Prof. Pinkhos Churgin, Founding BIU President,
in a letter to David Ben-Gurion before the official
opening ceremony of Bar-Ilan University in 1955

"We have established this institution of
higher learning to contribute to the spiritual and cultural development of the State of Israel as well as to strengthen that of Diaspora Jewry."
Bar-Ilan University is the one and only research university in Israel where cutting-edge scientific research meets eternal Jewish values.

The sterling intellectual and scientific experience provided by Bar-Ilan University is what one would expect from any world-class institution, in Israel or elsewhere. But at Bar-Ilan, we are not satisfied with merely being another great research university.

We see our mission as far more challenging and historic.

We build leadership for Israel and the Jewish nation, based on the belief in the centrality of Israel to the Jewish world as its national homeland.

We provide our students and faculty with an opportunity to draw from traditional Jewish values to shape their deeds and destiny. A mandatory core program of basic Jewish studies serves as a springboard for academic endeavor, ensuring that the educational journey leads not only to skill-building and professional achievement, but the ability to knowledgeably wrestle with the complex moral and ethical challenges arising from life in a modern Jewish and democratic society.

Israel's strength comes not only from military might, but from creative minds which are nurtured and shaped by its outstanding universities. Bar-Ilan University's vibrant academic ecosystem drives change while at the same time builds the Jewishly-relevant skill set and character that Israel and the Jewish world needs today. Bar-Ilan University's unique and one-of-a-kind DNA helps us to educate our students to navigate a complex world without losing sight of their identity, as individuals and as proud citizens of the Jewish nation.
Bar-Ilan University

at a Glance

21,000 students

- 21,000 Academic Degree Students* (17,000 on Ramat Gan and Safed campuses and 4,000 at regional colleges)
- 4,800 Non-Degree Students
- 100,000 Alumni
- 700 Senior Academic Faculty Members
- 1,000 Junior Academic Faculty Members
- 8 Faculties: Mina & Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences, Exact Sciences, Medicine, Engineering, Social Sciences, Humanities, Jewish Studies, and Law
- 37 Departments & Schools
- 16 Interdisciplinary Study Programs & Tracks
- 8,000 Academic Courses
- 50 Research Centers & Institutes, including the Center for Research on Applied Cryptography and Cyber Security, the Leslie and Susan Gonda Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center and the Bar-Ilan Institute for Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA)
- 99 International Academic & Research Cooperation Agreements
- 230 Active International Grants
- 66 Endowed Chairs
- 300 Laboratories
- 29 Libraries (including the Medical School) holding more than 1,000,000 titles

* As published by the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, 2016
Bar-Ilan University has assumed a leadership role in bringing Jewish learning into the 21st century through its Israel Prize-winning “Responsa Project,” a CD-ROM that puts thousands of Jewish volumes from the Mishna to modern Responsa literature at the user’s fingertips.

In excavations at sites such as Philistine Gath, the Faculty’s dynamic team of archaeologists is bringing Biblical narrative alive, providing verifiable links to our ancient past and strengthening our identity with the Land of Israel.

BIU’s Ludwig and Erica Jesselson Institute for Advanced Torah Studies uniquely enables BIU students to combine intense, high-level Torah scholarship with their academic training in diverse fields. The Institute’s Beit Midrash (for men) and Midrasha (for women) have produced thousands of graduates who provide exemplary Torah U’Mадah models. The innovative Nitzotzot (Hebrew for Sparks) program brings together scientists, rabbinical scholars and PhD students to examine complex scientific topics (e.g., synthetic biology, brain-machine interfaces) in the context of Jewish sources. The Midrasha, which empowers women to play an influential role in the evolving Jewish world, uniquely showcases women’s writings on the Oral Law in its annual journal, Drisha.
Bar-Ilan University is home to a formidable cadre of exceptional researchers who are at the forefront of scientific discovery. The recipient of an unprecedented number of international grants, prizes and distinctions, the university’s research output is reflected in the ever-increasing rise in income generated through the vigorous performance of our researchers. Bar-Ilan scientists are making breakthroughs that improve life around the globe, including:

