



Campaign for the Academic Boycott of Israel at Concordia University - FAQ and Resources:

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What is BDS?

BDS stands for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions. The movement was founded in 2005 when an international call to action was issued and endorsed by a broad coalition of “170 Palestinian unions, refugee networks, women’s organizations, professional associations, popular resistance committees, and other Palestinian civil society bodies.”¹ The BDS movement explains that

“Inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, the Palestinian BDS call urges nonviolent pressure on Israel until it complies with international law by meeting three demands:

1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the [apartheid] Wall.
2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality
3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194

Boycotts: Involve withdrawing support from Israel’s apartheid regime, complicit Israeli sporting, cultural, and academic institutions, and all Israeli and international companies engaged in violations of Palestinian human rights.

Divestment: Divestment campaigns urge banks, local councils, churches, pension funds, and universities to withdraw investments from the State of Israel and all Israeli and international companies that sustain Israeli apartheid.

Sanctions: Sanctions campaigns pressure governments to fulfill their legal obligations to end Israeli apartheid and not aid or assist its maintenance by banning business with illegal Israeli settlements, ending military trade and free-trade agreements, as well as suspending Israel’s membership in international forums such as UN bodies and FIFA.”²

In 2026, it has now been 21 years since the original call to the international community to join the BDS movement. Since 2023 the international community has watched as the Israel Defence Forces have carried out a years long genocidal campaign of slaughter and destruction in Gaza, killing indiscriminately and bombing Gazan life-supporting infrastructure like schools and hospitals to rubble. Despite a so-called “ceasefire” the people of Gaza continue to be bombed as an international coalition of investment and military partners supervise a plan for continued occupation and “development” of Gaza by Israel while the people of Gaza continue to starve and be denied their most basic human rights.³ Despite the recent clear breakdown in already unequal enforcement of international law, the appeal to the basic principles of the BDS

¹ BDS Movement. “BDS Call.” Accessed February 6, 2026. <https://bdsmovement.net/bds-call>.

² BDS Movement. “WHAT IS BDS?” Accessed February 6, 2026. <https://bdsmovement.net/what-bds>.

³ Al Jazeera staff, “Israeli Attacks on Gaza Kill 23 in One of Deadliest Days since ‘Ceasefire,’” *Al Jazeera*, February 4, 2026, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/2/4/israel-suspends-evacuation-of-palestinians-via-rafah-crossing-rd-crescent>; “BDS Warns of Less Visible Genocide as Trump Announces Second Phase of ‘Ceasefire.’,” BDS Movement, January 27, 2026, <https://bdsmovement.net/BDS-Warns-Less-Visible-Genocide-Second-Phase-Ceasefire>.

campaign remains vital. While international frameworks may be in a state of rapid change, domestic laws in many parts of the world still provide avenues to pressure complicit states and governments to cut ties with Israel and its crimes against humanity. The clear guiding principles of the BDS movement provide a core foundation for international mobilization. The BDS movement continues to be actively coordinated by the BDS National Committee, a guiding body maintained by the BDS coalition and centred in Palestine. Responding to the Calls for BDS and the updated guidance of the National Committee remains one of the most important ways that people and organizations across the world can coordinate resistance to Israel.⁴

⁴ “About BNC,” BDS Movement, accessed February 6, 2026, <https://bdsmovement.net/BNC>.

What is the Academic Boycott?

The academic boycott is a specific campaign within the wider BDS movement that focuses on boycotting Israeli universities and academic institutions. Israeli academic institutions are targeted for their major role in the Israeli military and systems of settler colonialism and apartheid.

The BDS movement cites four main reasons for the boycott of Israeli Universities:

1. Their active participation in the Israeli military structure through the hosting of military training programs, research institutes and even military bases on campuses.
2. Their role in “developing the infrastructure of oppression.” BDS specifies both “ideological infrastructure” or “produc[ing] the knowledge that contributes to the subjugation of the Palestinian people” such as developing policy frameworks for the IDF and Israeli state, and physical infrastructure including partnerships with weapons manufacturers and the development of apartheid surveillance technology. Equally important has been the establishment of university campuses as a means for the Israeli state to directly confiscate Palestinian land and establish an economic engine for settlement.
3. Their history of “racism and open support for Israel’s crimes” including “insitutionalized discrimination against Palestinians in Israeli universities and the segregated school system,” and “racial incitement [of violence] against Palestinians.”
4. The consistent decades long attacks on Palestinian education, often termed “scholasticide” through which Israel has destroyed Palestinian universities in Gaza, and constantly raided and attacked Palestinian universities and students in the occupied West Bank.⁵

The academic boycott is one component of the larger PACBI campaign, the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel which began in 2004. While the launch of the PACBI campaign predates the official establishment of the 2005 call for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions, PACBI became one of the core campaigns of the BDS movement.

