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# Education and Higher Education

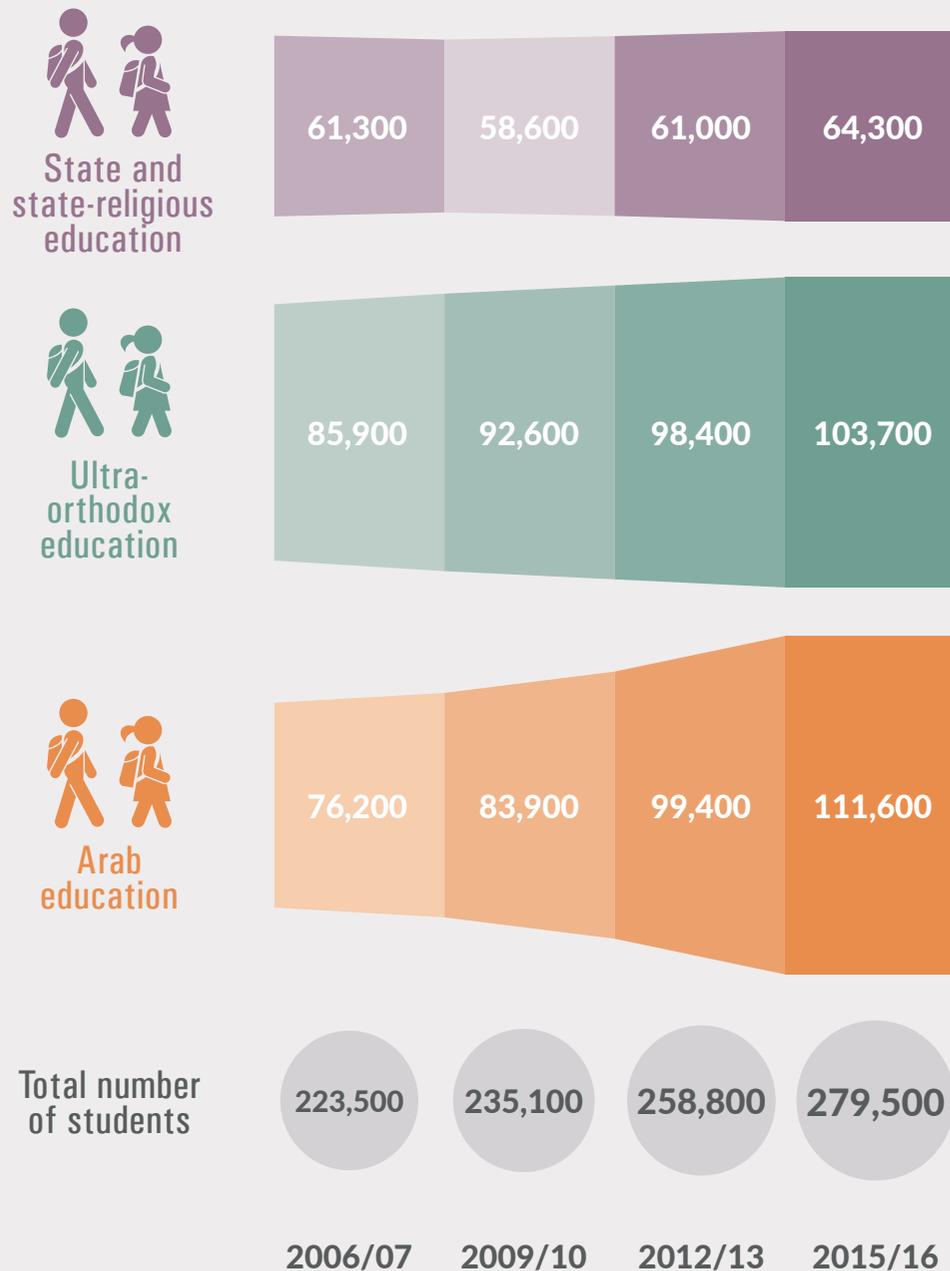
The education system in Jerusalem

Higher education in Jerusalem

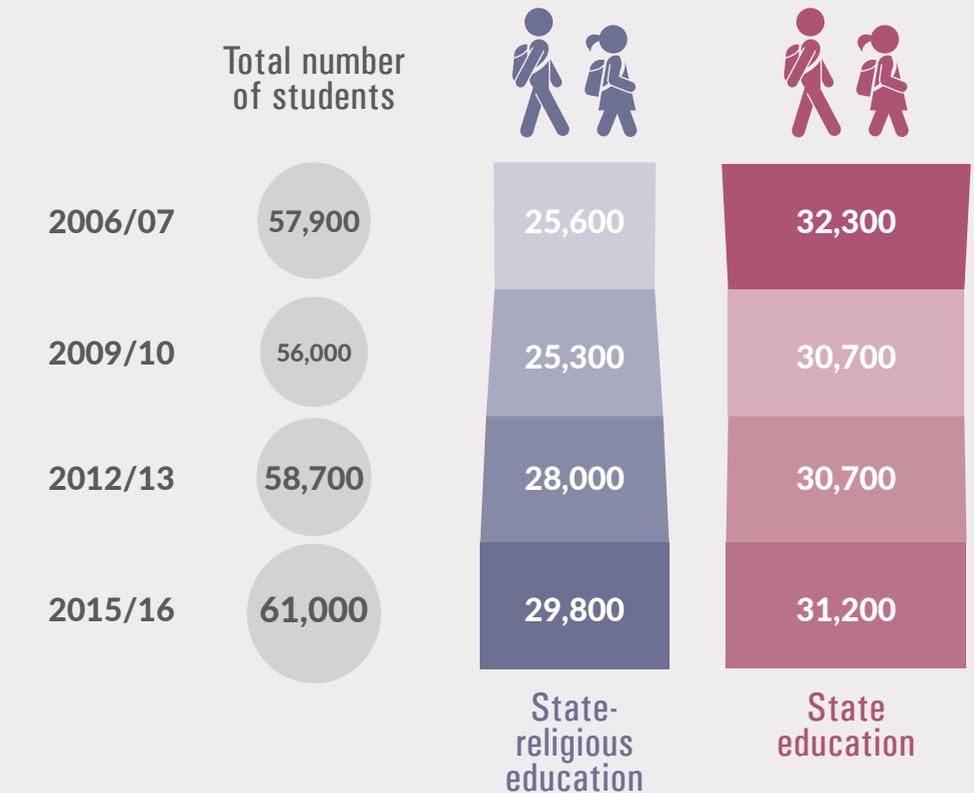


# Education and Higher Education

## Students in the Education System in Jerusalem, by Sector



## Students in State and State-Religious Education in Jerusalem



Not including grades 13 and 14, special education, and state-ultra-orthodox education

## Students in Higher Education Institutions in Jerusalem, 2015/16



# The education system in Jerusalem

During the 2015/16 academic year, approximately 279,500 students were enrolled in Jerusalem's education system:<sup>21</sup> 64,300 students were enrolled in the Hebrew state and state-religious<sup>22</sup> education systems, and 103,700 students were enrolled in the ultra-orthodox education system. A total of 90,600 students were enrolled in the Arab public education system, and some 21,000 students were enrolled in private Arab schools (2000/01 assessment).

Jerusalem's education system is the largest, most varied, and most complex in Israel. It must meet the needs of diverse population groups with distinct characteristics. The four main sectors in Jerusalem's education system are: state, state-religious, ultra-orthodox, and Arab. The city's educational institutions also differ in terms of legal status across all these sectors, comprising official schools, recognized but unofficial schools, independent schools, and exempted schools.

During the past five academic years (2011/12 – 2015/16), the number of students in Jerusalem's education system increased by 14%, from 245,700 to 279,500. The number of students in the Hebrew state and state-religious systems increased by 9% (from 58,900 to 64,300), and in the ultra-orthodox system it rose by 8% (from 95,700 to 103,700). In the Arab public education system the number of students increased by 29% (from 70,000 to 90,600). The increased enrollment in the Arab sector results in part from an increase in the number of school-aged children but mostly from improved data collection, especially in recognized but unofficial schools.