- A promising drug for making Alzheimer’s symptoms disappear
- A special contact lens that enables the visually impaired to see
- Aluminum-air battery that recharges in water and extends the electric car’s driving range
- Gold nanoparticles for early diagnosis and treatment of cancer and arteriosclerosis
- Nanorobots that can be used for biomedical applications
- A technique that embeds antibacterial nanoparticles in textiles to prevent infection
- Advanced cryptographic systems to counter cyber attacks
- An elite robotic team that can make decisions and cooperate in order to achieve the objective
- Developing renewable energy technology
- Polymer nanoparticles which can kill parasites that cause serious disease
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- An elite robotic team that can make decisions and cooperate in order to achieve the objective
- Developing renewable energy technology
- Polymer nanoparticles which can kill parasites that cause serious disease

Among the innovative approaches pursued at Bar-Ilan is the creation of prototypes for projects which have completed the basic research phase and have the potential of commercialization. BIU has created a new Prototyping Laboratory which has the capacity to transform research discoveries into real world applications. The lab facilitates the production of prototype technologies for specific markets and sets out a road map outlining the steps required to demonstrate commercial capabilities to potential investors. In this way, the laboratory is helping to provide the critical interim step which can take the invention from “death valley” to new technological heights.

Initial Prototyping Projects
A team from the Gonda Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center is developing a mobile app game to overcome depression. The app will stimulate and challenge users in ways that break them out of depressive cycles while also using the full capabilities of the phone to gather data about the users and assess their improvement or deterioration.

Researchers from BINA’s Nano-Photonics Center are developing a photonic device which sits inside a fiber optic cable and imitates how our brain works to “learn” computational tasks and “solve” important communications problems. Because this device performs these operations optically, and not electrically, it processes more information in less time, connects more smoothly with fiber optic communication networks, and produces less heat. It’s smaller, simpler, less expensive to manufacture, and can be adapted to a broader range of tasks.
Outstanding Research that's Making a Difference

Cyber and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
BIU's computer scientists figure among the world’s leading AI developers, and experts in robotics and multi-agent systems. International projects underway in natural language processing and cyber are spearheading novel advances in encoding and information security. These initiatives include the development of algorithms through “Deep Learning” to identify images and crack complex computational problems.

Brain Research
Brain researchers are exploring both the capabilities of the human brain to think and calculate and also the functional basis of the neurological structures. These studies focus on learning capabilities, memorization, neural mechanisms of the brain, language acquisition and processing, brain development, brain damage and post traumatic conditions.

Infectious and Terminal Diseases
Innovative research in the field of genetics, immunology and advanced medical imaging has led to pioneering breakthroughs. These include the development of novel diagnostic and treatment methods for a vast range of life-threatening diseases like cancer and viral, bacterial and parasitic infections. Dramatic advancements have also been made in the study of degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

Drug Development
In BIU’s state-of-the-art labs, scientists are working to identify the molecular sources of diseases, ranging from schizophrenia and cancer to diabetes and degenerative diseases. Creative methods incorporating nanoparticles and biomaterials with bioinformatics are used to discover life-saving compounds. These efforts are helping advance the personalization of treatment methods and medication regimens.

Biomedical Imaging and Microscopy
Recent developments include techniques for improving resolution in existing imaging systems and innovative imaging of biological tissue. These methods enable us to acquire the first-ever clear image of the trends of genetic signal dispersion in living cells, thus paving the way for a more lucid understanding of the gene structure and how it affects our bodies. Additional advances include the development of components that guide neuronal growth and cell movement to encourage rehabilitation, and also the development of remote sensing technology and bio-monitoring of medical parameters, which is done with a special fiber that can sense and process data gathered by the use of integrated smart fabrics. Another innovation is the development of components for a minimally invasive micro-endoscopy.

