

Adjustments for Students due to Pregnancy, Childbirth, Adoption, Receiving Custody or Fostering A Child and Fertility Treatments - Pursuant to the Resolution of the Council for Higher Education and the Amendment to the Student Rights Law Effective from the 2017-2018 Academic Year

A. Definitions:

1. Prerequisite: Participation in a course, exam or assignment that is a condition for participating in another course/exam or graduating to the next year.
2. Absence due to a qualifying event - A student's absence for a period of at least 21 days during the semester for one of the following reasons: bed rest, other circumstances associated with pregnancy, travel to a foreign country for the purpose of adoption (travel abroad for the purpose of adoption also applies to a student), child birth, adoption or receipt of custody or fostering a child (adoption or receiving custody or fostering of a child also applies to a student who is a single parent), fertility treatments, or in vitro fertilization (IVF).
3. Assignment - An exercise, paper, seminar paper, project etc.

B. Adjustments Coordinator

The coordinator will be appointed by the Dean of Students. The coordinator will keep strictly confidential all medical documents transferred to him/her.

Functions of the Coordinator:

1. To determine the adjustments for students based on the procedures in place and in coordination with the lecturer.
2. To monitor the implementation of the adjustments and coordinate the implementation with the relevant staff at BGU.
3. To handle student complaints regarding implementation of the adjustments. The Dean of Students will put in place a procedure for applying for adjustments.

C. Absence from Classes and Postponement of studies

1. A student is entitled to be absent due to a qualifying event from up to 30% of all classes in a course that has mandatory attendance requirements.
2. A student who gave birth is entitled to be absent for up to six weeks after birth in in any course that has mandatory attendance requirements.
3. If the student is entitled to be absent for another reason, the total percentage of permitted absences shall not exceed 30%.
4. A student who is absent due to a qualifying entitling event, or a student who meets the provision of section 2 above, may postpone a course and return to studies without additional payment, provided that the student was not tested in the course.

D. Submitting Assignments

A student who is absent due to a qualifying event on the date set for the submission of an assignment or up to one week before the date of submission, may submit the assignment or an alternative assignment, as to be decided by the lecturer, within seven weeks after the end of the absence period.

E. Laboratories, Seminars, Workshops, Tours and Practical Training

1. Where a student is absent due to a qualifying event, the lecturer may at his/her discretion determine whether and how the student's participation will be completed.
2. The Safety Department will announce the materials used in the laboratories that may be risk factors to pregnant women or breastfeeding mothers. Female students may postpone their participation in laboratories where such materials until after the pregnancy or breastfeeding period.

F. Exams

1. A student who has missed an exam due to a qualifying event may take the exam on a special date.
2. A student following childbirth, adoption or receiving child custody, who missed an exam for a period of up to 14 days from the date of birth, adoption or receiving child custody, may take the exam on a special date. This right also applies to a student who is a single parent who adopted or received custody of a child.
3. A pregnant female student is entitled to go to the restrooms throughout the exam, without the restrictions imposed on other students.
4. A student who is pregnant or up to 14 weeks after childbirth is entitled to 25% extra time on the exam. If the student is entitled to extra time for another reason, the total extra exam time will be 25%.

G. Absence from an Exam or Assignment that is a Prerequisite

A student who has missed a course exam or because of his/her absence did not submit an assignment in a course that is a prerequisite, may study on probation in an advanced course or in an advanced year until completion of the exam or assignment.

H. Spouses

1. The spouse of a student, who is also a student, who is absent due to a qualifying event during the semester, will be exempt from attending classes for one week from the qualifying event.
2. A student, who is the spouse of a woman giving birth, and has missed an exam that was held three weeks from the date of birth, may take the exam on a special date.

I. Extension of Studies

A student, who is absent due to a qualifying event during the regular academic period, will be entitled to extend his/her studies by two semesters without being charged additional tuition fees beyond the regular tuition for the degree, or any additional payment for this extension of studies.

J. Research Scholarship

1. A scholarship for a master's degree, doctoral and postdoctoral degree will not be discontinued during the period of the student's absence from the regular academic period due to a qualifying event. BGU may limit the duration of payment to 14 weeks.
2. At the end of the scholarship period, a master's, doctoral or postdoctoral student may extend the scholarship granted to him/her from internal university sources for the period of his/her paid leave.
3. Payment of the scholarship and granting the extension will be the responsibility of BGU (as detailed in the Scholarship Rules document).

K. Infrastructure

BGU will allocate:

1. Seating suitable for pregnant students that will allow for sitting and writing with comfort.
2. Nursing room/s. The nursing room will be equipped with a comfortable seating area, an electrical outlet, refrigerator, diapering counter and a nearby sink.
3. Diapering counters throughout the campus, as needed, the location of which will be published.
4. Parking on or within the vicinity of the campus - from the seventh month of pregnancy up to one month after childbirth, a student may park near the place of studies, free of charge.
5. A student who is absent due to a qualifying event is entitled to a benefit equal to 20 photocopies of missed study material for every academic in which he/she was absent.

L. Publication

1. The rules and the procedure will be published each year in BGU's yearbook.
2. The Adjustments Coordinator will publish the highlights of the document at the beginning of each year to the members of the academic and administrative staff of the university.

Comments:

1. These instructions do not apply to students in preparatory courses.
2. Special date - eligibility is for one special date only.