

אוניברסיטה בעם.

הידע מגיע לכולם



# 2025-2026 MID-YEAR REPORT JERUSALEM

February 2026



היחידה למעורבות חברתית  
כולם סוכרים, היחידה שעושה!



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



דיקנת הסטודנטים  
DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE  
מكتب عمادة شؤون الطلبة

# Table of Contents

|   |    |                                      |
|---|----|--------------------------------------|
| → | 01 | About the program                    |
| → | 03 | Testimonials                         |
| → | 04 | About our participants               |
| → | 06 | Study tracks                         |
| → | 06 | What's new in our branch this year?  |
| → | 09 | Our collaborators- joint initiatives |
| → | 10 | About our student-instructors        |
| → | 11 | Aknowledgments and summary           |



# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

## Our Vision

Access for All strives towards an equal society that enables each individual to live up to their potential, and contribute meaningfully to society at large. We do this by creating encounters between the university and disadvantaged populations.

We teach psychology, business administration, medicine and law, at Tel Aviv University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, University of Haifa, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, to pupils from 50 municipal districts all over the country. *Over 28,000 graduates have found renewed motivation and the confidence to pursue meaningful change in their lives.* About 1,000 student instructors have taught in the program, gaining an intimate look at themselves and Israeli society.

## How do we do this?

By harnessing accumulated academic knowledge for social activism, after 'standard' academic activity is done.

By providing an empowering learning experience using innovative methods that reinforce personal aptitudes, develop curiosity, and provide the drive and practical tools to continue learning and developing.

By lowering emotional defenses through cultivating personal connections, and facilitating organized transport services and refreshments.

By providing professional and academic guidance for student-instructors, and promoting understanding of social and educational disparities.

By utilizing a lean cost structure which allows for high social returns relative to the required budgetary needs.

# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

## Our goals



**To bridge social disparities and promote equal opportunity** by narrowing knowledge and education gaps



**To invoke meaningful change** by creating meaningful encounters of respect and reciprocal learning between disadvantaged populations and one of society's most influential forces – academia



**To promote meaningful citizenship** by encouraging participants to become impactful citizens, who take responsibility for their own lives, and act out of conscious understanding and reflection, for themselves and others



# TESTIMONIALS

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*"I began my journey in the program as a student-instructor last year, and I was grateful to be selected to continue this year as an instructor of instructors. This role has allowed me to strengthen my independence, leadership, and teamwork skills, while gaining hands-on experience in academic guidance, logistics, and interpersonal support. Beyond the practical skills, this work carries a deep sense of purpose. As a psychology student, the opportunity to meet and work closely with diverse communities across Jerusalem is invaluable. It allows me to step outside the classroom and engage directly with people – not just theories or research. This exposure helps me develop cultural sensitivity, emotional insight, and real-world understanding essential in my future professional path.*

*For many of us as university students, the program is a rare chance to connect with the broader community, to understand its needs, and experience the social impact of education firsthand. It prepares us for the workforce in the most meaningful way: by teaching us how to work with people, how to listen, and how to support growth and empowerment.*

*What inspires me most is seeing how eager our students are to learn, and watching our student-instructors grow more confident and independent. Being part of this program – especially in a role that supports others – has shown me how powerful and transformative meaningful education can be."*

**Tal Segev,  
Instructor of Student-Instructors in our Psychology Track**

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*"I've been working in the university cafeteria for many years, and I always wondered what it truly means to be a student. When I was offered the opportunity to join the program, I was genuinely excited. I chose the Introduction to Law course, and although the first couple of classes were challenging, our instructor Laila was incredibly patient. She listened carefully to our questions and presented the material clearly and effectively, making even complex topics accessible.*

*As the course progressed, I began to understand so many aspects of everyday life more deeply – from social rights to how the judicial system works. The classroom atmosphere is respectful and open, and Laila creates space for meaningful discussions that help us connect the material to our own experiences.*

