



04 December 2023

2023/2024 Academic Year Opening Update and adjustments for students following the 'Iron Swords' war

Dear students,

Further to our announcement of November 15 about the opening of the academic year on December 11, 2023, and following the preparations undertaken during recent weeks for its opening in the current reality, we are pleased to present additional details regarding the outline for the 2023/2024 year and the adjustments and facilitations for all students, including specific adjustments for students on active military reserve duty (or students with children, whose spouses have been called to reserve duty).

We are well aware that the ongoing war entails many hardships. We wish to express our heartfelt support to you, and, together with you, hope for the return of the abductees and the speedy recovery of the wounded, as we extend our deep sympathies to those whose loved ones were murdered or killed in action. We appreciate the tremendous contribution of military service men and women, and are committed to continuing to do all we can to help all of our students to succeed in their studies even in this challenging year.

First and foremost, we would like to remind you that psychological support and assistance is available to you, and you are welcome to contact the Institute's social worker, Ms. Nirit Cohen Kraus, at 08-9349219 or nirit.cohen-kraus@weizmann.ac.il. In addition, and as previously published, due to the situation, an emergency support fund was established to provide financial aid to those who need it because of the war. The first phase has been completed, with another call to be published in approximately two weeks.

Note that the outline described below is an addition to the Student Right Regulations (Adjustments for Students in Military Reserve Service), 2012, as detailed in the Feinberg Graduate School's [Military Reserve Service Procedure](#), and to specific Board of Studies adjustments, as detailed in Appendix A below.

As announced, this year will be opened in a hybrid format and adjustments have been made to the course schedule, in order to enable this format and meet the Home Front Command's guidelines. Therefore, students are requested to updates with regards to each course's format and location (whether in person or hybrid) through [this link](#). We encourage those of you who can physically participate in the courses on campus to do so.

The updated academic calendar can be found [here](#).

The studies are based on the "Moodle" system. Correct use of this platform is a condition for the hybrid model's success. An instructional video for operating and navigating the system in English can be accessed through [this link](#), and a similar video in Hebrew is available [here](#).

To enter the "Moodle" system click [here](#).

Adjustments for all students

1. Flexibility in granting extensions for report submission deadlines — with the approval of the supervisor (PI) and the Feinberg Graduate School (FGS).

2. The majority of the classes will follow a hybrid format facilitating remote participation. In addition, the classes will be recorded and uploaded to the [Panopto platform](#).

Academic adjustments and benefits for students on active military reserve duty and for students whose spouses are on active military reserve duty

3. Scholarships will be continued as usual (against reporting, as required for military reserve days).
4. Special grant: A grant of NIS 2,000 for students serving on reserve military duty during the period starting October 7, 2023, until the end of November 2023, or whose spouses served as such (a separate discussion will be held about students who will be called, or whose spouses will be called, for reserve military duty starting in December).

“Spouse” refers to a partner by marriage or common-law. To prove a “common-law” partner status, the statement, attached as Appendix B, must be signed. It refers to common-law partners for all intents and purposes, and will be used for the sole purpose of receiving the grant (to simplify matters in these times, notary approval is not required).

5. Extension of deadlines for submitting reports

FGS provides its students serving in the reserves an extension period for submitting various reports and theses, based on the duration of their reserve duty, and subject to their reporting absence due to military reserve duty (including submitting an appropriate form as required). This will also apply to students who are parents and whose spouse served on reserve military duty.

6. Completing taught material due to absence

Lecturers and TAs are preparing to provide additional tutoring sessions and supplementary classes in courses in decided by the relevant Board of studies chair, in order to facilitate students' completing the taught material.

Additional assistance — as detailed in Appendix A.

7. Rotations (Life Sciences and Chemistry only)

- Students who are absent from a rotation due to reserve military service for a period of up to 30 days will be able to shorten the rotation period accordingly. The same will apply to students who are parents and whose spouse served on reserve military duty, and will be considered as necessary in other cases.
- A student who will be absent from the first rotation due to reserve military service for a period exceeding 30 days will receive an exemption from performing the first rotation, along with the possibility of performing another rotation over the summer. The same will apply to students who are parents and whose spouse served on reserve military duty, and will be considered as necessary in other cases.
- In cases of students who will also be absent from the second rotation period due to reserve military service, the matter of completing the rotation will be discussed with the relevant Board of studies chair.

