Sacher helped bring into being a century ago.



A Promise Kept: Four Generations of the Kaye and Landau Family Legacy

For the Kaye family, supporting the Hebrew University is a treasured family heirloom.

It began with Steven Kaye's grandfather, Dr Arthur "Sonny" Landau, an eminent cardiologist and Chair of the South African Friends. When Isaac Kaye asked for his daughter Myrna's hand in marriage, Dr Landau had one stipulation: Isaac had to become involved with the Hebrew University. "It may have been slightly tongue in cheek," Steven admits, "but he meant it."

Sixty years later, that promise has blossomed into an extraordinary legacy.

Isaac - a self-made entrepreneur - went on to serve as Chair of both the South African and

British Friends, and today serves as BFHU President and a University Governor. In 1994, Isaac and Myrna established the Kaye Innovation Awards and the Kaye-Einstein scholarships to encourage the commercialisation of university discoveries. Today, with an impressive portfolio of patents and vital research revenues, that initiative has demonstrably transformed the University's global standing.

Now, Steven Kaye feels the "inexorable pull" to step forward as his parents step back, deeply passionate about the University's role in preserving democratic values. "The Hebrew University has always stood for an open society, where ideas - sometimes uncomfortable ones - are heard. That's vital for Israel," Steven notes.

As for the fourth generation, Steven hopes his children will eventually catch the philanthropic bug - proving that a wedding stipulation can help shape a world-leading institution.



A Legacy of Devotion: Families Who've Been Supporting the University for Generations

A Bond Rooted in the Soil: Carole Berman & The Kennedy Leigh Legacy

Sixty years ago, a shared passion for agriculture forged an enduring bond between the Hebrew University and the family of Carole Berman, Governor of the University and Co-Chair of The Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust.

The connection began through Carole's grandfather, Michael Kennedy Leigh, a property developer with a passion for farming. Introduced in the 1960s to Israeli agricultural leader Raanan Weitz, Michael became a devoted champion of the Rehovot campus - a commitment carried forward by his son Gerald Leigh, and today by Carole and her sister Angela Sorkin.



Carole first visited Jerusalem 52 years ago for the inauguration of the Kennedy Leigh Agricultural Library in Rehovot. Since then, she has watched the Faculty of Agriculture pioneer world-changing solutions to global

food and water security, from drip irrigation to environmentally friendly pest control.

Beyond scientific breakthroughs, Carole is deeply moved by the unique spirit of the University, admiring the resilience demonstrated by President Asher Cohen, faculty, and students amidst profound hardship. Looking ahead, Carole sees the Hebrew University continuing to lead cutting-edge research while nurturing its vibrant, inclusive campus culture.

**“To my mind,
the Hebrew
University is the
most humane
and inspiring
place in the
world. May its
efforts of Tikkun
Olam succeed in
bringing about
a better and
transformed
world.”**

- Carole Berman

Enabling People: The Birk Family Legacy

The Birk family's long relationship with the Hebrew University began with a scholarship fund set up by Angela Camber's grandfather before the Second World War. It was deepened by her father's many years of service as Chair of the British Friends and as a University Governor.

In 1993, Angela's parents established the Birk Prizes in Agriculture and Law, reflecting her father's love of plants and her mother's commitment to the rule of law and social policy. These family ties were further enriched by Prof Yehudit Birk, a distinguished agricultural scientist, first female dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, and a close friend and cousin-by-marriage of Angela's father.



Today, that legacy has grown into support for the University's law clinics and social work projects, with the Birk Prizes continuing to recognise outstanding work. As Angela puts it, the family's aim has always been simple: to enable people.

A Legacy of Devotion: Families Who've Been Supporting the University for Generations

Heritage and Hope: The Spitz-Leibowitz Family Bond

The Spitz and Leibowitz family story is rooted in a striking act of collective vision: the determination of Jewish families from Lithuania and South Africa to build something lasting in Jerusalem, at a time when higher education had been out of reach for Jews in Europe.

For Anthony Spitz, this was a continuation of family history - young men who left Lithuania for South Africa, built successful businesses, and chose to use that prosperity to support a university for Jews in Jerusalem. Anthony was recruited to the cause by Shirley's father, Hilliard. What began as an introduction became a lasting commitment rooted in shared admiration for the University's founding ideals: opportunity, dignity, and intellectual freedom.



Over time, Anthony and Shirley's son, Derek, has carried the mantle forward, ensuring the relationship continues into the next generation. As the Hebrew University marks its

Centenary, the Spitz-Leibowitz story stands as a vivid reminder that the University was built on the hope that Jewish learning would flourish, and that families would carry that dream forward, generation after generation.

From Johannesburg to Jerusalem: The Lourie Family

The Lourie family's bond with the Hebrew University is built from vivid personal history. It begins with Emanuel ("Mannie") Lourie, born in Johannesburg in 1904 into a Zionist family stretching back through 15 generations of Lithuanian rabbis.



In 1929, Mannie met Goldie Olga Louis in Jerusalem, where she was working in the Treasury Department of the British Mandate government under Sir Herbert Samuel. They married in 1930, beginning a family history closely tied to the University. Following Mannie's death in 1956, Olga funded a scholarship in his name, which lives on today through the Dr Emanuel and Mrs

Olga Lourie PhD Scholarships in Tropical Medicine.

Their son, Dr John Lourie, made his first visit to the Hebrew University in 1958 while working at the Negev Research Institute, returning frequently over subsequent decades. The Lourie story combines intellect, resilience, and memory - a legacy shaped by lived experience and sustained engagement.

A Father's Vision, a Son's Commitment: The Polonsky Legacy

Marc Polonsky's connection to the Hebrew University began through his father, Dr Leonard S. Polonsky, CBE z"l, whom he accompanied to an honorary fellowship award in 1989. Over the years, Dr Polonsky built close friendships with leading figures in the humanities, acquiring books for the English Faculty library, sponsoring art collections, and founding the prestigious Polonsky Prizes for Creativity & Originality in the Humanistic Discipline.

Dr Polonsky believed the humanities were essential for shaping thoughtful, empathetic citizens. The family's commitment later expanded across disciplines, including East Asia Studies and scholarships for students of Ethiopian heritage, reflecting a belief that educational opportunity should always be widened.

A Legacy of Devotion: Families Who've Been Supporting the University for Generations

Marc continues this stewardship today, viewing the University as an open, inclusive institution that must adapt to modern pressures while preserving the humanities. Through Marc's leadership, Dr Leonard Polonsky's vision remains generous, vital, and enduring.



animate the Hebrew University through Belgian Friends events, visiting speakers, and fundraising efforts. Marc later honoured her with an annual lecture series in her memory, ensuring her energy and devotion in the UK would continue to inspire future generations.

Today, the family's legacy remains visible on Mount Scopus - a quiet tribute to generations of support. For Marc, the Hebrew University is far more than an institution: it is a place where inherited values, personal growth, and community spirit converge in a story of enduring devotion.

A Life-Building Journey: Marc larchy's Personal Path

For Marc, this family legacy became deeply personal when he followed his own path to Mount Scopus. Raised in Antwerp in a household shaped by Zionist conviction and a deep commitment to Jewish life, he arrived in Jerusalem without speaking Hebrew and discovered what he describes as a "life-building experience" - one that linked him not only to the University, but to a wider sense of purpose and belonging.