*Being part of this course has opened a door I always wondered about, and has given me confidence, knowledge, and a sense of belonging on campus in a way I never expected."*

**Fatima Abu Allawa,  
Pupil in our Law Track**

# ABOUT OUR PARTICIPANTS

## Number of pupils

**285**

Total

## Gender

**60%** **40%**

Women

Men

## Religion

**59%** **41%**

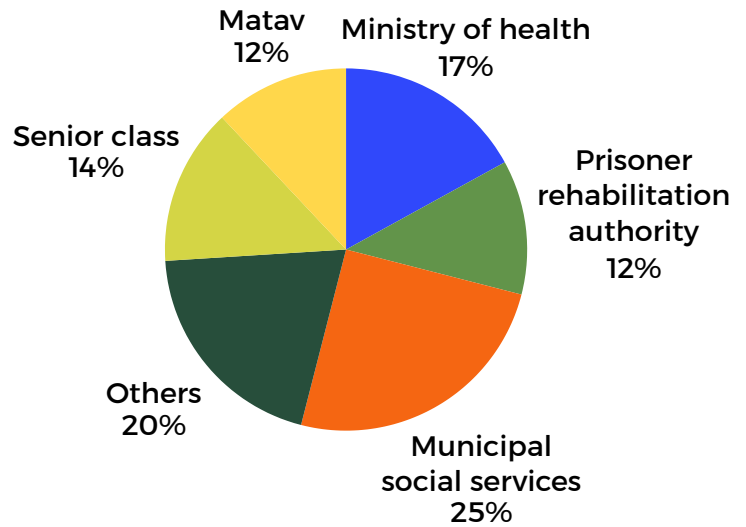
Jewish

Muslim



**43%** ongoing participant-pupils

**57%** new participant-pupils



## Participants by Study Track



**Business Administration**

**4 Instructors**

**84 Pupils**



**Law**

**5 Instructors**

**105 Pupils**



**Psychology**

**4 Instructors**

**96 Pupils**

# Our Student Instructors

| Study Track                    | Lead Student Instructors | Student Instructors   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Business Administration</b> | Ori Aran                 | Idan Zusman<br>Rahaf Khouri<br>Talin Mimi                       |
| <b>Law</b>                     | Itay Kopelman            | Yahel Barzilai<br>Galia Shaft<br>Ayala Shpercher<br>Laila Sayid |
| <b>Psychology</b>              | Tal Segev                | Zlil Dvir<br>Or Shantal<br>Hiba Zakaika                         |





# STUDY TRACKS

1

## Law Track

Participant-learners in the law track take the “introduction to law” course, which provides them with a basic understanding of the structure of the legal system, its various branches, the rights and duties of Israeli citizens, and preliminary knowledge in contract law, law of torts, criminal law, labor law, family law and more. The interactive study experience enables students to analyze, evaluate, and apply legal principles through case studies and debates.

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2

## Business Administration Track

Participant-learners in the “introduction to business administration” course are introduced to the market mechanisms, and various components of, the Israeli market. The course covers topics such as smart consumer habits, banking relationships, family budgeting, and small business management. Furthermore, the course provides participants with a basic understanding of economics, marketing, advertising, and business entrepreneurship, providing practical tools in a changing labor landscape. We have built a unique work module in special cooperation with The Joint (JDC) that focuses on imparting skills and aptitudes relevant to labor, that is now an essential part of the curriculum.

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3

## Psychology Track

Participant-learners in the psychology track take the “introduction to psychology” course, which deals with the question of what psychology is by introducing its four main branches: social, cognitive, behavioral, and physiological psychology. During the course, participants are acquainted with both classical and modern psychological theories, and the ways in which they can provide insight into different human behaviors. The course also focuses on practical aspects of psychology in various contexts, such as decision making, stress relief, group dynamics and conflict scenarios. It also explores additional subjects such as psychopathology and mental disorders, sleeping and dreaming, perception and the senses, psychological research methodology, and more. In light of the ongoing war, we have devoted time to giving participants practical tools with which to cope, such as how to spin a situation in our favor, how to adopt an optimistic outlook, and how to deal with crises and pressure.