8. Reduction of degree credits: Students serving on reserve military duty or students who are parents and whose spouse served for more than 30 days on reserve military duty after the start of the academic year (that is, after December 11, 2023), will be able to complete their degree with up to four credit points less than the required number, in accordance with the decision of the relevant Board of studies chair.

9. Coursework

FGS provides its students who are on reserve military service an extension for submitting the various assignments in accordance with the duration of their service, and subject to their reporting absence due to military reserve duty (including submitting an appropriate form as required). The same will apply to students who are parents and whose spouse served on reserve military duty.

A student who is absent from a laboratory course, workshop, or practical training due to reserve military service may receive one of the following adjustments in coordination with the lecturer: Completion of the missed sessions at the time determined by the lecturer; repeat course at a time determined by the lecturer; replacement of the missed assignment by another assignment as determined by the lecturer; request for exemption due to military reserve duty, to be submitted to the lecturer. Lecturers will submit their decision for the approval of the relevant Board of studies and the course coordinator at FGS. The same will apply to students who are parents and whose spouse served on reserve military duty.

10. Exams

Students who, due to reserve service, are prevented from participating in the original date set for the exam (or properly preparing for it due to the reserve service during the two weeks prior to the exam) may contact the FGS reserve military service coordinator and request to coordinate an alternative exam date convenient for them instead of the one they missed. For additional details, see FGS's [Military Reserve Service Procedure](#). The same will apply to students who are parents and whose spouse served on reserve military duty. They will also be eligible for an additional exam date.

11. Course postponement

Students who served on reserve military duty for a period of at least 10 days cumulatively during a semester in the case of a semester course, or at least 20 days cumulatively during the school year in the case of an annual course, and were therefore absent from course lectures, will be able to postpone the course and repeat it, on the condition that they did not take its exam. The same will apply to students who are parents and whose spouse served on reserve military duty.

12. External Courses

Students in Life Sciences tracks will be eligible for a reimbursement of up to two external courses in the 2024 Academic Year.



13. Choice of research group

The Board of studies, together with the supervisors, are required to assist students serving in reserve military duty to choose their research group, so that their ability to choose a group will not be impaired due to the reserve service. In this context, the limit of the maximum number of MSc students in a research group will not apply with regards to these students. The same will apply to students who are parents and whose spouse served on reserve military duty.

- ❖ Students in regular service in the IDF or the security forces who were recruited for special service during this period and seek concessions due to it, should contact FGS.

Note! Students who are closely connected to the victims of the October 7 massacre or to casualties of the Iron Swords War, persons injured or evacuated from their homes or with other special circumstances, will receive individual adjustments as well as psychological and financial support and assistance as needed. To benefit from these resources, please contact us.

With hope for quieter and better days for all of us,

Prof. Gilad Perez
Dean, Feinberg Graduate School



Appendix A – Individual Adjustments by Faculty

Additional adjustments are detailed below, in accordance with the decision of the Board of studies. The following does not detract from the general adjustments listed above.

THE TUTORING AND SUPPORT PROGRAM IN THE LIFE SCIENCES FACULTY

1. The majority of the life sciences courses are theoretical; they will be held in the hybrid format and will be recorded. Six courses will be held only via Zoom, and will also be recorded. Most courses have theoretical material only, with no regular course tutoring sessions.
2. In a few of the courses that do incorporate tutoring sessions, the TAs will personally work with students who missed classes and will assist them in preparing their assignments. In courses without TAs, the course lecturers will provide additional reception hours as needed and will help in completing the taught material.
3. Eight practical courses require physical attendance. Most of them are less than an entire semester in length, and we will try to reschedule them to the end of the semester or to the exam period. Since these are small courses, none of which is a mandatory course, an effort will be made to give these courses again next year, to enable students who wish to take the course to do so next year.
4. The requirement for a minimum number of credits in the first year of studies is cancelled for this year.
5. It will be possible to receive credits for Coursera/edX courses beyond the normal limits, subject to the approval of the Board of studies.

