

The Access for All Program

2025–2026 | Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

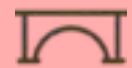


Our Vision

The Access for All Program aims to create an equal society that enables every individual to live up to their potential, and contribute to themselves and to society at large — by creating encounters between the university and disadvantaged populations.



Our Goals



Bridge Social Disparities

Promote equal opportunity by narrowing knowledge and education gaps across communities.



Meaningful Encounters

Create respectful, reciprocal learning between disadvantaged populations and academia — one of society's most influential forces.



Promote Active Citizenship

Encourage participants to become impactful citizens who take responsibility for their lives and act with conscious understanding to help themselves and others.

How We Do It



Academic Knowledge for Social Activism

Harnessing accumulated academic knowledge after standard academic activities are conducted.



Empowering Learning Methods

Innovative approaches that reinforce personal aptitudes, develop curiosity, and provide practical tools for continued growth.



Lowering Emotional Barriers

Cultivating personal connections, organized transport, and refreshments to create a welcoming environment.



Professional Guidance & Lean Structure

Academic guidance for student instructors, and a lean cost structure delivering high social returns relative to budgetary needs.



Program classes took place weekly on Tuesdays between November 25 and April 27, totaling 18 academic meetings throughout the year.

STUDY TRACKS



Psychology - 81 Participants

Introduction to social, cognitive, behavioral, and physiological psychology. Covers decision-making, stress relief, group dynamics, psychopathology, and research methodology.



Business Administration - 49 Participants

Market mechanisms, consumer banking, family budgeting, small business management, marketing, and practical tools for navigating the labor market.



Medicine - 64 Participants

Human body systems, common diseases, preventative care, hygiene, nutrition, and first aid — with practical knowledge for daily life and family health.

At the conclusion of the program's academic year, participants who wished to continue their learning journey were offered an additional enrichment course focusing on physiotherapy and the muscular system. The course consists of five weekly two-hour sessions, held between May 12 and June 9. 25 Participated.

Educational Tours: Learning Beyond our Classroom

Participants were invited on educational tours that expanded their learning beyond the classroom, exposing them to the spaces and people that shape university life.

Psychology Track

Visited the Department of Psychology at Ben-Gurion University, attending a lecture on emotional regulation in the same hall used by university students. For many, this created a powerful sense of belonging and accessibility to higher education.



Business Administration Track

Visited the **360 Entrepreneurship Center** at Ben-Gurion University — dedicated to promoting social and business entrepreneurship. Participants explored how innovative ideas evolve into impactful initiatives and engaged in discussions about leadership, creativity, and social responsibility.

Voices from the Tracks

"The psychology track helped me understand not only how people think and behave, but also how I react to challenges in my own life. It gave me tools I use daily."

Estela Vahav

Second year, Psychology — Kiryat Gat



"Studying medicine here changed how I think about health and responsibility. I became more aware of how small daily choices affect long-term wellbeing."

Samer Tarbin

Third year, Medicine — Segev Shalom



"The business track gave me confidence to think ahead. I learned how money, planning, and decision-making work together — and it made me feel that building a stable future is something I can actually do."