At the heart of that connection was his grandmother, Thea Zucker z"l, HU Honorary Fellow, a tireless organiser who helped



Student Letters: **British Friends' Postgraduate Scholarship in the Exact Sciences**

We're proud to mark our centenary by launching the British Friends Postgraduate Scholarship fund in partnership with the University. This letter comes from one of its first recipients:

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for being awarded a scholarship through the British Friends Postgraduate Scholarship programme for the academic year 2025/26. It is a tremendous honor to be selected as a recipient of this generous support, and I am deeply moved by your commitment to advancing academic excellence at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

As a postgraduate student at the Hebrew University, this scholarship has a meaningful impact on my ability to focus on my research and academic pursuits. Knowing that the British Friends have been supporting the Hebrew University for over a century and that this scholarship programme was established to mark that remarkable centenary makes this recognition all the more special. I am proud to be part of such a meaningful legacy. Your generosity allows students like me to dedicate our energy to research and discovery, contributing to the Hebrew University's mission of excellence and global impact. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and to conducting work that addresses the pressing challenges of our time.

I will be honored to acknowledge the British Friends Graduate Scholarship Fund in my curriculum vitae and in any publications resulting from my research during this academic year. I also welcome the opportunity to participate in any upcoming meetings or Zoom sessions with the donors and fellow scholarship recipients.

Thank you once again for your trust and investment in the next generation of researchers. I look forward to the possibility of meeting you whether on campus or on Zoom and sharing the progress of my work.

With sincere gratitude and warmest wishes,

Yoav Dana
Postgraduate Student
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Joe Smouha, BFHU trustee, and Yoav Dana

Student Letters: John Lourie Scholarships

Dear Dr Lourie,

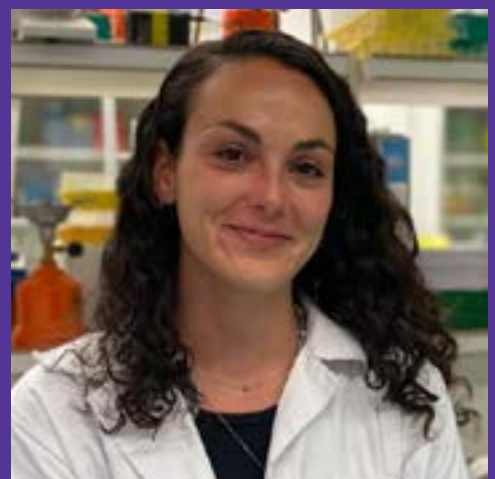
Thank you very much for your continued support of my scholarship. Your generosity allows me to focus fully on my doctoral research, and I am deeply grateful for the stability and encouragement it provides.

I am now in the fifth year of my PhD at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, working in Professor Ron Dzikowski's laboratory at the Kuvim Center for the Study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases. Over the past year, my research has focused on a nuclear SAP-domain protein that appears to play an important role in parasite gene regulation.

We have now generated an inducible knockdown parasite line and begun examining its effects. Early results show that reducing this protein impairs parasite growth and causes transcriptional changes, including in virulence-associated gene families. Expansion microscopy has also shown that the protein localises to distinct nuclear foci, supporting its likely regulatory role in the parasite nucleus. Although there is still much work ahead, the project is gathering momentum, and I am excited by the direction it is taking.

Your long-term support makes it possible for me to devote myself fully to this research and to progress towards completing my doctorate. Thank you again for your generosity and commitment to supporting young scientists.

With sincere appreciation,
Tal Elam



Student Letters: John Lourie Scholarships

Dear Dr Lourie,

Thank you for your generous support, which allows me to devote myself fully to my research at the Hebrew University. I am a first-year MSc student in biomedical sciences, working in Professor Ron Dzikowski's laboratory on the malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*.

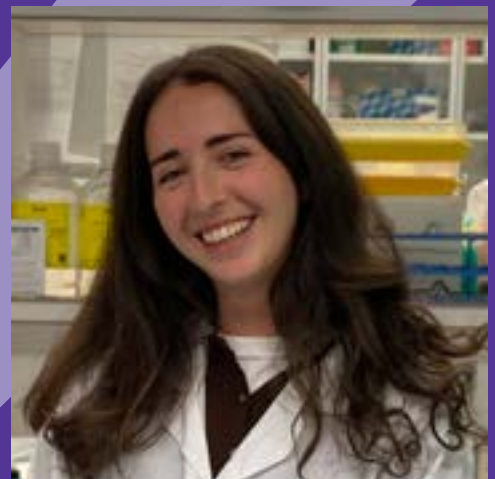
My project focuses on the role of a key protein complex during different stages of the parasite's life cycle, particularly the proteins PfSUN1 and PfSUN2. These proteins are thought to be essential for nuclear division and DNA repair, yet the structure and function of the complex remain poorly understood.

My current work examines their roles during both asexual replication and gametocyte development. This research will help improve our understanding of nuclear architecture and genome maintenance in *P. falciparum*, and may contribute to the development of new therapeutic targets.

I am also collaborating with Dr Jeffrey Dvorin's group at Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard University, and recently returned after visiting their lab in Boston for specialist training in protein labelling and advanced microscopy.

Thank you again for your generous support. Your contribution makes this work possible.

With kindest regards,
Noam Benyuones



Connecting Global Minds: The International Scholars Joint Event

Each year, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem brings together an extraordinary cohort of international students who share a single, vital mission: translating academic knowledge into practical, sustainable solutions for disadvantaged communities worldwide.



Sponsored by the generous vision of the **Pears Foundation**, the annual Joint Event connects emerging global leaders from three of the Hebrew University's flagship international master's programmes:

International MSc in Agriculture (*Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment*): Equipping scientists in Plant, Environmental, Animal, and Nutritional Sciences with cutting-edge tools to drive global agricultural innovation and food security.

Glocal International Development MA:

An 18-month programme blending academic research with a 4-month field placement in developing communities across Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East, empowering local populations through social innovation and sustainable policy.

International Master of Public Health (IMPH)

(*Hadassah-Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine*): A world-renowned, APHEA-accredited programme training health professionals from over 100 countries to lead public health systems, research, and policy.

Hosted this year by the International School of Agricultural Sciences in Rehovot, the evening offered a dynamic space for cross-disciplinary learning and networking. Students engaged in round-table workshops and enjoyed a thought-provoking guest lecture by Dr Jed Silver (Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Economics and Management), who explored the economic and environmental realities of global resource management.

The evening culminated in a warm, festive Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremony - a fitting celebration of light, shared purpose, and the lasting professional friendships forged across borders, disciplines, and cultures.





Frankfurt, Jerusalem, Frankfurt

How BFHU Honorary Treasurer Alan Philipp is Opening Global Doors for HU's MBA Students

For long-time British Friends supporter and BFHU Honorary Treasurer Alan Philipp, giving back is about creating real-world opportunities. Through his annual gift to the Hebrew University Business School (HUBS), Alan funds international study tours and exchange scholarships that give Jerusalem's brightest business minds a global edge.

