



Where Education & Innovation Meet

- Academic Programs in English
- Hebrew Language Ulpan
- Direct Admission Pathways
- Financial Support
- Student Benefits from Day One



Ben Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) offers a vibrant academic community that fosters innovation, leadership, and equal opportunity. The Center for Pre-Academic Studies provides tailored programs in English, designed to help English-speaking students seamlessly transition into higher education and professional life in Israel.

Our goal is to ensure that all English-speaking students have the resources they need to excel in their studies while enjoying a fulfilling and fun campus life.

2 PROGRAMS TO CHOOSE FROM

At Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, students have **2 exciting pathways** to explore their academic and personal growth in Israel.

1. A full undergraduate Degree Program

2. An academic Gap Year Experience

Whether you're looking to dive straight into a full undergraduate degree or seeking a meaningful academic gap year experience before committing to a long-term program, BGU offers options tailored to fit your goals and interests.

Each path provides a unique opportunity to engage with world-class academics, immerse in Israeli culture, and become part of a vibrant international student community.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) is widely recognized for academic excellence in several key areas.

1. STEM and Innovation

- **Engineering & Computer Science:** BGU is consistently ranked among Israel's top institutions for engineering, computer science, and technology. It's especially strong in cybersecurity, AI, robotics, and software engineering.
- **Cybersecurity:** BGU is home to the Cyber@BGU research center, located within the Gev Yam Advanced Technologies Park in Be'er Sheva, Israel's "Cyber Capital." It's a global leader in cybersecurity research and collaboration with industry.
- **Desert Studies & Environmental Science:** BGU is world-renowned for its research in desert agriculture, climate adaptation, water conservation, and solar energy — leveraging its Negev location to pioneer sustainability solutions.

2. Health & Life Sciences

- BGU's Faculty of Health Sciences is affiliated with Soroka Medical Center and is known for public health, neuroscience, genetics, and biomedical engineering.

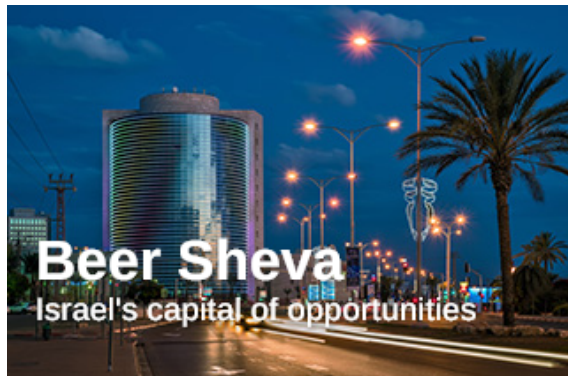
3. Global Impact & Social Sciences

- BGU is known for its commitment to social change, community engagement, and interdisciplinary research.
- Strong programs in psychology, engineering, natural sciences, social sciences, middle eastern studies, and more.

4. Entrepreneurship & Industry Collaboration

- BGU is at the heart of Israel's "Start-Up Nation" with close partnerships with industry, tech companies, and government through the Innovation and Technology Transfer Office (BGN Technologies).

WHERE IS BE'ER SHEVA?



Be'er Sheva is not in the middle of nowhere as some may think, but, as you can see, it is actually centrally located on the map of Israel, offering convenient access to major destinations. It's just a one-hour train ride from both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

The city also serves as a gateway to Israel's southern region, with easy access to nature reserves and some of the country's most popular sites, scenes, and attractions.

***Take a virtual tour of the
Be'er Sheva student life
scene.***

[Student life in Be'er-Sheva](#)



7 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE BGU

1. Academic Programs in English

- Select courses are taught in English and count toward your degree.

2. Hebrew Language Ulpan

- Build your language skills alongside your studies. You do not need any prior knowledge of Hebrew.

3. Direct Admission Pathways

- Admission to Psychology, Engineering Sciences, Liberal Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and more without needing the psychometric exam, SATs or ACTs (based on eligibility).