Shula Tayeb

First year, Business — Dimona



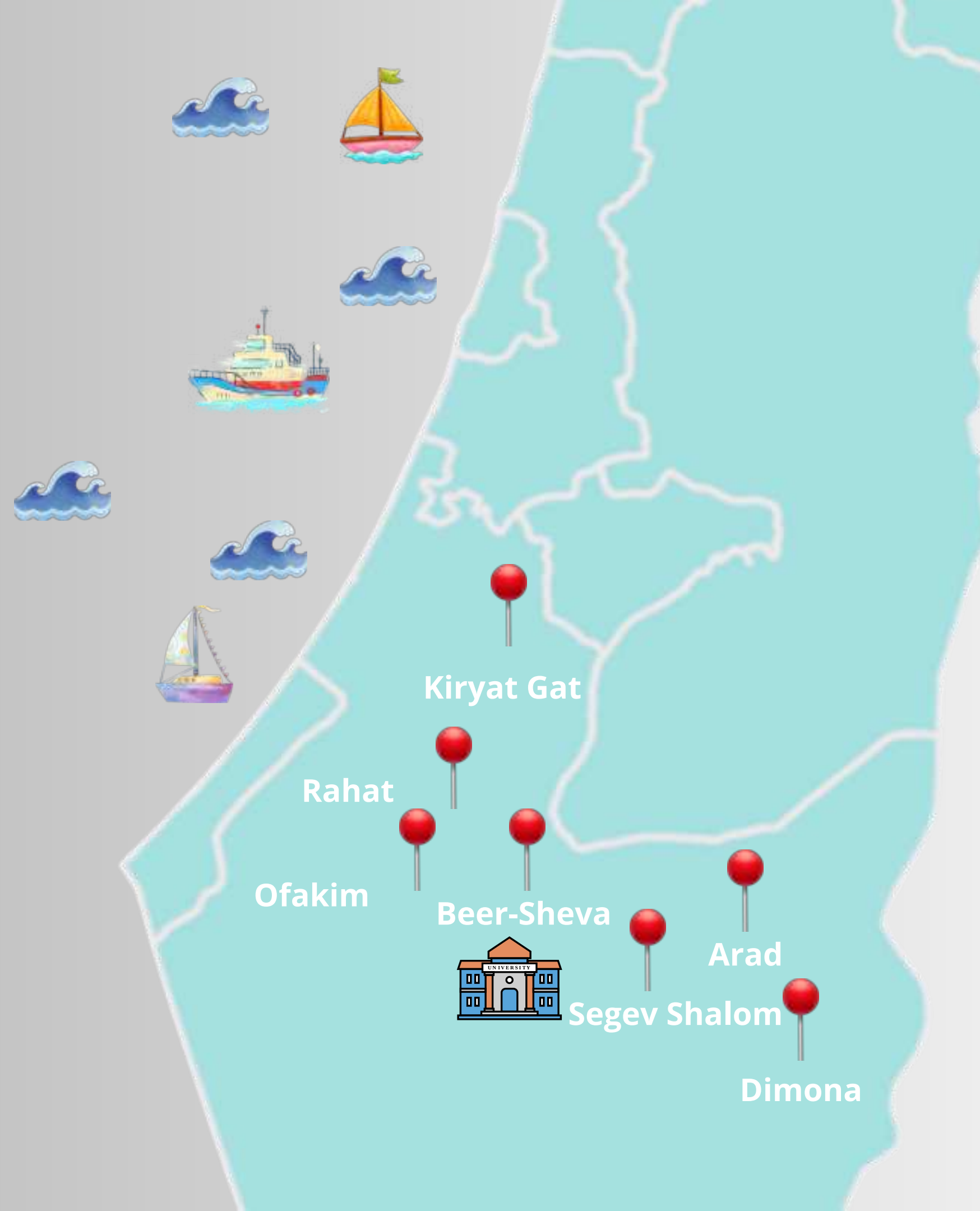
"Every week I arrived curious, and left feeling stronger. The program gave me knowledge, but more importantly — it gave me confidence that I belong in places of learning and growth."

