

בס"ד

November 30, 2023

2023-70692

To the Bar-Ilan Community – Students, Faculty and Staff,

Subject: **Accommodations for enlisted students**

Since the outbreak of Swords of Iron on the Simchat Torah holiday, thousands of our students, faculty and staff have been drafted to the war effort. Many members of the Bar-Ilan community have been injured, experienced trauma and loss or have had to leave their homes. We are all sending our warm embrace to the injured, pray for the return of the hostages and salute all those who enlisted to protect our country and to destroy Hamas. The beginning of the academic year has been postponed already several times, to wait for the return of our military draftees. The current opening date is scheduled for December 24, 2023.

The academic year will present out-of-the-ordinary challenges for all soldiers and others impacted by the war, especially those who will return from service after the start of the academic year. Bar-Ilan is doing everything possible to help its students succeed academically despite all the difficulties.

We are happy to announce that the Bar-Ilan University Senate has approved a detailed academic accommodations schedule this week for students recruited by emergency call-up (*Tzav 8*) to defend the country, and to others who have been harmed by the war. The framework includes the following steps, which apply to the 2023-24 academic year:

A. Academic year schedule:

1. The semesters will be shortened – about 10-11 weeks each. The academic year will end in the latter half of July.
2. Instruction will be classroom-based, on the Bar-Ilan campus.

B. Recognition of reserve duty for earning academic credits:¹

Undergraduate (bachelor's degree) students:

1. Students in reserve duty in 2023-24 for a minimum of 14 days, of which at least five were consecutive, or who served a minimum of 25 days without the aforementioned continuity, are eligible for an exemption of 2 credits [נ"ז]

¹ The rights specified in this document are in addition to the rights specified in the [Bar-Ilan University Accommodations for Students on Reserve Duty Policy Document \(Hebrew\)](#), with the exception of Section B above, which replaces Section 8 in the policy document pertaining to 2023-24. “2023-24” throughout the document is defined as the period between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024.

2. Students in reserve duty in 2023-24 for a minimum of 40 days are eligible for 4 credits [נ"ד]
3. Students in reserve duty in 2023-24 for a minimum of 80 days are eligible for 6 credits [נ"ד]

Master's degree students:

Students in reserve duty in 2023-24 for a minimum of 21 days are eligible for 2 credits [נ"ד]

The exemption (bachelor's and master's degree) shall be granted for general courses. Students who do not have general course requirements shall receive their exemption for Jewish studies courses or, if they do not have such a requirement, from other courses determined by their department, so long as these are not mandatory courses in their discipline. The exemption shall be given only once in the course of the degree. No "double credit" will be granted for reserve duty service and social or community volunteering activity for 2023-24; credits could be added to the 2 credits obtained in the preceding academic year. This exemption does not grant a waiver from tuition.

Contact: **Undergraduates:** Status Office, via the In-Bar portal (In-Bar – Requests and authorizations – Submit a request – Request for waiver / recognition of prior studies – Exemption due to reserve duty)

Master's degree students: School of Graduate Studies, via the In-Bar portal (In-Bar – Requests and authorizations – Submit a request – Request for waiver / recognition of prior studies – Request for exemption from Basic Jewish Studies (master's degree) or Request for exemption from mandatory/elective course (master's degree)

C. Pass/fail option

Students in reserve duty in 2023-24 for a minimum of 40 days, and the spouses of those who served as such and have children under age 13, and students forced to leave their homes due to the war, students injured in the war and students whose first-degree relatives were injured by hostile activities during the war, and security forces and those who serve in the standing army who were drafted to excessive hours of service (approved by the head of the unit), are eligible to select two courses (not including seminar courses) that they passed, out of all courses taken in 2023-24, that could be converted from a numerical grade to a 'pass' grade. Such grades will not enter their grade point average, and will not count toward determining honors, dean's list and rector's honor roll.

D. Additional exam period (*Moed Gimmel*)

Students who in the course of the semester served at least 10 consecutive days of reserve duty or 21 days cumulatively, or who served at least 10 days cumulatively during the exam period, and students who served in reserve duty via emergency call-up (*Tzav 8*) for a minimum of five consecutive days during the exam period or during the semester, or 21 days cumulatively (without five consecutive days) during the semester before the exam period, are eligible for an additional exam period (*moed*) for each course they were to take an exam for in the exam period; such



eligibility shall also apply to students who are parents and whose spouse served in such reserve duty.

In this section, “students who are parents” – students who are parents to a child who is not yet 13 years old.

The rights specified in this section shall also apply to members of the security forces and of the standing army who have been recruited in the course of the semester or exam period for duty of excessive hours (approved by the head of the unit).

The additional exam period per this section shall be held within 45 days from the date of the last exam for the course, provided that the student is not tested in more than two exam periods (*moeds*) for each course. The higher grade among the two exams taken in the two exam periods shall be the determining grade.

E. Academic support

Students serving in reserve duty in the course of the semester shall be eligible for assistance in completing academic material via special lecturers or tutoring sessions for them, or special sessions for guidance by course instructors/teaching assistants, review sessions, assistance by outstanding students and any other support framework that the department chooses. Lectures shall be recorded and made available to students on the course websites. Instructors shall make every effort to ease the load on reserve duty students via flexibility in submission of in-semester assignments and exercises, per their discretion. Reserve duty coordinators in each department shall be responsible for personal attention to each student who has served.

F. Scholarships

1. Out of our appreciation for those serving in reserve duty, we have established a tuition support and aid fund. The scholarships shall be in the amount of 5,000 ILS per student on the average.
 - 1.1 Student aid scholarships for reserve duty/emergency call-up (*Tzav 8*) – submit a request via In-Bar.
 - 1.2 Special scholarships for students from the Gaza envelope and the evacuated northern communities. Relevant students have already been contacted based on home address specified in the Bar-Ilan computer system.
 - 1.3 Scholarships based on financial need. Submission via In-Bar per criteria indicated in the Scholarship Unit website. The submission date has been extended to December 31, 2023. For further details contact the unit via email: Milgot.office@biu.ac.il
2. Residents of student housing serving via emergency call-up (*Tzav 8*) or reserve duty are eligible for housing subsidy scholarships for October, November and December 2023, subject

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to submission of formal documentation of reserve or emergency call-up, to the Dormitory Office: Meonot.office@biu.ac.il

We pray for the safe return of all our recruited students and eagerly await the opening of the academic year, so that we can once again meet on our beautiful Bar-Ilan University campus and devote ourselves to academic studies and research.

Yours,

Prof. Amnon Albeck
Rector Bar-Ilan

Prof. Arie Reich
Deputy Rector Bar-Ilan