

# HANDBOOK FOR ELECTIVE STUDENT

## Introduction

The Faculty of Health Sciences was founded in 1974 with the aim of revolutionizing primary care medicine in Israel through community involvement and the integration of medical education with medical care. This vision has developed into the reality of today's Faculty – a remarkable, interlocking network of research, teaching, and health-care institutions that has redefined compassionate health care. The Faculty has over 2,800 students registered in the:

- Joyce and Irving Goldman Medical School, including its framework of primary care teaching clinics, community-based outreach programs, and medical facilities
- Medical School for International Health, extending the Faculty's community mission to include the health of the regional and global community
- Leon & Mathilde Recanati School for Community Health Professions including Nursing, Physiotherapy and Emergency medicine
- School for Medical Laboratory Sciences
- School of Pharmacy
- School of Continuing Medical Education
- School for Public Health including: Undergraduate program in Health Systems Management (in collaboration with the School of Management) Graduate programs in Medical Sciences, Sociology of Health, Gerontology, Epidemiology, Public Health, Health-System Management and Emergency and Disaster Management
- Undergraduate program in Biomedical Engineering (in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering Sciences)
- Network of research and academic centers promoting studies in specific health related and scientific areas

Since the establishment of the Faculty, hundreds of highly qualified physicians and health care professionals have settled in the Negev, devoting their lives to improving health services for the Negev population and changing the lives of millions of Israelis. Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was established with the aim of spearheading the development of the Negev, a desert area comprising more than sixty percent of Israel's land mass. The University was inspired by the vision of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, who believed that the future of the country lay in this region. Today, Ben-Gurion University is a major center for teaching and research, with over 19,000 students enrolled in the faculties of Engineering Sciences, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Management, and the Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies. It also includes the Institutes for Applied Research, the Institute for Applied Biosciences, the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, the Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies, and the Ben-Gurion Research Institute. The University has campuses in Beer-Sheva, Ashkelon, Sde-Boker and Eilat.

***The Medical School conducts clinical teaching in the following affiliated medical centers:***

- \* **The Soroka University Medical Center**, a tertiary care hospital situated in Beer Sheva opposite the BGU campus. It serves a population of nearly 450,000 residents of the Negev including over 90,000 Bedouin. It is one of the largest, comprehensive and most active health care institutions in Israel, with over 13,500 births annually. It is also the major trauma center for the Israel Defense Forces and the hundreds of automobile accidents that occur in the area. The broad spectrum of ethnic origins, cultural backgrounds and socio-economic levels of the population served by this hospital, provide the student with a wealth and variety of clinical experience.
  - \* **The Barzilai University Medical Center Campus** , located in Ashkelon on the Mediterranean sea-shore, 70 km North-West of Beer-Sheva and 50 km south of Tel-Aviv. It serves a population of ~450,000 residents from the cities of Ashkelon, Ashdod in the north, Kiryat Gat in the east and Sderot in the south in addition to the area's agricultural settlements (kibbutzim and moshavim). Barzilai is very active in all the medical fields and provides the students with abundant clinical experience.
  - \* **The Mental Health Center in Beer Sheva** provides hospitalization and outpatient clinics to the Negev population (850,000 residents) from Ashkelon to Eilat. The center has about 400 beds and offers psychiatric services to inpatients and outpatients. There is also a rehabilitation hostel "Beit Rotem" that houses 32 inmates. The Center's departments activate as a psycho-social model which combines biological, psychological and sociological methods for treating patients and their families who suffer from a variety of complex mental problems. Within the framework of the Center, there are additional psychiatric clinics for children and youth, the Tal Clinic and a unit for family counselling. There is also a special child developmental institute for diagnosis and treatment of children. In addition, there is a special department that treats patients suffering from drug and alcohol addiction and an ambulance that supplies alternative drugs.
  - \* **Assuta Hospital, Ashdod** opened in 2017, Assuta Hospital, Ashdod is the only public medical center to have been built in Israel during the last 40 years and will serve a population of over half a million living in the area of Ashdod. In terms of both technological advancements and medical skills, this hospital manifests a state-of-the-art and modern institution comprising 9 floors, 2 of which are underground, and an additional 9 story building which houses institutes, outpatient clinics and research labs. The campus presently offers 250 beds but the capacity will eventually be expanded to at least 600 and will maintain the most modern safety standards demanded by a green medical campus.
- Assuta Ramat Hahayal Hospital** is located in Tel Aviv is one of the largest, safest and most advanced hospitals in Israel in terms of both technological advancements and medical skills. With 10 floors and 16 surgery rooms equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the establishment offers more than 200 hospital beds, 12 ER beds and 2 monitoring labs and a high-level oncology institute and one of the largest imaging facilities in Israel.
- \* **Community Health Clinics**, a network of community clinics dispersed all over the Negev desert providing health care services to a heterogeneous population.