Orly Vanger

Second year, Business — Arad



Distribution of the students' hometowns



Demographic Breakdown

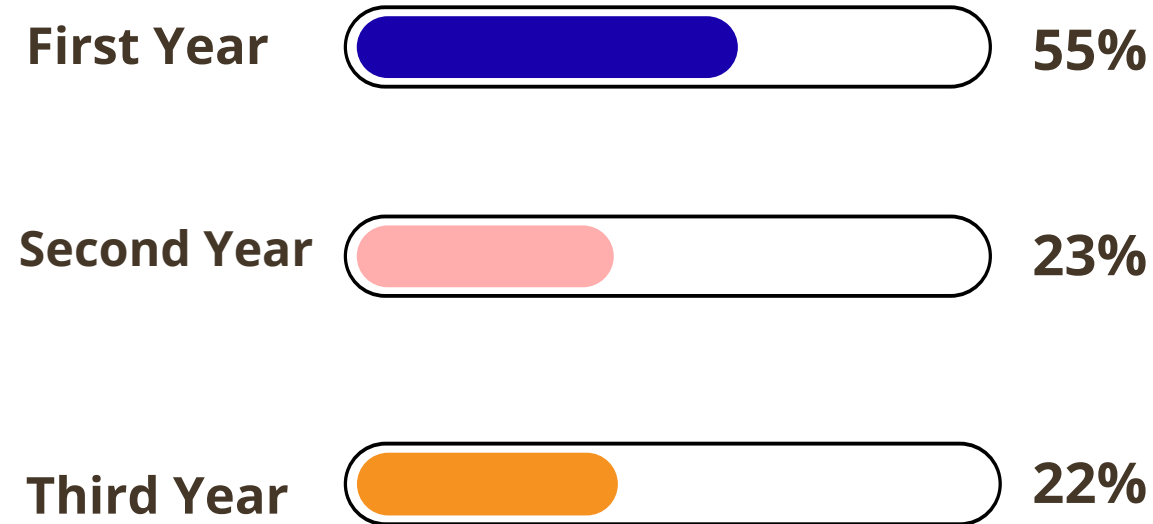
Total Participants



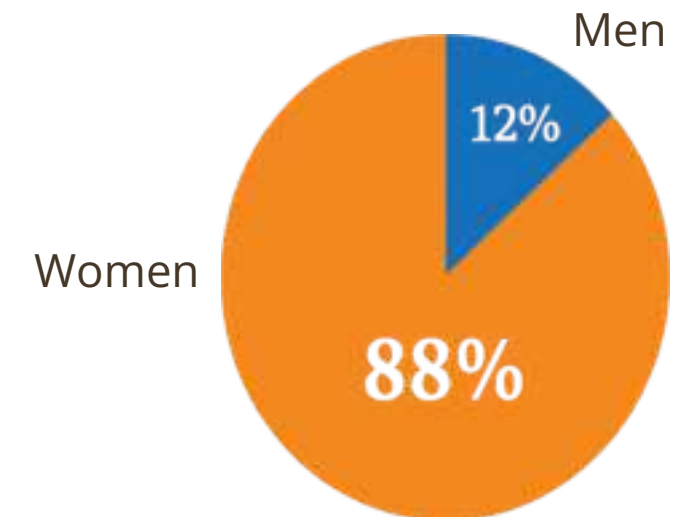
Average Age



Year of Study

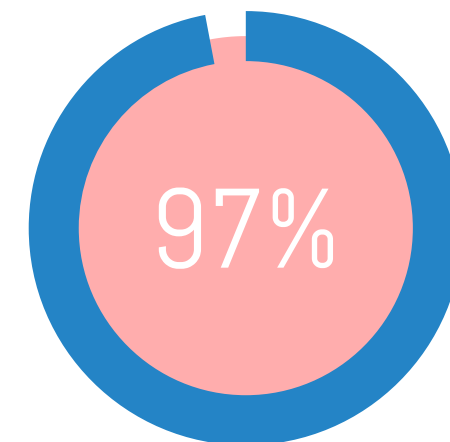


Gender



72% referred by Municipal Social Services; 10% Ministry of Health; 10% Independent; 6% Matav.