THE TUTORING AND SUPPORT PROGRAM IN THE PHYSICS FACULTY

The Faculty of Physics is fully committed to personally assist all students on reserve military service in all phases of advanced degrees. The tutoring and support program is detailed below.

1. To enable students to complete the studied material, all courses are recorded and the recordings will be uploaded to the course website.
2. All lecturers and TAs are preparing to provide additional tutoring sessions and supplementary classes.
3. Every student who has completed the reserve military duty will personally meet with the chair of the Board of studies. During this meeting, the student will receive academic counseling and a personal outline for completing the courses and the research program will be determined.

First-year master's degree students required to take core courses:

1. In coordination with the lecturers, in each core course a limited pedagogical plan will be formed with core topics, to enable the students to integrate into the course and make up for learning gaps within a short period of time.
2. Students will be given the option of completing a core course during their second year.

3. Each student will be personally guided by a mentor who will assist them with the courses.
4. Each student will receive personal tutoring by the Faculty's TAs and lecturers.
5. Students will not be required to accumulate 28 credits in the first year.
6. The experimental project is optional and not mandatory.

Second-year master's degree students:

1. A program of courses will be set, to enable students to complete the required credit points.
2. Each student will receive personal tutoring by the Faculty's TAs and lecturers.
3. Thesis submission date will be postponed according to the duration of the military reserve service.

PhD students

1. The research plan and the deadlines for report submission will be postponed according to the duration of the military reserve service.

THE TUTORING AND SUPPORT PROGRAM IN THE CHEMISTRY FACULTY

1. To enable students to complete the studied material, all courses are recorded and the recordings will be uploaded to the course website.
2. All lecturers and TAs are preparing to provide additional tutoring sessions and supplementary classes.
3. Every student who has completed the reserve military duty will personally meet with the chair of the Board of studies. During this meeting, the student will receive academic counseling and a personal outline for completing the courses and the research program will be determined.

First-year master's degree students who served for more than one month in military reserve duty starting from the opening date of the academic year (i.e., December 11, 2023):

1. Will receive personal support from a mentor.
2. Will receive personal tutoring sessions or in a small group format delivered by the TAs and lecturers in the courses to which the students were enrolled.
3. The requirement to accumulate 16 credit points during the first year is cancelled.
4. The requirement to study at least two core courses during the first year is cancelled.
5. The number of rotations and the duration of each will be determined according to the duration of the military reserve service:
 - Students who miss the first rotation will be able to receive an exemption from one rotation.

- Students who miss two rotations will be able to perform two short rotations in the time remaining for the final rotation. Extending the aforementioned rotations by several weeks in total may also be coordinated.

Second year master's degree students who served for more than one month in military reserve duty starting from the opening date of the academic year (i.e., December 11, 2023):

1. A personal program of courses will be set, to enable students to complete the required credit points.
2. Will receive personal tutoring sessions or in a small group format delivered by the TAs and lecturers in the courses to which the students were enrolled.
3. Thesis submission date will be postponed according to the duration of the military reserve service.

PhD students

1. The research plan and the deadlines for report submission will be postponed according to the duration of the military reserve service.

General preparations

1. We will enable completing credit points via concentrated 1–3 week-long courses (boot camps) this summer and next summer.
2. We will enable completing credit points through online courses (MIT, Coursera, etc.) in a flexible manner, beyond the two-course limit as in previous years, subject to the approval of the chair of the Board of studies.
3. The adjustments applicable to military reserve service men and women (with the exception of section 9 above) are also relevant to students who are parents and whose spouse served on reserve military duty, or ones personally affected by the situation, and will be adjusted individually for each case.
4. The range of courses and levels of difficulty will be expanded, by enabling students to enroll in courses from other faculties and universities beyond the six-credit point limit as in previous years.

