



October 2024

Opening of the 2024/2025 Academic Year – Accommodations for Students Following the ‘Swords of Iron’ War

Dear students,

Ahead of the opening of the academic year on November 3, 2024, we present important information about the outline of the 2024/2025 year, including accommodations and facilitations for all students. This includes specific support for students on active military reserve or security forces duty, their spouses with children under 13, students wounded during the ‘Swords of Iron’ War or whose first-degree relatives were wounded, as well as those evacuated from their homes in the north and south of the country.

We are aware of the hardships entailed by the ongoing war and wish to express our heartfelt support to you, hope for the return of the hostages, and the speedy recovery of the wounded, as we extend our deepest sympathies to those whose loved ones were murdered or killed in action. We recognize the tremendous contribution of military and security forces service men and women in regular or reserve duty and their families. We are committed to continuing to do all we can to assist all of our students to succeed in their studies in this challenging year.

We would like to clarify that the outline described here is an addition to the Student Right Regulations (Accommodations for Students in Military Reserve Service), 2012, as detailed in the Feinberg Graduate School’s [Military Reserve Service Procedure](#) (published in Hebrew only), and to specific teaching committee accommodations, as detailed in Appendix A below.

To enable us to support you and to arrange for payment due for military reserve days, we’d like to remind you to update [Dana Yanay](#), the Feinberg Graduate School’s Military Reserve Coordinator and The Head of Administration, with regards to your reserve service status as soon as possible and submit Form 3010 at its conclusion.

Accommodations for all students

First and foremost, we remind you that psychological support and assistance is available to you, and you are welcome to contact the Institute’s social worker, Ms. Nirit Cohen Kraus, at 08-9349219 or nirit.cohen-kraus@weizmann.ac.il.

Flexibility in granting extensions for progress report submission deadlines in both MSc and PhD degree studies – with the approval of the supervisor (PI) and the Feinberg Graduate School (FGS).

Academic accommodations and benefits for students on active military reserve duty, in regular service in a ‘frontline designation’ unit, or wounded in action during the Swords of Iron War

Active students (who are not on leave or a study break), including first-year students, who were absent from studies due to reserve service, regular service with ‘frontline designation’, or being wounded in the Swords of Iron War, will be classified into one of the following three groups, based on the number of effective reserve days.

For students injured during service, the number of effective reserve days will include the duration of hospitalization plus an additional 14 days for recovery at home and preparation to resume studies.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Students serving less than 21 days in total during the (fall or spring) semester	Students in one or more of the following groups, and students with children under 13 years of age or whose spouses are in one or more of the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students serving 21 days or more in total during the (fall or spring) semester ▪ Students serving 35 days or more in total during the 2024/2025 academic year ▪ Students serving 60 days or more during the three months prior to the beginning of the semester 	Students serving 35 days or more in total during the (fall or spring) semester, students whose children are under 13 years of age, or students whose spouses served as described



The accommodations for each group are detailed below. These accommodations are cumulative – that is, students in Group 3 are entitled to accommodations granted to Groups 1, 2, and 3.

Group 1 Accommodations

Scholarships will be continued as usual (against reporting, as required for military reserve days).

Postponement of assignment deadlines

Assignments with submission deadlines set for the week prior to a special exam date for reservists (supplementary exam) will be postponed.

Extension of report submission deadlines

FGS provides extensions for submitting various reports and theses, based on the duration of their reserve service, and subject to their reporting absence due to military reserve duty (including submission of the required form). This will also apply to students who are parents, whose spouse served on reserve military duty.

Completion of missed material due to absence from courses

In the upcoming school year, most courses will be recorded and uploaded to the [Panopto platform](#). Additionally, the majority of the classes will be available for live viewing through the Zoom system; however, remote participation will not be possible.

The studies are based on the [Moodle system](#). Correct use of this platform is a condition for the online model's success. An instructional video for operating and navigating the system in English can be accessed through [this link](#), and a similar video in Hebrew is available [here](#).

All lecturers and TAs are preparing to provide additional tutoring sessions and supplementary classes, which will be available in the courses as determined by the relevant teaching committee chair, in order to support students in completing the material covered in the course.

