



## Investing in People, Investing in Israel

### The Returning Scientists Program

#### *Bringing Israeli STEM Talent Back Home—Now More Than Ever*

After a period of extraordinary disruption, Israel's North stands at the threshold of renewal. Nowhere is the opportunity greater than in the waters off our coast. The Mediterranean Sea has always been Israel's greatest natural resource: a place where culture, science, and diplomacy converge.

The University of Haifa is launching a new effort to bring home a rising star in the field of maritime studies to join The Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies (RIMS). What sets RIMS apart is its pioneering, interdisciplinary research into human-maritime encounters, integrating diverse fields from archaeozoology and cyber archaeology to applied marine biology and ecology. This unique approach has established RIMS as a leading institution in Israel and renowned globally for its contributions to the field and collaborative projects.

This appointment will not only advance new underwater excavation projects and strengthen Israel's research ecosystem, but also unlock new possibilities for archaeo-diplomacy. Your support will bolster a research agenda that leverages shared underwater heritage sites to build scientific bridges in a region in need of healing.



### Returning Scientists Program: A Success Story

After completing his postdoctoral work at Harvard University and serving as a faculty member at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Professor **Assaf Yassur-Landau** returned to Israel and joined the University of Haifa in 2008.

Left: Prof. Yassur-Landau at the inauguration of **The Irwin M. Jacobs Cyber-Archaeology Laboratory**.



## A NATIONAL PRIORITY

*"As the largest academic institution in northern Israel, the University of Haifa is committed to the rehabilitation of the region. We believe that academic excellence and innovative research, especially in STEM fields, are critical components of a brighter future. To achieve this vision, the University of Haifa has designated **The Returning Scientists Program** as a flagship project."*

- Prof. Mouna Maroun, Rector

## The Returning Scientists Program

To attract top Israeli researchers, the University of Haifa offers comprehensive support packages:



**Competitive Salary** — for the first three years, funded by the University and its generous donors.



**State-of-the-Art Research Facilities** — with access to advanced laboratories and research infrastructure.



**Research Funding** — consisting of substantial research budgets to support groundbreaking studies and initiatives.

## Program Partners

Our Returning Scientists Program is a collaborative initiative involving three key partners: the University of Haifa, Israel's Council for Higher Education, and the Haifa Municipality. The University of Haifa and its donors provide initial funding and laboratory space, ensuring that returning scientists have essential resources to begin their work. After three years, the candidate will become a full faculty member.

The Council for Higher Education contributes funding to attract top-tier researchers. Meanwhile, the Haifa Municipality will offer an attractive absorption package that includes reduced municipal taxes, making it more appealing for scientists to settle in the city. Together, these partners create a robust support system to facilitate the successful reintegration of returning scientists into northern Israel's scientific community.

## Request for Support

We invite you to partner with us on this national initiative. Your support is crucial for building resilience in northern Israel and laying the foundation for our country's recovery. Join us in shaping a brighter future.

- **A gift of \$800,000** over a three-year period will provide seed funding for a top-tier returning scientist. (\$150,000 salary per year plus \$350,000 laboratory start-up funds)



Office of the President

972-4-8240101

uh-president@univ.haifa.ac.il

[www.haifa.ac.il](http://www.haifa.ac.il)