



Upholding Ethical Responsibility and Ending
Complicity in Genocide, Apartheid and Occupation:

Report on Leipzig University's Cooperations with Israeli Institutions

Call to action

As students and staff of Leipzig University, we take the University's declaration of commitment to the dignity of all people seriously.

This report details Leipzig University's direct and indirect support of Israel in its violations of international law through cooperations with Israeli universities that are embedded in the Israeli political system and in many cases directly contribute to the illegal occupation of Palestine and genocidal war in Gaza. We call on Leipzig University to honour its ethical commitment to human rights and the respect of the dignity of all people by suspending its cooperations with Israeli universities and academic institutions, until these institutions:

1. publicly recognise the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, as enshrined in law.
These include:

The end of the occupation of all Arab lands and the dismantling of the Apartheid Wall
Full equality for Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel
Respect, protection and promotion of the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194

2. end all forms of complicity in violating Palestinian rights, including discriminatory practices, justifying Israel's violations of international law and Palestinian human rights, contributing materially and ideologically to the crimes of apartheid and genocide committed against the Palestinian people.

We call on fellow students and staff of Leipzig university:

- not to participate in any collaborations with complicit Israeli institutions, including exchanges of students/staff, and not to publicise, promote, or encourage such collaborations.
- not to participate in any activities organised and/or hosted by complicit Israeli institutions, and not to publicise, promote or encourage participation in such activities.
- to exert pressure in any form possible on Leipzig University to end these collaborations, in accordance with the positions you hold and the possibilities you have.

We call for cutting ties on the basis of complicity in violations of international law, not identity. Therefore, we specifically call for the suspension of institutional cooperations, not for the exclusion of Israeli researchers based on their identity or nationality.

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Introduction

This report is written by students and staff of Leipzig University based on an in-depth analysis of the role of Israeli universities in the systemic oppression, dispossession and genocide¹ of Palestinians and on institutional cooperations between Leipzig University and Israeli universities. It is grounded in research based on publicly accessible information on Leipzig University's ties,² on media reports, social media posts and academic literature on the subject matter, as well as similar reports addressing the role of other German universities. The authors of this report are inspired by a growing movement of students and scholars globally calling out academic complicity in the genocide of Palestinians. Having found that Leipzig University cooperates with Israeli universities in ways that can be considered to constitute aid and assistance in genocide and other violations of international law, the authors of this report call for Leipzig University to engage in a thorough investigation of these cooperations, halting all ties for the time of the investigation and suspending any cooperation until Israeli universities and academic institutions comply with international law. The report argues that German universities, and Leipzig University in particular, have a moral, ethical and legal duty under international law to suspend ties with Israeli institutions complicit in the occupation and genocide, warning that continued cooperation amounts to complicity in crimes against humanity.

Preliminary explanations

The Israeli genocide of the Palestinian people is ongoing. Despite relentless reporting of Palestinian journalists on the genocidal war crimes committed by Israel; despite a global movement in solidarity with the Palestinian people opposing the genocide and the war waged by Israel on Gaza and the West Bank; despite the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Famine Review Committee (FRC) identifying a Phase 5 ‘entirely man-made famine’³ and the International Criminal Court Prosecutor acknowledging Israel’s responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity,⁴ the Israeli human rights organisation B’tselem publishing its research on Israeli war crimes in Gaza under the title ‘Our Genocide’,⁵ as well as numerous other human rights organisations warning about an ongoing genocide (e.g. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch)^{6,7}; despite three rounds of provisional measures ordered towards Israel by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in Israel VS. South Africa; despite the United Nations independent international commission of inquiry (COI) concluding that Israel is committing a genocide in Gaza⁸ - Israel has not been stopped and the mass killing and destruction have only increased.

In Germany - the worldwide second-biggest weapon provider to Israel - those who affirm the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination and object to Israel’s violence are met with repression, police brutality, and the

criminalisation of political speech. The German parliament has adopted two non-binding resolutions that apply the highly contested International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism to criminalise any dissent against Israeli and German state policy, to brand the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and any statement in support of the suspension of ties with Israeli universities as antisemitic and intolerable for German universities,⁹ and that undermines academic freedom and university autonomy. The IHRA definition of antisemitism equates criticism of Israel with antisemitism and has been called into question for its inaccuracy.^{10,11} In May 2024, Leipzig University called the police on students who were occupying the main lecture hall to draw attention to the ground invasion of Rafah and calling on the university to declare its condemnation of the genocide and suspend and review ties to Israeli institutions. The university administration chose to press charges for trespassing, effectively criminalising the student movement. By silencing and persecuting students who protest against Israel’s crimes of genocide, segregation and apartheid, Leipzig University makes itself complicit in these crimes.

