Bar-Ilan University
Where Excellence and Jewish Values Meet
“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.”

Albert Einstein
Bar-Ilan University:
A University Like No Other

Bar-Ilan University is the fastest-growing institution of higher education in Israel. Those pursuing their BA, MA and PhD degrees on our award-winning campus just outside Tel Aviv and in our six regional colleges across Israel are joined by thousands more who are enrolled in certificate and enrichment programs, including the largest in-service teacher training program in Israel.

The University is comprised of students from all over Israel; secular and religious; Jews and non-Jews; Sabras and new immigrants. Included within the BIU family, as well, are a multi-faceted academic faculty and administrative staff. Their confluence represents a mosaic of the State of Israel, providing a unique atmosphere for open exchange of ideas and embracement of the “other”. Diversity is key on the BIU campus, and tolerance and civility our operating code.

At Bar-Ilan our students learn to assume social responsibility. They are provided with an opportunity to become knowledgeable Jews, both formally, through our unique program which requires every student to take academic level Jewish studies courses, thereby grounding them in the basics of Judaism, and informally, through the vast multitude of Jewish experiences available on campus.

It is this ability to fuse a reverence for Jewish legacy and heritage with the rigors of academic study which makes Bar-Ilan University like no other.
Bar-Ilan University at a Glance

- 33,000 Students
- 660 Senior Faculty Members
- 1,101 Junior Faculty Members
- Over 100,000 Alumni
- 8 Faculties: Mina & Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences, Exact Sciences, Medicine, Engineering, Social Sciences, Humanities, Jewish Studies, and Law
- 6 Interdisciplinary Study Programs: Gender Studies; Conflict Management and Negotiation Graduate Program; Hermeneutics and Culture Interpretation Theory; Science, Technology and Society; Contemporary Judaism; and Brain Research
- 7,000 Courses
- 69 Research Centers and Institutes
- 60 International Academic Research Collaborations
- 77 Chairs
- Over 300 Laboratories
- 24 Libraries holding more than 1,000,000 titles
- 6 Regional Colleges under the academic supervision of BIU located across Israel in Acre, Safed, Jordan Valley, Bnei Brak, Jerusalem and Ashkelon

All figures updated as of July 2011
"Bar-Ilan University shall strive for a unity of spirit and heart in every pupil. Science, indeed all of man’s knowledge, shall dwell in an environment of amity and wholesome union with the Jewish achievements of all ages."

Dr. Pinkhos Churgin, Founder and First President of Bar-Ilan University
Balancing Human and Natural Sciences: Our Formula for Success

Home to the largest Jewish studies faculty in the world, BIU is also pursuing cutting-edge scientific research, as seen in our Nanotechnology Institute, the Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center, and our new Faculty of Engineering. Leading a national initiative to stem the “brain drain” by repatriating 50 outstanding Israeli experimental scientists working abroad, Bar-Ilan was tapped by the Israeli government to launch Israel’s newest Medical School based in the northern Galilee, which opened its doors in October 2011.

Alongside this surge in the natural sciences, which has resulted in the University’s growth from two science-based faculties to four, Bar-Ilan is strategically focused on developing the human sciences as well – Jewish studies, social sciences, law, humanities and interdisciplinary graduate programs. This will involve a major investment over the next five years – recruiting new superstars, establishing centers of excellence and creating exciting academic programs that will attract a new breed of outstanding students who wish to concentrate on the humanistic disciplines. It is in their consonance and synergy that the unique core values of Bar-Ilan University lie.
While Jewish educators around the world are struggling to remain relevant and compelling in today’s media-saturated world, the Lookstein Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora is stepping in to provide much-needed global Jewish commitment. The Center, located in the Jim Joseph Education Building, serves a vast virtual community of Jewish day school principals, teachers and community leaders, offering access to a broad range of resources, support materials and services, in English, Hebrew, Russian and Spanish.

For the People of the Book, study is a way of life. Bar-Ilan encourages faculty and students to scale the peaks of the human intellect, to produce scientific breakthroughs, new insights and synergetic leaps of understanding, while, at the same time, Jewish content is a central facet in the life of the University.

Torah and Science – once seemingly irreconcilable – are now sharing common ground in an innovative program unique to Bar-Ilan, “Nitzotzot” (Hebrew for “sparks”), in which scientific topics are examined in the context of Jewish sources. In excavations at sites such as Philistine Gath and Qumran, Bar-Ilan’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. And researchers at BIU, along with scholars throughout the world, are involved in a monumental work – to locate, collect, document and record all Jewish stories in their thousands of versions within a unique Encyclopedia of the Jewish Story, which includes illustrations from Jewish art and photographs of manuscripts.
"You must accept the truth from whatever source it comes."

Moses Maimonides (Rambam)
Science and Technology: Expanding New Boundaries

Bar-Ilan 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 in areas such as:

- drug-development
- nanotechnology & advanced materials
- medical research
- bio-engineering
- microscopy
- optics
- neuroscience and neurodegenerative diseases
- genetics
- immunology and cancer
- infectious diseases
- computer science
- communication
- renewable energy
- security
- cognitive sciences

A profound commitment to advancing scientific excellence lies at the very heart of the Bar-Ilan University mission. At Bar-Ilan’s flagship campus in Ramat Gan, scientific activity is on the rise. Physicists, chemists, computer scientists, mathematicians and experts in the life sciences are opening up new horizons in their own fields, while participating in dynamic, interdisciplinary projects undertaken by the University’s outstanding research centers.

