



November 13, 2023

Dear Teaching Staff and Students,

Shalom Rav,

Subject: Changes to the Academic Calendar and Accommodations for Students Due to the “Iron Swords” War

The war that broke out on Oct 7, 2023, and remains ongoing, requires us to prepare anew for the start and duration of the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

Currently, approximately 30% of Technion students have been drafted to the reserves, as well as many faculty members and teaching staff. In addition, the entire population of the country has endured significant hardship and remains in an ongoing state of war, grief and sorrow.

In light of the above, we have made as many adjustments as possible to provide clarity for students and teaching staff. Therefore, despite the uncertainty regarding the start date of the academic year, its duration and its format, we have made adjustments to the second session exam dates (Moed B) of the 2022-2023 Spring Semester, first session exam dates (Moed A) of the 2022-2023 Summer Semester, and the initial weeks of the 2023-2024 Winter Semester. Additional adjustments for the duration of the 2023-2024 Winter and Spring Semesters will be specified as soon as possible in a separate document.

The aforementioned adjustments and their implementation were determined with consideration of the full set of constraints, both internal and external. We additionally acknowledge that even when a substantial release of reservists occurs and the academic year begins, we expect that there will be students who continue to serve in the reserves throughout the initial weeks of the semester. We are preparing for this by providing solutions that will ensure academic accommodations and support for each and every student who is in this circumstance.

We would like to remind you that, unlike other universities in the country, the second session of exams (Moed B) for the 2022-2023 Spring Semester and the exams for the 2022-2023 Summer Semester have not yet concluded at the Technion. The approximately 15-day exam period originally scheduled to take place between October 8, 2023, and October 24, 2023, has been postponed due to the war. Consequently, in consultation with the deans of the faculties, we propose to schedule 12 exam days during the second week of the two-week period established by the decision of the Committee of University Heads as advanced notice before the start of the academic year, as well as in the first week of the semester.

As the exact date for the start of the semester is not currently known, for convenience and clarity, we will designate the two weeks established by the decision of the Committee of University Heads as “**Week -2**” and “**Week -1**”. The first week of studies at all universities will be marked as “**Week +1**”, the second week as “**Week +2**”, and so on. In accordance with the above, the following are provisions of the proposed resolution:

1. There will be two semesters in the 2023-2024 Academic Year: 2023-2024 Semester A and 2023-2024 Semester B.
2. The 2023-2024 Summer Semester will be cancelled.
3. The number of weeks in each semester of the 2023-2024 Academic Year will be determined in accordance with the start date of the academic year, and with the aim that the two semesters will be as similar as possible in terms of duration.
4. When the start date of the semester is determined, the Technion will provide the durations of the two semesters of the 2023-2024 Academic Year, along with a detailed schedule of instructional days.

5. Notification of the start date of the academic year will be provided, at the latest, at the beginning of **Week -2**.
6. The 2022-2023 Spring Semester exams and 2022-2023 Summer Semester exams will be held during **Week -1** and **Week +1**. During **Week -2**, no exams will be held.
7. Studies at the Technion will begin during **Week +2**. During **Week 1+**, in which 2022-2023 Spring Semester exams and 2022-2023 Summer Semester exams will be held, there will be no instruction, rather there will be “getting back on track” events. These events will include: transitioning practically and mentally from a state of war on the frontlines and the home front to a state of learning and research, enhancing the emotional and social resilience of those returning from combat situations on the frontlines and on the home front, refreshing and reestablishing study skills at the Technion as well as research and teaching skills, getting oneself ready and able to study for an entire semester, reestablishing social ties as well as connections with academic and administrative staff. In addition, this week will include making-up exams that were cancelled and providing alternative options for those drafted to the reserves and those newly released.

Of course, it is clear that the return to routine will be difficult and challenging. As such, we will operate on two levels:

- A. Activities related to supporting, strengthening and encouraging students, which will take place during the “back to school” weeks, under the oversight of the Dean of Students and in coordination with many bodies on campus.
- B. Academic accommodations for all students, and in particular for reservists. Additional details about the proposed accommodations are provided in the attached document.

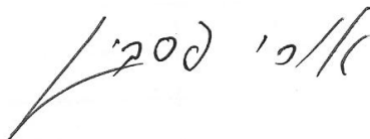
Undergraduate students who would like to complete their degree but are missing one final grade can consult with the Dean of their faculty through the Undergraduate Studies Coordinator in the faculty. Instructions and dates for requesting to replace a percentage grade with a “pass” grade will be provided at a later date. Graduate students are asked to forward their requests to the Graduate Student Coordinators in their respective faculties.