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# EXPANDING OUR REACH AND DEEPENING OUR IMPACT

## A new partnership with Matav

This year, we launched a new and meaningful partnership with Matav, one of Israel's leading home-care organizations. Through this collaboration, the program became accessible to a population that is often overlooked: home-care workers, many of whom face significant social and economic challenges.



The partnership has already shown strong potential: Matav staff expressed high motivation to participate, and the program provides them with an empowering learning environment, practical knowledge, and a rare opportunity for personal development. This collaboration reflects our commitment to reaching underserved communities across Jerusalem and expanding the program's social impact.



*We want to thank you for giving us the chance to study at the university once a week through the partnership with Matav. We chose the Psychology track, and the things we learn there really help us in our work with people. The classes give us new energy, new ideas, and tools we can use every day with the older adults we care for. We look forward to the lessons every week. Learning makes us feel stronger, more confident, and more motivated in our work. It also means a lot to us that Matav encourages its caregivers to join this program and supports our growth. Thank you for believing in us and for creating an opportunity that truly makes a difference in our lives and in the lives of the people we care for.*

**Batya Pinsahov and Naomi Abudi,  
Pupils in our Psychology Track and Matav caregivers**



*In the “University of the People” program, our clients gain meaningful knowledge, a deeper understanding of the world around them, and practical tools that help them navigate daily life with greater confidence and a stronger sense of belonging.*

*There is no doubt that participating in this program has tremendous value for the people we support. The learning process they undergo broadens their worldview, strengthens their self-esteem, and opens doors to new opportunities in their personal and professional lives. We see, time and again, how the academic experience empowers them – not only through the content they learn, but through the feeling that they are capable, worthy, and part of something bigger. For many, this program becomes a transformative step toward growth, independence, and renewed hope.*

**Victoria Israeli,  
Beit Zusman Program Coordinator, the Center for  
Individuals with Hearing Impairment**



**Iftar meal before class, first week of Ramadan**



*Participating in the 50+ academic program has been a meaningful and uplifting experience for me. Each semester, I take one course, and every class opens a new world of knowledge—broadening my horizons, enriching my understanding, and giving me a renewed sense of purpose at this stage of life. The respectful and professional academic environment keeps me curious, active, and engaged.*

*The impact of the program has reached my family as well. My son has recently joined the program and is now exploring how to begin a full academic degree next year. His enthusiasm has inspired me too, and I am seriously considering pursuing a degree myself. This program proves that learning has no age limit. It offers a true taste of academic life and provides meaningful opportunities for people my age to continue growing, thinking, and contributing. I am deeply grateful for the dedication and care with which the program is run, and I hope it continues to expand and reach many more learners.*

**Simcha Ron,  
Pupil in our Business Administration track**

# OUR COLLABORATORS- JOINT INITIATIVES

We believe this program is part of a continuum of care that enables our students to make choices to take responsibility for themselves, their learning processes, their development and motivation, and to illuminate their lives with a positive and powerful light that aspires toward progress. In order to maintain a stable foundation, we manage a network of extensive connections with various therapy and welfare bodies on the ground and in the main offices, which helps the program make significant achievements in various respects. Our partners and network of partnerships are a cornerstone of our program, and we are proud of our many partners who enable us to dream together and make those dreams come true.

## Jerusalem City Council



The Municipality of Jerusalem, as well as the various welfare offices spread throughout the City, maintain a close and continuous relationship with Access for All throughout its years of activity in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem Municipality assists with subsidizing the tuition for students from Jerusalem who take part in

the program, and with recruiting most of the program's students through from among the various welfare offices. It is important to mention that this important cause could not be achieved without the city's dedicated and committed Social Workers.

