



The Social Mobility Program

Creating Inclusive Academic Excellence



Transforming the Lives of Students from Israel's Periphery

The Social Mobility Program

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

The flagship program offers comprehensive financial, academic, and social support services to students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds throughout their studies and assists them in integrating into the workforce.



Our Goal

The program's goal is to succeed with 'inclusive academic excellence' in Israel and to have a significant impact on shaping socio-economic policy.



Why the Program is Important

With corona virus sending shockwaves through higher education and disproportionately impacting students from lower socio-economic and multi-ethnic segments of Israeli society, 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 perfectly positioned to take action and make 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 larger community in northern Israel. The link between academic excellence and social responsibility is expressed in many of our academic and social service programs and underscores the vital need for ongoing leadership development.



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 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; identifies and recruits 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

In December 2020, a group of 30 students joined a pilot version of the program.

University of Haifa plans to expand the project into a campus-wide initiative for hundreds of students each year that will serve as an engine for societal change and catalyst for policies, intervention programs, and student support services that combine inclusive academic excellence with career empowerment.



Tracking Success

Students	Improve academic performance of 90 students from the socio-geographic periphery
	Raise students' self-confidence and sense of personal autonomy
Faculty	Enhance awareness among university staff of the unique challenges faced by students from the socio-geographic periphery
Institution	Improve institutional capacity to provide comprehensive support services for underserved students
	Develop a model for identifying students from the periphery who are at risk of dropping out

Why this program?

- Strong leadership
- A holistic, institution-wide approach
- A unique Participatory approach
- Proven track record with other vulnerable populations
- Commitment to creating an impact



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Thank You

