



The best  
academic  
experience



The Ben-Gurion Research Institute  
for the Study of Israel & Zionism

# Israel Studies

## *International M.A. Program*

Israel embodies an unusual blend of contradictions. It is an ancient country, and yet, a very young state and society. It is modern, progressive, a leader in high-tech, and at the same time traditional and conservative, cherishing ancient customs and rituals. Israel's political arena, social relations, and cultural scene are extremely dynamic, and historical events are at the center of public discourse.

### Wouldn't you like to know **how all this came about?**

Exactly for this purpose, Ben-Gurion University's Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism offers an International MA program in Israel Studies (ISIP) that goes beyond the traditional disciplinary contours and explores Israel's history, society, cultures, beliefs, and political structures.

A degree in Israel Studies will be of value for candidates seeking to enter the public and non-profit sectors in administrative, diplomatic, civil, or teaching positions related to Israel, the Middle East, and the Jewish world.

### Rationale and Goals

Covering over a century of Zionism, the program integrates historical and contemporary perspectives, and focuses on the emergence of Zionist ideology, the building of the Yishuv (the pre-state Jewish community in Eretz Israel), and the State of Israel.

The content of the program is based on the assumption that the field of Israel Studies is inextricably related to the fields of modern Jewish history and Middle Eastern studies. Accordingly, the program offers introductory courses that examine the story of Israel as an integral part of the political, social, and cultural history of modern and contemporary Judaism and the Middle East. The program's approach is multi-disciplinary, with a historical emphasis. Thus, a compulsory methodological course will help to familiarize the students with the latest approaches in the multi-disciplinary research of Israel, using theories of nation building and linking them with recent approaches in area studies. Special emphasis will be placed upon the methodology of contemporary history research, based on investigative tools such as archives, specialized libraries, and oral history.

### Admission Requirements

Students should hold a B.A. degree with a grade average equivalent to 80 and above in the humanities or social sciences from an accredited university. Students who have no background in Jewish and Israel studies will be required to take complementary courses, up to 12 additional credits.

### Structure of the Program

Students registered in this program may choose between a thesis and non-thesis option.

**Thesis Track:** This track is designed for students interested in conducting research in the area of Israel Studies, who have a workable reading proficiency in Hebrew. They will be required to take a thesis seminar (8 credits), compulsory introductory courses, and elective courses (28 credits). In two of the courses, students will be required to write a research paper. Upon completion of their studies, students will be required to submit their M.A. thesis, in accordance with BGU guidelines and requirements.

**Non-Thesis Track:** This track is designed for students interested in deepening and enriching their overall knowledge in the area of Israel Studies. Students will take a total of ten courses (36 credits), including compulsory introductory courses and elective courses. In three of the courses, students will be required to write a research paper. After completing all course work, at the end of the second year of study, students in this track will be required to successfully pass an exam that encompasses all themes studied throughout the program.

### Program Contents

The list of courses reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the program. A partial list of the issues, include:

- Jews, Judaism and Jewish nationalism in modern times
- Israel in the Jewish world - past, present and future trends
- Memory and space in Israeli-Arab, Palestinian, Arab and Islamic societies
- Jews in Islamic countries: Zionism, Arab nationalism and colonialism
- Israel's Wars – history, historiography and memory
- The evolution of Holocaust consciousness in Israel
- The struggle for Israeli identity from the "New Jew" to multiculturalism
- Secularism and traditionalism in an Israeli context
- The history of Israeli politics and leadership
- State and religion: historical and ideological perspective
- The making of Israeli society – immigrants, minorities, educators and intellectuals
- Israel in the international arena, past and present
- Poetics and politics in Middle Eastern societies

### Tuition Fee

Application Fee: \$100

Tuition (per year): \$3,880

### Study Tours & Workshops

- Archive workshops and visits to Israel's major archives
- Meetings with Israelis: longtime residents, immigrants, soldiers, kibbutz members, residents of development towns, intellectuals, public figures, journalists, and the next generation of leaders
- Field trips to places of special historical and sociological interest

### Life on campus

The Israel Studies International Program (ISIP) is based at the Sede Boqer (SB) Campus of Ben-Gurion University (BGU) under the auspices of the Ben-Gurion Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism (The Ben-Gurion Research Institute). The SB campus, with its superior research infrastructure, comfortable accommodations, and wonderful location, overlooking the spectacular biblical Zin valley, guarantee a unique academic environment and an unparalleled learning experience.

### Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships partially covering tuition and / or living expenses are available to outstanding students.

For detailed information on courses, faculty, tuition and other aspects of the program please visit our website at: <http://in.bgu.ac.il/en/ISIP>

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