The PACBI campaign calls for:

- “Refusing any form of academic and cultural cooperation with Israeli institutions;
- Advocating a comprehensive boycott of complicit Israeli institutions nationally and internationally;
- Promoting divestment from Israel by international academic institutions;
- Working toward institutional condemnation of Israeli policies;
- Supporting Palestinian academic and cultural institutions directly without requiring them to partner with Israeli counterparts.”⁶

⁵ “ACADEMIC BOYCOTT,” BDS Movement, accessed February 6, 2026, <https://bdsmovement.net/academic-boycott>.

⁶ “ACADEMIC BOYCOTT,” BDS Movement.

More detailed information and resources on reasons for the Academic Boycott and Guidelines for its implementation can be found through scholar Maya Wind's comprehensive but accessible book [*Towers of Ivory and Steel. How Israeli Universities Deny Palestinian Freedom*](#) and through the [*2014 BDS Guidelines for the Academic Boycott*](#).⁷

⁷ Maya Wind, *Towers of Ivory and Steel : How Israeli Universities Deny Palestinian Freedom* (Verso, 2024); "PACBI Guidelines for the International Academic Boycott of Israel," BDS Movement, July 8, 2014, <https://bdsmovement.net/pacbi/academic-boycott-guidelines>.

Where Has the Academic Boycott Succeeded?

After decades of consistent mobilization, the Academic Boycott campaign has been growing in success worldwide – especially since 2023. The BDS Movement reported at the end of 2024 that “dozens of universities across the world” had severed ties with Israeli universities, adding that “in nearly 20 years of campaigning, never have we seen so many gains in such a short period of time.” Institutions that have cut ties with Israeli academia since 2023 include the National College of Art and Design and Trinity College (in Dublin, Ireland); the Universities of Bologna, Milan, Venice Ca’Foscari, and Messina (in Italy); the Universities of Radboud, Utrecht, and Amsterdam (in the Netherlands). China’s University of International Business and Economics (based in Beijing) closed its Israel campus in 2024. Many other scholarly associations and departments have taken Academic Boycott actions including the International Sociological Association, the World Archeological Congress, The Irish College of General Practitioners, and the faculties of the University of Iceland’s School of Education.⁸ This above list is merely a sample of the full scope. The BDS Movement maintains an active accounting of victories in the Academic Boycott on their [website](#).

In North America, popular support for the Academic Boycott and BDS has faced significant repression from the power holders in institutions. As widespread condemnation of Israel has become increasingly mainstream among everyday people, university administrators have focused on protecting financial and academic ties to Israel from the BDS movement. In 2025, at the annual conference of the Modern Language Association (MLA), one of North America’s most important inter-university humanities associations, the executive council “refused to allow the organization’s Delegate Assembly to vote on a resolution stating that members support the Boycott, Divest, Sanctions (BDS) movement.” Such repression has sparked fierce protest and persistent moral commitment from members. The blatantly undemocratic nature of the executive council’s actions even sparked the publication of an open letter issued by eight former presidents of the MLA all issuing a public call that the resolution be allowed to go forward.⁹ Such an example shows the momentum that the Academic Boycott campaign is gaining in North America despite the backlash. It is in this context that it is more vital than ever to continue pushing for the implementation of Academic Boycott and BDS demands at institutions like Concordia.

⁸ “Universities Are Ending Complicity in Israeli Apartheid and Its Gaza Genocide in Numbers Never Seen Before,” BDS Movement, December 31, 2024, <https://bdsmovement.net/news/universities-are-ending-complicity-israeli-apartheid-and-its-gaza-genocide-numbers-never-seen>.