This year's gift funded an intensive MBA study tour to Europe's financial capital, Frankfurt. For Alan, the location carried deep personal significance: Frankfurt is the city his mother and her family fled in the 1930s to escape Nazi Germany before settling in London. Decades later, that family history has come full circle, empowering young Israeli scholars to build international networks in the heart of European commerce.

Led by HUBS Dean Prof Orly Sade and Prof Igal Newman, the students gained high-level access to senior executives at the European Central Bank, Goldman Sachs, IBM, KPMG, and Eintracht Frankfurt.

Voices from the tour:

"To my mind, the Hebrew University is the most humane and inspiring place in the world. May its efforts of Tikkun Olam succeed in bringing about a better and transformed world."

- Menashe Aivas (2nd-year MBA student)

"Seeing the inner workings of global organisations in Frankfurt has given me a completely new perspective on my career path in the global market."

- Mor Kalimi (2nd-year MBA student)

Moved by the students' feedback, Alan plans to keep funding these vital international exchanges: *"I suspect this is the best possible use of my annual support to the Hebrew University."*

By connecting historical memory with future opportunity, Alan's generosity ensures Jerusalem's future business leaders step onto the world stage with confidence.

A Prize of Memory and Imagination: The Inaugural Max Shayngesicht Prize

The inaugural Max Shayngesicht Prize in English Poetry brings together memory, literary craft, and living testimony in a way that feels both deeply moving and perfectly timed. Established by the late Betty Shane z”l in memory of her father, Max, who perished in the Holocaust, the prize stands as a testament to the enduring power of words to carry meaning across generations.

Betty, a dedicated teacher for over two decades and a lifelong lover of poetry, established the award through a bequest to the British Friends of the Hebrew University. In doing so, she ensured her father’s name would be honoured not merely through passive remembrance, but through the active encouragement of new creative talent.

Announced during the Hebrew University’s centenary year, the inaugural prize was awarded to Temima Weissmann for her poem, *The Poet of Auschwitz*. Written with striking restraint and emotional precision, the work imagines the unrecorded testimony of those silenced in the camps. Rather than turning atrocity into spectacle, Temima’s poem approaches its subject with ethical humility, serving as a quiet act of witness to the fragile persistence of art.

For Temima, the award offers something rare: a dedicated platform for English-language

poets in Israel to draw on Jewish themes, seasonal rhythms, and personal memory without having to dilute their work. “Whenever I meet someone who loves poetry, I feel a special connection,” she reflected, expressing a quiet kinship with Betty across time.

**“We see the world
in the same way.”**

The spirit of continuity remains central to the prize’s future, with two annual awards now established: one for an English-language poet residing in Israel, and another for poetry translated into English.

At its heart, the Max Shayngesicht Prize is a story of love – to a lost father, to poetry, and to the vital act of creation.

In Temima’s words and Betty’s legacy, that love has found a lasting home.



Betty Shane



Temima Weissmann

The Poet of Auschwitz

I often imagine
there was a poet of Auschwitz
who came up with a far better word
to describe the
curve
of the metal sign that greeted him
than we could ever muster.

Who fought only with the
soft scratch of lead
against a scrap of paper,

and when he ran out of paper,
his leather belt,

and when he ran out of leather,
he would curl his words out of
the long strand
of a single
potato peel.

And when it was time to die,
he must have stood under the
cloudiest of skies,
with all of his papers and words
hidden under his clothes,
under his skin,
jutting into the
crevices between his ribs,

the word
for the moment
a candle is about to extinguish,
clinging
to the tip of his tongue.

The Glasgow Group: A Story of Friendship and Faithful Support Since 1930

Few groups have embodied the spirit of friendship and commitment quite like the Glasgow Group of the British Friends of the Hebrew University. Founded in the 1930s by Joseph Sacks and I.A. Levine, the Group began life with modest but heartfelt aims, raising support for the Hebrew University through local subscriptions and community backing. Its story is one of dedication sustained over generations, and of a community that understood early on the importance of standing behind a great university in Jerusalem.

After the interruption of the Second World War, the Group was revived in 1948 through the energy and determination of Benno Schotz, Sam Lazarus, Sidney Naftalin and Leslie Naftalin. Their efforts brought new life to the Group and established traditions that would endure for decades. The Subscription Appeal was restored, the Annual Dinner became a much-anticipated fixture, and the Annual Brochure soon emerged as a valuable and successful means of raising funds for the Hebrew University.

What followed was a remarkable period of activity and community spirit. The Glasgow Group flourished as an important part of local Jewish life, bringing people together through the Book Fund, the Annual 200 Club, fundraising concerts, cultural evenings and social gatherings. These events were about far more than fundraising alone; they created a sense of belonging, pride and shared purpose, while helping to strengthen the bond between Glasgow and Jerusalem.

The Group also helped to build bridges in academia, with successful exchanges between the Law Faculty of the University of Glasgow and the Hebrew University, as well as between Strathclyde University Business School and the Hebrew University Business School. These collaborations added an extra layer of significance to the Group's work, supporting scholarship, professional exchange and mutual respect between institutions.

In more recent years, the focus has turned to scholarships, with donors generously supporting students at the Hebrew University across every faculty. Many of these awards have been created in memory of loved ones, or to mark family milestones and special occasions, giving the Group's work an especially personal and meaningful dimension. The ongoing Glasgow Jerusalem Scholarships appeal continues this tradition, while recent legacies reflect the deep loyalty and enduring commitment of supporters whose association with the Group stretches back many decades.

Documents and Photographs logging the story of the Glasgow Friends are lovingly looked after by Harvey Kaplan, director of the Scottish Jewish Archives.

As the British Friends of the Hebrew University marks its Centenary, the Glasgow Group's contribution deserves to be celebrated not only for the funds it has raised, but for the warmth, loyalty and lasting friendship it has given so generously. Its story is woven into the wider history of British support for the University - a story of people coming together, year after year, in a shared belief in education, opportunity and the future of Jerusalem.



L-R back: Cyril Furst, Michael Greenhill, Rose Miller,
Anita Mandel, Suzie Dover, Eddie Mandel.
L-R front: Freddie Levine, Florence Levine, Ann Furst

In Memoriam

Professor Sir Royston Miles Goode z"l CBE KC FBA

The British Friends of the Hebrew University mourn the passing of Professor Sir Roy Goode, a world-renowned giant of commercial law, Oxford Emeritus Professor, and founder of Queen Mary's Centre for Commercial Law Studies.

Sir Roy maintained a warm, enduring connection with the Hebrew University. In 1990, he delivered the prestigious 33rd Lionel Cohen Annual Lecture on Mount Scopus, published in the Israel Law Review, and his landmark comparative law scholarship long inspired researchers at the Sacher Institute. A passionate advocate for UK – Israeli academic collaboration, Sir Roy's legacy of kindness, brilliance, and vision will endure.

