

# JCT's Student Scholarship Fund The Key to Israel's Future





Founded in 1969, the Jerusalem College of Technology (JCT) is one of Israel's major academic institutions, with 5,000 students on three campuses. Fully accredited by Israel's Council of Higher Education, the College offers academic degree programs in Electro-Optics Engineering, Communication Systems Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Electronics and Electrical Engineering, Accounting and Management, Business Administration and Life and Health Sciences as well as several Masters level programs. JCT's two-fold mission is to train highly skilled professionals for Israel's rapidly growing hi-tech industries while simultaneously cultivating a strong commitment to Jewish values, the Jewish people, and the State of Israel.

Dedicated to strengthening Jerusalem and addressing Israel's socio-economic needs, JCT empowers diverse segments of Israeli society who would otherwise not be able to pursue higher education to become productive members of Israel's highly competitive workforce. While many JCT graduates receive tempting offers for work from leading high-tech companies from all over the world, over 95% of graduates choose to continue to live and work in Israel. Over 24% of our students come from the periphery and 20% are new immigrants. JCT's "Education for Ethiopians" (EFE) and the Haredi (Ultra-Orthodox) programs provide customized remedial training, enabling adults with only a grade-school education to become college-ready in less than 16 months.

The cost per student at JCT can reach over \$5,000 per year, including expenses tuition, tutoring, room and board. These sums are beyond the reach of many of our students. JCT's scholarship funding helps those in need cover these expenses.

We make every effort to find sources of funding for these students to ensure they have an opportunity to concentrate on their studies, pursue academic achievement, and build a financially secure future.

On the following pages are descriptions of the types of students who need scholarship support. All profiles and photographs are for illustration purposes only.



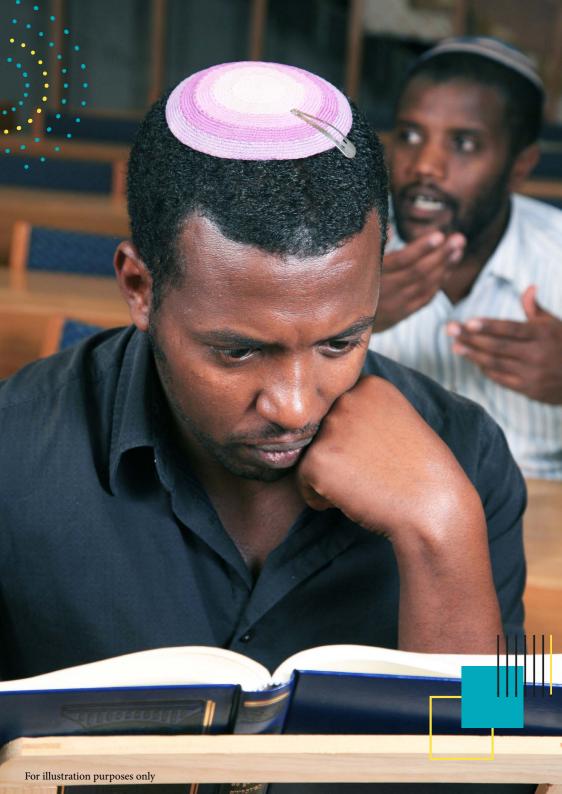
## **IDF and National Service Graduates**

Many of JCT's students who served in the army and national service (including Haredim and Ethiopian-Israelis) are dependent on some level of scholarship support. Many are already married with children and the intensive double curriculum at JCT, combining Jewish studies in the morning alongside a full curriculum of academic study in the afternoon, makes it nearly impossible to work enough hours to afford tuition.

Deeply committed to Israel and Zionism, JCT seeks to give back those who served our country and provide them with the scholarship support they require and deserve.

**Assaf T.** is 26 years old and married with three children. He is starting his second year of Industrial Engineering and Management. Assaf served in the IDF in the Intelligence Corps. Although he finds his studies challenging, he successfully passed all his exams in his first year. With his wife and growing family, Assaf needs as much financial support as possible to allow him to devote more time to his studies.

**Eli S.** is married with two children and is in his second year of studies towards a degree in Software Engineering at the Lev Campus. After making Aliya from the US in 2009, Eli served in the Intelligence Corps as part of his regular army service. His wife recently graduated from college and began working part-time as a speech therapist. The family moved to Jerusalem last year to help make it easier for him with his studies, but the move significantly added to their expenses as they previously lived outside the city where the rent was much lower. Upon moving to Jerusalem he also joined the Beit Midrash program, which added hours of Torah studies to his schedule and made it difficult for him to find time to work to support his family. We are committed to supporting Eli until he has graduated and can be gainfully employed.



