



Council for Higher Education

The Council for Higher Education is the regulatory body responsible for the academic aspects of all institutions of higher education in Israel. The majority of Israel's academic institutions, including all the research universities, are public institutions, financed by the state through the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education.



For more details:

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Think innovative, Be innovative: Study in Israel



Study in Israel





Israeli Higher Education at a Glance

Israel has a long tradition of academic excellence, boasting world class universities, colleges and research institutes, and a large number of Nobel Prize winners. Israeli higher education institutions offer many programs in English, providing a unique opportunity for foreign students to study in a dynamic and international learning environment, in a country which is known for its world leading innovation and technology.

Institutions and Basic Figures

In total, Israel boasts 66 institutions of higher education: 9 universities, 36 academic colleges and 21 teacher-training colleges.

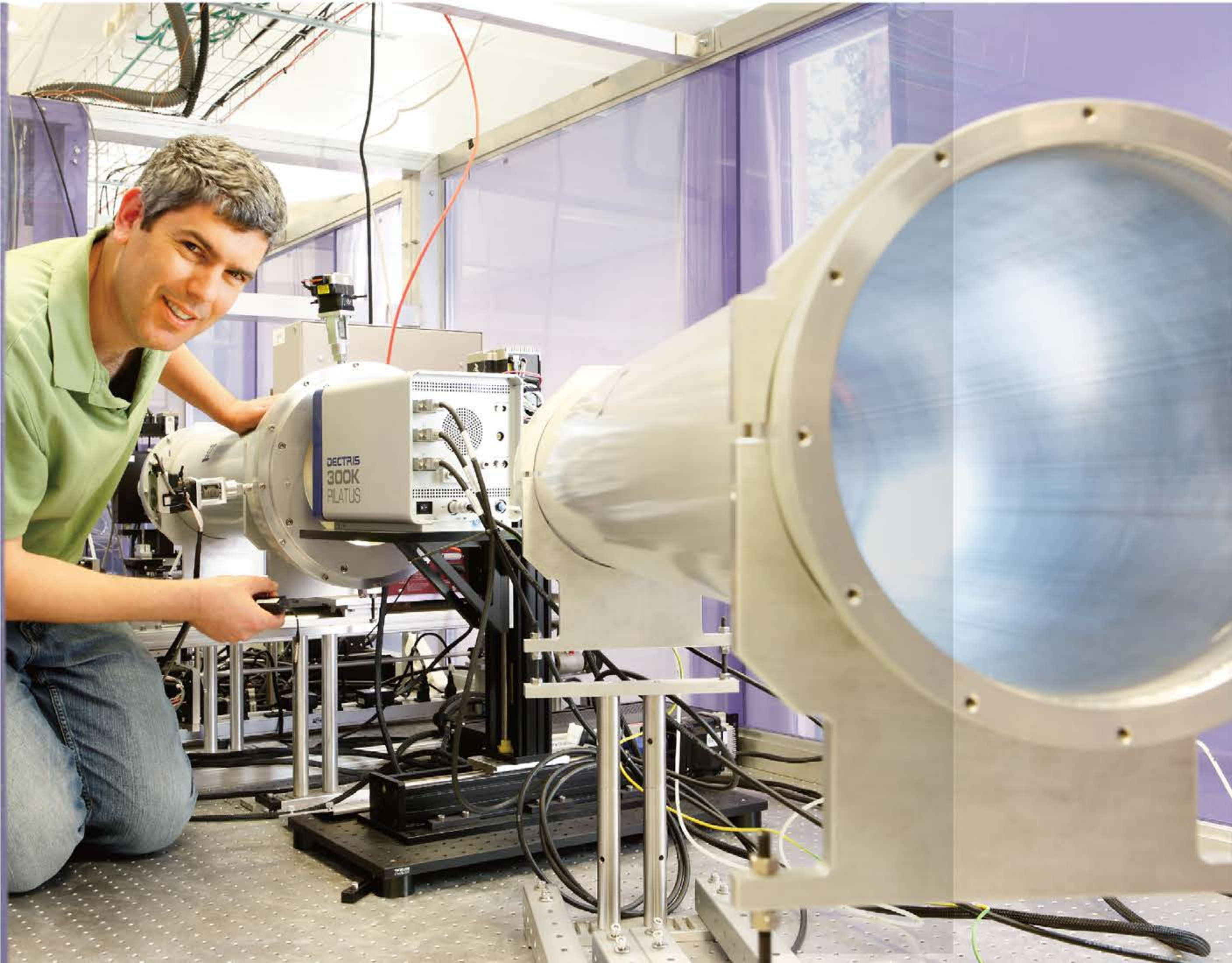
The eight universities operating under the authorization and accreditation of the Council for Higher Education of Israel are:

- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem – www.huji.ac.il
- The Technion, Israel Institute of Technology – www.technion.ac.il
- The Weizmann Institute of Science – www.weizmann.ac.il
- Tel Aviv University – www.tau.ac.il
- Bar-Ilan University – www.biu.ac.il
- Ben-Gurion University of the Negev – www.bgu.ac.il
- The University of Haifa – www.haifa.ac.il
- The Open University - <http://www-e.openu.ac.il/>

An additional university, Ariel University (<http://www.ariel.ac.il/en>), operates under the authorization and accreditation of the Council for Higher Education of Judea and Samaria.