Additional assistance is detailed in Appendix A.

Rotations

Students who are absent due to reserve military service will have the option to shorten



the rotation period accordingly. This provision will also apply to students who are parents and whose spouse has served on reserve military duty, and other cases will be considered as needed.

Course assignments

FGS provides its students who are on reserve military service an extension for submitting the various assignments in accordance with the duration of their service, and subject to their reporting absence due to military reserve duty (including submission of the required form). This will also apply to students who are parents, whose spouse served on reserve military duty.

A student who is absent from a laboratory course, workshop, or practical training due to reserve military service may receive one of the following accommodations in coordination with the lecturer: Completion of the missed sessions at the time set by the lecturer; repeated participation at a time determined by the lecturer; replacement of the missed assignment by another assignment as determined by the lecturer; request for exemption due to military reserve duty, to be submitted to the lecturer. Lecturers will notify the course coordinator at FGS of their decision.

Exams

Students who, due to military reserve service, are unable to participate in the originally scheduled exam date (or adequately prepare for it during the two weeks leading up to the exam) or who did not pass their exams may contact FGS's Course Coordinator to request an alternative exam date that is convenient for them. For further details, see FGS's [Military Reserve Service Procedure](#) (published in Hebrew only).

Postponing courses

Students who served on reserve military duty for a period of at least 10 days cumulatively during a semester in the case of a semester course, or at least 20 days cumulatively during the school year in the case of an annual course, and were therefore absent from course lectures, will be able to postpone the course and repeat it, on the condition they did not take the course exam. This will also apply to students who are parents, whose spouse served on reserve military duty.

External courses

Students will be eligible for a refund of up to two online courses in the 2024/2025 academic year, according to FGS procedures.



Choosing a research group

The teaching committees, together with the advisors, are dedicated to assisting students serving in reserve military duty in selecting their research group, ensuring that their military service does not hinder this choice. Therefore, the maximum student limit for master's degree research groups will not apply to these students. This will also apply to students who are parents, whose spouse served on reserve military duty.

Flexibility in changing the semester class schedule beyond the deadline for changes, as well as canceling courses at a later time.

Adjustment of accumulation requirements for academic integrity

Students who do not meet the credit accumulation criteria, while maintaining normal standing in other indicators, will still be considered academically qualifying. Specifically, if a student has not accumulated enough credits by the end of their first year, they will have the opportunity to complete the required credits by the end of their second year, and this will be deemed acceptable.

Recognition of courses from other academic institutions in Israel

FGS will implement a mechanism for evaluating and recognizing courses offered by other academic institutions, including online courses, as is customary at FGS. Course recognition is conditional, among other factors, on the student achieving a passing grade according to the rules of the institution offering the course.

Additional Group 2 Accommodations

Reduction of degree credit requirements

Students will have the option of completing their degree with up to four fewer credit points than required – exemption from two credit points will be awarded automatically and the additional two credit points subject to teaching committee approval. This exemption does not apply to mandatory or core courses.

It is further clarified that this credit reduction applies to the entire degree, not to each study year separately. Credit exemption given during the 2023-2024 academic year due to reserve service will be taken into account for this matter.

Students continuing to PhD studies at the Institute will have the option of transferring the two automatically exempted credits from their MSc degree studies to their PhD. If the



student received exemption of four credits during the MSc studies, the decision regarding the transfer of two additional credits will be made by the teaching committee, based on the specific circumstances.

Reduction of assignments

The number of assignments in a course may be reduced based on the proportion of weeks served in the military reserve duty during the semester compared to the total teaching weeks, and in consideration of the course's nature.

Labs

The course team will provide a solution to allow students to complete the required lab work for the course, or alternatively reduce the number of labs. This solution will take into account the duration of the student's actual reserve service.

Conversion to a "pass" grade

Students may convert a numerical grade to a "pass" grade in one course of their choice during the 2024-2025 academic year, provided they have met the course's passing requirements. Conversion is not permitted for mandatory or core courses, and a student may convert grades in no more than two courses over the entire degree.

