



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

Special Programs Division

*Preparatory
Program for Olim
(Mechina)*

*Information
for the Academic Year
2012–2013*

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The Mechina is a one-year program designed for newcomers and foreign students, high school graduates, who wish to pursue academic studies in Israel.

Goals of the Mechina

- a. To bridge the gap between overseas and Israeli high school study curricula and to provide accreditation that will enable students to pursue degree programs at the university.
- b. To provide students with intensive preparation for academic studies.
- c. To familiarize students with Hebrew, the teaching language of the university.
- d. To provide basic knowledge and understanding of Israel and Jewish history.
- e. To acquaint students with study tracks at the University.

Tracks of Study in the Mechina

The program of study in the Mechina is a full day program. Full participation in the lessons is required - according to a fixed time-table. There is no possibility to study only part of the program or few subjects (like Hebrew, English, etc.).

The Mechina offers four study tracks:

1. Exact Sciences
2. Life Sciences – The opening of this track depends upon the number of students admitted.
3. Social Sciences
4. Humanities – The opening of this track depends upon the number of students admitted.

• **The Exact Sciences track** – Designed for students who wish to study at the University in the faculties of Exact sciences and Engineering. This track actually enables registration to all faculties and courses in the University.¹ Acceptance to the Faculty of Medicine and to the Department of Occupational Therapy depends upon participation in a summer Chemistry course and successful results in the examination following it.

• **The Life Sciences track**² – Designed for students who wish to study at the University in the Faculty of Life Sciences and in the faculty of Medicine including: School of Dental Medicine, Physical Therapy, Department of Communication Disorders, Occupational Therapy, Department of Nursing, and in Life and Medical Science Program. This track actually enables registration to all courses apart from Engineering, Physics, Geophysics and Planetary Sciences and General Science.

The School of Medicine requires an advanced level of Mathematics (5 units) and physics. Students in this track will have to either pass a special test (ptor) or take a summer course and pass the final test. Students who have 85 or more as final grade in these courses in the mechina will be exempt from the test.

• **The Social Sciences track** – Designed for students who wish to study at the University in one of the following faculties: Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Management,³ School of Education, Faculty of Law, School of Architecture in the Faculty of Arts³, School of Social Work and in the Department of Nursing in the Faculty of Medicine.

• **The Humanities track**² – Designed for students who wish to study at the University in the Faculty of Humanities, the Faculty of Arts (apart from the School of Architecture) and in the School of Education.

Applicants should enroll in the track that corresponds to the field in which they wish to specialize.

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1. The program of study in this track does not include laboratory practice.
 2. The opening of this track depends upon the number of students admitted.
 3. Candidates wishing to study in the Faculty of Management or in the School of Architecture and choose the Social Sciences track in the Mechina, have to study Mathematics in an advanced level (parallel to 4 units of study).
 4. For registration options at Tel Aviv University in accordance with tracks of study in the Mechina – see chart on pages 17-18.

A unique study program in cooperation with “The Israel Experience”

The Preparatory Program (Mechina) together with the “Israel Experience” (a subsidiary of the Jewish Agency) is organizing a unique program for high school graduates from overseas. The leading values the program is based on are Zionist Jewish educational experience, the aim of which is strengthening the Jewish identity among young Jews – living in communities outside of Israel.

The goal of the program is to improve the students' knowledge in subjects like Hebrew and English as well as in enrichment courses dealing with Jewish History and Israel. In addition, the students participate in a preparation course for the Psychometric exam.

Studies last one semester, at the end of which the students receive a final certificate with all the grades they have achieved in the different courses.

The participants of this program reside in the students' dormitories and they are accompanied by a special guide appointed by the "Israel Experience".

In order to enhance the experience of living in Israel, social and cultural activities are planned within the framework of the Mechina and the “Israel Experience”.