Signal Processing
Research focuses on the development of algorithms to separate acoustic signals that are received from different sources. The techniques developed significantly improve the quality of hearing aids in very noisy conditions, and may also be implemented in multi-antenna systems in order to improve wireless communications.
Biophysics

Experts in our biophysics labs are developing essential devices and technologies for observing, measuring and characterizing the dynamics of biological systems. Researchers are studying a range of subjects, including the signaling and control mechanisms of the human cell and the genomic organization of the nucleus cell. These studies advance our efforts to explore and prevent disease.

Cyber Security and Nanoelectronics

The integration of the nanoelectronics field with theoretical study of advanced non-linear encoding methods is paving the way toward the development of techniques that improve hardware systems and protect against eavesdropping and theft of critical information.

Environmental and Global Research of Aquatic Ecological Systems

BIU’s researchers are engaging in genetic and physiological studies to characterize aquatic habitats and analyze ecological structures on a wide systematic basis. They explore the influence of climate changes on coral reefs, mechanisms of photosynthesis and ecophysiology of corals and seaweed, as well as the use of pioneering biotechnologies to produce energy and natural substances from algae.

Making a Difference

Photonics and Quantum Physics

Optics studies focus on both basic research and applied technology, ranging from the development of new biological imaging techniques and accelerated data processing to increasing the bandwidth of optical communication and the development of new super sensitive lasers and detectors. Researchers have produced advanced fibers that can be incorporated in buildings and aircraft to assess their structural condition. This research also advances tomorrow’s quantum technologies that will enable us to develop encrypting communications and build far more sophisticated and faster quantum computers. Additionally, optical technologies have been developed that allow temporary spatial signals to be concealed by passing through optical systems which allow the controlled acceleration and deceleration of light particles.

Renewable Energy Resources and Energy Retention

Applied technologies for sustainable, green solutions is a key factor in the development of renewable energy resources. The impressive progress achieved in this field has resulted in the development of low-cost, efficient photovoltaic cells and systems, energy retention and conservation solutions, the production of thermal solar energy, the development of advanced materials for rechargeable batteries, super conductors, and more.

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Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials

These studies are being used to develop numerous industrial applications, from electrical batteries to energy-saving digital screens and nanoparticles used in personalized medicine for treating cancer patients. Optics and magnetism researchers are laying the groundwork for tomorrow’s computers, and the breakthroughs being made in material sciences are applied to a range of indispensable systems from agricultural watering systems to satellites.

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Making a Difference
A Vital Upgrade for Medical Care in the Galilee

Bar-Ilan University’s School of Medicine in the Galilee has been up and running since 2011, revitalizing Israel’s north! The youngest of Israel’s five medical institutions has quickly earned renown. In June 2016, the School celebrated a historic milestone: the graduation of its first class of MDs in the presence of the Israeli prime minister and leading government officials.

The School’s unique offerings of both three-year and four-year programs (in contrast to Israel’s six-year standard) enable Israelis who began medical studies abroad to return home to complete their clinical training; and draw Israeli BSc grads to study for a medical degree.

Faculty members – recruited from leading institutions, including Harvard, NIH, Yale, and Stanford – are among the top scientists in their fields and have won competitive research grants in such fields as microbiology, genetics and breast cancer.

Our cutting-edge research centers are disease-oriented (e.g., Immunity and Infectious Diseases, Cancer, Neurodegenerative Disease) as well as integrative and interdisciplinary (e.g., personalized medicine, population health, bioinformatics, ethics).

Outreach is a prime directive of the medical school, which is creating academic-community partnerships to address pressing health needs, and spearheads communal initiatives. Each year, some 140 students volunteer in local organizations for the elderly, special needs groups and others. Providing local youth with hands-on lab experience and encouragement to pursue a science career, faculty members supervise high school juniors conducting scientific projects in lieu of matriculation exams. BIU’s School of Medicine is upgrading not only healthcare but also the quality of life in Israel’s north!