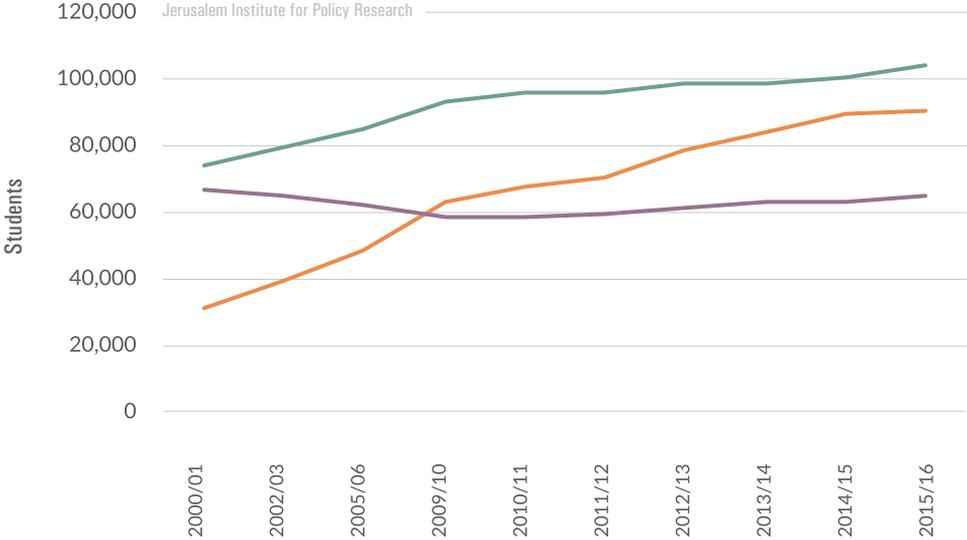
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<sup>21</sup> This includes grades 13 and 14, as well as private Arab education.

<sup>22</sup> This includes 700 students enrolled in state-ultra-orthodox schools.

# Students in the Education System in Jerusalem, by Sector, 2000/01 – 2015/16

■ Hebrew ultra-orthodox education 
 ■ Arab-public education 
 ■ Hebrew state and state-religious education



# Hebrew education

During the 2015/16 academic year, 168,000 students were enrolled in the Hebrew education system in Jerusalem: 64,300 students (38%) were enrolled in state and state-religious schools, and 103,700 (62%) were enrolled in ultra-orthodox schools.

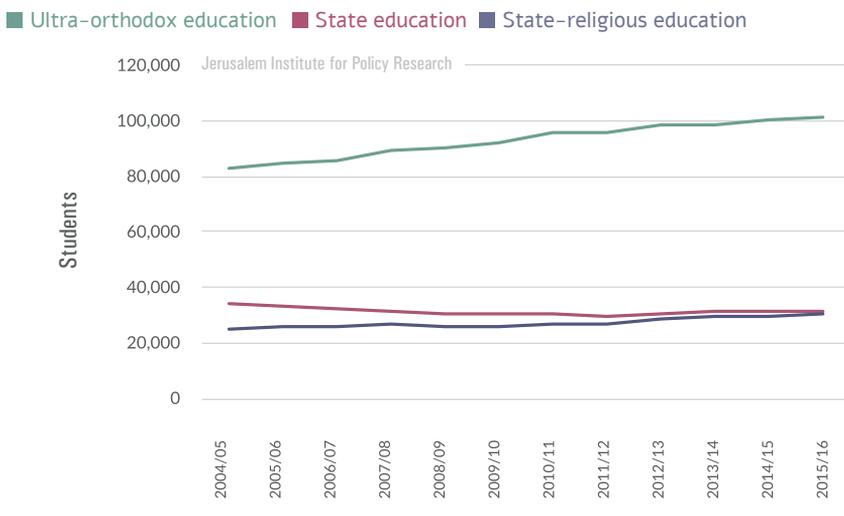
The distribution of students in the Hebrew state and state-religious education systems was as follows: 12,400 children (19%) in kindergarten and nursery school, 24,800 students (39%) in elementary school, and 24,800 students (39%) in secondary school. A total of 2,300 students (4%) were enrolled in schools for special education.

The distribution of students in the ultra-orthodox education system was as follows: 24,100 children (23%) in kindergarten and nursery school, 49,100

students (47%) in elementary school, and 28,000 students (27%) in secondary school. A total of 2,500 students (2%) were enrolled in schools for special education.