During these difficult days, it warms my heart to see the outpouring of support for our students and understanding of the complex situation they are facing.

Sincerely,



Professor Hossam Haick
Dean of Undergraduate Studies.



Prof. Uri Peskin
Dean of the Graduate School

Academic Accommodations for Students Due to the “Iron Swords” War

This document provides a summary of the academic accommodations for students in Undergraduate Studies and Graduate Studies in response to the ongoing “Iron Swords” War. The specific accommodations presented in the current document distinguish between four main groups:

1. Students who were not drafted into the reserves (hereinafter, the entire student population).
2. Students who were drafted into the reserves and will be released prior to the start of the 2023-2024 Winter Semester.
3. Students who were drafted into the reserves and will continue their service after the start of the 2023-2024 Winter Semester.
4. Students who have been or will be significantly and tangibly affected by the war – those who are closely connected to victims, displaced from their homes, etc.

Of the four groups mentioned above, students in the fourth group will have their circumstances addressed individually through their respective faculties, Undergraduate Studies or the Graduate School, and the Dean of Students. Students who fall under this group are asked to contact us to receive support.

Of the four groups, students in the third group require special attention. We anticipate that, for some of the students in this group, more specific and individualized accommodations may be necessary beyond what is outlined here. In such cases, we encourage students to contact their respective faculties, Undergraduate Studies or the Graduate School, and the Dean of Students. We will do everything we can to offer individualized solutions.

General Recommendations:

- The contents of this document serve as an addendum to the Reserve Duty Law of the State of Israel and the Reserve Duty Regulation of the Technion and **is not intended to detract from or undermine these**, both for students in Undergraduate Studies and Graduate Studies.
- Exams will only be offered on two dates.
- If a student takes the exam on both dates, **the score from the second exam will be considered the definitive score.**
- The decision regarding whether a student will be awarded the President’s Award for Excellence or the Dean’s Award for Excellence in the 2022-2023 Spring Semester will be based on the original grades. In accordance with the Academic Excellence regulation, courses in which students earn a “pass/ fail” grade will not be factored into the calculation.
- In the case of the cancellation of the 2023-2024 Summer Semester – the tuition benefit for the summer semester, currently available for reservists, will be made available to them for the 2024-2025 Summer Semester.
- **The assessment method for exams held on the second exam date (Moed B) must be the same as that used on the first exam date (Moed A).** However, **exams scheduled on the exam dates for reservists can use an alternative assessment method** (such as a take-home exam, oral exam, a test with a different number of questions, etc.) – subject to the discretion of the course team.

- Students who served in the “Iron Swords” War will receive a **25%-time extension on all 2022-2023 Spring and Summer exams**, even if they take the course exam on the first exam date (Moed A).
- A student whose spouse served in the reserves is entitled to accommodations for reservists, as specified in the tables below.
- Students who are beginning their studies in the 2023-2024 Winter Semester and who served in the reserves for the “Iron Swords” War, will be entitled to everything stated in the Reserve Duty Law and Reserve Duty Regulation, as if the semester had begun on October 24, 2023 (counting of reserve days during the winter semester to receive various benefits). For continuing students, the reserves period for the “Iron Swords” War will be counted as if it was completed entirely in the 2023-2024 Winter Semester.
- Discussions regarding the continuation of academic studies among undergraduate students whose academic status is “unsatisfactory” will be held in a more limited and lenient format, unless the academic status is exceptionally poor. The Dean of Undergraduate Studies will publish a separate circular on this topic.
- Each faculty may submit a request to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies for a comprehensive exemption for a limited number of courses within its jurisdiction that will allow undergraduate students to receive a “pass” grade in the course. A student who receives a percentile grade in a course qualifying for an exemption will be able to keep the percentile grade. It is the student’s responsibility to submit a request to keep the percentile grade, in accordance with the established procedures.
- Faculties will be given flexibility in handling exceptional cases, such as families displaced from their homes or first-degree relatives of those murdered or taken hostage, by providing the option to convert a percentile grade above 55 (65 for graduate studies) to a “pass” grade or by offering an additional exam date. For special exams, students may contact the Coordinator(s) of Undergraduate Studies in their faculties or submit a request to Undergraduate Studies using the [designated form for this purpose](#), or by email to the graduate studies coordinators in their faculties

The following are two tables summarizing accommodations due to the “Iron Swords” War, categorized by the 3 groups of students. The first table is for Undergraduate Students and the second table is for Graduate Students.

