University of Haifa

Master of Arts (M.A) Program in **Holocaust Studies**

Visit our website: <http://holocaust-studies>.haifa.ac.il

# Welcome to Haifa, Israel

The University of Haifa campus spreads along a ridge of the Carmel Mountain southeast of the city of Haifa and is surrounded by the Carmel National Park. The University of Haifa is the largest comprehensive research university in northern Israel. It is a microcosm of Israeli society dedicated to academic excellence and social responsibility. It houses six Faculties: Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences and Science Education, Law, Social Welfare and Health Studies, and Education - and five Schools - Business Administration, Social Work, History, Public Health, and Political Sciences.

An exciting and inspiring cultural mosaic, the university has a diverse student population made up of Jews, Christians, Muslims, Druze and Bedouins, a combination of new immigrants with native Israelis, a blend of the secular and the religious. Over 18,000 students study at the University of Haifa toward undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctorate degrees and we encourage you to be one of them.

The University of Haifa, in collaboration with the Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Studies, has recruited a team of young and dynamic scholars to teach in the program, and who have made it their mission to lead the next generation of Holocaust researchers.

**The Program**

Holocaust Studies has emerged as a central field of scholarship in the Humanities and Social sciences as Holocaust memory has become a global phenomenon. Many questions in Holocaust Studies still remain unanswered. In light of the recent opening of archives in Eastern Europe, newly uncovered documents await a new generation of scholars to shed light on the events and meanings of the Holocaust period. As a scholarly field, Holocaust Studies offers students the opportunity to research one of the world's most formative modern historical events from a multidisciplinary perceptive.

The Multidisciplinary M.A. Program in Holocaust Studies at Haifa University is dedicated to the creation and nurturing of a new generation of Holocaust researchers. Its aim is to provide them with a well-rounded curriculum from a wide variety of disciplines and subjects, diverse methodologies and essential languages.

**Multi-disciplinary Curriculum**

The program offers courses in the history of World War II; history of Nazi Germany; Nazi policy of extermination and the Final Solution; Polish Jewry in the interwar period; social history of the family, women and children in the Holocaust period; psychological aspects of Holocaust trauma; anthropology of memory, trauma and commemoration; international law and genocide; representations of the Holocaust in the European novel and in European cinema and more.

Hebrew Language study is a requirement. In addition, Students will be trained in relevant Eastern European languages, essential for conducting research on the Holocaust period; and will participate in workshops and seminars that will teach research techniques such as interview, testimony, photography, and video analysis techniques as well as guided work in archives.

**Cooperation with the world's leading historical archives**

A unique aspect of the program is cooperation with museums and archives in Israel and abroad, such as Yad Vashem and the Ghetto Fighter's House museum in Israel, the United States Holocaust Memorial in Washington, the Center forResearch on Anti-Semitism in the Technical University in Berlin, the Polish Academy in Warsaw and the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland. In the context of these museums and archives, students will be able to conduct research based on primary sources and acquire expertise in writing academic research papers. An internship program with the Israeli museums and archives is available for students of the program.

Additional feature of the program are study tours to Germany and Poland where the students will visit museums, archives and historical sites. The visits will involve seminars with local students and leading German and Polish scholars.

The program is offered in collaboration with the Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Studies at the University of Haifa. The program is directed by Professor Arieh J. Kochavi, Head of the Strochlitz Institute, a prolific and prominent scholar of World War II, diplomatic history of the 20th century, refugees and displaced persons in Europe, refugee organizations, prisoners of war, the Holocaust and anti-Semitism. For more information about the institute, please visit: http://holocaust-center.haifa.ac.il.

**Program Objectives**

The main objectives of the program are to:

* Train young scholars – from various countries – in the field of Holocaust Studies.
* Provide students with a broad, multidisciplinary education that will provide students with marketable skills in order to develop a career in Holocaust museums, libraries and archives.
* Expose students to various fields of study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (History, Social Psychology, Anthropology, International Law and Literature).
* Train students in a variety of research skills – in the Humanities and Social Sciences – as well as guided work in archives, the study of relevant languages and study trips to Germany and Poland.
* Provide a fertilizing environment and a meeting place for students from all over the world and create opportunities for joint learning experiences, for intellectual enrichment and for a mutual broadening of horizons.

**Program Outline**

The multidisciplinary program is covers the following subjects:

* Political and diplomatic developments leading up to World War II
* Social history and history of every-day life in the Holocaust period
* Social psychology of the Holocaust: Victims, victimizers and by-standers; coping mechanism and Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma from Holocaust Survivors to their Children
* Cultural expressions and interpretations of the Holocaust in literature and film.
* Major debates in International Law regarding Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity stemming from lessons learned after the Holocaust.
* Research methods in History and Social Sciences.
* Hebrew, German and other relevant languages for researching the Holocaust period.

**Admission Prerequisites**

* An undergraduate degree in the Humanities or Social Sciences from a recognized university in Israel or abroad with a minimum final grade of 80% (Israeli system) or 3.0 GPA.
* Candidates will be required to submit two letters of recommendation and a declaration of intent.
* Candidates will be interviewed individually (by Skype in the case of overseas students).
* Candidates who have not previously studied at an institution of higher education where the language of instruction is English, must submit official TOEFL scores or equivalent.
* Students who do not have a background in the study of History, will be requested to take relevant courses in Modern European history (during the first semester of the program). Each case will be considered by its own right.

**Program Structure and Scope**

The program offers two tracks of study:

**Track A** – includes writing of a research thesis, together with a total of 32 weekly hours per semester

**Track B (includes a final exam) with a total of 38 weekly hours per semester**

For more information, please contact Dr. Yael Granot-Bein, Program Director: [ygranot@univ.haifa.ac.il](mailto:ygranot@univ.haifa.ac.il) or visit our website: <http://holocaust-studies>.haifa.ac.il