⁹ Brittany Allen, “At This Year’s MLA Convention, Protestors Put Palestine on the Docket.,” *Literary Hub*, January 13, 2025, <https://lithub.com/at-this-years-mla-convention-protestors-put-palestine-on-the-docket/>; Michael Bérubé et al., “Former Modern Language Association Presidents Call for BDS Vote,” *Literary Hub*, December 18, 2024, <https://lithub.com/8-former-modern-language-association-presidents-call-for-bds-vote/>.

What Would an Academic Boycott at Concordia Look Like if Implemented?

At Concordia the Academic Boycott campaign will focus first and foremost on closing the Azrieli Institute for Israel Studies. Given that the Azrieli Institute serves as the flagship institution for academic partnership with Israel at Concordia and as a scholarly centre for the normalization of Israel in Canada, the closure of the institute will be the most important priority. Since the foundation of the Azrieli Institute in 2011, Concordia has massively expanded its academic partnerships with Israel. This was most visible in 2022 when Concordia president Graham Carr visited Israel as part of a diplomatic delegation of Canadian university presidents coordinated by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) and the Israeli Ambassador to Canada. The Azrieli Institute helped to coordinate that trip and the resulting Memorandum of Understanding signed between Concordia University and Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel that established an academic partnership between the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies and the Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology at Bar-Ilan.¹⁰

As far as publicly available information can confirm, prior to 2015 Concordia University only had an academic partnership with one Israeli university: Technion (Israel Institute of Technology) in Haifa.¹¹ Beginning in 2015, Concordia began to offer academic exchanges for fine arts students with Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem and exchanges for students across all faculties with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, in Beer Sheva, and Tel Aviv University in Tel Aviv.¹² In 2017, Concordia University established relations with Hebrew University in Jerusalem when the Azrieli Institute began offering an annual Summer in Israel field school hosted at Hebrew University, later moving to Bar-Ilan university beginning in 2022.¹³ As recently as 2024, the Azrieli Institute hosted a delegation of students from Bar-Ilan for an event entitled “Jewish Identities in Israel and the Diaspora after 10/7.”¹⁴ The Azrieli Institute hosts visiting scholars from Israeli universities and is also a member organization of the Association for Israel Studies (AIS),

¹⁰ “BIU International News: Constructing Israeli Identities: A Joint BIU-Concordia U. Field-Study Program,” *BIU International School*, n.d., accessed February 10, 2026, <https://biuinternational.com/news/constructing-israeli-identities-a-joint-biu-concordia-u-field-study-program/>; “Strengthening Israel-Canada Relations,” Bar-Ilan University, September 1, 2022, <https://www.biu.ac.il/en/article/11577>.

¹¹ “Concordia International Current Partner Institutions,” Web Page Capture, Concordia University, August 14, 2007, Internet Archive Wayback Machine, https://web.archive.org/web/20070814150233/http://international.concordia.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=69&Itemid=103.

¹² “Concordia University International Partnerships,” Web Page Capture, Concordia University, September 5, 2015, Internet Archive Wayback Machine, <https://web.archive.org/web/20150905102300/http://www.concordia.ca/international/partnerships.html>.

¹³ “Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies Meet the Director,” Concordia University, accessed February 10, 2026, <https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/research/azrieli-institute/about/Director.html>; “The Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies Summer In Israel,” Instagram Post, Concordia University, April 15, 2025, https://www.instagram.com/p/Dlej9ZtRSWz/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

¹⁴ Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies, “Concordia Welcomes Students From Bar-Ilan University, Tel Aviv,” Facebook, October 31, 2024, <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18FD2SDm4b/>.

the international scholarly association for the study of Israel. Csaba Nikolenyi, director of the Azrieli Institute was elected as the president of the AIS in September of 2015.¹⁵

By targeting the Azrieli Institute for closure, an academic boycott campaign would target the central node of Canada-Israel academic relationships at Concordia University. Other targets would seek to end all exchange partnerships with the four current partner institutions: Technion, Bezalel College, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and Tel Aviv University. Any other areas of research collaboration or joint funding would also be shut down, for example participation in the Coopération Québec-Israel grant competition.¹⁶

¹⁵ “Csaba Nikolenyi Elected President of AIS,” Concordia University, September 8, 2025, <https://www.concordia.ca/cunews/artsci/azrieli/2025/csaba-nikolenyi-elected-president-of-ais.html>.