Completed the Year



187 of 194 pupils finished the program

Religion

95% Jewish
4.5% Muslim
0.5% Christian

Our Team

Program Leadership



Yosef Batzrawi
Program Manager



Orel Albo
Operations Coordinator



Lihi Shabi
Education Coordinator



Noya Albert
Education Coordinator

Student Instructors

NogaHaelyon



Maya Yuval



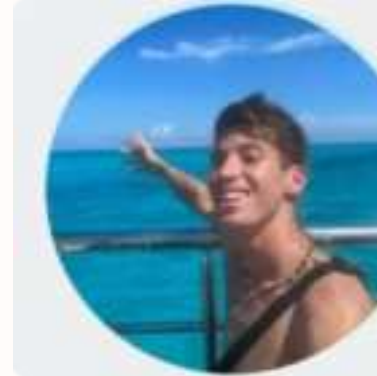
Loran Hualed



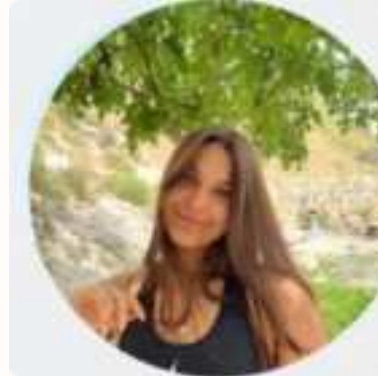
Rotem Bar David



Shoam Goldstein



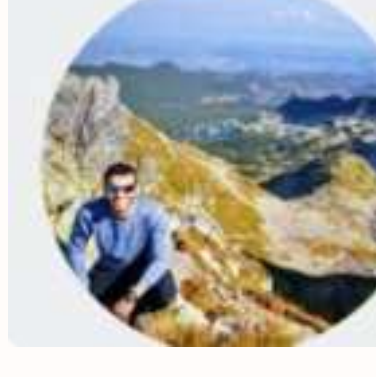
Ofir Eliyahu



Elisa Zilber



Gev Peled



Masha Zakirov



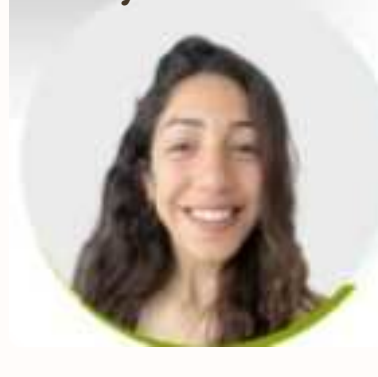
Noam Ruby Shiff



Noga Benzion



Maya Sason



"Guiding this group reminded me that teaching is about relationships first. Seeing participants gain confidence and believe in themselves was one of the most powerful experiences of my professional life."



Maya Sason

Medicine track student instructor

The Academic Seminar

All student instructors participated in a year-long seminar: "**Educational and Social Issues in Israel**," led by Roey Offenbacher. Drawing on thinkers such as Martin Buber, John Dewey, Paulo Freire, and Michel Foucault, the seminar explored education, dialogue, responsibility, and social action. Participants received 4 academic credit points.

The seminar created space for reflection, peer learning, and developing a personal educational philosophy - covering adult education, group dynamics, the Negev's social fabric, and individual responsibility. It helped instructors connect more deeply with pupils and foster inclusive learning environments.

Built as a reflective space for peer learning, the seminar connected theory with everyday classroom practice.

"The academic seminar helped me connect theory to real people. It challenged how I think about education, responsibility, and dialogue - and I could feel the difference in the classroom."

”

Shoam Goldshtein
Psychology track student instructor



Graduation Ceremonies

The year concluded with deeply moving graduation ceremonies at Ben-Gurion University. Held in packed auditoriums, each event honored the achievements of dedicated pupils — many of whom were the first in their families to step foot on a university campus.



Community gathering

Held in packed auditoriums, each event brought families, leaders, and partners together.



Recognition

Dedicated pupils were honored for their achievements and milestones.