Alternative assessment and adapted exams

For students unable to take an exam due to reserve service, an alternative exam date will be provided. Lecturers may also choose to offer alternative assessments or "adjusted exams." The exam adjustments will be made in accordance with the course content and exam format, at the lecturer's discretion.

Additional Group 3 Accommodations

Rotations

Students who are absent for more than 35 days during the semester due to reserve service will be invited to meet with the chair of the teaching committee to discuss the possibility of receiving an exemption from completing their rotation, as well as the option of performing another rotation during the summer.

Adjustment of exams due to military reserve service



Students who serve in the reserves during the semester will be granted a 25% extension on exam duration for both exam dates within that semester.

Conversion to a "pass" grade

During the 2024-2025 academic year, students may convert a numerical grade to a "pass" grade in up to two courses of their choice, provided they meet the courses' passing requirements. This option is not available for mandatory or core courses, and no more than two courses may be converted to a "pass" grade over the entire degree.

Post-service support

At the conclusion of their military reserve service, students will meet with the teaching committee to ensure a smooth and successful return to their studies.

Important: Special attention to war-affected students

In addition to supporting students called up for military reserve duty, we are mindful of the academic and personal challenges faced by all our students as a result of the war. Special consideration is given to the following groups: Wounded in action; victims of the October 7 massacre; families of those wounded, killed in action, or taken hostage; students in regular military or security service; students in pre-military academic programs called up for temporary service in rescue or medical forces; and students who are spouses of regular service personnel and have young children. All of the above groups are encouraged to apply to the relevant academic authorities, providing appropriate documentation, to request adjustments similar to those granted to military reservists. These requests will be carefully considered with the sincere intention to offer as much support as possible.

Hoping for quieter and better days for all of us,

Prof. Gilad Perez

Dean, Feinberg Graduate School



Appendix A – Individual Accommodations by Faculty

Additional accommodations are detailed below, in accordance with the decision of the teaching committees. The following does not detract from the general accommodations listed above.

Life Sciences Faculties - Faculties of Biology and Biochemistry

1. The majority of the life sciences courses are theoretical, which are held in an online format and are recorded.
2. Several courses incorporate regular tutoring sessions, the TAs will personally work with students who had missed classes to assist them in preparing their assignments. In courses without TAs, the lecturers will provide additional reception hours as needed and will help in completing the taught material.
3. There are several practical courses that require physical attendance, most of which are shorter than a full semester. We aim to reschedule such courses to the end of the semester or the exam period. As these are generally small, non-mandatory courses, efforts will be made to offer them again next year, allowing students who are unable to attend this year the opportunity to take them later.
4. The requirement for a minimum number of credits in the first year of studies is cancelled for this year.
5. Students will have the option to receive credits for Coursera or edX courses beyond the usual limits, pending approval from the teaching committee.

Faculty of Physics

The Faculty of Physics is fully committed to personally assist all students on reserve military service in all phases of advanced degrees.

The tutoring and support program:

1. To enable students to complete the studied material, all courses are recorded and the recordings will be uploaded to the course website.
2. All lecturers and TAs are preparing to provide additional tutoring sessions and supplementary classes.
3. Every student who has completed reserve military duty will personally meet with a teaching committee representative to receive academic counseling and set a personal outline for completing the courses and research program.

First-year master's degree students required to take core courses:

1. In coordination with the lecturers, in each core course a limited pedagogical plan will be formed with core topics, to help students quickly integrate into the course and close any learning gaps.
2. Students will have the option of completing a core course during their second year.
3. Each student will be personally guided by a mentor to assist with their courses.
4. Every student will receive personal tutoring by the Faculty's TAs and lecturers.
5. Students will not be required to earn 28 credits in their first year.
6. The experimental project is optional and not mandatory.

Second-year master's degree students:

1. A course program will be established to enable students to complete the required credit points.
2. Each student will receive personal tutoring by the Faculty's TAs and lecturers.
3. Thesis submission deadlines will be extended according to the duration of the military reserve service.

PhD students

1. The research plan and the deadlines for report submission will be extended according to the duration of the military reserve service.