Accommodations for Students in Undergraduate Studies:

| | Accommodation | Entire student population | Reservists who will be released by the start of the 2023-2024 Winter Semester | Reservists who will continue to serve in the reserves after the start of the 2023-2024 Winter Semester * | Comments |
|----|--|---|---|--|---|
| 1. | Reducing the number of credits needed to complete the degree, for continuing students | Not applicable | Students can complete the degree with 4 fewer credits than the required amount. | Students can complete the degree with 8 fewer credits than the required amount. | The reduction will be from either faculty elective credits or Technion-wide elective credits, in accordance with the decision of the faculty. Recognizing these credits as a faculty elective will not automatically exempt students from fulfilling specialization group requirements. |
| 2. | Grades | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A grade above 55 can be converted to a "pass" grade. For up to two courses in total from courses taken in the 2022-2023 Spring or Summer semesters. <i>The above does not apply to medical students.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A grade above 55 can be converted to a "pass" grade. For up to four courses in total from courses taken in the 2022-2023 Spring or Summer semesters. Medical students in the pre-clinical years will be able to convert one course to a "pass" grade. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A grade above 55 can be converted to a "pass" grade. No limit on the number of courses taken in the 2022-2023 Spring or Summer semesters. Medical students in the pre-clinical years will be able to convert up to three courses to a "pass" grade. | ----- |
| 3. | Students approaching graduation | Each request will be examined on an individual basis. | Special consideration for the final grade of the degree is at the discretion of the Dean of the Faculty. | Special consideration for the final grade of the degree is at the discretion of the Dean of the Faculty. | ----- |
| 4. | Course registration | ----- | ----- | Enrollment spots for enrichment, sports, and laboratory courses will be saved for those who register late. | ----- |
| 5. | Attendance during the 2023-2024 Winter Semester for courses in which attendance is mandatory | ----- | Exemptions from attendance for the week before the exams scheduled for reservists. | Exemptions from attendance for the week before the exams scheduled for reservists. | The faculties will make an effort to begin labs from week 3 onwards to minimize any impact on those serving in the reserves. Additionally, faculties are to consider the possibility of offering make-up lab sessions. |
| 6. | Make-up lessons and extra help | ----- | ----- | The teaching staff will be in charge of organizing make-up and extra help sessions for reservists who return after the start of the semester. | ----- |

* Following what was stated at the start of the document, students who fall into this group and encounter needs beyond those addressed in this table are asked to contact Undergraduate Studies and the Dean of Students, and we will do everything to offer individualized solutions.

Accommodations for Students in Graduate Studies:

| | Accommodation | Entire student population | Reservists who will be released by the start of the 2023-2024 Winter Semester | Reservists who will continue to serve in the reserves after the start of the 2023-2024 Winter Semester * |
|----|--|--|--|--|
| 1. | English language requirement | Additional dates for mandatory English exams. | Postponement of one semester for fulfilling the English proficiency requirement. | Postponement of one semester for fulfilling the English proficiency requirement. |
| 2. | Failing a course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiver of the requirement to improve a failing grade in the course. • Option to exclude one course from the final transcript. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiver of the requirement to improve a failing grade in the course. • Option to exclude two courses from the final transcript. • Increasing the number of courses in which a grade can be improved from one to two. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiver of the requirement to improve a failing grade in the course. • Option to exclude four courses from the final transcript. • Increasing the number of courses in which a grade can be improved from one to four. |
| 3. | Reducing the number of credits needed to complete the degree | Not relevant | Option to complete the degree with 2 fewer credits than the required amount, subject to the approval of the academic unit and in compliance with the Council for Higher Education's minimum credit requirement for the specific program. | Option to complete the degree with 4 fewer credits than the required amount, subject to the approval of the academic unit and in compliance with the Council for Higher Education's minimum credit requirement for the specific program. |
| 4. | Grades | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grade above 65 can be converted to a "pass" grade. • For up to one course in total from courses taken in the 2022-2023 Spring or Summer semesters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grade above 65 can be converted to a "pass" grade. • For up to two courses in total from courses taken in the 2022-2023 Spring or Summer semesters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grade above 65 can be converted to a "pass" grade. • No limit on the number of courses taken in the 2022-2023 Spring or Summer semesters. |