## **Ethiopian - Israelis**

JCT was the pioneering institution of higher education in Israel to take up the challenge of integrating members of the Ethiopian community into academia and the workforce by establishing the Reuven Surkis Program for Students from the Ethiopian Community over 20 years ago. There are currently over 80 Ethiopian students studying towards degrees in engineering, accounting, management and nursing. The program has hundreds of graduates.

JCT provides program participants with significant assistance to support them on their journey towards earning an academic degree, which includes private lessons, reinforcement courses (English, maths), Ethiopian Jewish heritage courses and field trips.

While the Israeli Government covers the basic tuition costs for most of these students, we rely on philanthropic support to provide critical additional assistance to help them succeed and integrate into Israeli society. This funding covers tuition fees, food and lodging, tutoring, educational supplies as well as transportation costs for the students who live outside Jerusalem.

**Bar L.** is currently studying the Mechina program. His father ran away while Bar was just an infant, leaving his mother to raise Bar alone. Despite Bar's mother working two jobs, at times the financial situation becomes so desperate that they are forced to reduce food purchases in order to make ends meet. Bar has succeeded in securing some scholarships during his studies, but not enough to cover his entire cost of living.

Bar is determined to succeed at his studies and in life. He is looking forward to eventually securing a stable job, but often despairs as he worries how he is going to live from day to day.



## **Nursing Students**

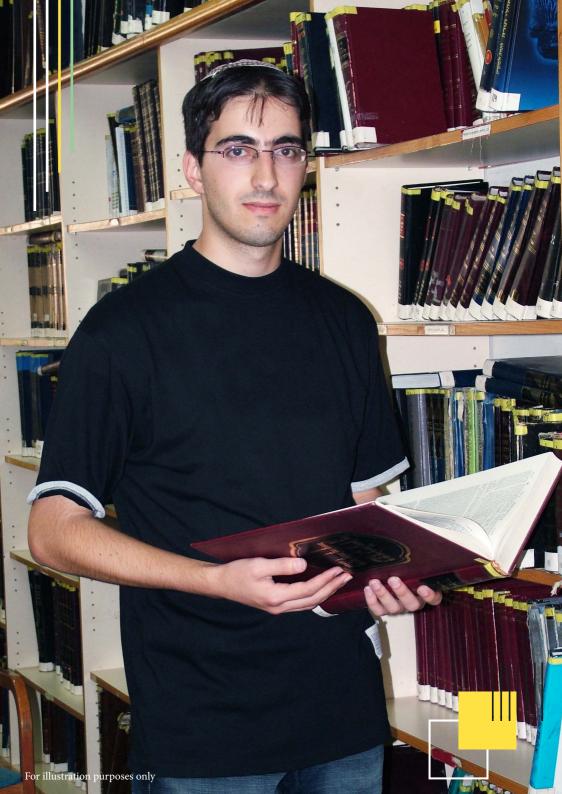
The average number of nurses in Israel is 5.6 per 1,000 people; the average for OECD countries is 6.8 per 1,000 people. In order to achieve the 6.2 average, Israel must graduate 3,000 nurses every year and establish an additional 6,000 positions.

JCT's nursing program is one of the largest and most prominent in Israel, accounting for just under 20%, of all nursing students in the country. Graduates of the program continue to achieve top scores in the national accreditation exam every year.

Due to the growing demand for academically trained nurses in Israel, we seek to offer scholarships to all nursing students in need. These scholarships are paramount, especially for students from the Haredi and Ethiopian communities as well as students who come from the periphery. Without this support, they would not be afforded the opportunity of studying for this profession.

**Shira S.** is 22 and in her second year of Nursing at Machon Tal. Shira is the oldest of 9 siblings. She has two sisters who also study at Machon Tal as well as abrother who studies in Yeshiva. For personal reasons her father has had to reduce the hours he works which has meant it is almost impossible for him to cover the tuition costs of all his children. Due to the intense curriculum at Machon Tal, Shira has no time to work. Without a student grant and financial help, she will be forced to abandon her studies. We are committed to helping Shira.

**Hadar F.** is 22 and in her third year of Nursing at Machon Tal. Last year much of her time and energy were taken up caring for her sister before she died of cancer. Then her mother was hospitalized for several months and also recently passed away. Due to her current situation and the intense curriculum at Machon Tal, Hadar cannot work in order to support herself financially. She is in great need of financial assistance in order to allow her to continue her studies and help others in their times of need.



## **Beit Midrash Students**

JCT's Beit Midrash embodies the principles upon which the College was founded – Torah and Science. Torah learning ranges from Talmud, Bible and Practical Halacha, to Mussar and Jewish Business Ethics. From early morning until late at night, students can be found engaged in Torah or Talmudic discourse in the Beit Midrash. JCT's intensive and immersive dual curriculum that combines advanced academic study and Torah learning, makes it difficult for students to support themselves during their studies.