Attracting top scientists to its ranks from around the world, and maintaining some sixty global academic partnerships with key North American, European and Asian institutions, Bar-Ilan University’s keen ability to build bridges and “go global” is highly notable. The University links Israel’s science-based spirit of innovation to the international scientific agenda, demonstrating not only its impressive ability to create new solutions to problems affecting all mankind, but also, its inherent desire to make the world a better place.
Security in the Middle-East and Around the Globe

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 violence and revolution. Programs in conflict resolution, Middle-Eastern studies and communications are among those that address this problem. 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.

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. BIU scientists are also working on ground-breaking multi-robot systems for security-related applications, such as multi-robot patrolling, creating new modes of cryptography and inventing 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 Israeli youngsters 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.
“The Galilee is in need of good doctors and the advancement of medical care in the region. There is no doubt that the establishment of this medical school will attract many doctors to the area.”

Shimon Peres,
Ninth President
of the State of Israel
BIU brings to the project the expanse of vision and scope to match its development potential, encompassing an innovative academic curriculum, translational bio-medical research program, top-level leadership and extensive community health-care agenda. The class of 2011/12 will consist of 130 talented Israeli students recruited from medical schools in Europe and the best universities in the country.

Bar-Ilan’s School of Medicine will have a sweeping, transformative impact on the entire northern region of the country. From its location in the heart of the Galilee, the new School will remedy a critical shortage of physicians in Israel, catalyze a broad upgrade in infrastructure and quality of hospitals and healthcare services in the region, and stimulate a major socio-economic upswing in the strategic northern periphery. The Medical School project, as declared by the government, is of the highest national priority.
BIU is the venue for over 400 conferences a year on topics ranging from bioethics to gender studies, from stem-cell research to Jewish education, which draw scholarly attention on the national and international levels. In addition, Bar-Ilan University has become the hub where some of the world’s most high-ranking statesmen come to deliver major policy addresses, such as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s famous “Bar-Ilan speech” which was broadcast all over the world. The President of the State of Israel, Ministers, Members of Parliament, as well as prominent leaders from leading businesses and professions in Israel and around the globe, have used the prestigious BIU platform to make their case to the people of Israel and the world.

Bar-Ilan hosts a multitude of forums that are significant conduits for educating key policy and decision-makers about the University’s unique blend of knowledge, tradition and values. Among them, Ambassadors’ forums are 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. Representatives of the IDF and intelligence community benefit from a range of special study programs and scholarship opportunities at Bar-Ilan. The University also provides special tutoring and exam services for soldiers called away to military service during the academic semester.
"The desire to be good to all with no restrictions - not in the quantity of those to whom we are good nor in the quality of the good we perform - that is the inner nucleus of the essence of the soul of Israel."

Rabbi Avraham Yitzchak HaCohen Kook
Improving Israeli Society
by Cultivating a Commitment to Community Service

Compassion, justice and service to others 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, the BIU Faculty of Law’s eight mandatory clinics – in environmental practice and policy, legal aid for women in family matters, civil legal aid and practice, criminal law, mediation, human rights for persons with disabilities, Jewish law, and Holocaust survivors – instill a strong sense of social responsibility in the country’s future law practitioners.

The Louis and Gabi Weisfeld School of Social Work combines high-level teaching and research activity with close involvement in practice, government ministries, volunteer and public organizations. The Psychology Services Clinic offers the public a unique clinical environment in which therapy is informed by advanced research, while the Department of Optometry provides the public free eye check-ups through its Optometry Clinic. The MA Program in Applied Criminology requires its students to apply the concepts, theories and methods they learn in class in prisons, the Police Force, youth-at-risk intervention programs, and law courts. BIU’s one-of-a-kind Program on Road Safety has among its students, officials in the Ministry of Transportation, road safety managers in local authorities and the high-tech sector, and driving instructors.

BIU’s Religious-Secular Dialogue Program gives expression to the differences between people while teaching them to respect the “other” and is now expanding outside the campus to include government school teachers and youth in community centers across the country. And the Division for Science Activities for Youth runs special year-long science programs that benefit underprivileged youngsters throughout the country, and holds science-enrichment camps for neighborhood children every summer.
Campus Life

The Bar-Ilan campus is the scene of animated interaction between students, faculty, administration and visitors attending meetings, conferences, lectures, and the like. Bar-Ilan’s artfully landscaped campus, with its many attractive shaded seating areas, has rightfully won the University Israel’s “most beautiful campus” award.

The University’s state-of-the-art Friedman Student Information & Service Center caters to the students’ every administrative need and the campus is now Wi-Fi enabled. The new Gradel & Weisfeld Day Care Centre, geared for infants from three months to three years, provides quality, affordable on-site child care for Bar-Ilan students with young children. At the advanced planning stage are two high-rise dormitories and state-of-the-art sports facilities, as well as a full service shopping center. When it comes to student services, BIU has been ranked at the top of the list among Israeli universities!

BIU’s Office of the Dean of Students promotes the welfare of the students on campus, providing a range of services designed to respond to personal, economic and social problems. Together with the Student Union, the Office operates frameworks for students’ volunteerism and involvement in the community.

With over 100,000 graduates, many of BIU’s alumni today are eminent leaders in the financial, industrial, educational and public sectors, and in society as a whole, conveying the spirit of education, moderation and tolerance they have acquired within the University’s gates in all their areas of activity.
Bar-Ilan University delivers top-level academic education to its students, but it doesn’t stop there. Jewish studies and Zionist ideals are an integral part of every student’s curriculum, 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.

At the institutional level, Jewish values guide the University as it embraces rigorous intellectual discipline and pursuit of scientific excellence with concern for its students’ growth and wellbeing. Beyond the campus, BIU extends its influence in community service, nation-building initiatives and contribution to the welfare of humankind.

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 change the world.