



15 November 2023

Dear Students,

In these challenging times, we understand that many of you are navigating uncertain situations, be it confined to your homes, called up for duty, or currently abroad. We appreciate your patience and would like to provide you with the latest updates on the current situation:

1. The situation in the central region seems to be gradually improving, allowing the Weizmann Institute of Science, including the FGS (and other institutions in the Municipality of Rehovot), to work towards resuming normal activities. This, of course, will be in alignment with the guidelines provided by the Home Front Command.
2. Therefore, in accordance with the above, we would like to share our planned academic calendar with you:
  - Orientation for first-year MSc students: first week of December 3-7, 2023.
  - Semester A: December 11, 2023 –March 3, 2024 (12 weeks).
  - Examination period for Semester A: March 4 – April 4, 2024 (5 weeks).
  - Semester B: April 7 –July 11, 2024 (14 weeks).
  - Examination period for Semester B: July 14 –August 15, 2024 (5 weeks).
  - Rotations in the fields of Life Sciences and Chemistry will be shortened, with the first and third rotations lasting 9 weeks each, and the second rotation (including the examination period) lasting 12 weeks.
3. In order to make the classes and tutorials accessible to all of our students, they will be recorded and uploaded to a dedicated server (unless explicitly stated otherwise). In addition to being recorded, most courses will be held on campus in person, and we highly encourage your physical attendance, whenever possible. In most classes, students will be able to connect remotely and observe the live sessions in a passive manner.
4. While the modifications to the academic calendar may only have a moderate impact on the majority of our senior students primarily involved in research, we truly understand that for those enrolled in our Master's program, particularly first-year students, these changes are crucial. The courses and participation in rotations are integral components of the academic year, and some of you might not be able to attend them while being drafted (not even virtually). Consequently, we, the Weizmann Institute and the FGS, are fully committed to making any possible effort for our students to reintegrate into our various academic programs as soon as they are released from service. Details of the backup and reintegration program will be communicated soon.

Wishing you better and more peaceful days ahead,

Prof. Gilad Perez, FGS Dean