

22 Adar 5786
11 March 2026

Dear Students,

Re: Guidelines for the Spring Semester in Light of Operation “Roaring Lion”

I hope that you and your loved ones are well during these challenging days and nights that we are all experiencing. Before I describe the special guidelines for the opening of the semester, it is important for me that you should know that I am aware of the difficulty of beginning the semester during such a complex period. We are all tense, sleeping poorly, and our cognitive and emotional availability is not what it used to be. The difficulty is particularly great among parents of young children, and certainly among reservists and their families. At the same time, your academic education is critical for your future, and I will not allow the war to harm it. We have prepared a framework that includes significant accommodations in light of the situation, and we will assist in individual cases. So... take a deep breath and come to study! We are here for you, and no one will be left behind.

On the coming Sunday, March 15, the spring semester will begin. During the first week, classes will be held on Zoom due to the security situation. We hope that in the following week we will be able to return to in-person teaching on our beautiful green campus, subject to the instructions of the Home Front Command.

Ahead of the opening of the semester, here are several important matters for your attention:

1. Examination completion period:

As you know, the examinations that were scheduled to take place from the beginning of Operation *Roaring Lion* until this coming Sunday (March 15), inclusive, have been postponed. We are planning to hold a period for completing these examinations after the Passover holiday, from **April 10 to April 20**, if Home Front Command guidelines permit this. During this period there will also be a break from classes, in order to allow you, the students, to prepare for the exams and not miss additional course material. We hope to publish the tentative examination schedule for this period soon. Incidentally, the exam dates that currently appear in the Inbar system regarding the postponed Tomax exams are fictitious and should be disregarded. The real dates will be determined in the new examination schedule that will be published.

2. Resumption of classes:

Classes will resume immediately after the examination completion period and **Independence Day (23 April)** and will continue until the end of the planned semester **July 1**.

In other words, at this stage there is no intention to extend the semester into the summer. All of the above is, of course, subject to the security situation and the instructions of the Home Front Command, and changes may occur depending on developments.

3. Adjustment of course material to a shortened semester:

In light of the above, the spring semester will be shortened to **12 sessions for courses that meet Sunday–Wednesday**, and **11 sessions for courses that meet Thursday and Friday**. The course material will be adjusted accordingly.

4. Teaching laboratories and practical training:

Teaching laboratories and other courses requiring practical training or in-person meetings at the university will take place as soon as it becomes possible to resume educational activity on campus. Your departments will notify you if make-up sessions will be required. At present, Home Front Command guidelines permit practical work and professional training in the fields of **medicine, health, education, therapy, and social welfare**, provided that it is possible to reach a standard protected space during alerts.

5. Assignment submission deadlines:

If there were deadlines for submitting assignments in your courses that were postponed since the beginning of the operation, your lecturers will announce new submission dates, taking the security situation into account.

6. Recordings:

As in the fall semester, the lectures in the spring semester will be recorded and uploaded to the course website on **Lamda**, so that students serving in reserve duty, or students who for other reasons related to the situation cannot connect to Zoom, will be able to view the lectures at another time.

7. The Academic Vest (Academic Safety Net):

The Academic Vest framework that was established at the beginning of the academic year remains in force, and grants the right to various accommodations for students who served in reserve duty, in regular service, or in the security forces, as well as for others affected by the war as detailed there. Following the unfortunate cases in which residential homes were damaged during Operation *Roaring Lion*, we have also added students who were forced to evacuate their homes as a result of such damage. These students are asked to contact the Dean of Students.

8. Emotional support:

If you feel emotional distress as a result of the war, you are invited to contact the **Student Psychological Counseling Service** at **03-5318450**, or your departmental resilience advisor.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation for your resilience in facing the challenges of this time, despite the difficulties and pressures created by the war and the attacks on the home front. It

is important that all of us do everything possible so that you can acquire the education and training for which you came to the university, and which are meant to serve you in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Prof. Arie Reich
Vice Rector