The BIU School of Medicine is helping us to realize our vision that northern Israel becomes a center of knowledge and know-how in the life sciences, encouraging the establishment of medical and biotechnological institutions.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking at 2016 graduation ceremony of BIU’s first class of MDs.
BIU researchers know that understanding the big picture is vital for Israelis. Not only must they continue to cope with a conflict that is not going away anytime soon, they must also understand this within a context of regional turbulence and revolution.

Programs in Conflict Resolution and Middle-Eastern studies are among those that address this problem, while the School of Communication is creating a premier public diplomacy training center for fighting against the BDS movement and its efforts to demonize Israel. Bar-Ilan’s Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies is an essential think tank focusing on Israel’s immediate and long-term security interests, keeping them at the top of the public and global agendas.

Committed to advancing the field of cyber-security, particularly in today’s age of cyber-attacks, BIU has launched its National Center for Research on Applied Cryptography and Cyber Security. Mathematicians, cryptologists, computer security experts, and engineers are developing research technology designed to battle this threatening phenomenon. BIU artificial intelligence experts are contributing to the development of a computerized system that makes it harder for would-be terrorists to break through a facility’s defensive countermeasures.

Researchers are also working on groundbreaking systems for security-related applications, such as multi-robot patrolling, creating new modes of cryptography and creating satellite-based remote sensing systems that provide critical data unavailable through other methods.

Bar-Ilan psychologists have developed pioneering treatments focusing on the rehabilitation of Israelis suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in the wake of terrorist attacks or war. As a result of these new and specific treatments, Israel is a model for PTSD treatment all over the world, and BIU experts are invited to contribute their knowledge at the hotspots of the world.
BIU Influence and Impact

BIU’s distinguished Ambassadors’ Forum uniquely convenes more than 60 top diplomats from countries all over the world.

Bar-Ilan University is the venue for over 600 events a year on diverse topics ranging from bioethics to gender studies, from stem-cell research to Jewish education, drawing scholarly attention at the national and international levels. In addition, Bar-Ilan University has become a vital hub where high-ranking statesmen come to deliver major policy addresses and prominent business and professional leaders make their case to the people of Israel and the world.

Bar-Ilan hosts a multitude of frameworks which are significant conduits for educating key policy and decision-makers about the university’s unique blend of knowledge, tradition and values. Among them, the Ambassadors’ Forum is designed to brief the international diplomatic corps about critical current events affecting Israel and the world at-large; business forums feature captains of Israeli industry; and law forums host distinguished members of the legal community who speak on a broad spectrum of topics.

BIU’s Center for Jewish and Democratic Law provides a platform for dialogue in Israeli society and advances new Jewish and democratic legal discourse.

BIU’s wide-ranging activities designed to strengthen its bond with the local community include “Bar-Ilan Corner of Israel – The Rector’s Forum for Academia and Society” which features BIU academicians, and public figures and experts on such topics as the Israel gas reserves, business innovation, and violence. Additionally, the university holds TED-style talks, as well as a Career Fair, and Science Night, which draw thousands of people.

With over 130,000 graduates, BIU is proud of its many alumni who today are eminent leaders in the financial, industrial, educational and public sectors, and in society as a whole. They convey the spirit of education, moderation and tolerance they have acquired within the university’s gates in all their areas of activity.

We invite our graduates to join the BIU Alumni Community and take part in our many activities, to network and serve as ambassadors of good will for our university while making a meaningful imprint on Israeli society and culture.
Reaching out to Israeli Society

Compassion, justice and mutual responsibility are at the heart of Jewish life and law. At Bar-Ilan these values are core to the university’s agenda, and are encouraged and affirmed, through example and practice, in its students’ and faculty’s activities.