4. Financial Support

- For those who qualify, there are scholarships and funding opportunities available, by the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, BGU, and other partnering organizations, with additional stipends and dormitory options (subject to eligibility).

5. Student Benefits from Day One

- As a student in our preparatory courses, gateway programs, or academic programs, you'll have full access to Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's student association, including discounts, benefits, and activities.

6. A Vibrant Campus Community

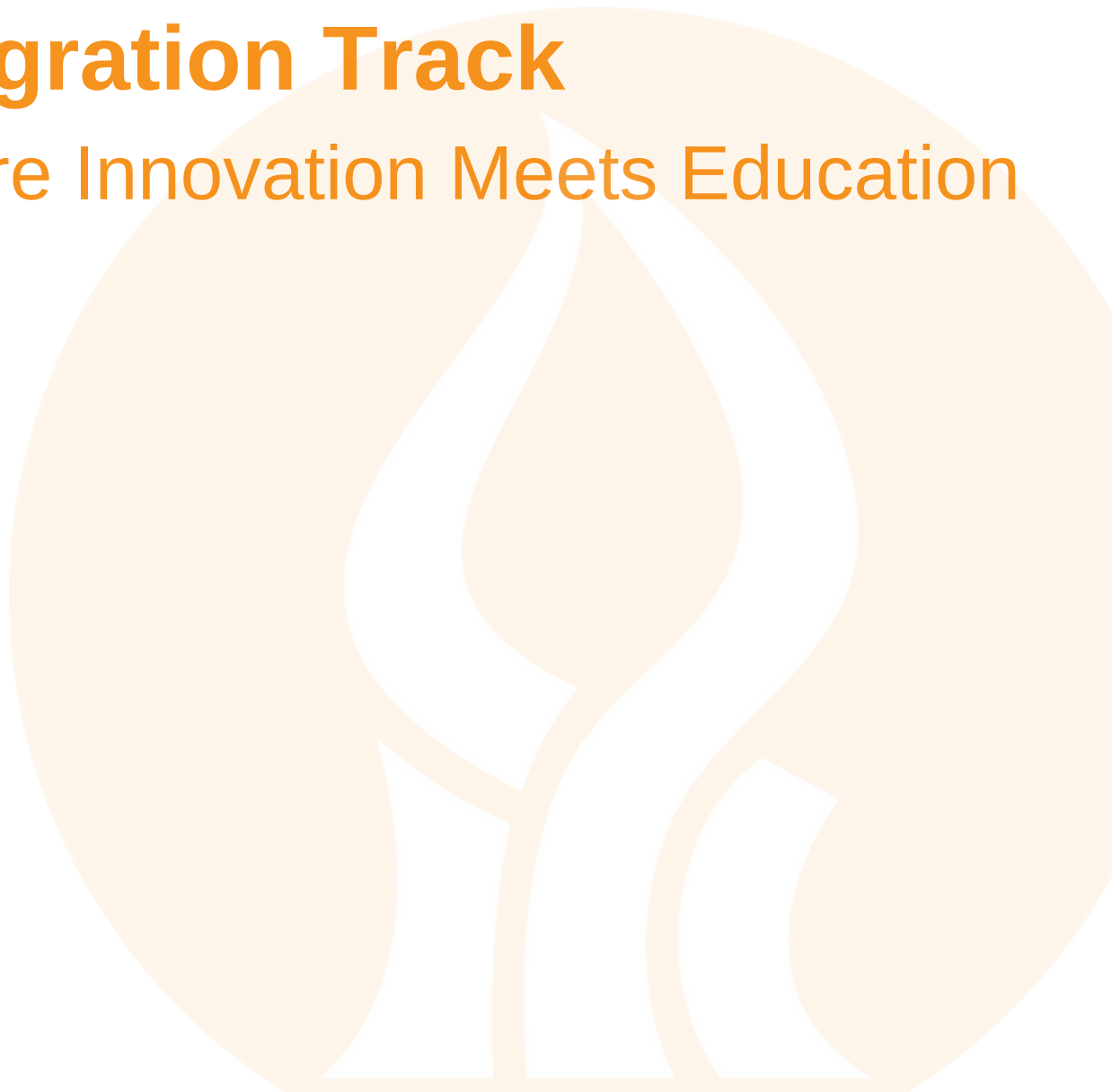
- Join a growing and active community on campus, including a thriving JLIC (Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus) program. Build lasting friendships and a strong support network both inside and outside the university.