**ASRN - The Medical Students' Association of the Negev** ASRN serves over 2550 students of medicine, physiotherapy, nursing, health system management, medical laboratory sciences, pharmacy and emergency medicine, invites students of the health professions to participate in elective studies at the faculty's various schools, including community health. ASRN considers elective students as its guests and provides comprehensive information about ongoing faculty and campus activities. As an integral part of a medical school that encourages community involvement, ASRN promotes many projects related to the welfare of the community such as: health education and disease prevention in the local schools, social activities in hospital wards, and aid to humanitarian organizations. ASRN is located in the Caroline House Building adjacent to the main Faculty Building. A representative of ASRN is responsible for coordinating elective studies including free access to the medical library, reduced office services and entrance to the university sports center.

## Guidelines for Elective Studies

Foreign elective students take part in supervised rounds, bedside instructions and departmental seminars. They observe most of the professional activities, but due to many restricting conditions, the practical hands-on training is limited. The work in the departments/clinics is carried out in Hebrew and wherever possible, the hospital staff will assist the student with language difficulties.

Visiting elective students will have the rights, duties and responsibilities similar to those of BGU students but will not hold at any other status at BGU. Each elective application is conducted on an individual basis and the participant is placed in a department or clinic according to his list of preferences.

**Available fields:** Placement in the desired field is not always possible, so be sure to make more than one choice when completing the application form (see enclosed).

**Available months:** Year round (except during religious holidays).

**Confirmation:** Applications should be made at least 3 months in advance in order to make the necessary arrangements with the heads of departments and housing availability (if applicable).

**Applications will be considered according to the following provisions:**

- [Completion of registration form](#)
- [Vaccination form](#) (signed by a physician)
- Participants must have a comprehensive knowledge of spoken and written Hebrew or English.
- Students will be accepted on condition that he/she has completed basic studies in the requested elective.
- Periods of enrolment are for 4-6 weeks; special arrangements may sometimes be made for longer or shorter periods in the basic sciences and in a few clinical fields.
- Documents submitted in support of an application from the student's university must contain original signatures
- A copy of the first page of your passport and a copy of your traveler's insurance.
- A copy of personal and health insurance.

**Applications will only be processed on receipt of all documents.**

**Please note: The Faculty is not automatically obligated to accept all applicants.**

**Correspondence should be mailed to:** Office of Public Relations, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, P.O.B. 653, Beer-Sheva, Israel 84105. Tel: 972-8-6477408; Fax: 972-8-6477659; E. mail: rtemes@bgu.ac.il

## General information

**Elective working hours:** Sunday - Thursday 08:00-16:00. Requirements of attendance and performance during electives may vary according to the specific department. The student is expected to notify the supervising staff members of the department, the Program's office and ASRN's contact on any leave of absence. Unjustified absence during the elective will not be recognized as part of the elective.

**Insurance:** All visiting students must be covered by personal and health insurance. Our school does not provide coverage for students. Copies of insurance policies must be submitted prior to commencement of elective.

**VISA:** Should the State of Israel require a student entry visa from the student's country of origin, it is the student's responsibility to make all visa arrangements prior to applying to the elective program.

**Immunization requirements:** All visiting students must provide evidence of immunization as shown in enclosed immunization compliance form. This form must be submitted before date of commencement of elective studies. The required immunizations are: MMR (mumps, measles, rubella), polio, hepatitis B virus (HBV), tetanus-diphtheria, Mantoux, and skin test with PPD (tuberculosis). It is mandatory for elective students to carry valid immunizations documents (in English or Hebrew) during their studies..

**Housing & Registration Fees:** Every effort is made to provide suitable student housing ; however type and availability vary throughout the year.

Elective fees are \$100/month plus \$50 insurance. Fees must be paid in full in Israel shekels before the commencement of the elective to the ASRN office.

For electives at the Soroka Medical Center, students are generally housed in two bedroom guest apartments in the student dormitories; costs are approximately \$250 per person/ month. In order to reserve accommodation, payment by check to the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev must be sent in advance and mailed to ASRN, Faculty of Health Sciences, P.O.B. 653, Beer-Sheva 84105, Israel. Students in need of housing for more than one month will be required to pay an additional charge for electricity. It should be noted that housing facilities for family or friends cannot be provided.. Students are expected to bring bed linens and towels. As there are no phones in the rooms, students can use pay phones located around the dormitories. Rates are cheaper after 1 a.m. and during weekends Phones may be installed in the rooms after paying a returnable deposit to the Bezeq company. A number of companies also rent cellular phones.