Among them, BIU’s nine legal clinics (a uniquely mandatory requirement for all law students) instill a strong sense of social responsibility in the country’s future law practitioners. The clinics specialize in environmental practice and policy, legal aid for women and family, civil legal aid and practice, criminal law, mediation, legal assistance for the disabled, Jewish law, legal aid for Holocaust survivors, criminal justice prosecution, and counseling and legislation. The Faculty of Law is at the forefront in advocacy work and for actually getting laws passed in the Israeli Parliament.

The Louis and Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work combines high-level teaching and research activity with close involvement in practice, government, and volunteer and public organizations. The School’s clinics afford local residents with couples and family therapy, sex therapy, couple-based interventions and play therapy, while the Services Clinic offers the public a unique clinical environment in which therapy (including for trauma and loss) is informed by advanced research. In addition, BIU provides assistance to IDF combat vets who suffer from head trauma at the Rehabilitation Center in Jaffa, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense.

The Department of Optometry and Vision Science provides the public with free eye exams through its Optometry Clinic, while the MA Program in Applied Criminology requires its students to apply the concepts, theories and methods they learn in class to prisons, the Police Force, youth-at-risk intervention programs, and courts of law.

Reaching out to every member of the population, including the intellectually disabled, the Pinkhos Churgin School of Education’s one-of-a-kind Otzmot (Empowerment) Program enables these students to study towards an academic degree.

BIU’s popular Religious-Secular Dialogue Program teaches respect for the “other” and is expanding outside the campus to include school teachers and youth, while the Division for Science Activities for Youth runs special year-long science programs that benefit underprivileged youngsters, and holds summer science-enrichment camps for neighborhood children.
Student Life on a Multicultural Campus

The Bar-Ilan University campus is a microcosm of Israeli society and a welcoming venue for people from around the globe. Religious, traditional and secular Jews, Arabs and members of other minorities, veteran Israelis and new olim, students and scholars from overseas – all contribute to the unique campus flavor. Indeed, a variety of languages and dialects may be heard at BIU, which is the scene of animated interaction between students, faculty, administration and visitors from diverse walks of life.

A special Minorities Coordinator works closely with the Arab population and the university has established a dedicated prayer room for Muslim students, while Ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) students pursue higher education in a gender-segregated program suited to their unique lifestyle.

Providing a range of services designed to respond to personal, economic and social challenges, BIU’s Office of the Dean of Students arranges for students who perform IDF reserve duty to take exams at a later date, and offers pre-academic preparatory programs for new immigrants. The Office operates an academic and career guidance center, initiates social and cultural activities, supports community involvement projects, and oversees a program which exposes outstanding high school pupils to academia, easing their integration into academic studies.

The Sybil Wigdor Social Involvement Unit helps some 1,000 students with physical, medical and learning disabilities to fulfill their academic potential as independently as possible.

Addressing the need for additional student housing, new 1060-bed dormitories are being constructed through the DBOT (Design-Build-Operate-Transfer) model while existing dorms are being renovated to upgrade and expand the standard of living on campus.

The university’s state-of-the-art Friedman Student Information & Service Center attends to the students’ every administrative need. The Gradel & Weisfeld Day Care Centre, geared for infants from three months to three years, provides quality, affordable on-site care for the children of Bar-Ilan students.

The Office of the Campus Rabbi organizes a wide range of activities enriching spiritual and religious life on campus, among them special Shabbatot, evening Torah classes, and events during the Jewish holidays.

The BIU Student Union helps build the student community. It runs events for various sectors, and cultivates a rich social experience which fosters camaraderie. It also establishes frameworks for social involvement at the university and in the community-at-large. With 50 student reps, hailing from all sectors of society and from a range of academic fields, they form an energetic and cohesive community.
Bar-Ilan University’s scientific innovation is continually enhanced by the inbound and outbound mobilization of our scientists, scholars and students. The vibrant energy brought forth by postdoctoral students who join our research teams on campus from institutions abroad, as well as those who return “home” to BIU is thriving – bringing with it not only more academic excellence but also a sophistication and cosmopolitanism that is essential to the development of our world-class institution. We are proud of our research collaborations with dozens of academic and research centers around the globe, and the agreements signed with several leading Chinese institutions, including Beijing’s National Center for Nanoscience and Technology, Shandong University, and China Youth University of Political Studies.