Many students rely on JCT for scholarship funding and seek living stipends to cover their basic living costs. A large number of our students begin their studies after completing their military service and are already married with children thus increasing their economic need. At JCT we believe it is our responsibility and obligation to help these students to pursue higher education and become financially self-sufficient.

**Naftali B.** is in his third year of studies and has been an honors student for the past two years. In previous years he managed to pay his tuition on his own since he lived with his parents and also took a loan in order to help cover his expenses. Naftali married several months ago, which has significantly increased his expenses. Despite his intense schedule, combining Torah and Engineering studies, Naftali manages to integrate some tutoring and tour guiding in order to make some money. Regrettably, this income is not enough to cover his living expenses and tuition and Naftali is dependent on scholarships from generous benefactors to help ease his way.



#### Haredi Men

The Haredi community is not only the fastest-growing population in Israel, it is also one of the fastest growing populations in the world. Currently numbering 850,000, Haredim comprise approximately 10% of Israel's society. Despite their numbers, the majority of Haredim (60%) live below the poverty line and have limited access to well paying positions.

JCT's gender-separate campuses enable students from this community to enter advanced academic programs. Over the years, JCT's respected reputation has earned the silent approval of leading rabbis, which has enabled the College to welcome hundreds of Haredi students. Today, Haredim comprise over 40% of JCT's student body. The vast majority of these students come from large, low-income families and many are already married with children. Thus they are unable to afford tuition fees and depend on financial aid in order to study.

With minimal secular education, many Haredi students must successfully complete a pre-academic program (mechina) and require additional academic reinforcement to enter the academic degree program.

**Menachem H.** is 29 years old and one of 12 siblings. His father had a stroke 9 years ago and spent a lot of time in hospital. He is now wheelchair bound. This made it emotionally very hard for his mother and she was forced to leave her job. Menachem's grades are good and his teachers are very optimistic that he will complete his studies successfully.

**Jonathan W.** is 20 years old. His father studies in Kollel and his mother recently had an operation to remove a tumor and has to follow a special diet which is very expensive. Since his home life is difficult he would like to live in the dorms at JCT, but has no means to cover the cost. He believes this will significantly help his ability to study and achieve good grades.



### **Haredi Women**

One of the major problems facing Israel today, in both the social and economic spheres, is the integration of women - particularly the integration of women from the Haredi community - into the Israeli workforce in general and the hi-tech sector in particular. Promoting the education of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) professions is one of JCT's primary goals.

The majority of our female Haredi students come from large families with low incomes that have had no or little exposure to advanced education. Many of them are married and their husbands earn meager stipends from learning Torah all day or work in low paying positions. As a result, many are unable to afford tuition without scholarship assistance.

**Chana T.** is the youngest of 12 children and grew up in foster homes until the age of 15. Her parents struggle financially, are divorced and her mother suffers from mental illness. On account of her health issues, her mother receives a state income and her father receives a small kollel stipend. She has chosen to study computer science with the hope that one day she will be able to support herself financially. In order to finance her studies, Chana has taken student loans, however she still finds herself with a shortfall at the end of each month and is dependent on grants or scholarships to continue her studies.

**Michal C.** is the oldest of 6 children but does not receive any financial support from her family. Her parents divorced after 20 difficult years of marriage. She lives in Beitar Illit with her mother who supports the family with a small state income and house cleaning, since she receives no financial support from her ex-husband. Michal has begun studying accounting and in her spare time cleans houses and offices to help relieve the financial stress. Michal is an excellent student and is determined to succeed and acquire a good profession.



## **Single Mothers**

According to the National Insurance Institute of Israel, over 11% of all families in Israel are single parent families, of which single mothers head over 90%. Poverty is more prevalent amongst this sector of the population and government support is often a primary source of income.

Many of the single mothers studying at JCT come from low socio-economic backgrounds, particularly from Haredi or Ethiopian communities. Most come from large families that cannot provide them with any financial assistance to support their families. They often live in less expensive housing areas outside of Jerusalem and have to pay for transportation to get to the College.

**Tatiana Z.** is a single mother of three. Tatiana married young and endured years of physical abuse at the hands of her ex-husband. The abuse was so severe that on more than one occasion she was hospitalized. Once the abuse escalated to harming the children, Tatiana fled to a shelter and finally received a divorce. Her husband is currently in prison and has no contact with Tatiana or his children. Thankfully, she was able to start a new life. She is in her second year of studying towards a nursing degree.

**Batya C.** is a single mother of three and currently in her first year of studies towards a degree in Nursing. She has no support from her own family and gets little alimony from her former husband. Batya hopes that by succeeding in her studies and by entering the field of health care, she will be able to help others while supporting her family with dignity. Batya is grateful for any financial support possible and she looks forward to the time when she is financially independent.



## Help guarantee the "Key to the Israel's Future" One year scholarship \$5,000 Full scholarship \$20,000

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