¹⁶ Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies, “The Noble Pomegranate: Biblical Fruit and Natural Fungicide? Winner of the Coopération Québec-Israël Grant,” *Newsletter for Friends of the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies*, Winter 2022, <https://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/concordia/aar/docs/our-publications/azrieli/2022-Azrieli-Institute-Newsletter.pdf>.

Concordia's Current and Former Partner Universities in Israel:

Technion Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa: (Partnered with Concordia from 2000s-present)

From publicly available records, the date that Concordia established a partner relationship with Technion is unknown. Using the internet archive, however, it is possible to establish that as early as 2007 Technion was listed as a partner university on the Concordia University website's information page listing schools where Concordia students could apply to study on an academic exchange.¹⁷ Exchanges with Technion have been available to Engineering and Computer Science students at Concordia since at least that time.

The Technion institute is Israel's primary technical institute known particularly for its engineering programs and long history of working with Israeli defense industries to supply the IDF with military technology. Technion is also instrumental in the for-profit arms industry in Israel, offering a course on marketing Israel's weapons technology to global customers.¹⁸

Technion also currently hosts the Advanced Defense Research Institute which it describes as "bridging between academic research institutions, security and defense organizations and Israel defense industries. The Institute focusses on three main activities: basic research, demonstrator projects and special projects. The Institute supports and funds academic research, allocates resources to fostering students at all levels, through a dedicated curriculum in Systems Engineering for IDF officers, competitions and awards."¹⁹ Technion also hosts the Alonim Excellence Program, a training program for the IDF's Academic reserve, which combines military and academic training for soldiers going to "serve in research and development positions and in command and leadership positions in IDF divisions dealig with data and information."²⁰

¹⁷ "Concordia International Current Partner Institutions," Web Page Capture, Concordia University, August 14, 2007, Internet Archive Wayback Machine, https://web.archive.org/web/20070814150233/http://international.concordia.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=69&Itemid=103.

¹⁸ Shimrit Lee, "Top Israeli University Marketing Country's Arms Industry to the World," +972 Magazine, March 9, 2017, <https://www.972mag.com/top-israeli-university-marketing-countys-arms-industry-to-the-world/>.

¹⁹ "About Us – Center for Security Science & Technology," Technion Advanced Defense Research Institute, accessed February 10, 2026, <https://adri.technion.ac.il/about-us/>.

²⁰ "Alonim Excellence Program," Technion Faculty of Data and Decision Sciences, accessed February 10, 2026, <https://dds.technion.ac.il/ar/programm/alonim-excellence-program/>.

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva: (Partnered with Concordia from 2015-present)

From publicly available records, Ben-Gurion University appears on the Concordia website as a partner university for exchanges open to students from all faculties beginning in the year 2015.²¹

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev has been identified by scholar Maya Wind as a university whose construction was instrumental in the “judaization” of the Naqab region, called the Negev by the Israeli state. Wind explains that the Naqab constitutes over half of Israeli territory and was ethnically cleansed of the majority of its Indigenous population of Palestinian Bedouins during 1948 but the region is not heavily populated by Israeli settlers. Ben-Gurion University was therefore established in order “to incentivize Jewish settlement in the Naqab.”²²

In 2019 Ben-Gurion University began to orient its operations more heavily towards the Israeli military with the construction of the IDF Technology Campus and Advanced Technologies Park next to its campus in Beer Sheva and the relocation of large installations of troops to the new campus. Ben-Gurion University developed new programming to accommodate and support the new IDF activities. Reporting on this development, the organization Americans for Ben-Gurion University, wrote that

“The future growth and development of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev into the North Campus is intimately tied to our growing relationship with the nascent IDF technology and intelligence bases springing up in and around Beer-Sheva,” said President Prof. Chamovitz. The IDF Technology Campus will include an advanced eco-friendly energy and technology infrastructure. It will bridge the relationship between BGU, the private sector and the IDF.... BGU will construct dormitories, classroom buildings and other vital facilities as well as hire additional academic and administrative staff, all in order to absorb more students in technology-related subjects. The Ministry of Defense and BGU expect that up to 70 percent of the 1,000 students who undertake academic studies while also serving in the IDF intelligence and computer corps, as well as their spouses, will apply for undergraduate and graduate degree programs at BGU.”²³

²¹ “Concordia University International Partnerships,” Web Page Capture, Concordia University, September 5, 2015, Internet Archive Wayback Machine, <https://web.archive.org/web/20150905102300/http://www.concordia.ca/international/partnerships.html>.