7. Professional Networking from Day One

- Study alongside peers in your field and build meaningful connections with Israeli classmates, mentors, and collaborators. The relationships you form at BGU will support your academic journey and open doors for your future career.

Full Undergraduate Integration Track

Where Innovation Meets Education



INTEGRATION TRACKS TO THE UNIVERISTY

Ben-Gurion University offers three English-language Pathway tracks for your first year of study in:

1. **Psychology**
2. **Engineering and Natural Sciences**
3. **Humanities and Social Sciences (Liberal Arts).**

These tracks open the door to more than 25 different undergraduate degree options at BGU.

PSYCHOLOGY TRACK

The Psychology Track is part of our transitional (integration) program, designed to prepare students for successful academic studies at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU). Students enrolled in this track participate in Hebrew language instruction (Ulpan) to support their integration into Israeli academic and social life.

Students enrolled in this track will complete six core academic courses from the first-year curriculum of the Psychology B.A. program, including:

- Introduction to Psychology
- Psychophysiology
- Introduction to Statistics
- Inferential Statistics
- (Additional courses will be confirmed prior to the start of the academic year.)

Psychology is one of the most competitive academic programs in Israel. However, students accepted into this track, and successfully complete it, are guaranteed direct enrollment into BGU's Psychology B.A. program with no additional entrance exams required. All completed coursework will be fully recognized toward the degree.

ENGINEERING AND NATURAL SCIENCES

The Engineering & Natural Sciences Track is designed to provide a strong academic foundation for students entering degree programs at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU). Students enrolled in this track participate in Hebrew language instruction (Ulpan) to support their integration into Israeli academic and social life.

Students in this track will complete six core academic courses from the first-year curriculum in engineering and science disciplines, including:

- Linear Algebra
- Calculus I
- Calculus II
- Physics I
- Physics II
- Programming in Python

All courses are taught in English and are fully recognized for academic credit toward the B.Sc. degree.

Upon successful completion of the transitional year, students are guaranteed direct admission into any department within BGU's Faculty of Engineering Sciences or Faculty of Natural Sciences, without additional entrance exams. All completed coursework will count toward the student's degree requirements.

ENGINEERING AND NATURAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Mechanical Engineering | • School on Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences |
| • Chemical Engineering | • Life Sciences |
| • Materials Engineering | • Chemistry |
| • Industrial Engineering and Management | • Physics |
| • Biotechnology Engineering | • Math |
| • Information system engineering | • Geology - Earth Sciences |
| • Civil engineering | • Computer Science |
| • Biomedical engineering | |

ENGINEERING AND NATURAL SCIENCES COURSE OPTIONS

Natural Sciences

1. Chemistry
2. Computer Science
3. Earth and Environmental Sciences
4. Life Sciences
5. Mathematics
6. Physics

Study Programs:

- Data Sciences
- Software Engineering
- Bio-informatics
- Psychobiology (Biology – Psychology)
- Cybersecurity
- Marine Biology & Biotechnology
- Nanotechnology

Engineering Sciences

1. Engineering Departments
2. Biomedical
3. Biotechnology
4. Software and Information Systems
 - a. Software Engineering
 - b. Data Engineering
 - c. Information Systems
5. Civil and Environmental
 - a. Structural
 - b. Environmental
 - c. Safety Management and Engineering
6. Mechanical
 - a. Mechatronics
 - b. Systems
7. Chemical
8. Industrial Engineering and Management
9. Materials

School of ECE

1. Electrical and Computer
2. Computer
3. Communication Systems
4. Electro-Optical and photonics

Units

5. Nuclear
6. Energy

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (LIBERAL ARTS)

The Humanities & Social Sciences Track offers a flexible and enriching academic experience for students preparing to pursue a degree within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU). Students enrolled in this track participate in Hebrew language instruction (Ulpan) to support their integration into Israeli academic and social life.

