8. INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

8.1 Organization of Degrees
Higher education in Israel comprises two main tracks of study. The first and dominant one is a three-tiered cycle: Bachelor (Ba’eret), Master (Masmakh) and Doctorate (Doctor) programs. Bachelor programs generally last 3-4 years and culminate in a Bachelor's Degree (e.g., B.A., B.Sc., B.Ed, B.Des., B.FA, B.Dance, B.Mus, LL.B). Completion of the first cycle degree qualifies students for admission to second cycle degrees. Studies towards the Master's degrees generally last 2 years and are offered in research and non-research tracks. Students who complete a Master's degree in the research track are eligible for admission to Doctoral programs. Doctoral programs are offered in a range of disciplines and generally last 4-6 years, during which the students are expected to perform research and complete their Doctoral dissertation. Further admission requirements to all degrees can be determined by the Institution of Higher Education. The second track of study is the direct Doctoral track; in this track, Doctoral programs are offered to students following completion of their Bachelor's degree. The direct Doctoral programs generally last 4-6 years, during which students are expected to take advanced courses, perform research and complete their Doctoral dissertation.

8.2 Access to Higher Education
Access to higher education in Israel generally requires a secondary matriculation diploma, or comparable qualifications, and a standardized psychometric examination. The exact requirements vary depending on institution and field of study. Programs may also have additional requirements such as acceptance interviews, examinations or artistic portfolios. Admission for all programs is determined on a competitive basis according to the institution’s admissions requirements.

8.3 Types of Higher Education Institutions
In total, Israel boasts 67 academic institutions: 9 universities (including the Open University), 36 academic colleges, and 22 teacher-training colleges. Academic and teacher-training colleges award Bachelor's and Master's Degrees (generally a non-research track). Only universities may award all three degrees – Bachelor, Master and Doctorate.