For electives at the Barzilai Medical Center, housing is provided on the basis of availability by the management of the Medical Center. In addition, the Barzilai Medical Center does not charge for malpractice or laundry (white coats).

**Language:** The national language is Hebrew. Most staff and many patients speak Arabic or Russian and English.

**Required Equipment:** Students should bring his/her stethoscope and white coats.: (Tel. 640-0517). Conveniently located on the grounds of the Soroka University Medical Center, the Medical Library houses a large collection of medical journals, books and reference materials, mostly in English. The Medical Library will order journal articles from other libraries in Israel or overseas for a fee. There is a computer room for accessing medical databases free-of-charge. In addition, the Medical Library is connected to the BGU Zalman Aranne Library on the Main Campus (across the street). Lending hours: Sunday to Thursday 8:30 to 18:45, Friday no service. Reading hours: Sunday to Thursday 8:30 to 22:00 (except August 8:30 to 18:45), Friday 8:30 to 11:45) The library is closed on

Saturdays and religious holidays with the exception of the intermediary days during the weeks of the Passover and Succoth holidays, when it is open half days. Be sure to register with the Medical Library for your library card. Access to a local Medical Library is also available at the Barzilai Medical Center campus.

**Weather:** Beer Sheva has a desert climate. The summer months are hot and dry, so be sure to drink a minimum of 9-10 glasses a day and wear a hat on trips. The winter months especially the nights, can be very cool, so bring suitable clothing. Summer (May - October) averages 32°C, winter (November - February) 5-17°C, with very little rain. Ashkelon has a more moderate climate. The summer months tend to be warm with high humidity, although in the evening temperatures usually cool down. Winters are cold and intermittently rainy. Summer (May - October) averages 28°C, winter (November - February) 5-15°C, with heavy rainfall at times.

**Currency:** The local currency is "New Israeli Shekel" (NIS). The rate updated to February 2011 averages 3.70 NIS for \$1 US (subject to fluctuation).

**Shopping & night-life:** For students holding their electives in Beer-Sheva, the main Student Center is situated on the University campus, and a weekly list of social and cultural activities is posted on the notice boards. These include folk dancing in the gym once a week. Movies are generally shown once a week in the dormitories and every night on the main campus. Admission is less than \$4. All major stores are located in down-town Beer Sheva, in the mall Kanyon Hanegev, adjacent to the Central Bus Station or in the BIG shopping centers. The malls offer a large selection of stores including pharmacy and supermarket, fast food restaurants and movie theatres. In down-town Beer Sheva, there are several discos and a busy night life, especially during the weekends. The University Sports complex is situated opposite the dormitories with complete facilities for gym, tennis, basketball and swimming. Students wishing to use the gym must provide a physician's letter stating that the applicant is physically fit. Students wishing to take advantage of the Sports Complex may take out membership at a reduced price. The beach is forty minutes from Beer Sheva, so remember to bring bathing suits and other desired equipment.

For students holding their electives in Ashkelon, the city offers a rich variety of cultural and social activities as well as a large variety of shopping centers, shopping malls, restaurants, movie theaters and night life.

**Transportation:** There is an excellent train service - Beer-Sheva - Tel-Aviv - north (via the airport) and a train station opposite the university dormitories. "Egged" runs a frequent bus service to all destinations from the Central Bus Station. A complete timetable is available from their information booths. When traveling on weekends, please remember that bus and train services terminate early on Fridays and only resume on Saturday night. There are taxi services available, but it is much cheaper to travel by bus or train. There is a local bus service and taxis are available at any time. An in town taxi ride costs around \$5. There is also excellent transportation from Ashkelon to Tel-Aviv (train, bus-service, taxi), to Beer-Sheva (bus service, taxi) and to the International Ben-Gurion airport.

**Administrative offices and services :** a five-day work week, Sunday through Thursday 8:00 to 16:00.

**Printing – Faculty of Health Sciences:** Printers are available for student use in the computer room, basement floor of the faculty building. BGU campus: Printers are available at the following locations: Building 33, 3rd floor & basement (color printer); Building 34, next to room 310; Building 58; Building 59; Building 72, Building 90, basement; 6th floor; Building 95; Student Dormitories (Me'onot Gimmel & Daled); University Library; Student House (color printer), first floor.