²² Wind, *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, 77-78.

²³ Ronni Strongin, “First IDF Technology Campus Building Opens,” *Americans for Ben-Gurion University*, June 28, 2019, <https://americansforbgu.org/first-idf-technology-campus-building-opens/>.

Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem: (Partnered with Concordia from 2015-present)

Like Ben-Gurion University, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design first appeared on Concordia's website as a study exchange destination for Fine Arts faculty students in 2015.²⁴

While art and design education are less overtly violent compared to militarized aspects of Israel's higher education system, Bezalel falls under both the umbrella of the Academic Boycott campaign and the Cultural Boycott campaign of the BDS movement.²⁵

Additionally, since 2023 and the beginning of the Israel Defence Forces' genocidal campaign in Gaza, Bezalel Academy has set up a volunteer program for students, faculty and other community members with garment construction skills to assist the IDF tailoring team to manufacture uniforms for IDF soldiers in Gaza.²⁶

²⁴ "Concordia University International Partnerships," Web Page Capture, Concordia University, September 5, 2015, Internet Archive Wayback Machine, <https://web.archive.org/web/20150905102300/http://www.concordia.ca/international/partnerships.html>.

²⁵ "CULTURAL BOYCOTT," BDS Movement, accessed February 24, 2026, <https://bdsmovement.net/cultural-boycott>.

²⁶ Jessica Steinberg, "Designers Sew for Combat Soldiers, Pivoting from Fashion to Function," *The Times of Israel*, October 22, 2023, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/designers-sew-for-combat-soldiers-pivoting-from-fashion-to-function/>.

Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv: (Partnered with Concordia from 2015-present)

Like Ben-Gurion and Bezalel, Tel Aviv University first appeared on Concordia's website as a partner university for exchange students in 2015.²⁷

Tel Aviv University offers course programs for students in collaboration with weapons manufacturers like Elbit Systems. "InnoBit," one such program with Elbit involves students working with the weapons manufacturer for course credits. "All of the program participants are required to sign a non-disclosure agreement with Elbit Systems and commit in advance to give an 'exclusive, worldwide license without payment to Elbit Systems to use the intellectual property [developed within the project] without any limitations in Elbit System's areas of operation which are: military, paramilitary and homeland security.'"²⁸

The social sciences and humanities faculties of the university have also been influential in developing the Israel Defence Forces' codes of conduct and military strategies, developing the ideological and legal justification for war crimes such as legitimizing harm to civilian populations during war. This is most visible in the Institute of National Security Studies, a think-tank at Tel Aviv University that "hires retired IDF officers and maintains close ties with politicians and generals."²⁹ The institute is known for having developed the "Dahiya Doctrine," referencing the neighborhood in Beirut where Hezbollah is headquartered. General Gadi Eisenkot, explained the doctrine saying that "We will apply disproportionate force on it [village] and cause great damage and destruction. From our standpoint, these [neighbourhoods full of civilians] are not civilian villages, they are military bases..."³⁰

In 2025, Tel Aviv University also began offering free tuition to students serving as reserve soldiers in the IDF saying that "since the war began, the University has distributed thousands of scholarships to reserve soldiers, totalling over 40 million shekels, which covered scholarships, rent assistance in dormitories, tutoring, psychological services, and more." This further highlights the integration of Israeli universities into the military infrastructure of Israeli occupation. Universities like TAU subsidize the military through such programs.³¹

Finally, TAU has also demonstrated a commitment to "a muscular response to the boycott of Israeli academia," stressing the "need to bolster funded joint programs with prominent overseas

²⁷ "Concordia University International Partnerships," Web Page Capture, Concordia University, September 5, 2015, Internet Archive Wayback Machine, <https://web.archive.org/web/20150905102300/http://www.concordia.ca/international/partnerships.html>.