An analysis of the patterns of change in the number of students indicates different rates of growth among the various educational sectors. During the past five years (2011/12 – 2015/16), as noted, there was a 9% increase in the number of students in state and state-religious schools, from 58,900 to 64,300. An examination of the state system and the state-religious system<sup>23</sup> separately reveals that the state system had a 4% increase in enrollment (from 29,900 to 31,200), while the state-religious system had an 11% increase (from 26,800 to 29,800).

## Students in the Hebrew Education System in Jerusalem, by Sector, 2004/05 – 2015/16



<sup>23</sup> This does not include special education, grades 13 and 14, or state-ultra-orthodox schools.

## Arab education

During the 2015/16 academic year, 111,600 students were enrolled in Jerusalem's Arab education system: 90,600 (81%) were enrolled in public schools<sup>24</sup> and 21,000 (17%) in private schools (2000/01 assessment). Students in the Arab education system (public and private) constituted 40% of all students in Jerusalem's education system.

The distribution of students in public education was as follows: 16,400 (18%) children in kindergarten and nursery school, 43,900 (48%) in elementary school, 24,700 (27%) in secondary school, and 3,800 (4%) in multi-age<sup>25</sup> schools. Approximately 2,000 students (2%) were enrolled in schools for special education.

Since the 2000s there has been a significant increase in the number of students enrolled in the Arab public education system. In 2001/02 there were 33,200 students in Arab public schools. The number rose to 43,500 in 2003/04, to 84,200 in 2013/14, and to 90,600 in 2015/16. This notable increase results from demographic growth as well as the reclassification of private schools as public schools, most of which received the status of recognized but unofficial schools. Unlike private schools, public schools receive funding from the Ministry of Education and the Municipality, and therefore they provide reports on enrollment. In 2001/02 there were 1,500 students in grades 1–12 in recognized but unofficial schools. The number rose to 8,300 in 2004/05, to 25,600 in 2009/10, and to 36,700 in 2015/16.

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<sup>24</sup> This includes official schools and recognized but unofficial schools.

<sup>25</sup> These are schools that comprise preschool, elementary school, and secondary schools.

## Higher education in Jerusalem

In 2015/16 Jerusalem's institutions of higher education had a total of 37,000 students, who constituted 14% of all post-secondary students in Israel. Approximately 20,000 students (54% of the total for Jerusalem) were enrolled at the Hebrew University,<sup>26</sup> 11,700 students (32%) were enrolled in the city's seven academic colleges, and 5,400 students (14%) were enrolled in four teacher training colleges.<sup>27</sup>

The percentage of students studying at the Hebrew University out of all students enrolled in institutions of higher education in Jerusalem (54%) was slightly higher than the figure for Israel (48%). The percentage of students studying at the Hebrew University out of all students in Jerusalem's higher education institutions has decreased over the years (58% in 2009/10, compared with 54% in 2015/16), while the number of students in Jerusalem's academic colleges rose from 30% in 2009/10 to 32% in 2015/16. The percentage of students enrolled in Jerusalem's teacher training colleges remained relatively steady (13% and 14%, respectively).

The distribution of students by academic degree indicates that of the 37,000 students in Jerusalem's institutions of higher education, about 73% were pursuing a first (bachelor's) degree, 21% a second (master's) degree, and 6% a third (PhD) degree. The proportion of students pursuing an advanced degree (second or third) has decreased slightly over the years (from 29% in 2009/10 to 27% in 2015/16).

The percentage of students pursuing a first degree in Jerusalem (73%) was comparable to the figure for Israel (74%), and so too with respect to students pursuing a second degree (21% in Jerusalem and 22% in Israel). The percentage of students pursuing a third degree in Jerusalem was higher than the figure for Israel (6% in Jerusalem and 4% in Israel).

## University applications

During 2015/16, the Hebrew University received 6,600 applications for registration as first-year students towards a first degree. Tel Aviv University received the highest number

of applications (9,900), followed by Ben-Gurion University (7,100). The number of applications to other universities ranged between 4,000 and 4,600.

<sup>26</sup> This figure includes the Hebrew University campus in Rehovot.

<sup>27</sup> This includes only institutions recognized by the Council for Higher Education.