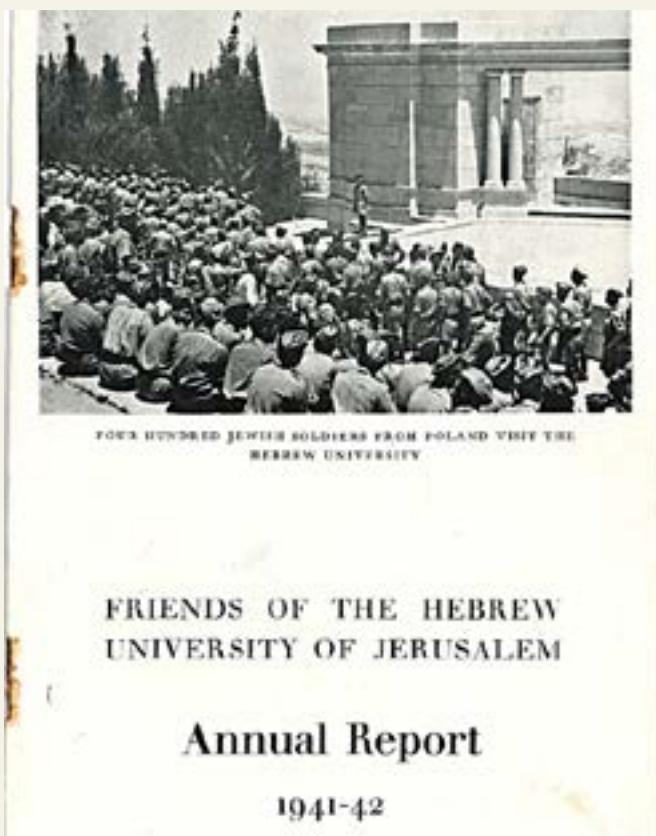
May his memory be a blessing.

Cyril Furst z"l

The Glasgow FHU committee were saddened by the loss of long serving member Cyril Furst, who together with his late wife Ann were both involved with Glasgow Group for many years.

Cyril served as honorary treasurer for some time, whilst Ann held the post of Chair. Together they were enthusiastic supporters of the University. Cyril had also been Chairman of the Glasgow Young Zionist Organisation.

May his memory be a blessing.



THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE	
<i>Hon. President :</i>	
The Rt. Hon. Sir HERBERT SANDS, P.C., G.B.E., G.C.B.	
<i>President :</i>	
Lt.-Col. Sir MATTHEW NATHAN, G.C.M.G.	
<i>Past President :</i>	
Sir PHILIP HARTOG, C.I.E., LL.D.	
<i>Hon. Vice-Presidents :</i>	
HERBERT BENTWIG, LL.D.	C. S. MYERS, C.B.E., F.R.S.
PROF. J. B. COHEN, F.R.S.	RABBI DR. ISRAEL MATTOCK
SIR FREDERICK H. COWEN	JAMES DE ROTHSCHILD, D.C.M., M.A.
MADAME ARNOLD DARMSTETER	PROF. WILLIAM ROTHSCHILD, M.A., A.R.C.A.
ALFRED EICHING, M.D., C.B.E.	SIR MICHAEL SADLER, K.C.S.I., C.B.
DR. M. MILCHENT FAWCETT, G.B.E.	REDCLIFFE N. SALAMAN, M.D.
HON. MRS. ERNEST FRANKLIN	SIR ARTHUR SCHUSTER, F.R.S., LL.D.
PROF. PATRICK GREGG	PROF. C. G. SELIGMAN, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.
RABBI SIR HERMANN GOLLAUGH, M.A., D.Lit.	CHARLES SINGER, M.D., D.Lit., F.R.C.P., F.S.A.
SIR ISRAEL GOLLAUGH, LL.D., F.B.A.	The Very Rev. Sir GEORGE ADAM SMITH, M.A., D.D., LL.D.
SIR RICHARD GREGG, D.Sc., F.R.S.	MARION H. SPIELMAN, F.S.A., F.R.S.I.
H. H. HALDIN, K.C.	PROF. GRAHAM WALLAS
HERMANN M. KINCH, C.S.I.	CECIL WEITMANN, D.Sc., Sc.D., LL.D.
SIR PHILIP MAGNUS, Birt., J.P.	
SIR ALFRED MOND, Birt., P.C., M.P.	
ROBERT MOND, M.A., F.R.S., F.G.S.	
<i>Hon. Treasurer :</i>	
Major H. L. NATHAN	
1 Finsbury Square, E.C.2	
<i>Hon. Secretary :</i>	
JACQUES COHEN, B.A.	
<i>Executive Committee :</i>	
MRS. W. SPIELMAN, B.Sc.	PHILIP GUEDALLA, M.A.
R. B. BENAI, B.A., LL.B.	A. H. LEVY, M.D., F.R.C.S.
ARTHUR BLOK, B.Sc.	REV. M. L. PERLBERG, R.A.
PROF. S. BRODITSKY, Ph.D.	S. ROWSON, M.A.
J. L. COHEN, M.A.	LEON SIMON, B.A.
DR. M. D. EIDER, B.Sc.	M. SOBRASKY, M.D., F.R.C.S.
VICTOR GOLLAUGH, Esq.	

Mom, I've Made It to Jerusalem!

Before text messages, before social media, even before the telephone, there was a simple way to say: I'm here, and I'm thinking of you. A brief note in ink, a stamp, a view of Jerusalem, and suddenly distance seemed a little less vast.



That feeling runs through the story of David Pearlman's remarkable life's work. Over many decades, Pearlman assembled one of the world's largest collections of Holy Land postcards, preserving thousands of fragile snapshots of daily life, travel and memory. His vision turned a personal passion into something far larger: an archive that now lives at Hebrew University and offers a vivid visual record of Jerusalem and the Holy Land across generations.



What makes the collection so extraordinary is its sweep across time. These postcards preserve images from the years before the State of Israel existed and trace the region into its modern history, capturing the changing landscape, shifting politics and everyday rhythms of life along the way. But beyond the historical record, they hold something more intimate: a tapestry of humanity.



Soldiers, pilgrims, tourists, families and dreamers all appear in these small rectangles of paper, each leaving behind a trace of hope, longing, curiosity or faith. Some messages are practical, some joyful, some deeply personal - but together they form a moving chorus of voices from another time. In that sense, Pearlman's collection is not just an archive of images. It is a living memory of how people encountered Jerusalem, and of how Jerusalem, in turn, lived in their hearts.



Together, these stories preserve the romance of correspondence and the power of memory. They remind us that Jerusalem has long lived not only in books and photographs, but in the everyday messages people carried home in their pockets, their suitcases, and their hearts.

A Year Together: Highlights from the BFHU Calendar

Over the past year, our British Friends community has come together again and again - to learn, to connect, and to celebrate the remarkable work of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Thanks to your support, we've hosted an outstanding programme of events.

Here are just some of the moments you helped make possible:

British Friends Gala Dinner, winter 2025

We marked 100 years of the Hebrew University with a very special Gala Dinner at the sumptuous Claridge's hotel, and proudly launched our Postgraduate Scholarship Fund in the exact sciences.

Honours Club events:

○ Tea at JW3

A warm, elegant afternoon for Honours Club members - a chance to say thank you and share updates from HU.

○ Honours Club excursion to the Foundling Museum

Honours Club members enjoyed an inspiring guided tour and delicious cream tea.

British Friends host their HU undergrads for a warm winter get-together

British-based Hebrew University students enjoyed a cosy seasonal gathering with British Friends - reminding them they have a home here in the UK.