For information and registration please contact: **“Masa”** – www.masaisrael.org
or “The Israel Experience” – www.israelexperience.org.il

Admission Requirements

- a. **High School Diploma or Matriculation Certificate** accredited from schools in the issuing country. The program is also open to candidates who have completed one academic year at an overseas university. According to the Registration Center's instructions, a candidate that will not present all certificates concerning academic studies on registration to the Mechina will not be allowed to present them on registration to the University at the end of the Mechina. The certificates have to be evaluated by the Registration and Students Administration Division of the University. The procedure of evaluation is handled by the Mechina's office.
- b. **Hebrew basic Ulpan (Aleph)** is not obligatory for applicants non residents, but it is highly recommended that candidates learn Hebrew prior to joining the program. Students might find it very difficult to cope without minimal knowledge of Hebrew. A student whose level of Hebrew will be very low at the end of the Ulpan, might be required to continue his Hebrew studies in an additional course (opening of the course depends upon number of students) which will be held during the vacation following the ulpan. This course will be financed by the student. It is also possible that due to a low level of hebrew at the end of the ulpan, students will not be able to start the first semester.
- c. **Mathematics Entrance Examination** – see details below.
- d. Candidates must be 17 years old at the commencement of the ulpan. special requests will be dealt with seperately.

Mathematics Entrance Examination

Candidates who wish to study in the Social Sciences track (Math level parallel to 4 units), Life Sciences track and Exact Sciences track, will have to pass this test as an admission requirement. Candidates to the Social Sciences track (3 units) will have to take a Math placement test.

The tests will be held in April and June 2012.

Examples of the test , in different languages, can be found in the mechina's website – www.tau.ac.il/mechina

➤ **Candidates residing overseas**, will take the entrance test during the Ulpan. In case of failure they will have to study in the Humanities or Social Sciences (Math level parallel to 3 units) tracks.

Hebrew and English Placement Tests

Hebrew and English placement tests are mandatory for Mechina students. The results will determine the students' level in these subjects and their general time-table.

Registration to the Mechina

Registration will be held from February 5, 2012 to June 14, 2012, on Sunday and Wednesday, from 9:00 till 12:00, at the Mechina office – **30 Levanon st., Ramat Aviv.**

Late registration will be considered in case of vacancies.

Candidates must contact the office in order to get application forms and return them personally on the above mentioned days.

Applicants who have completed **no more than one academic year** at a university abroad, must present all relevant documents for evaluation to the **Registration and Students Administration Division** to check the possibility of applying to the University without studying in the Mechina.

This division is located in the Weiner Library Building in the campus.

Reception hours: Sunday and Wednesday 09.30 - 12.00.

Tel.: 03-640-8317.

› *A candidate residing overseas who wishes to make "Aliyah" and be sponsored by the Students Authority, should consult the "Shaliach Aliyah" in the community in order to apply to the Mechina.*

A candidate who plans to finance his studies, should apply directly to the Mechina office, Tel Aviv University, 30 Levanon st., Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv 69975.

Tel.: 03-640-6681/2.

Fax: 03-640-9783.

E-mail: doritst@ex.tau.ac.il

website: www.tau.ac.il/mechina

Registration Fee

Registration Fee (NIS 400.– or \$130.–) has to be paid at the bank with a special voucher which will be sent with the application form.

Registration Fee is **non refundable** in case of withdrawal or if not admitted.

‣ *Applicants residing overseas must send a cheque of \$130– payable to the Preparatory Program, Tel Aviv University.*

Tuition Fee

Tuition Fee (including the Hebrew Summer Ulpan) for a student on a “tourist” or “student” visa is \$11,950.

- An applicant who is a newcomer should consult the Students Authority as to his eligibility for tuition funding. In case of eligibility, he must present a **letter of commitment for financial support** from the Students Authority to the Mechina. Details about how to open a student's file and receive this letter will be given in the letter of admission.

The Students Authority is located at 6 Esther Hamalka St., Tel Aviv. (Tel. 03-5209140/1).

- An applicant who pays tuition fee by himself will make all arrangements needed in connection with tuition fee with the Mechina office before the opening of the academic year.
- An applicant who is released from the IDF for no more than five years, must apply for a grant to the Ministry of Defense. The scholarships will be granted to students found eligible. Application for these scholarships will be dealt with through the office of the Mechina. Students are asked to fill in special forms, which are available at the office.

Tuition fee does not include accompanied payments like: books, learning materials, membership fees in the Students Union and security fee.

Security Fee

All students of Tel Aviv University have to pay security fee even if tuition is paid by the Students Authority, Masa or The Ministry of Defence. Last year security fee was 492 NIS. There will not be any refund in case of withdrawal.