## The Ministry of Health



We have a longstanding partnership with the rehabilitation and community integration programs of the Mental Health Division, which continues to go from strength to strength! The partnership includes professional assistance, accompaniment and support for

each and every student from the moment they express interest in academic studies to their participation in every lesson. We are very proud of this partnership, which grows stronger each year. Moreover, we established a partnership with the Decreasing Inequality in Access to Healthcare Department, and together we have achieved impressive outcomes that both serve the ministry's goals of health education and prevention and meet the needs of our curious students! We hope to continue walking this path together for many years.

# OUR STUDENT-INSTRUCTORS

Our student-instructors were accepted to the program after a long screening process, which includes group assessment meetings and personal interviews. At the end of this process, we had a group of 13 highly motivated, dedicated and imaginative people. Three of them function as pedagogical instructors for each study track (Psychology, Law, Business Administration).

Our ongoing training includes:

- intensive preparatory sessions before the start of the course;
- participating in an annual academic workshop recognized as a course;
- getting acquainted with one another and meeting previous participants to build a small learning community;
- learning the core theories of “Access for All” model;
- taking part in weekly meetings for planning, reflection, and lesson preparation.



The academic course that the students-instructors study themselves engages in social justice issues, personal responsibility and the responsibility of the state, theories about the education of adults, a dialogic discourse, and a mirroring of the Israeli society. The seminar is a meeting place for group and individual learning and connects the program to broad social action. This year’s academic workshop featured discussions with various activists and university lecturers.



*Teaching Business Administration allows me to combine academic knowledge with real life experience to help students grow both professionally and personally. I strive to create an open and supportive classroom environment where practical examples, case studies, and discussion make business concepts meaningful while strengthening students’ confidence, critical thinking, and problem solving skills.*

*As part of this program in Access for All, which brings university-level education to underserved communities and works to reduce educational gaps, I teach students who might not otherwise have access to these opportunities. Being from East Jerusalem myself, supporting students from my own community makes this work especially meaningful and drives my commitment to create real impact through education.*

**Talin Mimi, Student-Instructor in our Business Administration track**



# THANKS AND SUMMARY

As we reflect on the first half of this academic year, we do so with a deep sense of resilience and pride. We began the year while the war was winding down, following two exceptionally challenging years for our students, staff, and communities. Despite these difficulties demand for our program in Jerusalem remains consistent. Our students continue to show remarkable motivation, dedication, and a strong sense of purpose – balancing full lives with a genuine commitment to learning and personal growth.

Looking ahead, we aim to keep expanding our reach, strengthening our support systems, and creating new opportunities for pupils who seek both personal enrichment and professional advancement. We are working towards developing new academic tracks for the Hebrew University branch, in fields that reflect our model of accessible, practical knowledge, supporting everyday life and strengthening professional pathways. In addition, we plan to launch short summer courses in collaboration with the Municipality of Jerusalem, offering flexible learning opportunities that meet the needs of diverse communities across the city.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our students, who continue to challenge themselves and invest in their futures; to our dedicated student-instructors, whose passion drives the program forward; to our partners and affiliates from the welfare and community services. We are also deeply grateful to Dr. Adi Koll, for her ongoing guidance and vision.

Finally, we thank the Dean of Students Office and the academic and professional staff at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for their unwavering support. Together, we look forward to the rest of the year with determination, optimism, and a shared commitment to empowering our students and strengthening our community.





We thank our partners at the **Matanel Foundation** from the bottom of our hearts for their generous support throughout the years, for their collaborative thinking and for being a cornerstone of Access for All.

Thank you to our partners **Doron Livnat and Israëlectie** (Keren Hayesod Holland) for their unparalleled, constant and generous support, which makes the program and its achievements possible.

Thank you to our partners in the **Jerusalem Municipality** and the **Ministry of Health**, with whom we run a vital joint initiative that allows us to keep going, to push forward, ask questions and grow together.

**Thank you all,  
and may we continue on the path  
of leadership together!**

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