

January 20, 2021

Dear Students,

Subject: **Student Union agreement – policy framework for online exams and accommodations**

The Bar-Ilan University Administration and the Student Union are pleased to announce that they have reached an agreement on a policy framework for the fall semester exams. The agreement was reached via mutual recognition of the needs to guarantee exam integrity and the ability of students to take their exams under comfortable and fair conditions, while retaining all their rights. These agreements include the option of borrowing a laptop from Bar-Ilan for Tomax-based exams for students who submitted a request for on-campus exams before January 10, as well as an updated policy framework for Moodle-based exams, accommodations for students who are parents to young children, and deferral of assignment submission by two weeks.

Details of the agreed-upon framework for online exams and accommodations are attached to this letter.

I would like to thank Netanel Pal, Student Union President, and Vice-President Naama Lashover for their cooperation and willingness to reach an agreed-upon framework for the benefit of all of Bar-Ilan's students during these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Prof. Arie Reich  
Vice-Rector

## Policy framework for online exams and student accommodations

With the understanding of the difficulties entailed in university studies under conditions of distance learning and exams during the pandemic, especially with the strict lockdown in place at this time, and with the desire to guarantee exam integrity and grade reliability while optimally retaining student rights, Bar-Ilan University and the Student Union have agreed upon the following policy framework for the fall semester 2020-2021 final exam period:

- a. Bar-Ilan will allow for students tested under Moodle/Zoom to be able to take their exams under quiet conditions, by allowing speaker volume to be reduced to the minimum necessary for hearing the proctor address them in case that examinees didn't notice a chat message that came in on Zoom.
- b. Moodle/Zoom-based exams will not require students to use more than two cameras.
- c. Students encountering technical issues with the online exam platform (Tomax or Moodle) preventing them from answering or submitting their exam, even after attempts to alleviate the problem by the tech support team and granting of additional time for the exam, will be eligible for an additional exam period, on condition that they requested help from the tech support team in real time and a solution could not be found that would allow them to complete and/or submit their exam.
- d. The default mode for Moodle/Zoom-based exams will allow navigating forward and back among exam questions. Instructors wishing to restrict this option will need to obtain permission from their department head.
- e. For exams up to two hours long, restroom breaks will not be permitted from the start of the exam. With approval of the proctor, however, a restroom break will be permitted after identification but before the exam begins. This restriction does not apply to pregnant women who have presented a doctor's note, or anyone else with a doctor's note from a specialist indicating a relevant medical issue. For exams longer than two hours, restroom breaks will be permitted beginning 45 minutes after the start of the exam, and until 30 minutes before it ends. The dean or a department head may approve restroom breaks for exams under two hours long, in special cases or for specific exams, in accordance with the aforementioned time limits.
- f. In this challenging year, the Vice-Rector will issue instructions to all instructors on campus that the average grade for a particular course shall not be more than 3 points lower than the average grade of exams for that same course over the last three years. If one of the last three years was during the pandemic period, and there was an unreasonably high average in that year relative to the preceding two years, that

pandemic grade may be ignored, and the average will be based on the three relevant years that preceded it.

- g. Students who are parents of small children (through 6th grade) are eligible for an additional exam period for each exam period that took place during a time that their children's schools were closed, on condition that they be tested no more than twice for each course.
- h. For lockdown periods during the 2020-2021 academic year, students who are parents to young children (through 6th grade) are eligible for a 20% reduction in relevant course assignments during the semester (not including labs, clinics, etc.). That is, for assignments due **during the lockdown period**, parents of young children may receive an exemption for them, up to a maximum of 20% of all assignments in the course.
- i. Submission of assignments due during the fall semester final exam period (Moed Aleph and Moed Bet) may be deferred by two weeks.
- j. Students to be tested via the Tomax-based platform who have submitted requests before January 10, 2021 to hold their exams on campus, but could not take campus-based exams at this time due to lockdown, may choose to skip their Moed Aleph exams and get two additional exam periods. This clause does not apply to students who have been lent a Bar-Ilan laptop for their exams.