Withdrawal from the Mechina

In case of withdrawal from the Mechina, a student will have to pay the relative tuition fee - according to the date he informs the Mechina office of his intention to leave. Details about payment procedure, refunds, etc. will be given in the letter of admission.

Dormitories

Newcomers (alone in Israel) are eligible for dormitories located within walking distance from the Tel Aviv University campus (Beit Brodetsky dormitory)

Applicants who wish to reside in the dorms, must indicate this on their application form.

Since the demand exceeds the supply, there is no guarantee that all students will be accommodated.

Applicants must consider other alternatives for housing arrangements.

Students residing in the dormitories, are responsible for the regular monthly payment. Last year the rent was 1200 NIS per month.

Students have to leave a deposit of 1800 NIS which will be returned at the end of the one year contract. Students are housed two to a room.

Academic Advisory and Counseling Service

Academic advisors are assigned to all students for personal assistance as well as academic guidance relating to the various tracks of study in the Mechina and future studies in the university.

Social Activities

Extracurricular activities designed to enlarge and deepen students awareness of and contact with Israeli life and culture are an integral part of the Mechina. The Mechina offers field trips, educational tours and a range of other social and cultural activities.

Participants in the Program experience student life in Israel on the beautiful Ramat Aviv campus of Tel Aviv University.

Scholarships

The Mechina grants scholarships to students who are facing serious financial problems – according to specific criteria and to the University's rules and instructions.

As mentioned in the "Tuition Fee" section, released soldiers who meet the criteria of the Ministry of Defense receive a permanent monthly financial aid. Foreign students can apply for MASA funding/grant:

www.masaisrael.org.

Health Care

It is mandatory for all Mechina students to carry a comprehensive health insurance policy. This has to be organized by the student.

A student will not be allowed to stay in the dorms without such insurance.

Academic Program

The program comprises two stages:

1st stage – An intensive two-months Hebrew language course (Ulpan) – 5 days a week, Sunday – Thursday.

The Ulpan is mandatory for all students.

2nd stage – Two semesters of Hebrew and general studies that include full day studies from Sunday to Thursday.

All courses are conducted in Hebrew!

The Programs of Study:

the Exact Sciences Track

Following is the list of courses taught in the Exact Sciences track and their weekly hours. All courses are compulsory.

Name of course	Weekly Hours	Annual/semester course
Mathematics (5 units)	14	Annual
Physics	13	Annual
Political Science and Political System of Israel	2	Semester
Jewish History	2	Semester
Hebrew – The student will study according to his level as follows:		
Levels “bet – hey” (two semester)	12-18	Annual
Level “vav” (one semester)	8	Semester
Exempt	–	–
English – The student will study according to his level as follows:		
Levels A – Intermediate (two semesters)	4-8	Annual
Advanced level (one semester)	4	Semester
Exempt	–	–

The Life Sciences Track*

Following is the list of courses taught in the life Sciences track and their weekly hours.

All courses are compulsory.

Name of course	Weekly Hours	Annual/semester course
Mathematics (4 units)	11	Annual
Physics	10	Annual
Chemistry	9	Annual
Political Science and Political System of Israel	2	Semester
Jewish History	2	Semester
Hebrew – The student will study according to his level as follows:		
Levels “bet” – “hey” (two semesters)	12-18	Annual
Level “vav” (one semester)	8	Semester
Exempt	–	--
English – The student will study according to his level as follows:		
Levels A – Intermediate (two semesters)	4-8	Annual
Advanced level (one semester)	4	Semester
Exempt	–	–

* The opening of this track depends upon the number of students admitted.

The Social Sciences Track

Following is the list of courses taught in the Social Sciences track and their weekly hours.

The student's schedule will consist of these courses, depending on his level in Hebrew and English.