Britain's Ambassador to Israel meets BFHU Trustees and guests

We were honoured to host HE Simon Walters CMG for a special gathering with Trustees and supporters.

Webinars:

○ The State of Desire

Our annual BFHU/UCL (Institute of Jewish Studies) webinar with Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller opened up sensitive, timely questions of religion, reproductive politics and the modern family.

○ When Humans Met Neanderthals: The Discovery from Tinsmet Cave

Together with the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society, we travelled back tens of thousands of years to explore new discoveries on the encounters between Homo sapiens and Neanderthals.

○ A Visual Trip into Ancient Anatomy

We rounded off with a journey into the ancient imagination, as Professor Orly Lewis showed how Greco-Roman thinkers pictured the human body.

Lectures & Panel Discussions:

○ Click here, if you're not a robot: AI in today's age

With Prof Claudia Goldman-Shenhar, we dived into the world of AI, trust and ethics, at the latest of the annual Thea Zucker z"l lecture series, generously sponsored by British Friend Marc Iarchy in honour of his grandmother - a staunch supporter of the University and honorary fellow.

○ Prof Yuval Shany on the Fragility of the International Rule of Law

Professor Shany's lecture offered a compelling and sobering reflection on the pressures facing global legal norms in an increasingly unstable world, kindly hosted at Fladgate LLP.



A Year Together: Highlights from the BFHU Calendar

- **Navigating Crisis:
Jewish Communities
in the UK and Israel**

As part of Jewish Book Week, we gathered for moving conversation about how communities in Britain and Israel have faced trauma and uncertainty in the wake of 7 October. With Prof Orna Shemer, Dr Nikki Scheiner, moderated by Jocelyn Blumberg.

- **Meet the Hebrew
University Tzameret
Elite Medical Students**

Supporters enjoyed a rare opportunity to meet Israel's future frontline doctors, generously hosted at the home of Drs Selina and Andrew Gellert.

- **Hebrew University Alumni –
UK community events**

- **Prof Tomer Braude
at King's College London**

The Dean of the Hebrew University Faculty of Law spoke with Hebrew University alumni and CTLS students at King's College London.

- **Alumni breakfast** with retiring President, Prof Asher Cohen at a Marylebone restaurant, and get-together with incoming HU President Prof Tamir Sheafer.



- **Alon Natanson, CEO
of Yissum: HU's Technology
Transfer company,
visits Cambridge**

Mr Natanson enjoyed a visit to Cambridge to meet with Cambridge Enterprise and UK-based Hebrew University alumni.



- **An evening with the new
Vice President for
Advancement and External
Relations, Yishai Fraenkel**

We welcomed our new Vice President to meet industry-leading alumni at the home of our Chair, Alan Jacobs.



Together, these events tell a simple story: when British Friends come together around Hebrew University, ideas travel, relationships deepen and impact grows. Thank you for helping us make this such a rich and meaningful year - we look forward to welcoming you to our next events.

News from The Hebrew University

The Hebrew University never rests on its laurels. Even in a challenging global climate, it continues to punch well above its weight - renewing leadership, winning major prizes, building new centres, and deepening international partnerships, all while breaking fresh ground in research and teaching. Here is a snapshot of just how much has happened in Jerusalem over the past year.

Awards and prizes

Hebrew University scholars and students have been recognised at the highest levels:

President of Israel's Scholarships for Scientific Excellence and Innovation

Hebrew University emerged as the leading institution, with six out of twelve national recipients.

Israel Prize for Prof Benjamin Weiss

The University proudly congratulated Prof Benjamin Weiss on winning the Israel Prize, adding another name to its long list of laureates whose work has shaped Israeli science and society.



Israel Prize for Prof Avi Rivkind
Trauma surgeon Prof Avi Rivkind was honoured for transforming trauma care and saving

countless lives, underlining the University's impact not only in theory but at the bedside and in emergency rooms across Israel.



EMBO Young Investigator – Prof Moran Yassour

Prof Moran Yassour was named an EMBO Young Investigator for her pioneering research on the infant microbiome - recognition from one of Europe's most respected life-science organisations.



EMBO Membership – Prof Yehu Moran

Hebrew University professor Yehu Moran was elected to the

European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), further cementing the University's position in the global life-science community.

National Academy of Inventors

Prof Yaakov Nahmias of the Hebrew University was inducted as Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, highlighting the University's strength in turning ideas into innovations.

British Academy Fellowship – Prof Ronit Ricci

The British Academy elected Prof Ronit Ricci as an International Fellow, a prestigious honour that recognises the University's excellence in the humanities on a global stage. Prof Ricci holds the Sternberg-Tamir Chair in Comparative Cultures.



Six researchers awarded grants from the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology

National grants from the Ministry are supporting frontier research in multiple disciplines, from quantum science to medicine.

Professors Hanah Margalit and Ilan Rosenshine elected to the European Academy of Microbiology

Their election reflects global esteem for Hebrew University's microbiology research and its contributions to understanding infectious disease.

Prestigious HFSP grant awarded to Prof Orna Amster-Choder

Winning a Human Frontier Science Program grant placed the University among a select group tackling complex problems in life sciences at the international frontier.

Prof Haim Sompolinsky awarded the 2026 Dirac Medal and Prize by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics

By forging deep connections between physics, neuroscience, and artificial intelligence, Sompolinsky has changed the way we understand intelligence, both natural and artificial.



New appointments at Hebrew University

Leadership renewal has been a defining feature of the year:

Naama Kaufman-Fass appointed CEO

With over twenty years of executive experience in government, finance and industry, Naama Kaufman-Fass was welcomed as the University's new CEO, succeeding Yishai Fraenkel and bringing fresh energy to the institution's strategic direction.

Yishai Fraenkel appointed Vice President for Advancement and External Relations

Building on his successful tenure as CEO, Yishai Fraenkel was appointed Vice President for Advancement and External Relations, strengthening the University's global outreach and fundraising capacity at a crucial time.



New buildings, centres and programmes

The University continues to invest boldly in infrastructure and new initiatives:

John Paulson Building for Electrical Engineering

An additional \$19 million gift from the Paulson Family Foundation - bringing total support to \$46 million - will fund a new electrical engineering building on the Edmond J. Safra Campus, expanding a cutting-edge STEM complex and enabling interdisciplinary research at scale.

Robert I. Schattner Oral Health Center for People with Disabilities

The Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine established a dedicated oral health centre for people with disabilities, addressing a major gap in accessible, specialised dental care and putting inclusion firmly at the heart of clinical practice.



Ecuadorian Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

A new centre was inaugurated to support innovation and entrepreneurship, with a particular focus on Ecuadorian and Latin American collaborations, signalling the University's reach far beyond Israel's borders.



Sally Einstein Brain Research Programme

The University launched the Sally Einstein Brain Research Programme to explore infectious roots of neurodegenerative diseases, opening a novel front in the fight against conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Henrietta Szold Hadassah – Hebrew University School of Nursing – next phase

Significant progress was made on the next phase of development for the flagship nursing school, investing in training the professionals who are central to modern healthcare systems.

