

The Social Mobility Program

Creating Inclusive Academic Excellence

Executive Summary



Transforming the Lives of Students from Israel's Periphery

The Social Mobility Program

The Social Mobility Program is a campus-wide initiative dedicated to advancing under-represented students from Israel's geographical and social periphery.

The flagship program offers students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds:

- comprehensive financial
- academic and social support services
- assistance integrating into the workforce



Our Goals

The program goals are:

- to advance 'inclusive academic excellence' in Israel
- to have a significant impact on shaping socio-economic policy.



Why the Program is Important

The Corona pandemic sent shockwaves through higher education in Israel; students from lower socioeconomic communities were disproportionately affected. University of Haifa knew it was imperative to address these academic and economic inequities.

As the first University in Israel to define inclusive academic excellence and social mobility as a high priority, University of Haifa is taking action and making an impact.

Israel is among the most unequal economies in the western world. While 51% of Israeli high school graduates pursue higher education, only 34% of those from the periphery obtain degrees.

Widening participation in higher education is the key solution to improve social mobility among young adults in Israel's social and geographic periphery, as it has a critical influence on social development and mobility in Israeli society.

Why University of Haifa

- University of Haifa is particularly noted for its emphasis on civic engagement and strong connections between its faculty, students, and the largest community in northern Israel.
- 47% of our students are 'first-generation', compared to 25% at other major Israeli universities.
(Central Bureau of Statistics)



Scope: 3-Tiered Approach

Student & University Tier

- ✓ Create an institutional environment for inclusive academic excellence, in collaboration with faculty and students
- ✓ Develop and expand comprehensive financial, academic, linguistic and social support
- ✓ Establish career counseling and personal mentorship programs

Regional Tier

- ✓ Develop partnerships within different communities and cultural and religious populations in the northern region for recruitment
- ✓ Generate outreach plans to communities in the peripheries
- ✓ Identify and recruit promising student candidates

National Tier

- ✓ Create inter-university partnerships to promote public awareness
- ✓ Establish an advocacy group to advance similar types of social mobility programs
- ✓ Influence decision-makers to change higher education inclusion policies and funding models

Target Audience

- Under-represented student candidates with high potential
- Students at-risk of dropping out
- Underperforming students

Our aim is to expand the program into a campus-wide initiative for hundreds of students.



Tracking Success

Students	Improving academic performance of 90 students from the socio-geographic periphery
	Raising students' self-confidence and sense of personal autonomy
Faculty	Enhancing awareness among university staff of the unique challenges faced by students from the socio-geographic periphery
Institution	Improving institutional capacity to provide comprehensive support services for underserved students
	Developed an improved model to monitor students who are at risk of dropping out during their first year of studies and identifying their needs.

Supporting the Social Mobility Initiative

Academic Support	Personal Development	Financial Support
Preparatory program & campus orientation	Psychological Counseling	Tuition scholarships
Weekly academic guidance and tutoring sessions	Supporting wellness through peer mentoring	Dormitory accommodations
Workshops: Study Skills, test-taking; time management	Group Workshops: Empowerment, public speaking, leadership & communication skills	Living stipend
Learning assessments and strategies	Personalized mentoring programs; Professional guidance for career counseling	Meal vouchers

A gift of \$500,000

Provides a cadre of **16 deserving** students with a full, **three-year scholarship** for the Social Mobility Program.

Cost per Student: \$10,000/year

Thank You



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