**Computer Facilities:** There are a few locations on the Main Campus as well as in the Faculty of Health Sciences in Beer-Sheva, where students may use computers. All computers are equipped with updated Microsoft Windows and Office software, as well as Internet connections. Computers are located at the following venues:

*The newly equipped rooms housing 30 computers in each room plus printing facilities. Opening hours are from 8:00 to midnight, from Sunday – Thursday, and Fridays until 14:00. The computers are available to any student with a BGU email account. Zolotowski Student Dormitories (Me'onot Gimmel) a computer room is located next to the laundry room. (for a nominal payment).*

**Laundry Facilities:** The Student Dormitories in Me'onot Gimmel and Me'onot Daled have coin operated laundry machines that are available daily at minimal cost to students.

**Photocopying:** There are several types of photocopy cards which are available at ASRN as well as at the Caroline Student House, Student Union, Main Campus (Beit Ha Student),. Numerous photocopying machines may be found in the following locations:

Internal Medicine Building (6th floor) near the Program office – use the plastic card purchased at ASRN offices Caroline House – use your ASRN plastic card

Medical Library – use your student ID card or the plastic library card

Zalman Aranne (Main) Library – use your student ID card

Student House, basement – use student ID card

**Post Offices/Photos/Books//Banks:** A post office is located on the university campus across the road from the Faculty of Health Sciences Building. Opening hours are: Sunday. - Thursday 8.00 - 15:00; Friday – 9.00 – 11.00. Photography and Bookshop are located in the basement of Zlotowski Students' Building. Opening hours are: Sun. –Thurs. 8.30-18.30; Fri. 8.30-13.00. A branch of Bank Hapoalim is also located next to the Zlotowski Students' Building where there are two ATM facilities. Opening hours are: Mon., Thurs. 8:30 - 13:00/ 16:00-19:00; Sun., Tue., Wed. 8:30 - 13:00 \* On the eve of a holiday opening hours generally follow Friday opening hours.

**Security:** In case of emergency on campus call the Security Department at 6461555 (on campus 1555). It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. ASRN offices: 64779538 (local)

**Food/Restaurants/Coffee Shops:** Medical students may purchase lunch tickets for use in the hospital dining room. A number of inexpensive cafeterias and restaurants are situated around the university campus. There is a small grocery store, a laundry and hairdresser within the dormitory complex and large supermarkets and the town market are a short bus ride away. MENZA – main cafeteria, student building (main University campus); Cafeteria – Building 32 adjacent to post office; Salad Bar – Building 28; Salad Bar (2) – Building 122 Faculty of Health Sciences; McDonald's – Building 91; Aroma – Soroka University Medical Center, ground floor next to Internal Medicine Building; Coffee Shop – opposite Sonnenfeldt Auditorium Building 72; main dining room and several cafeterias on the grounds of the Barzilai Medical Center campus.

ELECTIVE	DURATION	PREREQUISITES	COMMENTS
<b>GENERAL PEDIATRICS</b>	1-2 months	pediatrics rotation	
<b>YOUTH</b>	flexible	pediatrics rotation	
<b>NEONATOLOGY</b>		pediatrics rotation	Activities include rounds, staff meetings, and resuscitation in the delivery room.
<b>INSTITUTE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT</b>	> 2 weeks	pediatrics rotation	
<b>PEDIATRIC SURGERY</b>	4 weeks	Pediatrics and surgery rotations	
<b>PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGY</b>		Pediatrics and internal medicine rotations	Juvenile Diabetes, Growth disorders, Genetic disorders of hormone synthesis
<b>SURGERY</b>	4-6 weeks	Pediatrics and internal medicine rotations	
<b>HEART AND CHEST SURGERY</b>	At least a month	rotations and clinical surgery exposure	Will take part in all department activities including in OR and academic activities.
<b>PLASTIC SURGERY</b>	> 4 weeks	Can accommodate activities to any level.	Burns unit,, head, neck, skin oncology palm
<b>OPHTHALMOLOGY</b>	2-4 weeks	previous ophthalmology rotation	
<b>UROLOGY</b>	6 weeks4-	Surgery rotation	
<b>EAR , NOSE, THROAT</b>	3-4 weeks	Pediatrics and internal medicine rotations	
<b>ORTHOPEDICS</b>	6 weeks4-	Pediatrics and internal medicine rotations	Participation in meetings, reports on patients, active participation in the different clinics (pediatric orthopedics, trauma, foot and ankle, sport, joint transplant), assist in surgery.
<b>ANESTHESIOLOGY</b>	Up to 4 weeks	Surgery rotation	
	10 days Intensive Care		
	10 days Anaesthesia		
	2 days in ambulance		
<b>DERMATOLOGY &amp; VENEREAL DISEASE</b>	4 weeks	Dermatology and internal medicine rotation.	
<b>INTERNAL MEDICINE AMBULATORY CARE</b>	2 weeks	Internal medicine rotation	