Faculty of Chemistry

1. To enable students to cover missed course material, all courses will be recorded, with the recordings subsequently uploaded to the course website.
2. All lecturers and TAs are preparing to provide additional tutoring sessions and supplementary classes.
3. Every student who has completed reserve military duty (or students who are parents and whose spouse completed reserve duty) will personally meet with the chair of the teaching committee to receive academic counseling and set a personal outline for completing the courses and research program.

First-year master's degree students who served for more than one month in military reserve duty starting from the opening date of the academic year:

1. Will receive personal support from a mentor.
2. Will receive tutoring session personally or in a small group format delivered by the TAs and lecturers in the courses to which the students are enrolled.
3. The requirement to accumulate 16 credits during the first year is cancelled.
4. The requirement to study at least two core courses during the first year is cancelled.
5. The number of rotations and the duration of each will be determined according to the duration of the military reserve service:
 - Students who miss the first rotation will be able to receive an exemption from one rotation.
 - Students who miss two rotations will be able to perform two short rotations in the time remaining for the final rotation. Extending the aforementioned rotations by several weeks in total may also be coordinated.



Second year master's degree students who served for more than one month in military reserve duty since the opening date of the academic year:

1. A personal program of courses will be set, to enable students to complete the required credit points.
2. The students will receive tutoring session personally or in a small group format delivered by the TAs and lecturers in the courses to which the students were enrolled.
3. Thesis submission date will be extended according to the duration of the military reserve service.

PhD students

1. The research plan and the deadlines for report submission will be postponed according to the duration of the military reserve service.

General

1. We will enable students to earn credit points through concentrated, 1-3 week-long courses (boot camps) over the current and next summer.
2. Students will be able to earn credits through online courses (MIT, Coursera, etc.) in a flexible manner, exceeding the previous two-course limit, subject to approval by the chair of the teaching committee.
3. Accommodations for military reserve service personnel also apply to students who are parents and whose spouse served on reserve military duty, or ones personally affected by the situation. These accommodations will be adjusted on an individual basis for each case.
4. The range of courses and levels of difficulty will be expanded by enabling students to enroll in courses from other faculties and universities beyond previous years' six-credit limit.



Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

1. Courses will be recorded and uploaded to the [Panopto platform](#) shortly after the class.
2. The deadlines for submitting reports and accumulating credit points will be extended in relation to the duration of military reserve service.
3. Course lecturers will be asked to add a weekly reception hour (by the lecturer or TAs) to support students in military reserve service or those who have returned from such service. Reception hours will be available in the following courses:

Lecturer	Course name
Zvika Brakerski	Introduction to Quantum Computing
Josie Shamash	Finite Algebraic Structures for Computer Scientists
Dmitry Gourevitch	Introduction to Representation Theory
Mark Shusterman	Sheaf Cohomology
Maria Gorelik	Introduction to Lie Algebras
Ohad Shamir	Topics in ML theory
Ehud Friedgut	Graph theory and applications
Victor Vassiliev	Algebraic Topology
Ran Tessler	A seminar on Witten's KdV conjecture



Department of Science Teaching

The Department of Science Teaching is fully committed to personally assist all students on reserve military service in all phases of all degrees and programs.

Manner of learning in the Department's courses:

1. To enable students to complete the material covered in the course, they will be delivered online.
2. All lectures will be recorded and will be accessible to students in a modular form in the course's Moodle, which enables both synchronous and asynchronous learning, when the military reserve service does not allow the student to attend them.
3. All courses will be recorded and the recordings will be uploaded to the course website.

Class completion and details about the tutoring and support program

Lecturers in the program will provide students in military reserve service or students whose spouses are in reserve military duty, the following:

- A personal tutoring plan, to complete taught material.
- Flexibility in assignment submission deadlines.
- Private lessons if necessary.
- Every student who has completed the reserve military duty will personally meet with the chair of the teaching committee or head of the Rothschild-Weizmann program. During the meeting, the student will receive academic counseling and a personal outline for course and research program completion will be established.

Practical experience (for teaching certificate students):

- Flexibility will be exercised with regards to the timing of practical experience in schools during the two years of teaching certificate training. However, its scope will remain unchanged.