THE TUTORING AND SUPPORT PROGRAM IN THE MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE FACULTY

1. Courses will be recorded and uploaded to the Panopto platform near the time of the class.
2. The deadlines for submitting reports and accumulating credit points will be postponed according to the duration of military reserve service.

3. The lecturers will be asked to add a weekly reception hour (for the lecturer or TA) in order to support students in military reserve service or those who have returned from such service.

The weekly reception hours will be available in the following courses:

Zvika Brakerski	Introduction to Quantum Computing
Josie Shamash	Finite Algebraic Structures for Computer Scientists
Dmitry Gourevitch	Introduction to Representation Theory
Mark Shusterman	Sheaf Cohomology
Maria Gorelik	Introduction to Lie Algebras
Ohad	Topics in ML theory
Ehud	Friedgut
Victor Vassiliev	Algebraic Topology
Ran Tessler	A seminar on Witten's KdV conjecture

THE TUTORING AND SUPPORT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE TEACHING

The Department of Science Teaching is fully committed to personally assist all students on reserve military service in all phases of all degrees and programs.

Manner of learning in the Department's courses:

- To enable students to complete the studied material, the courses will be held in a hybrid format, which allows synchronous and asynchronous participation, physical presence and online presence.
- All lectures will be recorded and will be accessible to students in a modular form in the course's Moodle, which enables both synchronous and asynchronous learning, when the military reserve service will not allow the student to participate in them.
- All courses are recorded and the recordings will be uploaded to the course website.

Class completion and details about the tutoring and support program

Lecturers will offer students in military reserve service, or students who are parents and whose spouse served on reserve military duty, the following:

- A personal tutoring plan, to complete taught material.
- Flexibility in assignment submission deadlines.
- Private lessons if necessary.
- Every student who has completed the reserve military duty will personally meet with the chair of the Board of studies or head of the Rothschild-Weizmann program. During this meeting, the



student will receive academic counseling and a personal outline for completing the courses and the research program will be determined.

Practical experience (for teaching certificate students):

- Flexibility will be exercised concerning the practical experience training timetable in schools during the two years of study during the teaching certificate training, but its scope will remain unchanged.



Appendix B - "common-law" partner status statement

תצהיר זוגי עבור מענק מילואים - אירועי חרבות ברזל

אנו הח"מ _____ בעלת ת.ז. מס' _____ ו- _____ בעלת ת.ז. מס' _____, לאחר שהוזהרנו כי עלינו לומר את האמת וכי נהיה צפויים לעונשים הקבועים בחוק אם לא נעשה כן, מצהירים בזאת, בכתב וכדלקמן:

1. הננו עושים תצהיר זה בתמיכה לבקשתנו להשוות את מעמדנו מכוח היותנו "ידועים בציבור" למעמדם של זוגות נשואים, לצורך קביעת הזכויות המגיעות לנו לטובת זכאות למענק בן/בת זוג המשרתים במילואים באירועי "חרבות ברזל".
2. הננו מצהירים ומאשרים כי אנו מקיימים חיי משפחה ונחשבים לכל דבר ועניין כ"ידועים בציבור" מזה _____.
3. בפרק זמן זה הננו מנהלים משק בית משותף לכל דבר ועניין הבא לידי ביטוי, בין היתר, במגורים תחת קורת גג אחת תוך שיתוף פעולה ומאמץ משותף למימון החיים המשותפים.
4. היה ובמועד כלשהו יתברר כי מעמדנו האישי לא היה מעמד של "ידועים בציבור" מלכתחילה, או שעקב שינוי שחל במעמדנו האישי איננו נחשבים עוד כ"ידועים בציבור", הננו מתחייבים להשיב למכון ויצמן למדע כל סכום שקיבלנו ו/או את ערכה של כל הטבה שקיבלנו מתוקף מעמדנו האישי כ"ידועים בציבור", בצירוף הפרשי הצמדה וריבית כחוק.
5. אלו שמינו, אלו חתימותינו ותוכן תצהירנו אמת.

תאריך	חתימה
תאריך	חתימה