The compulsory courses are marked in *

Name of course	Weekly Hours	Annual/semester course
*Mathematics (4 units)	11	Annual
*Mathematics (3 units)	9	Annual
*Political Science and Political System of Israel	2	Annual
*Political Science and Political System of Israel (For students with low level of Hebrew)	2	Semester
*Jewish History	4	Semester
*Jewish History (for students with low level of Hebrew)	2	Semester
Middle East in the Modern Era (extended)	4	Annual
Middle East in the Modern Era	4	Semester
Introduction to Sociology	4	Semester
Introduction to Psychology	4	Semester
Introduction to Psychology (extended)	4	Annual
Introduction to Economics	4	Semester
Enrichment Studies (Introduction to Law, Introduction to Communication, Introduction to Management)	2	Semester
* Hebrew – The student will study according to his level as follows:		
Levels “bet” – “hey” (two semesters)	12-18	Annual
Level “vav”(one semester)	8	Semester
Academic Writing (For students who are exempt from Hebrew)	2	Semester
Exempt	–	–
* English –The student will study according to his level as follows:		
Levels A – Intermediate (two semesters)	4-8	Annual
Advanced level	4	Semester
Exempt	–	–

The Humanities track*

Following is the list of courses taught in the Humanities track and their weekly hours.

The student's schedule will consist of these courses, depending on his level in Hebrew and English.

The compulsory courses are marked in *

Name of course	Weekly Hours	Annual/semester course
Mathematics	3	Annual*
*Political Science and Political System of Israel	2	Annual
*Political Science and Political System of Israel (for students with low level of Hebrew)	2	Semester
*Jewish History (For students with low level of Hebrew)	2	Semester
*Jewish History	4	Semester
*Middle East in the Modern Era (extended)	4	Annual
*Introduction to Sociology	4	Semester
*Introduction to Psychology	4	Semester
*Introduction to Psychology (extended)	4	Annual
Enrichment Studies (Introduction to Law, Introduction to Communication, Introduction to Management)	2	Semester
* Hebrew – The student will study according to his level as follows:		
Levels “bet” – “hey” (two semesters)	12-18	Annual
Level “vav” (one semester)	8	Semester
Exempt	–	–
Academic Writing (For students who are exempt from Hebrew studies)	2	Semester
* English – The student will study according to his level as follows:		
Levels A – Intermediate (two semesters)	4-8	Annual
Advanced level	4	Semester
Exempt	-	-

<p>The Mechina reserves the right to change, add or delete any information contained herein without prior notice.</p>
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* Opening of this track depends upon the number of students admitted.

Final Certificate

To be eligible for the Mechina final certificate, students must pass all final examinations and fulfill all academic requirements of the program. Passing grade is 60. This mark is based on grades of different examinations and assignments.

The Mechina Final Certificate is always valid for Tel Aviv University. It is emphasized, that the final exams of the Mechina are internal exams and that the final marks can not change marks in an Israeli matriculation certificate which is granted by the Ministry of Education.

Admission to Undergraduate Studies at Tel Aviv University

The Mechina office arranges the collective registration of students who intend to study at Tel Aviv University.

Achievements in the Mechina are taken into account by the University Admission Committees, but graduates must meet all regular requirements for admission, including Hebrew and English proficiency levels, the psychometric entrance examination and any departmental requirements.

Admission requirements in some of the departments in the University include participating in different courses during the summer.

All candidates must have a High School Diploma or a Matriculation Certificate.

Students of the Mechina will get a special bonus on registration to the University.

The University is not obliged to admit Mechina students.

Mechina students may, of course, apply individually to any other institution of higher education.

The Mechina does not grant credits towards academic studies.

The Mechina does not take any responsibility as to its final marks being recognized by other institutions of higher education.

**Possibilities of registration to BA programs at Tel Aviv University
in accordance with the study tracks of the Mechina**