During the transitional year, students will complete 20 academic credit points selected from a range of introductory courses across multiple departments within the Faculty. All courses are taught in English and are fully recognized for academic credit toward the B.A. degree.

Upon successful completion of the program, students are guaranteed direct enrollment into the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences without the need for additional entrance exams, and all completed coursework will be credited toward their degree.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (LIBERAL ARTS) COURSE OPTIONS

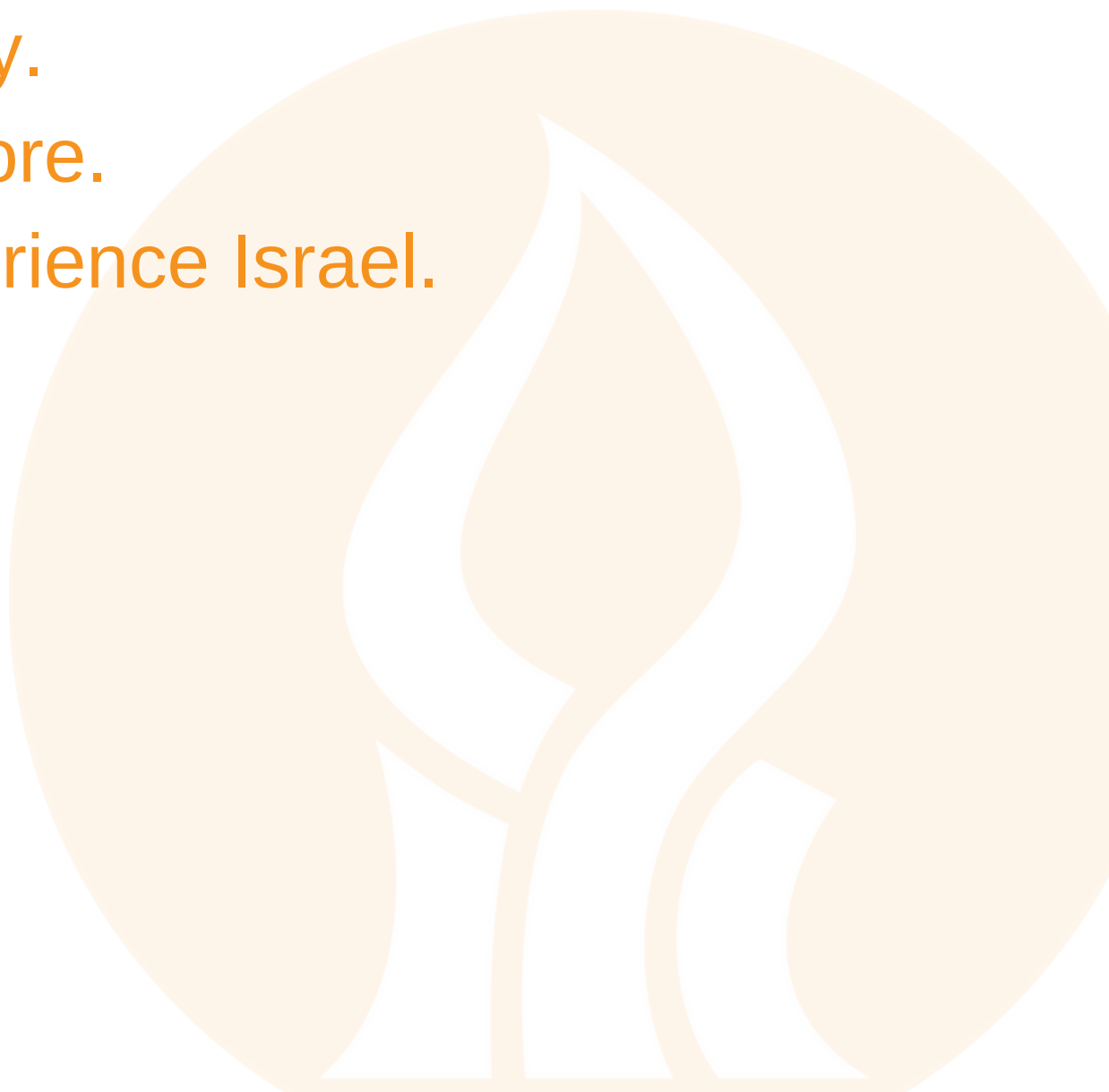
- Adenauer Division For The Studies Of European Politics and Society
 - Arts
 - Bible Studies, Archeology and the Ancient Near East
 - Brain and Cognitive Sciences
 - Communication Studies
 - Education
 - Foreign Literatures and Linguistics
 - General History
 - Environmental, Geoinformatic and Urban planning Science
 - Hebrew Language
 - Hebrew Literature
 - Jewish History
 - Jewish Thought
 - Middle East Studies
 - Philosophy
 - Politics and Government
 - Social Work
 - Sociology & Anthropology
 - African Studies
 - Conflict Management and Resolution
 - Gender Studies
 - Science & Technology Education
- **
- Economics – through engineering and natural sciences program
 - Psychology – independent program

