



Emergency Scholarship Fund for Student Reservists in Financial Distress

April 2026

Dear Team Members,

As we usher in Passover and gather with our families and friends, I ask that you please remember the over 600 University students who are far from home, defending Israel's borders from the ground, on the sea, and in the air. Keep in mind that this war began during the semester break, which in Israel is the period of time during which students study for, and take, their midterm exams. I cannot imagine the radical transition these students have experienced when being catapulted from the quiet of their desk at home to the front lines of a protracted war. And for most of these students, this is not the first time their lives have been turned upside down in a moment's notice.

Please feel free to any part of this email with an eye on updating you donors, engaging them, and giving them an opportunity to support our students in such a timely and direct manner.

FINANCIAL TOLL

The current war is taking a financial toll on those students fighting on the front lines. Students return to depleted savings and months of lost income. Many rely on part-time earnings to cover tuition and basic living expenses. During extended reserve service, that income disappears. Some are supporting young families. Others come from northern border communities—from Acco to Metula—where the regional economy has slowed dramatically and daily life is punctuated by missile and drone sirens.

While the University has already made academic accommodations for these soldiers so that when they return from the battlefield they can have the time they need to study, catch up, and sit for their exams, the financial burden and ongoing expenses do not go away. There are rent payments, childcare, utility bills, and tuition fees that continue to accumulate while students remain in uniform.

Financial strain should not determine whether a student completes a degree. They did not choose to interrupt their education. They answered when the country called. We must ensure they have the necessary support to complete what they began.

IDF RESERVISTS EMERGENCY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In response, the University is establishing an **Emergency Scholarship Fund for Student Reservists in Financial Distress**. The Fund will provide direct grant assistance to help cover tuition gaps and essential living costs resulting from extended reserve duty. Student reservists facing financial hardship will be invited to apply for assistance, with priority given to combat soldiers, students supporting young families, and those residing in Israel's hardest-hit northern communities.

ALLOCATION OF GRANTS TO STUDENTS

The Fund will be jointly administered by the Dean of Students Office and the Dean of the Bloom School of Graduate Studies, ensuring that support is allocated through careful review and reaches the students most in need.

WHY THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA?

The University of Haifa sits at the center of the northern region most directly affected by this war. With a student body that reflects the full fabric of Israeli society—Jewish, Arab, and Druze—an investment here supports the future leaders who will rebuild the region.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you about partnering with us to provide this immediate and direct support to our student reservists.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO DIRECTLY ASSIST UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA STUDENTS IN THE IDF

The University currently assesses the need per student reservist to range from 3,000 to 10,000 shekels (\$1,000 - \$3,200). When we average that out and factor in 600 students, the overall fund amounts to \$1,260,000.

EXAMPLES

Nearly half of our students called to reserve duty are women, each balancing academic ambitions with extraordinary national service. The reserve duty days noted below take into account all days of military service since the outbreak of the “Swords of Iron” war.

Below are just four examples, from over six hundred real life stories:

M. | Home Destroyed in Missile Strike

Multidisciplinary Studies

M., an undergraduate student, experienced firsthand the devastating impact of war when the home he shared with his mother was struck by a missile, leaving it uninhabitable and destroying all of their belongings. Even before the war, the family faced financial hardship. Since then, M. has completed over 530 days of reserve duty, further limiting his ability to work. Despite these challenges, he has maintained strong academic performance and remains determined to succeed. Financial aid will enable him to focus on his education and help rebuild stability for himself and his family.

L. | Reserve Service (365+ Days)

Philosophy and Middle Eastern Studies

L., an undergraduate student, has faced significant personal and financial challenges. She and her siblings are currently serving in reserve duty, placing additional strain on the family, while her mother, now the primary provider, is coping with both emotional and financial hardship. L. remains determined to continue her education, balancing work, her studies, and over 365 days of reserve service since the outbreak of the war. Financial aid will help ease her burden and provide the stability she needs to complete her degree.

D. | Lone Soldier

Physiotherapy

D., an undergraduate student living in the dormitories, immigrated to Israel from South Africa in 2018. He serves as a lone soldier with limited family support. Since the outbreak of the war, he has completed over 270 days of reserve duty. D. is determined to complete his studies and build his life in Israel. A grant will provide him with the support and encouragement needed to continue his academic journey and transition successfully into a professional career.

H. | 697 Days of Reserve Service

Human Services and Human Development

H. lives with her mother following her father's serious illness and recent passing. The family was forced to sell their home to cover mounting medical expenses. The youngest of five children, H. carries significant responsibility while pursuing her studies. Her rigorous academic program and continued reserve service, totaling over 697 days since the outbreak of the war, leave her concerned about meeting basic living expenses. Financial aid will provide critical support, enabling her to continue her studies with stability and focus.