More than 300,000 students are pursuing academic degrees in Israel. This is an amazing figure, implying that about 50% of the relevant age cohort in Israel attend higher education. Of the 192,000 students studying for a bachelor's degree, 62% are studying at colleges and 38% are studying at universities.

The total government budget for higher education in Israel is about 2.7 billion USD, to be added to funding from tuition and other sources.



Excellence in Research and Innovation

Israel is known for its excellence in academic research and innovation. Two of its universities (The Hebrew University and the Technion) are ranked in the top 100 universities in the world, and another four in the top 500. Israel has high global rankings in scientific publications per capita and number of citations per paper. Eight Israelis have been awarded Nobel Prizes in the fields of Chemistry and Economics since 2002.

To build on Israel's academic strengths, the Government of Israel in 2010 launched the Israeli Centers of Research Excellence (I-CORE), a large-scale program to reinforce Israel's intellectual capacities and its scientific leadership. The influence of these 16 vibrant new research clusters has already extended well beyond Israel and contributes to robust scientific and intellectual collaborations across the globe.

Israel is also known as the 'Start-Up Nation', excelling in innovation and technology in a wide range of fields including internet and communications technology, bio and nanotechnology, clean technologies, and agritech. It is a hotbed of innovative activity, with the world's highest R&D expenditure to GDP, world's largest number of companies on the NASDAQ outside the US, the 5th country in the world in terms of patents per capita, and a huge number of local hi-tech companies.

International Academic Programs in Israel

Most Israeli universities and colleges provide a diversity of programs in English for international students at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, ranging from summer courses to full degrees.

There are about 20 international undergraduate programs in several disciplines, such as Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Transportation Engineering, Literature and Linguistics, Music, Social Sciences, and others.

There are more than 60 international graduate programs in various disciplines such as: Middle Eastern History, Conflict Resolution and Mediation, MBA and IMBA, Desert Studies, Communication Studies, Environmental Engineering, Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Computer Sciences, and more.

Israeli universities also welcome international students for PhD and postdoctoral research, and assign them with some of the leading researchers in their fields.



Research Cooperation and Academic Alliance with China

Israel was the first country in the Middle East, and one of the first in the world, to recognize the People's Republic of China. However, it was not until 1992 that full diplomatic relations were established. Since then, Israel and China have developed close commercial, cultural and other links.

On the academic level, several important initiatives are underway. In 2013, Tel Aviv University and Tsinghua University signed an MOU to establish a joint technology research center in Beijing. Another notable example is the Technion which received a USD 130 million donation from the Li Ka Shing Foundation to in order to open a branch of the Technion and Shantou University in Guangdong Province for studies in the field of science and engineering.

On a national scale, the Government of Israel considers the development of close relations with China to be of the utmost strategic importance. In 2012, the Government initiated a comprehensive academic cooperation scheme between Israel and China, providing funding for joint research projects and student scholarships.



Joint Research Cooperation

In 2012, the Israel Science Foundation (ISF) and the National Natural Sciences Foundation of China (NSFC) signed an agreement to establish a fund for joint research cooperation. After two rounds of applications, 33 research grants have been awarded to researchers working on joint projects in the fields of chemistry, physics, agriculture, life sciences and medicine. A third round has recently been opened in the fields of mathematics, computer sciences, nanotechnology and earth sciences.

Bachelor's/Master's degree scholarships

100 Bachelor's and Master's degrees scholarships are available in the following fields and universities:

- Technion – Civil Engineering (BSc)
- Technion – Chemistry (MSc)
- Tel Aviv University – Archaeology and History of the Land of the Bible (M.A)
- Tel Aviv University – Electrical Engineering (BSc)
- Hebrew University – Islam & Middle East studies (M.A)
- Ben Gurion University – Desert Studies (MSc)
- Bar-Ilan University – International Master of Business Administration (IMBA)

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Each year 100 fellowships are offered on the basis of academic excellence. The fellowships are offered for up to three years in all disciplines of study. Candidates should apply directly via the universities.

Summer Courses Scholarships

250 scholarships are offered annually for participation in a summer course of 1-2 months in a variety of fields. The goal of the program is to enable Chinese students to become familiar with Israel and the Israeli academia, with the prospect of them continuing to pursue academic degrees in Israel.

Summer courses scholarships are currently available in the following fields and universities:

- **Tel Aviv University :**
 - Business entrepreneurship in the Start-Up Nation and the changing Middle East
 - Information security
- **Technion:**
 - Aerospace Engineering and Mechanical Engineering: Theoretical Tribology
 - Electrical Engineering
 - Mathematics- Nonnegative Matrices
 - Civil and Chemical engineering
- **Ben Gurion University:**
 - The soil-plant-atmosphere continuum in arid regions - Agricultural management and environmental aspects
 - Global health systems
- **Hebrew University:**
 - Jerusalem Ulpan: Intensive Modern Hebrew Language Course
 - Genetic Engineering (agriculture)

*Please note that application to all scholarships and fellowships is done via the Israeli universities.

