

Fuel Innovation. Empower Entrepreneurs. Shape Israel's Future.

The University of Haifa invites you to join us in advancing the **Haifa Innovation Labs (HIL)**—a pioneering program that empowers students to launch ventures with measurable social and economic impact. By nurturing entrepreneurship among our diverse student body, HIL fuels innovation that strengthens Israeli society from within.

HIL offers a unique learning experience, seamlessly blending rigorous academic courses with practical application. Our vision leverages the University of Haifa's rich cultural diversity and interdisciplinary approach to spark innovative ventures that deliver both social and economic impact.

Why Your Investment Matters

The University of Haifa is currently seeking **\$150,000 in funding** to expand HIL's reach and amplify its meaningful social and economic impact. Your support is pivotal: it will enable the University to apply for matching funds from The Edmond de Rothschild Foundation and the JFN co-program, **effectively doubling the impact of your gift**.

Your gift will directly strengthen Israel's socio-economic resilience by equipping our students and graduates to turn bold ideas into thriving businesses and ventures that drive meaningful change.

About the Haifa Innovation Labs

Established in 2019, the Haifa Innovation Labs is the University's flagship platform for innovation and entrepreneurship. Designed to foster a vibrant entrepreneurial culture, HIL offers students a hands-on, interdisciplinary experience focused on **"Designing a Better World"** through social innovation and impact-driven ventures.

The program encompasses four core components:

- **HIL Academic:** These courses and workshops cover essential topics such as business planning for start-ups, the innovation process for new products and services, and developing critical interpersonal skills for entrepreneurs.
- **The Innovation Nursery:** Multidisciplinary student teams tackle real-world social or environmental challenges, developing proof-of-concepts for innovative products or services. This accredited academic program utilizes the Design Thinking methodology and provides students with unique learning experiences, including coaching from seasoned mentors.
- **HIL Fund:** This component provides early-stage ventures, created by students and recent graduates, with access to vital funding and mentorship. Industry experts offer professional services, and the fund's activities are managed and overseen by specially trained students. (see [short video clip](#)).
- **HIL Sparks:** These special events, held both on and off campus with our partners, actively promote an entrepreneurial spirit among students.

Funding from Israel's Council for Higher Education and the University of Haifa covers HIL's current operating expenses. As we begin our second year of operation, the HIL Program plans to expand its successful activities and academic offerings:

- ♦ **Introducing more students to social innovation and impact entrepreneurship.** There are presently 100 students enrolled in the program. We plan to enroll 300 students in the next two years, and within a five year period, reach 2,000 students –roughly a third of the students enroll each year at the university.
- ♦ **Expanding the program to involve the University's academic and administrative staff**
- ♦ **Developing a network of professional staff and mentors** who will add their expertise and teach students best practices in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship (e.g. methodologies for rapid innovation, measurement of social impact).
- ♦ **Cultivating a network of relationships within Haifa's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem (innovation incubators and accelerators, start-ups, R&D centers)** to pave the way for HIL graduates to enter Israel's thriving start-up ecosystem and seek to further develop their ventures.
- ♦ **Developing special workshops and training programs for business and government organizations in the region**, strengthening the University of Haifa's position as a leader in social innovation and impact entrepreneurship as well as providing additional income that will sustain the program in the long term.



"In the modern dynamic world of work, the most important skills are innovation and entrepreneurship. Start-ups are the engine of the new economy and therefore veteran organizations expect their employees to present and lead innovative ideas. Employees who master these skills gain a distinct advantage in the job market."

- Prof. Ofer Arazy

For Your Consideration

We invite you to join us in supporting the HIL program and helping to strengthen Israel's social and economic resilience.

For additional information, please contact:

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Please visit our [website](#).