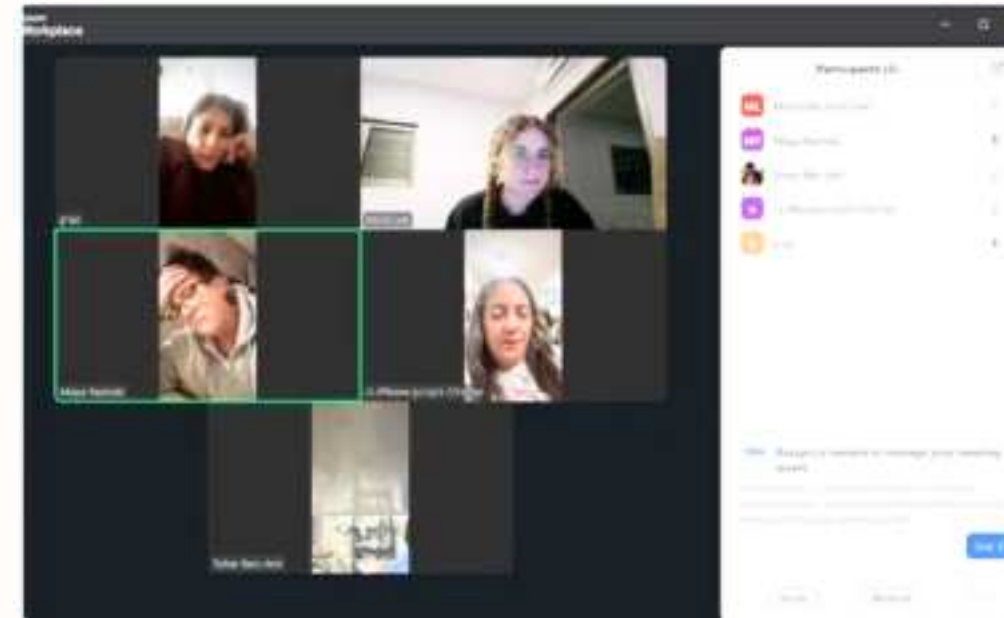
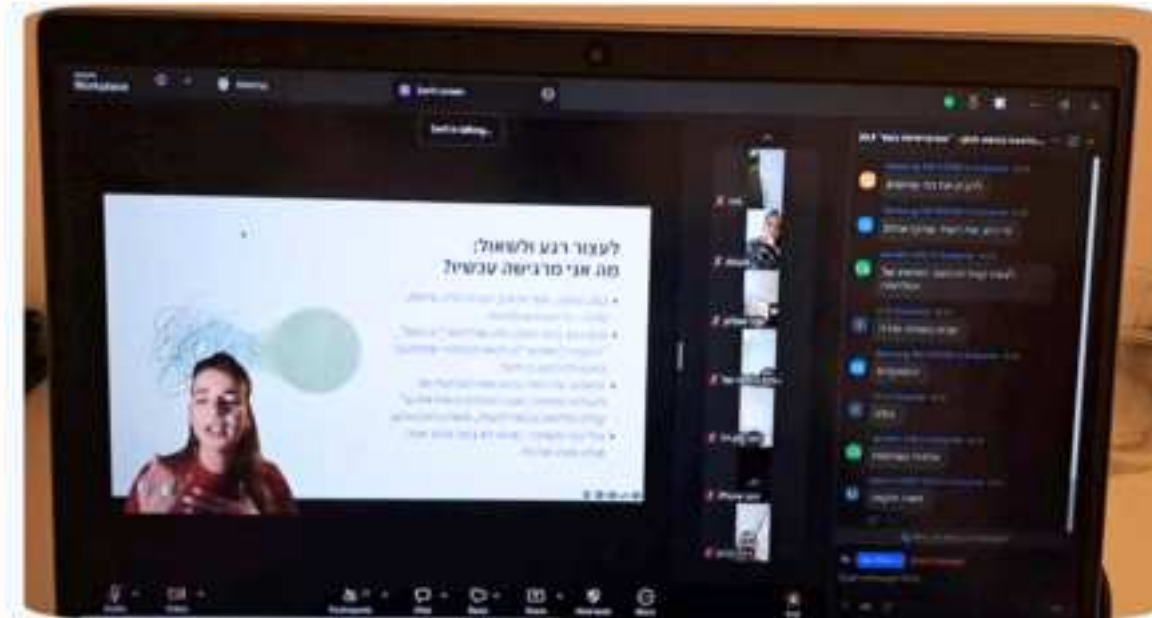
Shared moment

Student speeches, music, and heartfelt celebration made each ceremony memorable.



Over **150 guests** attended each ceremony, including family members, city mayor Rubik Danilovich, department heads, and program founders. Ceremonies featured student speeches, certificate granting, music, and heartfelt celebration.

The War's Impact on the Program



Rapid Adaptation

With the outbreak of the war with Iran, one student instructor was called to reserve duty for 1.5 months. All program activities transitioned to online Zoom meetings, maintaining continuity and connection. Upon the conclusion of the war, the return to in-person program activities served as a meaningful anchor of stability, belonging, and routine for many participants during a complex and uncertain period.



Resilience Programming

A special enrichment session on emotional resilience during wartime was held by Sarit Shitrit, holistic emotional therapist. Final projects were cancelled and replaced with guest lectures on coping mechanisms and mental wellbeing.