²⁸ "Academia, Weapons and Occupation: How Tel Aviv University Serves the Interests of the Israeli Military and Arms Industry," BDS Movement, May 3, 2022, <https://bdsmovement.net/news/academia-weapons-and-occupation-how-tel-aviv-university-serves-interests-israeli-military-and>.

²⁹ "Academia, Weapons and Occupation," 2022.

³⁰ "Explainer: The Dahiya Doctrine & Israel's Use of Disproportionate Force," The Institute for Middle East Understanding (IMEU), July 31, 2024, <https://imeu.org/resources/resources/explainer-the-dahiya-doctrine-israels-use-of-disproportionate-force/175>.

³¹ "Tel Aviv University Honors Reserve Soldiers with Full Tuition Scholarships," Tel Aviv University, November 20, 2025, <https://english.tau.ac.il/news/scholarships-for-reserve-soldiers>.

universities,” to “help counter the BDS movement.”³² This clearly illustrates the effectiveness of the academic boycott as a movement that Israeli academia perceives as a real threat to its international legitimacy and highlights the role of Israeli universities in normalizing Israeli occupation of Palestine worldwide.

³² “Connections: International Reach,” Tel Aviv University, December 29, 2024, https://english.tau.ac.il/global_campaign/connections.

Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan: (Partnered with Concordia from 2022-2025(???)

Concordia began an official partnership with Bar-Ilan University in 2022 when Concordia President Graham Carr signed a memorandum of understanding for collaboration between the two universities. It then began serving as the host university of the Azrieli Institute's Summer in Israel program in 2023. The status of Concordia's official relationship with Bar-Ilan University is currently unclear. The memorandum of understanding between the two universities was signed to be a two year agreement only.³³ In 2025, the Azrieli Institute advertised their annual Summer in Israel program and listed Bar-Ilan University as the host university, but there is no publicly available documentation anywhere that suggests that the trip actually took place. For 2026 there is no Summer in Israel program listed on the Concordia website and no program has been publicly advertised by the Azrieli Institute through its usual social media channels.³⁴ Concordia also received joint funding with Bar-Ilan University through a private donation in 2023. This funding was meant to be used towards collaborative research on 'sustainability' however no information on this research is easily available on either university's website at the time of this report. The status of the relationship with Bar-Ilan University is therefore currently unknown.

Bar-Ilan University in the Ramat Gan suburb of Tel Aviv is a key university providing training programs in collaboration with Israel's internal security service the Shin Bet or Shabak. As an occupying power in Palestine, Shin Bet is the security service responsible for surveilling and policing Palestinians in the post 1967 territories of Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. The organization is particularly notorious for their extensive use of torture in the detention and interrogation of Palestinian prisoners.³⁵ Bar-Ilan's Security Schools program "conducts a variety of curricula designed primarily for security personnel, the IDF, the police, government ministries and defense industries." (This quote has been automatically translated from Hebrew but is corroborated by the BDS Movement website)³⁶

In 2025, Bar-Ilan University was also awarded the "Minister of Defense Award of Recognition for Outstanding Support of IDF Reservists, highlighting the university's unprecedented initiatives to

³³ "BIU International News: Constructing Israeli Identities: A Joint BIU-Concordia U. Field-Study Program," *BIU International School*, n.d., accessed February 10, 2026, <https://biuinternational.com/news/constructing-israeli-identities-a-joint-biu-concordia-u-field-study-program/>; "Strengthening Israel-Canada Relations," Bar-Ilan University, September 1, 2022, <https://www.biu.ac.il/en/article/11577>.

³⁴ "Partner Summer Programs," Concordia University, accessed February 24, 2026, <https://www.concordia.ca/offices/ci/short-term-summer-programs/partner-summer-programs.html>; "Field Schools," Concordia University, accessed February 24, 2026, <https://www.concordia.ca/students/exchanges/field-schools.html>.

³⁵ "Torture and Abuse in Interrogation," B'Tselem The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, November 11, 2017, <https://www.btselem.org/torture>.

³⁶ "Israeli Universities Attacking Campus Uprisings Uphold Israel's Crimes Against Palestinians | BDS Movement," BDS Movement, April 30, 2024, <https://bdsmovement.net/news/israeli-universities-attacking-campus-uprisings-uphold-israels-crimes-against-palestinians>; "The Security Schools," Bar-Ilan University, accessed February 17, 2026, <https://mzb.biu.ac.il/>.

assist reservist students academically, financially, and emotionally.”³⁷ This award was given in recognition of the university’s “Academic Armor” program designed in response to the IDF’s genocidal campaign in Gaza to “support students serving in the reserves.”