Academic Gap Year Track

Study.

Explore.

Experience Israel.



Academic Gap Year Track: Study. Explore. Experience Israel.

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) offers an exciting opportunity for international students to spend a meaningful and academically enriching gap year in Israel, all while earning university credit and experiencing life on a leading Israeli campus.

Students can choose from three academic tracks, each designed to introduce them to real university coursework alongside a unique cultural experience. The program includes Hebrew language instruction (Ulpan), academic coursework, trips and experiences, and an active student life on campus.

Available Academic Tracks

1. Psychology Track

Gain firsthand exposure to one of Israel's most competitive and fascinating academic disciplines.

Courses are taught in English and offer an excellent introduction to the field of psychology. If students later choose to pursue a full degree at BGU, these credits will be fully recognized.

2. Engineering & Natural Sciences Track

For students passionate about STEM, this track offers university-level coursework and hands-on experience.

All courses are taught in English, providing rigorous academic content in a supportive environment. These courses offer transferable credit and a real taste of life as an engineering or science student at BGU.

3. Humanities & Social Sciences (Liberal Arts) Track

Explore a wide variety of subjects in the humanities and social sciences. Students will complete 20 credit points from a mix of departments.

This track is ideal for students interested in a broad liberal arts experience or still exploring their academic path.

Program Highlights

- Earn academic credit from a top Israeli university
- Courses taught in English
- Ulpan (Hebrew language instruction) included
- Live on campus with Israeli and international students
- Participate in cultural immersion activities, holiday events, and group travel opportunities
- Experience a safe, structured, and academically engaging year before committing to a full degree program

A Flexible Future

For those who fall in love with BGU and want to stay, all gap year coursework is fully transferable into a full undergraduate degree at BGU, no additional entrance exams required for those who meet program completion standards.

Who Should Apply?

- High school graduates taking a year before college
- Students seeking a unique blend of academic challenge and cultural adventure
- Future BGU students who want to get a head start on their degree
- Anyone ready to explore Israel through the lens of a top-tier university

STUDENT LIFE AT BGU - MORE THAN JUST ACADEMICS

At Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU), student life is an essential part of the university experience. From a dynamic campus culture to real-world engagement, students enjoy a well-rounded, meaningful journey both in and outside the classroom.