Forty-seven percent of applicants to the Hebrew University were accepted and subsequently enrolled. The Technion had a comparable percentage of accepted and enrolled applicants (49%). In comparison with the Hebrew University, the percentage of applicants who were accepted and then enrolled was lower for Tel Aviv University, and Ben-Gurion University, at 42% and 39%, respectively, but higher for Bar-Ilan University (70%), Ariel University (62%), and Haifa University (57%).

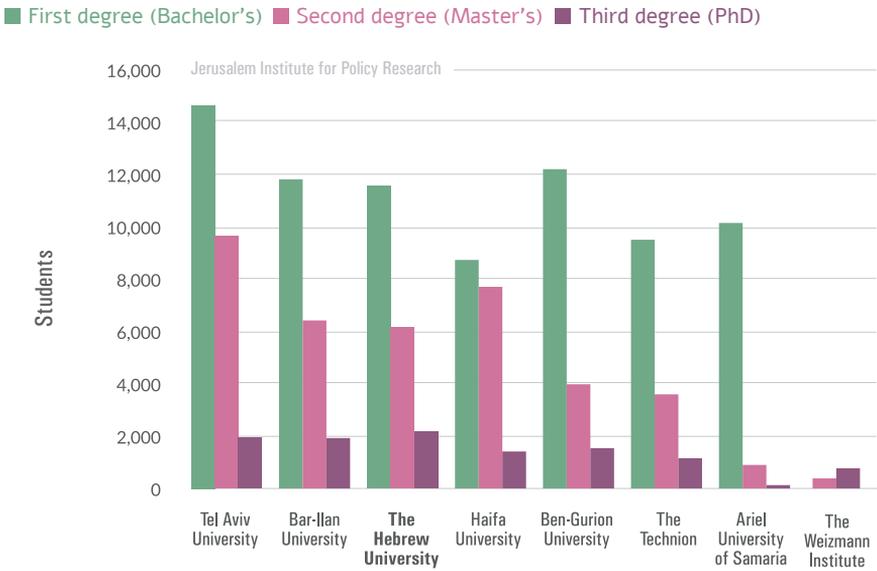
Thirty percent of applicants to the Hebrew University were accepted but did not enroll, the highest rate of non-enrollment (following acceptance) among Israel’s universities. For Bar-Ilan University the figure was 22%, for Haifa University it was 17%, and at Tel Aviv University 11% of those accepted did not subsequently enroll. Ariel University and Ben-Gurion University recorded the lowest rates of accepted applicants who did not enroll, at 3% and 2% respectively. Over the past five years, the percentage of accepted applicants who did not enroll has remained relatively steady at each of the universities.

## Student distribution by degree and discipline

During the 2014/15 academic year, about 20,000 students were enrolled at the Hebrew University: 58% for a first degree (Bachelor’s), 31% for a second degree (Master’s), and 11% for a third degree (PhD). The distribution of students by

faculty was as follows: 25% in the social sciences, 21% in the natural sciences and mathematics, 20% in humanities, 17% in medicine (including medical support professions), 9% in agriculture, 6% in law, and 2% in engineering.

### Students Enrolled in Israel’s Universities, by Degree (2015/16)



A review of data from the past decade indicates that the proportion of students in the humanities at the Hebrew University declined gradually from 27% in 2005/06 to 20% in 2015/16. The Faculty of Medicine, in contrast, recorded an increase in student enrollment, from 14% to 18%. For the other faculties, the proportion of students remained stable. A decreasing proportion of humanities students is not unique to the Hebrew University; in fact it is

characteristic of all humanities faculties in Israel's universities.

