

The Learning Center for the Blind



The Learning Center for the Blind was established in 1996. The primary purpose of the unit is to assist blind and visually impaired Hebrew University students. The centre serves some 150 students in degree tracks and the academic preparatory program. The Learning Center for the Blind is located on the **Mt. Scopus campus** and serves the blind and visually impaired students studying on this campus. An extension of the centre on the **Edmond J. Safra Campus (Givat Ram)** serves blind and visually impaired students in the Natural Sciences Faculty. Likewise, services are available to students at the **campus in Rehovot**.

Target Population:

Blind students with appropriate documentation (from the Ministry of Welfare – the Service for the Blind) and/or visually impaired students whose impairment is recognized by the Israel National Insurance Institute.

Student services at the Learning Center for the Blind:

- 1. 14 individual study rooms and 3 computerized classrooms equipped with the best available technology to aid the blind and visually impaired.** The equipment is installed on the basis of need also in regular classrooms and in the computer farm at the university.
- 2. The Dr. Anna Mintz Karkuth Academic Library of Recordings, Braille, and Enlarged Text:** Information about books on disc may be found at the website of the Library Authority under “Other Catalogues” at the library of the Learning Center for the Blind.
- 3. Help with personal readings of academic material and tutorials:** Accommodations are arranged on the basis of student needs and are re-examined every semester
- 4. Personal and academic counselling and guidance,** including maintaining contact with various services offered in the community, assistance with relations with university bodies (academic and administrative).
- 5. Examinations assisted by a reader, rewriter or computer.**
- 6. Lending computerized equipment to the student's home.**
- 7. Courses in learning how to use the equipment, mobility services and orientation.**
- 8. Student residence in the dorms.**
- 9. Job-hunting workshop for graduating students**
- 10. Job-promoting activities for graduating students, such as:**
 - a. The Blind Students Mentor Blind Children project.
 - b. Tutorials for blind students in the university’s academic preparatory program.
 - c. Activity for students in the therapeutic fields at the Information and Counselling

Stations at the 20 hospital eye clinics for the newly blind.

- d. Producing and editing the radio show “Can't See a Thing” as part of Radio Mt. Scopus.
- e. Producing an informational booklet about the Learning Center for the Blind.
- f. Experience coordinating various centre activities such as coordinating mentorships and courses, coordinating the ALUMA programs – National Service for the blind and visually impaired, counselling and teaching.

Facing Academic Studies:

Matriculation Preparation for the Blind and Visually Impaired: The Center runs a preparatory program for students who were unable to complete their matriculation exams in high school and/or students who would like to raise their matriculation exam scores. The program is constructed on the basis of individual student needs and lasts from one to two years. Every year, some 30 students participate. The program is in its 18th year.

Psychometric Prep Course for the Blind and Visually Impaired: Because the population supported by the Center is tested under special conditions, the Center runs a course designed to help blind students become familiar with these conditions, e.g., testing orally or via recording. The course is held in different languages, according to need. Every year some 20-30 students prepare to take the psychometric exams registered in this course.