Vibrant Student Union and Campus Life

BGU is home to the most active and vibrant student union in Israel. Throughout the year, students can take part in an incredible array of educational, social, cultural, and recreational events; creating a lively and inclusive atmosphere for all students on campus.

Proximity to Israel's High-Tech Ecosystem

Located just steps away from the Gav-Yam Negev Advanced Technologies Park, BGU is uniquely positioned at the intersection of academia and innovation.

The park hosts offices of leading high-tech and cybersecurity companies, offering students unmatched opportunities to connect with industry professionals, volunteer, intern, and even work part-time, all while completing their studies. This close connection between campus and tech industry gives BGU students a distinct head start in building their careers.

Student-Led Initiatives and Social Impact

BGU is proud of its culture of leadership and activism. Student-led initiatives and grassroots projects are encouraged and supported, whether they focus on sustainability, social justice, entrepreneurship, or campus improvements.

BGU students are also deeply engaged in volunteering and community service, with countless opportunities to contribute to Be'er Sheva and the surrounding region. As a university embedded in the heart of the city, BGU fosters a strong sense of civic responsibility and connection to local life.

ADMISSIONS & REQUIREMENTS

Do I need to speak Hebrew to apply?

- No. Unlike other BGU programs that require a minimum level of Hebrew proficiency, students applying through Olim La'Academia do not need any prior knowledge of Hebrew.
- As part of the program, students take Hebrew Ulpan courses, starting from the beginner level and progressing towards the university's exemption level (Level 6).

Do I need SATs, APs, or the Psychometric test to apply?

- Olim La'Academia applicants do not need SATs, APs, or the Psychometric exam. While general BGU applicants must provide APs and SAT scores.
- Once enrolled, students are not required to take these exams to continue their degree.

COSTS & FINANCIAL AID

How much does the program cost?

- Tuition: Approximately 20,000 NIS per year (\$5,500) (before scholarships)
- Living costs are an additional 800 NIS- 1,400 NIS per month (approximately)
 - There are dorm options and independent living options (apartments near campus)

Are there scholarships or financial aid options?

Yes. Eligible students may qualify for:

- Full tuition scholarships through the Ministry of Absorption for new Olim.
- Living expense scholarships through the Ministry of Aliyah for those who meet the criteria.
- Living Expense scholarships provided by BGU for those who meet the criteria.
- There are also a variety of other available scholarships available for non-Israeli students. Please ask us about them.



ELIZAVETA MIROPOLSKY

Olim to Academia Program – Ben-Gurion University of the Negev |
Department of Industrial Engineering and Management

"The scholarships I received helped me invest in my studies and also enjoy campus social life. I'm very grateful to Ben-Gurion University for helping me pursue higher education in Israel. I was fortunate to be a student at Ben-Gurion. I made new friends, began my independent life in Israel, and continued studying the subjects I had studied at university in Ukraine. Would you recommend your friends follow a similar path?

"Definitely. Despite the challenges, I have no regrets about being accepted to Ben-Gurion. I began a new chapter in my life, and I'm truly happy about it."

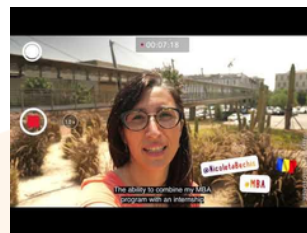
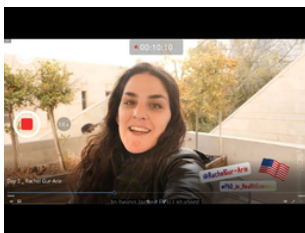
TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF OUR CAMPUS AND STUDENT LIFE

Campus & Student Life

Dorms

Student life in Be'er-Sheva

SHARE SOME OF OUR FAVORITE BGU MOMENTS
(Click on the images)



BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV Your Gateway to Academic Success in Israel

Interested in Applying? Want more information?

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