



המנהל לטכנונדים עולים המשדר ללקיטת העלייה

**אֲתִידִים**  
דרי עתידים בע"מ

Back to your future

**Atidim**

A white silhouette of a person's head and shoulders in profile, looking through a microscope. The person is holding the eyepiece with their right hand. The background is a solid orange color.

The information is correct to the date of publication May 2008

## A New Horizon - Atidim

You just graduated from high school and have reached an important cross-roads in your journey into the future... which path will you take...?

How about an Israeli path which combines academic studies & officer training...

The Academic Atuda of the IDF, the board of Atidim, and the Israel Student Authority (in the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption) invite you to join this elite group of the Academic Atuda – Atidim

## What is Atidim?

The Academic Atuda provides Israeli youngsters with the unique opportunity of gaining an undergraduate degree BEFORE their military service, to use their service in the IDF to gain professional experience in their chosen field, and to serve as officers. In short the Atidim program enables young people to fulfill their own potential whilst serving their country.

The Atidim Program began in 1999 with the intention of encouraging promising high school graduates from development towns & peripheral regions to be accepted into higher education in the framework of the Academic Atuda of the IDF.

The Israel Student Authority, the IDF, and the Atidim forum, have decided to open up this opportunity to you too – the gifted returning minor.

Who is a **Returning Minor**\*?

A Returning Minor is someone who meets **all** these criteria:

- You were either born in Israel or immigrated as a child
- You left with your parents while under the age of 14
- You lived abroad for at least 4 consecutive years
- You are returning to Israel at the age of 17 or over
- Your parents did not work for an Israeli company or institution abroad during the five years preceding your return

The program is open to men & women alike, the length of the army service for men & women on the Atidim program is the SAME.

## Why Atidim?

Status, quality, excellence, a profession for life, grants, support & assistance

## What is in the program:

- ▶ mechina: preparatory year for academic studies
- ▶ undergraduate studies
- ▶ compulsory army service as an officer in chosen profession
- ▶ additional (paid) army service as an officer in chosen profession

## How long?

One academic year: ulpan & mechina

Undergraduate studies: 3-4 years according to subject  
6-7 years for medicine

Compulsory service – 3 years

Additional (paid) service – 3 years

## What do you receive whilst a student

### **From the Israel Student Authority:**

- ▶ Regular university tuition for 3 years including Mechina
- ▶ Additional lessons in your chosen subject
- ▶ Professional staff & councilors who will accompany individuals & groups
- ▶ Social & cultural activities to know Israel & belong
- ▶ Participation in Shahak: community service

### **From the IDF:**

A grant equivalent to the cost of studies for every academic year (aside from the mechina)

### **From Atidim:**

- ▶ possibility of special means tested grant
- ▶ personal support & academic tutoring
- ▶ your own personal lap top from the first academic year in Atuda
- ▶ a place on campus dorms for the whole period of your studies (subject to spaces available)
- ▶ social activities & community service
- ▶ enhancing excellence & leadership skills
- ▶ supporting you in the transition from your studies to army service

## What do you receive whilst in the army:

- ▶ Quality army service as an officer in your chosen field
- ▶ Gaining valuable job experience which will be advantageous as a civilian job seeker
- ▶ Option for graduate studies from your second year of army service (without grants & subject to approval by the army)

## **Atuda graduates are in demand by major Israeli & International companies.**

## Where & what will you study?

In any of the academic institutions recognized by the Israel Student Authority: the Technion, Universities & Academic Colleges, where the subjects required by the army can be studied:

- ▶ In the field of engineering
- ▶ exact & natural sciences (limited to certain subjects)
- ▶ teaching sciences & teaching English as a foreign language (only at the Hebrew University)
- ▶ law
- ▶ medicine & dental medicine & pharmacy
- ▶ social sciences: economics, logistics, human resource management

## Who can apply?

- ▶ a returning minor as classified by the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, after receiving confirmation of this status
- ▶ students who have confirmed their eligibility for assistance from the Israel Student Authority
- ▶ high school graduates with high grades and at least two science subjects passed at high grades (over 80%)
- ▶ students with high psychometric or SAT scores

## How to register from abroad?

- ▶ Through Garin Zabar in North America:  
Miki Atir tel. 2124516279 mail: garin@israelscouts.org  
50 W 58th St. New York NY10019
- ▶ Through the English Desk of the Student Authority:  
naomis@moia.gov.il

## When to register?

Until May each year.

## How are candidates chosen?

Students found suitable to apply will arrive in Israel to complete the application process through the IDF recruitment centers, including: psychotechnic exams, medical profile, and personality assessment.

This selection process will happen at the same time as you are studying in the summer ulpan during July & August as part of your Mechina program, while you are living on campus at the university. The university summer ulpan will be paid for by the Israel Student Authority. You will be responsible for your rent while living on campus.