It is also worth noting here that Bar-Ilan University was responsible for the foundation of the College of Judea and Samaria, a campus of the university in the illegal West Bank settlement of Ariel in 1982. In 2012 the college officially became Ariel University, the first Israeli University in territory that legally belongs to Palestine according to the 1967 green line.³⁸ Maya Wind offers an extensive account of the role of the College of Judea and Samaria/Ariel University in the settlement and ‘Judaization’ of the West Bank in *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, emphasizing its role as a military outpost, vehicle for land seizure, and economic engine for settlement.³⁹

³⁷ “BIU Honored with the Minister of Defense Award of Recognition for Outstanding Support of IDF Reservists,” Bar-Ilan University, April 29, 2025, <https://www.biu.ac.il/en/article/583438>.

³⁸ Joanna Paraszczuk, “Ariel Gets University Status, despite Opposition,” *The Jerusalem Post*, July 17, 2012, <https://web.archive.org/web/20231008155851/https://www.jpost.com/National-News/Ariel-gets-university-status-despite-opposition>.

³⁹ Wind, “Ariel University and the ‘Judaization’ of the West Bank,” in *Towers of Ivory and Steel*, 81-87.

Hebrew University, Jerusalem: (Partnered with Concordia from 2017-2019)

Concordia had an official relationship with Hebrew University from 2017 until 2019. Hebrew University served as the host university for the Azrieli Institute's Summer in Israel field school for those three years. This relationship was seemingly cut off by the travel restrictions during the pandemic and when the field school began again in 2023 it had moved host locations to Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan.⁴⁰ The Academic Boycott campaign should work to ensure that Concordia continues to abstain from partnering with Hebrew University.

Hebrew University in Jerusalem is a militarily fortified Israeli university inside an occupied enclave of the legally Palestinian part of Jerusalem. Academic Maya Wind describes how "In 1918, the Hebrew University was intentionally placed in a militarized location: on the apex of Mount Scopus, overlooking the city of Jerusalem and symbolically staking a claim to it."⁴¹ While the university fell inside the territory first of Transjordan following 1948 and then of the Palestinian West Bank following 1967 Israel has continued to occupy and claim the territory, reinforcing the university with a military presence.

The university overlooks the Palestinian neighbourhood of 'Isawiya which has been subjected to the building of a segregation wall separating it from the rest of the West Bank with passage in and out of Palestinian Jerusalem enforced by military checkpoints. Since 1949, Israel has continued to confiscate large areas of land in 'Isawiya to install Israeli settlements, agricultural developments and military bases.⁴² Hebrew University itself is also militarily fortified because it hosts a military base on campus as part of military training programs that it offers to students. The program is called Havatzalot and it trains students in a dual military and academic curriculum to prepare them for careers as intelligence officers in the IDF. Haaretz described the security conditions for the program in 2019 writing that

"armed guards [are] required 24/7 in all the areas the soldier-students will be found. No unauthorized university personnel will be allowed into the soldiers' or IDF staff's quarters; entry will be by biometric pass only. Any windows facing outside of the compound must have bars on them. Within the living quarters, the army will provide security, and the army reserves the right to secure any other area of the university campus it deems necessary."⁴³

⁴⁰ "Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies Meet the Director," Concordia University, accessed February 10, 2026, <https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/research/azrieli-institute/about/Director.html>.

⁴¹ Raphael Magarik, "The Complicity of Israeli Academia," *Jewish Currents*, May 23, 2024, <https://jewishcurrents.org/the-complicity-of-israeli-academia>.

⁴² The Applied Research Institute Jerusalem, "'Isawiya Town Profile, Palestinian Localities Study, Jerusalem Governorate," Report, 2012, <http://vprofile.arij.org/jerusalem/pdfs/vprofile/isawiyeh.pdf>.

⁴³ Yaniv Kubovich, "Armed Forces Guarding Students: Israeli Army to Open Base in a University," *Haaretz* (Tel Aviv), March 27, 2019, <https://archive.is/xy2Vo>.