New humanitarian programme sending medical students to Kenya

A new humanitarian initiative now sends Israeli medical students to Kenya, combining clinical experience with global health, service and cross-cultural learning – a powerful expression of Hebrew University's values in action.



International visits

Jerusalem has welcomed a series of high-level visitors, reflecting the University's role as a global crossroads of ideas:

Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia, H.E. Vahan Kostanyan

His visit highlighted growing ties between Armenia and The Hebrew University, with discussions focused on research and educational cooperation.



Michael Mann, the EU's Ambassador to the state of Israel

The EU Ambassador's visit underscored the University's

position as a key partner in European research, policy dialogue and academic collaboration.

Hebrew University Delegation Meets Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican

A University delegation was received at the Vatican, reflecting deepening dialogue around scholarship, ethics and shared global responsibility.



"Middle Meets"

delegation to the Vatican

A delegation brought voices of hope from Jerusalem to the Vatican, emphasising dialogue, coexistence and a shared search for peace at a time of profound global tension.

International cooperation and collaboration

The Hebrew University has expanded its network of strategic partnerships across continents:

University of Nairobi – landmark agreements

The University signed landmark agreements with the University of Nairobi, including a Memorandum of Understanding and a student exchange, to promote joint research and academic engagement in areas such as food security, climate change, renewable energy and education.



Max Planck Society – International Center for Democracy, Security and Human Rights

The Hebrew University and the Max Planck Society launched an international centre dedicated to democracy, security and human rights, placing Jerusalem at the heart of global debates on law and governance.



Nalanda University – Historic MoU

A historic agreement with Nalanda University strengthened ties between Israel and India, particularly in the humanities, history and intercultural studies.

Horizon Europe – €3.5 million research consortium

Hebrew University was selected to lead a €3.5 million Horizon Europe research consortium, reinforcing its standing as a major European research partner and coordinator.

University of Illinois System – fifth round of joint R&D teams

The University of Illinois System and The Hebrew University launched a fifth round of joint R&D teams, continuing a productive transatlantic collaboration in science and technology.

ICL Group – strategic collaboration

A new strategic collaboration with ICL Group aims to accelerate the path from scientific discovery to industrial innovation, linking lab breakthroughs to global applications in materials, agriculture and sustainability.

Other news and achievements

A wide array of additional developments completed this exceptionally active year:

Business School ranked top five in Eurasia and the Middle East

Eduniversal's Deans' Vote placed Hebrew University's Business School among the top five in its region, recognising excellence in teaching, research and global engagement.

"40 under 40" Hebrew University alumni leaders

A new "40 under 40" list celebrated dynamic alumni driving change in business, academia, public service and culture, highlighting the impact of a Hebrew University education across sectors.

Top research rankings in the Shanghai Ranking

The University achieved leading positions in the prestigious Shanghai Ranking, particularly in key fields across the sciences and humanities.

Avena's startup wins Rhodium Ventures 2025 competition

A Hebrew University-linked startup, Avena, won the Rhodium Ventures competition, showcasing the strength of the University's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Almost 95% of HU graduates pass Israel's winter 2025 bar exam

An outstanding pass rate underscored the quality of training at the Faculty of Law and the high calibre of its students.



318 doctorates awarded

The University conferred 318 doctorates in the humanities, social sciences and applied sciences in a single ceremony – a vivid measure of its research depth and academic vitality.



Landmark conference on Jewish education in Israel and the diaspora

The Hebrew University hosted a major international conference on Jewish education, connecting researchers, practitioners and community leaders from Israel and abroad.

Major grants and trials in health and climate

The University joined a €15 million international trial on phage therapy for drug-resistant urinary tract infections; played a key role in developing climate-resilient wheat for a hotter, drier Middle East; and secured multiple ERC Consolidator and Advanced Grants, including ground-breaking work on type 1 diabetes.

October 7-related initiatives

In partnership with Edut 710, the University launched projects to bring October 7 survivors' voices to the world and to study the long-term impacts of trauma, reaffirming its role as a place where difficult truths are faced, documented and understood.

Israel Post centenary stamp

Israel Post issued a commemorative stamp marking 100 years of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem,

symbolising the institution's place in the country's public life and collective memory.

Taken together, these stories show a University that refuses to stand still. Hebrew University is marking its first hundred years not by looking back, but by pushing forward – renewing leadership, building new centres, forging alliances across continents, and winning recognition at the very highest levels. For British Friends, it is a powerful reminder that every gift, every partnership and every shared endeavour connects us to an institution that is relentlessly seeking growth and improvement, and consistently punching well above its weight on the world stage.

At the Forefront of Global Science: Breakthroughs from The Hebrew University

From pioneering life-saving medical interventions to engineering sustainable solutions for a changing planet, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem consistently stands at the vanguard of international research. Driven by a tradition of academic excellence and fearlessness in the face of complex problems, its scientists and scholars do not merely study world issues - they solve them.

Whether developing climate-resilient crops alongside regional partners, unlocking new frontiers in cancer treatment, or redefining legal accountability in environmental law, the Hebrew University continues to turn visionary research into real-world impact. Here are ten remarkable discoveries from its labs and faculties that are tackling some of society's most pressing challenges today.



Climate litigation could get a new legal toolkit

Hebrew University researchers have proposed a fresh legal strategy that shifts the focus in climate cases from traditional tort claims to the profits gained from delaying climate action. It's a bold idea with the potential to change how accountability is argued in court.



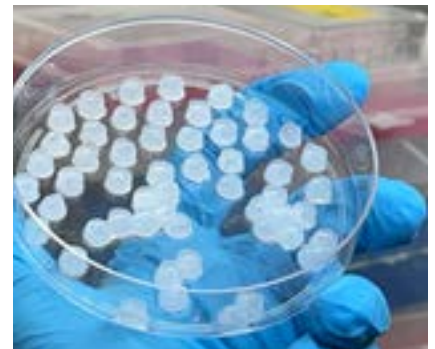
Climate-resilient wheat for a hotter Middle East

In a powerful example of science crossing borders, Israeli and Palestinian researchers have developed wheat lines better able to withstand heat and drought. The breakthrough could help strengthen food security across a region where climate pressure is rising fast.



Plants that can make real dairy protein

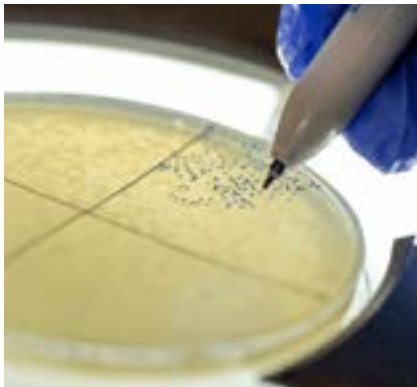
Hebrew University scientists have found an unexpected shortcut for producing bovine β -casein in plants. The discovery could help create more sustainable dairy ingredients without relying on cows.



Lab-grown steak gets cheaper and more realistic

Hebrew University researchers have developed a cellulose-based scaffold that cuts the need for expensive growth factors while producing cultivated meat with a texture closer to real sirloin. It's a significant step toward making alternative meat more affordable, scalable and commercially viable.