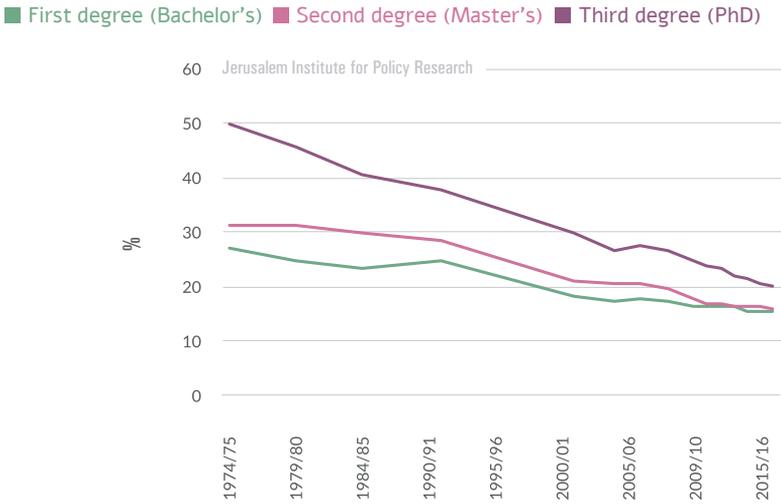
The largest university in Israel in terms of student body for the 2015/16 academic year was Tel Aviv University (26,600 students), followed in descending order by Bar-Ilan University, with 20,600 students, and the Hebrew University, with 20,000 students.

### Third degree (PhD) students

The Hebrew University had the largest number of students pursuing a third degree (PhD). In 2015/16 the Hebrew University had 2,200 third-degree students, who constituted 20% of the total across Israel's universities. Tel Aviv University, by comparison, had 2,000 third-degree students (18%), comparable to the figure for Bar-Ilan University.

Over the years the number and percentage (out of all third-degree students) of Hebrew University students pursuing a third degree has declined, as a result of the opening of several PhD programs across Israel's universities. The proportion of Hebrew University students among all PhD students consequently dropped from 28% in 2005/06 to 20% in 2015/16.

### Students Enrolled at the Hebrew University as a Percentage of Students at Israel's Universities, by Degree, 1974/75 – 2015/16



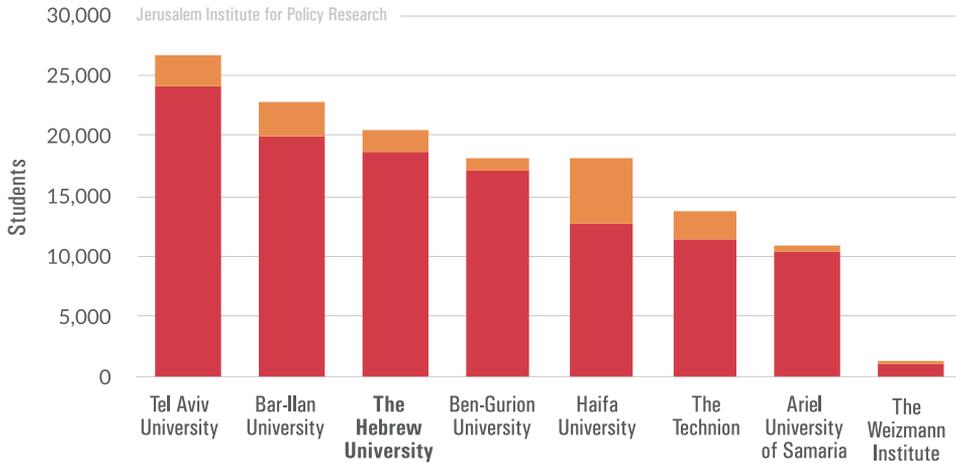
# Students by population group and gender

In 2015/16, 92% of the students at the Hebrew University and academic colleges of Jerusalem were Jewish and 8% were Arab. The proportion of Arab students out of all students at the Hebrew University (9%) was higher than among the academic colleges (7%). The three academic colleges in Jerusalem that recorded the highest percentage of Arab students were Hadassah College (14%), Azrieli College of Engineering (13%) and the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance (9%).

In 2015/16, 9% of the students enrolled at the Hebrew University were Arab. Across all of Israel's universities, Arab students constituted 13% of the student body. Haifa University recorded the highest percentage of Arab students (30%), followed by the Technion (18%). The lowest percentages were recorded at the Weizmann Institute of Science (3%) and Ariel University (4%).

## Students Enrolled in Israel's Universities, by Population Group, 2015/16

■ Jews ■ Arabs



There were more women than men enrolled in Israel's universities. During the 2015/16 academic year, women constituted 55% of the student body across Israel's universities.

The proportion of women attending the Hebrew University was identical to the proportion for Israel. Haifa University and Bar-Ilan University recorded the highest percentages of women (64%-66%), while the Technion recorded the lowest (36%).