Ceremonies Postponed — Then Celebrated

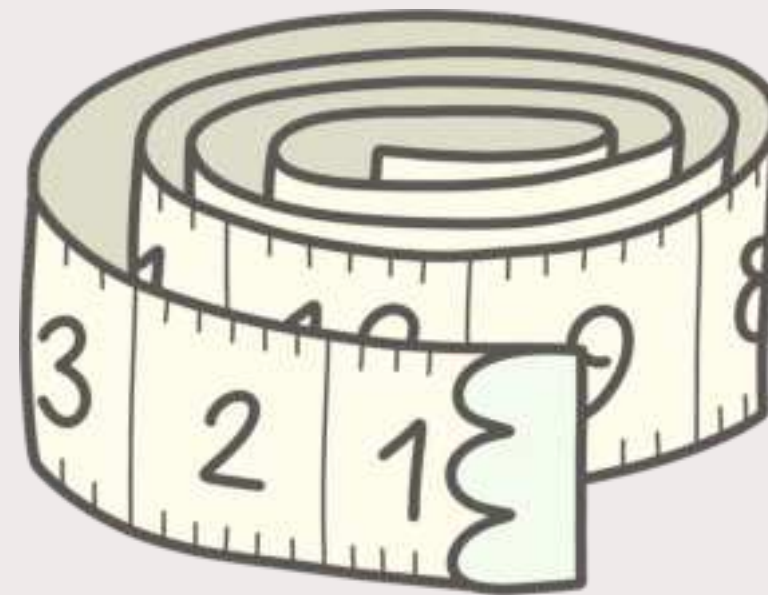
Graduation ceremonies were postponed one month due to the war, ultimately held April 26–27. Instructors maintained close contact via WhatsApp, providing a meaningful anchor of stability throughout.

Despite the significant challenges and uncertainties throughout the year, the program was delivered successfully and with great impact; the war did not diminish the achievements, growth, and meaningful outcomes reached by our students and participants.

Evaluation & Impact

To evaluate the program's educational and social impact, a comprehensive feedback survey was conducted among both program participants and the student instructors leading the classes.

The surveys examined satisfaction levels, learning experiences, interpersonal relationships, and perceptions of personal growth throughout the academic year. A total of 174 pupils participated in the survey, alongside the full instructional staff, consisting of 12 student instructors.



Evaluation & Impact - Participants

A comprehensive feedback survey revealed strong satisfaction, meaningful learning, and significant personal impact across all program dimensions.

Learning Experience

- **97%** found course content engaging and relevant
- **95%** reported a positive, supportive classroom atmosphere
- **92%** felt confident participating in discussions

Personal Impact

- **96%** reported very high overall satisfaction
- **92%** reported strong understanding of academic content
- Participants frequently described increased confidence and curiosity toward learning

Program Value

- **99%** satisfied with content accessibility
- **88%** reported high satisfaction with logistical support
- Qualitative feedback emphasized small group learning and dedicated instructors

"The instructors didn't just teach content — they saw us. That made me want to invest more, ask more questions, and believe more in my abilities."

Hassem Ziadna, Third year Psychology — Rahat

"This program made academic knowledge feel reachable and relevant. I didn't feel like an outsider — I felt like someone who belongs in learning spaces."

Haya Avraham, Third year Business — Be'er Sheva

Evaluation & Impact - Student Instructor

Instructor Satisfaction with the Program

Student instructors reported a very high level of overall satisfaction with the program, with an average rating of **9.6/10**, reflecting strong engagement with the program's educational mission, organizational support, and social impact.

Sense of Teaching Capability and Classroom Leadership.

Instructors reported a high sense of confidence and capability in leading their classes, with an average rating of **9.1/10**, indicating significant professional and personal development throughout the year.

Relationship with Pupils

The quality of relationships formed between instructors and pupils received an exceptionally high average rating of **9.8/10**, highlighting the meaningful interpersonal connections and supportive learning environment cultivated within the program.

"Teaching in the program reminded me that meaningful education begins with trust. Watching participants become more confident, curious, and engaged throughout the year was one of the most rewarding experiences I've had as a student instructor."



Masha Zakirov
Medicine Track Student Instructor

"The relationships we built in the classroom went far beyond academic learning. The program created a space where people felt seen, respected, and capable of growing together."



Ofir Eliyahu
Business Track Student Instructor

Thanks & Summary

None of this could have happened without our team, partners, and shared belief in the program's impact on participants and Israeli society.

Our Participants

Who choose to continue to grow, learn, and challenge themselves.

Student Instructors

Who lead passionate debates, complex lesson plans, and personal relationships with their pupils.

Ben-Gurion University

Our home — for continued commitment, support, and sharing our vision for strengthening academia.

Matanel Fund

Whose generous support forms the basic foundation upon which Access for All can exist and flourish.

תודה רבה! — הידע מגיע לכולם

We look forward to a better future, as we move forward together to rebuild our country.

