



#### **Making a Difference**

# **Supporting Diversity and Inclusion** in STEM Fields

Israel's economy is becoming increasingly knowledge-based — with the second-largest number of startup companies per capital in the world after the United States. The average high-tech career salary is approximately \$85,000, almost twice the non-high tech average. With the number of STEM job openings set to grow significantly in the next decade, increasing diversity in STEM fields will be critical for achieving growth, cohesion and equality in our economy and the broader society.

Since its establishment 50 years ago, the University of Haifa, Israel's most pluralistic university, has led efforts to promote the participation of Israeli Arab and Druze young adults in higher education. The majority of Israel's Arab population lives in northern Israel, where the University of Haifa has developed a reputation for its academically challenging and supportive environment.

We invite you to partner with us by supporting minority and female PhD candidates who demonstrate academic and research excellence in STEM fields.



### Serving as an Agent of Change

"The world is facing profound technological, economic, health and social challenges. For higher education to meet these challenges successfully, we must reduce inequality, create avenues for social mobility and strengthen the social fabric of society."

-President Gur Alroey



## Scholarships for Outstanding PhD Candidates from Arab Society

While the number of Arab students choosing to pursue higher education has shown a dramatic increase in the last decade (Israeli Council for Higher Education, 2021 Report), Israeli society is still very far from closing academic gaps—especially in the STEM fields.

"We believe that the Arab community represents a huge untapped pool of skills and talents," explains University Rector Mouna Maroun. "Expanding the pathways to science- and research-oriented academic careers will be key to affecting long-term social, educational and economic impact within the Arab community and building a brighter future for all of Israel."

The PhD Scholarship Program will provide support for doctoral dissertation research by outstanding Arab students, thereby enhancing their prospects for post-doctoral fellowships and academic appointments at major research universities.

Financial hardships contribute to higher attrition rates among graduate students from Arab society and female students more specifically. The aim of the Program is to remove financial barriers for Arab PhD students pursuing careers in STEM fields\*. In addition, the worthy candidates will become a role models and mentors for the next generation of STEM students from Arab society.

### **STEM Degrees @ UofH**



At this exciting time in the development of Israel's scientific and high-tech efforts, the University of Haifa seeks to uphold its core mission in support of pluralism and diversity, and provide opportunities for outstanding Arab academics to serve as role models and prepare for leadership roles.

We invite you to partner with us as we launch the careers of outstanding Arab academics from the STEM fields, who will become new faculty stars and the leaders of a more diverse and equitable scientific community in Israel.

Establishing the Scholarship Program will enable the University of Haifa to provide scholarship support over a multi-year period for 16 doctoral students (four consecutive cohorts of four PhD students each). Typically, PhD candidates require 4 years to complete their degrees (tuition/living expenses \$25,000 per year).

This generous scholarship program will significantly empower the lives of a talented cadre of STEM scholars and strengthen Israel as a pluralistic, democratic and shared society with equal opportunity for all its citizens.

Preference will be given to female students.



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