



From the President

October 2021

From Ideas to Reality

Implementation of the Strategic Plan: Internationalization

Internationalization plays a crucial part in realizing the University's vision of becoming one of the nation's and the world's leading universities.

Over the past two and half years, BGU International has significant achievements spanning various aspects of internationalization: in the nature and type of partnerships forged across the world, in the numbers and diversity of international students and researchers we welcome to campus, in new international study programs, in the growing number of courses offered in English, and in providing an atmosphere of internationalization at home. The rising trend of advanced research fellows arriving to BGU has also been remarkable.

Joint courses offered together with leading global institutions is just one excellent example of an initiative that can take us forward. There are many advantages to joint courses, and I can attest to this personally as a lecturer in a joint course (between BGU and PKU). [The call](#) for joint courses is open till the end of October, and I urge faculty members to answer the call and propose joint courses.

Internationalizing research and teaching

Expanding course offerings in English at BGU:

Beginning this academic year, all students at BGU will take academic courses in a range of fields in English. Over the next few years, we will launch a number of programs, including joint degree programs with institutions abroad, that are taught in English.

Research campuses abroad:

For the first time in our history, two joint research centers were established abroad: the first in the USA, in collaboration with the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and the other in collaboration with ABAN in Tamil Nadu, India. We are working on the establishment of additional joint research centers and teaching collaborations.

Fellowships for excellent researchers and students:

The University offers a range of programs supporting the recruitment of international researchers, including: the PhD sandwich program, Joint PhDs, Fulbright, Azrieli, and Zuckerman fellowships, and more.

Internationalization at home:

BGU lecturers receive special grants to teach courses in collaboration with colleagues from abroad, for students of both institutions.

Exchange programs for students and faculty:

The EU Erasmus+ Program, the upcoming British Turing Scheme, together with other dedicated grants, support a culture of short-term faculty and student exchanges at all degree levels. Expanding the number of courses offered in English will facilitate the arrival of exchange students and create opportunities for joint learning with Israeli students. At the same time, new collaborations in the USA and Asia will also expand the possible destinations for exchanges abroad.

Bilateral agreements with partner institutions:

The Abraham Accords have opened up opportunities for academic collaborations in a number of new countries. We recently signed collaboration agreements with two academic institutions in Morocco and held joint workshops with partners in the UAE. We have also signed agreements with several leading universities in Europe, North America and elsewhere.

Responding to non-academic needs in the international context

Welcome Center:

A new Welcome Center is being established to help incoming international students and researchers navigate the administrative procedures entailed in coming to Israel and BGU. The Center, to be located in a prominent campus location, will coordinate extensive and comprehensive assistance with all non-academic issues related to the arrival and settling of international students and researchers at BGU. Workshops on multiculturalism and providing culturally inclusive services are planned for administrative staff in recognition of the need to provide linguistically and culturally inclusive services.

International marketing:

As our course offerings in English expand and we launch new programs, our marketing activities around the world have also expanded: this has included digital marketing, participation in virtual education fairs, and engagement of a PR firm in India. Our offices in New York will be replaced by activity originating in Israel, and more. Any faculty member about to travel for a conference or sabbatical leave, or who is planning a collaborative international activity is welcome to contact the International Marketing Director.

The Buddy program:

The Program offers new international students to pair up with a local Buddy (a more senior student) who will help with preparations for arrival and the early stages of adapting to BGU. The program is a collaboration between BGU International and the Student Union and, following a successful pilot last year, is now being offered to all students beginning their studies this semester.

I wish to thank Prof. Limor Aharonson-Daniel, Vice President for Global Engagement, Dr. Stavi Baram, Director of BGU International, and its entire staff for their dedicated and professional work.

Yours sincerely,
Prof. Daniel Chamovitz, President