Tracks of Study in the Mechina						BA programs at TA University
Hum.	Social Sciences		Life Sciences	Exact Sciences		
	3 credits of math.	4 credits of math.		* 3 credits of Physics	*4 credits of Physics	
+	+	+	+	+	+	Faculty of Humanities – English and American studies, Archeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures, Linguistics, Geography, General History, Middle Eastern and African History, Jewish History, East Asia studies, Classical Studies, Philosophy, Arabic Language and Islam, French, General and Interdisciplinary Studies, Women and Gender Studies Program, Hebrew Culture Studies (including: Kabala and Chasidizm, Talmud, Bible, Semitic Linguistics, interdisciplinary studies Jewish Philosophy, Hebrew Language and Literature of the Second Temple Period), Literature (including: Hebrew Literature, Poetic and Comparative Literature and professions of Literary Writings). Program For Outstanding students Humanities – Arts, Study of Consciousness.
+	+	+	+	+	+	Faculty of Arts – Theater Arts, Film and Television, History of Art, School of Music, Multidisciplinary Program in the Arts, Program for outstanding students Humanities – Arts.
–	–	+	+	+	+	School of Architecture.
+	+	+	+	+	+	School of Education – Human Development in Education (includes Educational Counseling for toddlers) Special Education, Educational Counseling and Education of the Hearing Impaired).
–	+	+	+	+	+	Faculty of Law
–	+	+	+	+	+	Faculty of Life Sciences – Biology Biology and Psychology with emphasis on Brain Sciences**
–	–	–	+	+	+	Biotechnology Bioinformatics
–	+	+	+	+	+	Life Sciences & Medicine**

Tracks of Study in the Mechina						BA programs at TA University
Hum.	Social Sciences		Life Sciences	Exact Sciences		
	3 credits of math.	4 credits of math.		* 3 credits of Physics	*4 credits of Physics	
-	+	+	+	+	+	Faculty of Social Sciences – School of Economics, Political Science, Communication, Sociology and Anthropology, Psychology.
-	+	+	+	+	+	School of Social Work
-	-	+	+	+	+	Faculty of Management – Management, Accounting.
-	-	-	+	+	+	Faculty of Exact Sciences – School of Mathematics, School of Computer Sciences, Statistics.
-	-	-	+	+	+	School of Chemistry.
-	-	-	-	-	+	School of Physics and Astronomy, Geophysics and Planetary Sciences.
-	-	-	-	-	+	Faculty of Engineering – Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Computer and Software Engineering, Industrial and Management Engineering, A combined Program in Physics and Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Bio-Medical engineering
-	-	-	+	-	+	Faculty of Medicine*** – School of Medicine, School of Dentistry
-	-	-	+	+	+	Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy,*** Communication Disorders.
-	+	+	+	+	+	Nursing

+ Appropriate Trend – Inappropriate Trend

- * The study of Physics at the level of 3 credits will start in the second semester (depends upon number of students). In the first semester all students study 4 credits of Physics.
- ** It is strongly recommended to students in the social sciences track to study Mathematics in the advanced level of 4 units. It is possible that this level of study will be one of the admission requirements for these courses.
- *** Candidates to the Faculty of Medicine and to the Department of Occupational Therapy must prove knowledge of Chemistry. Students in the Exact Sciences track in the Mechina will be asked to take a final examination in a summer Chemistry course. The course begins in August. The School of Medicine requires an advanced level of Mathematics (5 credits). Students in the Life Sciences track will have to either pass a special test (ptor) or take a summer course and pass the final test.
- Admission requirements to some of the departments in the University include participation in different courses during the summer.
- The information that appears in the website of the University in the internet is accurate and obligatory. www.tau.ac.il.

Calendar for the 2012–2013 School Year

Beginning of the academic year	25.07.12
Reception and registration - meetings with the educational counselors; personal interviews and group sessions; Academic guidance for students newly arrived.	25.07.12
Hebrew Placement tests (for students who arrive in July); Dormitories arrangements.	25-26.07.12
Classification of Hebrew classes, orientation meetings with the counselors.	25–26.07.12
Academic and general orientation	26.07.12
First day of Hebrew studies	30.07.12
Last day of Hebrew studies	13.09.12
First Semester	
First day of study	21.10.12
Memorial day for Itzhak Rabin	28.10.12
Hanukkah vacation	9.12.12
End of semester and beginning of exams	25.01.13
End of exams	15.02.13
Second Semester	
First day of study	17.02.13
Purim holiday	24-25.02.13
Pessach Vacation	20.03.13–02.04.13
Holocaust Memorial Day	08.04.13
Memorial day	15.04.13
Israel Independence Day – vacation	16.04.13
Shavuot Vacation	14-15.05.13
End of semester and beginning of final exams*	07.06.13
End of exams – end of the year	25.07.13
Final transcripts will be distributed from	18.08.13

* Specific dates will be announced at a later date.