BIU is a hub for new immigrants who find the supportive staff and family-like atmosphere of the university particularly inviting. Well over 1,000 students from around the world major in any one of our 13 departments and interdisciplinary programs, and matriculate into the well-established Hebrew-language learning frameworks.

BIU’s International Office supports the advancement of academic programs and partnerships directed towards foreign students, faculty, and staff, and fosters internationalization in teaching and learning. Several BIU departments offer courses and full degrees taught in the English language, and our Department of English Literature and Linguistics attracts diverse groups of students from Israel and abroad who wish to participate in our highly acclaimed graduate programs in Creative Writing, Clinical Linguistics, and Literary Translation.

Our International MBA program continues its proven track record in translating the special qualities which have fueled the Israeli business and entrepreneurial machine into a global academic program. The IMBA, which includes a study tour in China, places BIU at the forefront of producing the next generation of Start-Up Nation innovators.

BIU’s renowned Conflict Resolution Program runs a unique international identity-based conflict resolution summer program taught entirely in English, which affords students with first-hand knowledge in the conflict management and resolution aspects of the Middle East. The BIU-YU Summer Science Research Internship program enables select undergraduates from American universities to work alongside leading BIU scientists in one of the state-of-the-art research laboratories.

Indeed, BIU’s global appeal is drawing growing numbers to campus.
Bar-Ilan University: Beautiful and Green Campus

With its artfully landscaped campus and concern for the environment, Bar-Ilan University has won Israel’s “most beautiful” campus award and has been officially recognized by the Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection as a Green Campus. Spanning 140 acres in the heart of Israel, it includes 80 modern classroom buildings, 300 advanced laboratories and 50 research centers and institutes.

From humble beginnings with a single building on the original campus, the University today boasts some of the most interesting and innovative architecture and gardens in the State of Israel, particularly on its newer north campus, which has effectively doubled the size of the University’s physical plant.

A free campus shuttle service ferries students and faculty from one end of the university grounds to the other.

BIU attaches uppermost importance to ensuring environmental sustainability, and toward that end, advances projects which promote energy conversion, the recycling of waste materials, and environmental education.

Recycling bins for paper, batteries, and old clothing are situated throughout campus. Arrangements are made for the collection of old electric and electronic equipment from offices, and for the disposal of used ink cartridges, and oil from restaurants. Thus the university cooperates with industries that employ people with special needs.
Bar-Ilan University delivers top-level academic education to its students, but it doesn’t stop there. Understanding Jewish culture and Zionist ideals is an integral part of every student’s formal and informal training, out of the conviction that a person whose education is grounded in values will bear a greater impact in every sphere of his or her world. It is this stalwart creed which guides the university as it embraces rigorous intellectual discipline and pursuit of scientific excellence with concern for its students’ personal growth and wellbeing.

Together with this, BIU takes on the mantle of globalization, providing our unique brand of higher education and research to students, scientists and academe from around the world.

A microcosm of Israeli society with its diverse population mix, BIU is uniquely engaged in bridge-building, which is vital not only for ensuring Israel’s physical survival, but also for strengthening Jewish identity, national resilience, and support for the Jewish State around the world.

Intellectual and spiritual, in the vanguard of frontier scientific investigation, and targeting important social needs, Bar-Ilan University is playing a decisive role in Israel and worldwide. With its unique formula, it serves as an inspiring model of value-added academic training and service to the nation. BIU is clearly a university like no other!

At Bar-Ilan, we are proving daily that Jewish values not only coexist with academic and research excellence, but that the synergy between them has the potential to positively impact on Clal Yisrael and all humankind.
Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.

Albert Einstein