At the Forefront of Global Science: Breakthroughs from The Hebrew University



A tiny viral switch may help fight superbugs

As antibiotic resistance grows, Hebrew University researchers have identified a viral mechanism that can slow the spread of resistance in bacteria. It's a small biological switch with potentially huge implications for future treatments.



A blood test could spot Parkinson's earlier

A novel RNA-based blood test developed at The Hebrew University may detect Parkinson's disease before symptoms begin. Earlier diagnosis could mean earlier intervention, better care and a major shift in how the disease is managed.



A new route around drug-resistant brain cancer

Researchers have reported an experimental approach that may help overcome resistance in glioblastoma, one of the most aggressive forms of brain cancer. If successful, it could open the door to more effective treatment options.



Glass printing, without the glue

The Hebrew University has developed a binder-free method for 3D printing glass, removing a major technical barrier in advanced manufacturing. The result could have wide applications in optics, engineering and high-tech production.



What October 7 taught hospitals

New Hebrew University research is drawing lessons from the October 7 attacks to improve hospital preparedness for modern warfare and mass-casualty emergencies. The findings could help health systems become faster, more resilient and better prepared for crises.



Climate models are missing the first warning signs of deadly Middle East heatwaves

New Hebrew University research reveals that the world's leading climate models are late to capture extreme heat, only capturing it after crucial atmospheric warning signals had appeared in the Middle East.

Fostering Excellence and Rewarding Hard Work: Prizes Sponsored by British Friends Families

At the Hebrew University prizes are not simply awards; they are expressions of long-standing friendship, generosity and faith in the University's mission. Many bear the names of British Friends families whose devotion has helped shape Hebrew University across generations - and whose support has nurtured scholars who go on to become leaders of the University, and innovators whose work reaches far beyond campus.

The Ellis and Alma Birk Prizes in Agriculture and Law are a striking example. Made possible by a fund established by a family that has supported the University for more than 70 years, these awards honour work of real practical value - from sustainable agriculture to the legal frameworks that underpin a fair society. Over time, they have helped recognise researchers and teachers whose careers have gone on to shape Hebrew University itself, while advancing fields crucial to a sustainable world and a more just one. This year's recipients:

Agriculture

Shani Cheskis
Dr Yotam Zait

Law

Uria Beeri
Dr Adi Goldiner
Tzufit Artzy, Clinical Legal Studies
Dikla Gilan, Clinical Legal Studies



Angela Camber and her father, Ellis Birk

The Tamir-Sternberg Prizes for Interfaith

Understanding continue another deeply rooted family commitment. What began as the Sternberg family's support for inter-religious understanding has, through Ruth & Noam Tamir's continued generosity, become a prize that encourages dialogue, curiosity and respect across faiths. At a time when division often dominates the conversation, this award reminds us how much can be achieved when people choose to invest in understanding.

The programme is led by Prof Ronit Ricci, Sternberg-Tamir Chair in Comparative Cultures, recently elected International Fellow of the British Academy. Latest winners are:

● **Tomer Mizrav**
Program of Buddhist Studies

● **Claude Fallik**
Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations in late antiquity

● **Roey Porat**
Art History and Comparative Religion

● **Christina Sandulche**
Messianic Jewish communities



The Tamir-Sternberg Prizes for Interfaith Understanding

Fostering Excellence and Rewarding Hard Work: Prizes Sponsored by British Friends Families

The Polonsky Prizes for Creativity & Originality in the Humanistic Discipline reflect the same spirit of long-term devotion. Established by Dr Leonard Polonsky and sustained by the Polonsky family's enduring faith in the humanities, the prizes honour scholarship that is original, rigorous and culturally resonant. Their recipients have gone on to become intellectual leaders within the University and beyond, helping to shape thinking on memory, identity and society at large. This year's recipients:

Researchers

Prof Michael Shenkar

Prof Ram Ben-Shalom

Post-Doctoral Researcher

Dr Ekaterina Oleshkevich

PhD or M.A. Student

Daniel Sonnenfeld



The Kaye Innovation Awards similarly speak to a family legacy turned outward to the future. Founded by Isaac and Myrna Kaye, the awards recognise research with the potential to generate real-world benefit, and many winners have become leaders at the Hebrew University while driving cutting-edge innovation in medicine, agriculture, engineering and technology. Their work speaks to the great challenges of our time: health, sustainability and the search for a fairer society. This year's recipients:

● **Prof Yuval Dor**
Faculty of Medicine

● **Dr Raphael Benhamou**
School of Pharmacy

● **Prof Mona Dvir-Ginzberg**
Faculty of Dental Medicine

● **Netanel Loyfer**
Faculty of Medicine

● **Omer Shoseyov**
Faculty of Science

● **Matanel Hipsch**
Faculty of Agriculture

Taken together, these awards tell a powerful story about British Friends of the Hebrew University: one of continuity, conviction and lasting partnership. Across generations, these families have helped the University recognise brilliance, encourage dialogue, reward originality and advance innovation. Their generosity has done more than honour achievement - it has helped build the conditions in which excellence can thrive. That is a legacy worth celebrating, and one that continues to shape The Hebrew University today.

Law with a Human Face: Inside the Clinical Legal Education Centre

How the Hebrew University students are bridging academic excellence and social justice - one case, one life at a time.

In the quiet rooms of the Hebrew University's Faculty of Law, legal theory transforms into human dignity. Since its inception in 2003, the Clinical Legal Education Center (CLEC) has evolved from an ambitious educational model into one of Israel's premier clinical law programmes - and the largest pro bono legal office in Jerusalem.

At CLEC, the law is understood not merely as a set of rules, but as a vital instrument for social change. Under close faculty supervision, students work directly on real cases, collaborating with experts across social work, business administration, and disability studies. Supported in part by the generosity of British Friends, these young advocates provide high-quality legal aid to disadvantaged individuals who might otherwise be shut out of the justice system. It is a rigorous, immersive education that teaches students not only what the law says, but what justice demands.

Justice in Action

The Centre's recent work demonstrates the extraordinary breadth of its impact:

Environmental Safeguards

The Climate Change and Environmental Law Clinic successfully challenged proposed legislative amendments that threatened to weaken tree

protections and reduce the powers of the National Forest Commissioner. In urban planning, the Clinic intervened in the Sovev Hadassah Ein Kerem petition to advocate for strict adherence to climate considerations and the precautionary principle.

Social & Housing Rights

The Clinic for the Realisation of Rights in the Periphery secured a life-changing victory for a mother of three whose application for public housing had been wrongly rejected. In another case, the Clinic fought to protect a vulnerable client's recognition as a continuing tenant, safeguarding them against eviction.

Building a Compassionate Legal Culture

The influence of the Clinical Legal Education Center extends far beyond individual courtrooms. By confronting real-world inequality, students graduate with a deeply ingrained sense of civic responsibility, carrying a culture of empathy into top law firms, the judiciary, and public service.

Through the steadfast partnership of BFHU, the Centre continues to prove that when academic rigor meets public purpose, the law becomes what it was always meant to be: a beacon of fairness and hope for all.



We're delighted to support British Friends of The Hebrew University in its centenary year.

Invest well. Play the long game, together. To achieve this, we bring together institutional investment expertise, a deep knowledge of the charity sector and a proven track record in responsible investing; helping you make sound financial decisions with clarity and confidence.

