

# The *Mechina* Program: A GATEWAY TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS

A great way to support students is through the Hebrew University's innovative college preparatory *Mechina* program, the first, and for many years the only, such program in Israel. Created in 1963, *Mechina* serves to increase the number of students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds who are admitted to Hebrew University. The curriculum expands knowledge in the sciences, humanities, social sciences, pre-engineering, computer science as well as Hebrew and English. These concentrated efforts have resulted in the acceptance of over 70% of *Mechina* students to The Hebrew University.

Meet Uri and Moran, two of *Mechina's* many success stories. Uri and Moran are currently enrolled as Hebrew University undergraduates.

## URI

During his high school years, Uri, a third-generation Israeli, believed he lacked the emotional readiness necessary to devote his full attention to his studies and consequently finished with low grades. He wanted to make his father, a biologist, and his mother, a personnel manager, proud of him. After completion of his service in the army as a mechanic, Uri felt he had sufficiently matured and decided to take charge of his future by applying to the *Mechina* program. The *Mechina* faculty helped Uri conquer his fear of exams. He excelled in biology, chemistry, mathematics, English and academic writing and then passed the psychometrics test (the Israeli SAT).



*"I wouldn't be where I am today, with my deep desire to learn and the opportunities that await me, without the wonderful start that I had at the Hebrew University's Mechina," says Uri.*

After graduating from *Mechina*, Uri's high grades earned him a departmental scholarship to study physics and cognitive science. In his second year, Uri decided to pursue his interest in theoretical mathematics within HU's Department of Mathematics.

## MORAN

*"For this gift, I am most grateful," says Moran. "This scholarship continues to enable me to concentrate on studying and striving to the top. My life course has changed and will continue to change in ways that I can't even explain."*



An Ethiopian-Israeli, Moran was born in Kfar Saba and was soon adopted by a family who lives on a kibbutz. Growing up, Moran worked on the kibbutz with her adoptive siblings, took part in a local youth movement and dreamed of pursuing a law career. As part of a large family, Moran knew she had to find a way to pursue her academic studies without financially burdening her parents. Before she received a scholarship to *Mechina*, Moran doubted she would meet the required standards for acceptance to Hebrew University's Faculty of Law.

She not only exceeded the required standards while at *Mechina*: she graduated the program summa cum laude. Moran's family came to Hebrew University for the first time to attend her graduation.

Today a first-year student in incorporated law and international relations at the Faculty of Law, Moran plans to apply for an internship at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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