## What happens once you have been approved for the program?

Anybody found suitable for the program according to the IDF's criteria will be able to continue as a candidate for Atuda. Atuda candidates will begin the university preparatory program (mechina) either at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (October –July) or at the Technion in Haifa (October–August).

Students who did not pass the selection process and are not approved for Atuda can still continue to study in the mechina with the assistance of the Israel Student Authority as any regular Oleh or Returning Minor, or can be recruited to the IDF or return abroad.

## What is the mechina?

The Pre-academic Mechina for Olim is a one year program meant for high school graduates from abroad whose high school completion certificate is not equivalent to the Israeli Bagrut (this applies to all high school certificates from the US except for the IB certificate). The purpose of the mechina is to prepare students for studying in Israel: to introduce them to the various faculties & study options, to teach academic Hebrew, to improve their chances of acceptance into their chosen field, and to provide valid academic knowledge to enable their easy & successful transition into academic studies in Israel. When students from the Mechina apply to university their grades from the Mechina are combined with the psychometric or SAT1 to determine acceptance. The main subjects of study: Hebrew, English, Israeli history, computer skills, mathematics, science subjects (physics, chemistry) and faculty subjects. Mechina studies are divided into faculties: humanities, social science, natural sciences, engineering & technology (this last only at the Technion). Allocation to the mechina track is dependent on what you want to study afterwards & on the results from a mathematics exam. **In the Atidim program students are expected to meet the requirements for the social & natural sciences & engineering tracks (i.e. the highest level).**

## Duration of studies:

Summer ulpan July\August  
Mechina – Jerusalem October – July (2 semesters),  
Technion October – August (3 semesters)  
38-40 hours a week studies

**Students for Atidim must complete the Mechina with high grades**

## What assistance do you receive while on the mechina?

While on the mechina you are still a candidate for Atidim, and are therefore not yet eligible for a grant from Atidim. The mechina is paid for by the Student Authority as part of your 3 years assistance entitlement. You will live on campus, where you are responsible to pay for the dorms and your upkeep.

As a student on campus you will benefit from social & cultural activities organized by the Student Authority, and personal guidance & counseling.

## From the Mechina to Regular Degree studies - conditions of acceptance:

- ▶ successful completion of the Mechina with high grades
- ▶ meeting the entrance requirements of your chosen subject from a list of subjects approved by the Atuda
- ▶ meeting the requirements of Academic Atuda

### **Acceptance to studies does not guarantee acceptance to IDF Atuda**

Students accepted to the Atidim program will benefit from assistance both from:

**The Israel Student Authority** – another 2 years of tuition

**The Army** - a grant for the entire period of your studies, provided you keep up your grades & academic credits.

If you have not been accepted into the Atidim program you are still entitled to continue your studies on any track you wish that is recognized by the Student Authority, and to receive the regular assistance from them. (Or you can join the army or leave the country).

- ▶ the program is offered irrespective of the number of participants
  - ▶ the Atidim program is individual – students fit in to the regular academic system. For the duration of your studies you will receive assistance and support from the board of Atidim
- 
- ▶ meeting academic requirements and keeping above 70% average grades
  - ▶ community service twice a week during your studies
  - ▶ community service through Shahak of the Israel Student Authority in your 3rd year (you will not be expected to do double community service in this year)
  - ▶ participation in activities organized by Atidim

## What are your obligations if accepted to Atidim?

Steps  
towards  
your army  
service:

**First summer between 1st & 2nd year of studies**

4 weeks basic training

**Second summer between 2nd & 3rd year of studies**

active training

**Third summer between 3rd & 4th year of studies  
or after graduation**

preparation for active service

At end of studies: Officer training in professional unit.

What will  
you do in  
the army?

Here are some possible examples:

**Engineering graduates:** research & development, project managers, Management & upkeep of engineering systems, quality control

**Science graduates:** research & analysis, research development in leading technological teams, developing scientific & technological networks, electronic imaging & communications, space science

**Social sciences:** officers in logistic units, personnel management & advisors, budgeting & analysis.

**Teaching science & English:** academic officer teachers in schools in development towns or army bases.

**Law:** legal services to the army, research & training

**Placement in the army depends on the army's needs & is variable**



## Future steps:

	Program	Location	Length	Dates
1	Initial application	Abroad	2 months	Until May
2	Recruitment checks & summer ulpan	Hebrew University Jerusalem	2 months	July\August
<b>You passed!! You are a candidate for Atidim!!</b>				
3	Mechina	Hebrew University or Technion	One academic year	October to July\August
<b>You did it! You are in the Atidim program!</b>				
4	Degree studies	Any academic institution recognized by the IDF & the Student Authority	Science- 3 yrs Law-3.5 yrs Engineering 4 yrs Medicine 7 yrs	October-July each year
<b>You are an undergraduate in Atidim!</b>				
5	Compulsory army service & officer training	In your unit	3 yrs	
6	Paid service You have beneficial pay & conditions		3 yrs	

**“He who has faith in himself & his abilities will make the distance between his life & his dream....”**

Yoram Taharlev.