-  Responsibility at the core
-  Trusted heritage
-  National scale, local service
-  Trustee support
-  Joined-up charity-first model

For more information contact us on 020 7399 0000, at charities@rathbones.com or visit rathbones.com/charities

The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back what you originally invested.

Rathbones is a trading name of Rathbones Investment Management Limited, which is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Registered office: Port of Liverpool Building, Pier Head, Liverpool L3 1NW. Registered in England No. 01448919



British Friends
of The Hebrew
University

Shana Tova

Wishing all our Friends a happy
and prosperous New Year

שנה
טובה
ומתוקה





100 Years of the Hebrew University Alumni Come Together to Celebrate in London

Against the beautiful backdrop of London's skyline, 100 Hebrew University alumni and partners gathered at the exceptional Rothschild & Co venue to celebrate a remarkable milestone: the University's centennial. The event was made possible through the close collaboration between the Hebrew University Alumni Community in the UK and the British Friends, and the enduring generosity of Rothschild & Co.

Bringing together graduates from across generations, faculties and professions, the evening reflected not only on the University's extraordinary first century but also on the vibrant global community that continues to shape its future. For attendees, it was an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, meet fellow alumni living in the UK and celebrate a shared academic home that continues to influence their personal and professional lives long after graduation.

The evening began with a lively reception, as guests quickly filled the room with conversation. In the background, a pianist performed beloved Israeli classics on a grand piano, adding a uniquely Israeli touch and creating a warm, festive atmosphere that accompanied the evening. One of the highlights of the programme was an inspiring keynote address by Professor Eran Halperin, Head of the Department of Psychology at the Hebrew University. Speaking about the power of hope in times of uncertainty, he

explored the psychological foundations of optimism and resilience, prompting thoughtful discussion and enthusiastic questions from the audience. The event also featured a panel discussion entitled "The Next 100 Years", that brought together four distinguished alumni - Ornit Shinar, Rabbi Vadim Blumin, Dr Orit Gal and Daniel Campbell, and hosted by Elad Simchayoff, European Correspondent for Channel 12 News, who explored the major challenges and opportunities likely to shape the coming century, discussing the future of cities, climate resilience, scientific discovery and the responsibility of innovation to serve society. The panel reflected the diversity of the Hebrew University alumni community while highlighting the impact its graduates continue to make across a wide range of disciplines.

Alumni left with new connections, ideas and renewed pride in belonging to the Hebrew University community. In the weeks that followed, many shared that conversations that began during the event had already developed into professional collaborations, friendships and future initiatives!

One hundred years after the Hebrew University first opened its doors, its alumni continue to demonstrate that the University's greatest strength lies not only in its academic achievements, but also in the lifelong community it inspires around the world.



Upcoming Events

September 2026

- 15/9 Graduation ceremony, International MCs in Agriculture, Hebrew University
- 16/9 Graduation ceremony, International Masters of Public Health, Hebrew University



- 22/9 British Friends Legal Group, panel event chaired by Lord Pannick KC, London

October 2026

- 16-20/10 Hebrew University Board of Governors and Friends international gathering, Jerusalem
- 20/10 The Polonsky Prizes and Kaye Innovation Awards ceremonies
- 21/10 Annual Lionel Cohen Law Lecture, Prof Alan Bogg, Hebrew University



- 27/10 British Friends Honours Club event, London

November 2026

- 2-9/11 British Friends '100-year partnership' Legacy Mission
- 19/11 British Friends @100 cocktail, London
- 26/11 BFHU scholarship recipients evening, London

January 2027

- Sacher annual memorial lecture, Jerusalem

February 2027

- Anglo Israel Archaeological Society (AIAS), partner event



- UCL Institute of Jewish Studies, partner event



- 27/2 - 7/3 Jewish Book Week



- Thea Zucker annual memorial lecture partner event at JW3



March 2027

- UK HU Israeli Alumni community event



- British Friends Medical Group meeting 'Tzameret' elite medical students



- The Tamir-Sternberg Prizes for Interfaith Understanding

April 2027

- Annual Ellis and Alma Birk Prizes in Agriculture, Law and Clinical Legal Studies
- British Friends Honours Club event

May 2027

- British Friends Legal Group event
- Roadshow: Hebrew University international programmes master's students visit the UK



June 2027

- 4-8/6 Hebrew University Board of Governors and Friends international gathering, Jerusalem



- The Polonsky Prizes and Kaye Innovation Awards ceremonies as well as honouring UK donors
- 7/6 British Friends annual cocktail, special guest Britain's Ambassador to Israel

September 2027

- British Friends Honours Club summer tea, London



MARKING A UNIQUE 100-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

Join our inspiring British Friends Legacy tour of Jerusalem and the Hebrew University

2—9
November 2026

Fully paid for
by our sponsor

- The historic Old City, Western Wall tunnels, new National Library and Yad Vashem
- Mt Scopus and its spectacular views and the beautiful Edmond J Safra campus
 - Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive and the Einstein Archive
 - Exclusive access to cutting-edge research & leading academics
 - Daytime flights from and to London, 5-star hotel, expert guides

For more information contact Nikki Shamash: nikki.shamash@bfhu.org / 020 8349 5757

The Hebrew University in Numbers

The Story in Numbers

1918

Established

1925

Official opening

23,500

Students, 70% from
outside Jerusalem

6,000

Academic &
administrative staff

6 Campuses

7 Faculties

14 Schools

10,000+ Registered
patents

10 Nobel Prizes

1 Fields Medal

2 Turing
Awards

180+ start-up
companies

Among
the top
100 universities
in the world
according to
the Shanghai
Ranking

43% of Israel's
Biotech
Reserch

Awards & Prizes

Category	Total
Nobel Prize	10
Fields Medal in Mathematics	1
Lundbeck Foundation's Brain Prize	1
Holberg Prize	1
Turing Award in Computer Science	2
Abel Prize	1
Wolf Prize	16
Canada Gairdner International Award	1
Shaw Prize in Mathematics	1
Rothschild Prize	111
Emet Prize	76
Rappaport Prize	5
Israel Prize	342
Turing Prize	2

YISSUM - Tech Transfer

Category	Total
Patents	11,780
Licenses	1,160
Spin-off Companies	261+
New companies established	15
Active start-up companies	180+
HU produces 1/3 of Israel's civilian research	
Ranked 12th worldwide in biotechnology patent filings and commercial development	

International Data

500+ academic
agreements and
Institutional 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



British Friends
of The Hebrew
University



Get online to follow exciting
developments at the Hebrew University
campaign.huji.ac.il

and at British Friends
bfhu.org

Sign up here for our latest
newsletters and events information
bfhu.org/opt-in

British Friends of the Hebrew University
Marlborough House
298 Regents Park Road
London N3 2SZ
T: 020 8349 5757
E: friends@bfhu.org

Produced and edited by Arianna Steigman
Graphics & layout by Romi Nicole Schneider
With thanks to the BFHU team

Photo credits: The Jewish Chronicle, Douglas
Guthrie, David Salem, Eyal Cohen, Oron Film
Production, Shauli Lendner, Bruno Charbit

British Friends of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Reg charity no 209691 · Reg company no 06350828 · Reg address as above