Already in January 2024, the ICJ found that there was an exacerbating risk of genocide of the Palestinian population in Gaza, and, in a

separate legal procedure,¹² the court found that Israel's legislation and measures with regard to Palestinians amounts to a violation of the prohibition of racial segregation and apartheid. The ICJ also found that Israel was violating the integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) as an essential element of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It moreover concluded that Israeli policies and practices in the OPT are contrary to peremptory norms of international humanitarian law. Peremptory norms give rise to obligations owed to the entire international community, that are so fundamental that they bind all states - even without contractual/treaty obligations - without exceptions or objections. This includes their institutions – and therefore Leipzig University. Like states, universities must abstain from relations or dealings with Israel that recognize its illegal presence in the OPT. They must avoid aiding and abetting, i.e. providing any kind of support that can be used in the commission of violations or that can be used to 'legalize' violations by normalizing their context. Given that Israeli universities are embedded in the Israeli political system and have put their research and resources at the disposal of the government and the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) to expand the illegal occupation and commit a genocide in Gaza¹³ - institutional cooperation with these universities amounts to aid and assistance in breaches of peremptory norms of international

law. Cutting these institutional cooperations until the Israeli universities cease to support and participate in the illegal occupation and the genocide is thus not only an ethical and moral imperative, but also an obligation under international law. In Germany, this is of particular importance, since the commitment of German Basic Law to international law (Völkerrechtsfreundlichkeit) is enshrined in article 25 of the constitution. This commitment to international law carries historical significance, given Germany's role as perpetrator of the genocides of Jewish and Roma and Sinti people and, before that, of Nama and Herero people.

Israeli universities are fundamentally entangled in Israeli systems of oppression. Since their inception they have been complicit in the violation of Palestinian rights, as extensive research referenced in this report demonstrates. While this has been argued and opposed by Palestinian civil society for a long time, recent findings of the ICJ confirm that Israeli universities have to be held accountable for infringements of international law. Israeli academic institutions have long been intertwined with the broader territorial agenda aimed at displacing the Palestinian population— a central element of Israeli state formation. Even prior to the official establishment of the Israeli state, the Zionist movement founded three major universities — Hebrew University, Technion, and the Weizmann Institute— with the explicit purpose of advancing

its territorial objectives in Palestine. These institutions have developed, and continue to offer, specialized academic programs designed to train military personnel and security forces, thereby supporting and enhancing their operations. They also partner with Israeli arms manufacturers to conduct research and develop technologies employed by the Israeli military and security apparatus in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). Moreover, Israeli universities compromise core principles of academic freedom by marginalizing Palestinian and dissenting Jewish-Israeli scholars and students, suppressing academic work, teaching methods, and expressions that critique or resist the prevailing systems of oppression on their campuses and beyond.

The Leipzig declaration adopted by the senate of Leipzig University on 20 February 2024¹⁴ stipulates a strong stance for academic freedom, human rights and democracy. Universities must be institutions that advance research for the common good, create spaces of learning, open dialogue and critique, and bring people together on the basis of ethical principles that uphold the value of all human lives. The extensive research presented in this report shows that any vision of Leipzig University as an institution that respects human rights is incompatible with the continued collaboration with Israeli universities, unless they comply with international law. Leipzig University is therefore obliged to suspend all institutional

collaborations until its partners in Israel cease to support and participate in the illegal occupation and the genocide. Palestinian civil society has called for the boycott of Israeli academic and cultural institutions inspired by the historical boycott of South African institutions that contributed to ending apartheid.¹⁵ Academic freedom is only meaningful if it is for all, including Palestinians and those who stand with them. Any concerns about the consequences of suspending ties with Israeli universities should recede against the backdrop of an ongoing genocide. This is a matter of pressing urgency.

Leipzig University's collaborations with Israeli institutions

Student exchange programmes

Hebrew University of Jerusalem: Leipzig University has an Erasmus+ exchange agreement and a bilateral student exchange agreement with Hebrew University. Leipzig University students can apply for student dormitories offered by Hebrew University, which are located in the Mount Scopus Campus on illegally occupied Palestinian territory. A student reporting their exchange at HUJ in 2023 describes having found accommodation in the HUJ student dorm on Mount Scopus¹⁶ and another UL student recounts that most exchange students stay at the HUJ student dorms.¹⁷ The Faculty of Theology advertises the program “Studium in Israel” offering 1-year study programs at HUJ for Christian students.¹⁸

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev: Leipzig University has an Erasmus+ exchange agreement and a bilateral student exchange agreement with Ben-Gurion University. Furthermore, the Faculty of Theology advertises on its website a summer ulpan (intensive course for Modern Hebrew) program of Ben-Gurion University.¹⁹

Tel-Aviv University Leipzig University has an Erasmus+ exchange agreement and a bilateral student exchange agreement with Tel-Aviv University.

University of Haifa: Leipzig University has an Erasmus+ exchange agreement with University of Haifa.

Ongoing direct research collaborations

"The Mechanics of Canon Formation and the Transmission of Knowledge from Graeco-Roman Antiquity" (2024-2028)

This is a Horizon Europe²⁰ project coordinated by Katholieke Universiteit Leuven researching the mechanics of canon formation and knowledge transmission in ancient Greek and Latin texts. Both Leipzig University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem are participants in this project.

"Minerva Center for the Relations between Israel and Aram in Biblical Times" (2017-2027)

This Centre is funded by the Minerva Foundation of the Max Planck Institute. It is a cooperation between Leipzig University and Bar-Ilan University and includes senior scholars from Bar-Ilan University, the University of Leipzig, and other institutions. The centre's objective is "to conduct joint research on the character of Aramean-Israelite relations during the biblical period (Iron Age and Persian Period)", furthermore "connections are fostered between scholars in Israeli, German and other institutions – both on a scholarly and contemporary level."²¹

"Tell el-Badawiya/Hannathon" Archaeological Project (2023-2030)

The Tell el-Badawiya/Hannathon Archaeological Project (TBH-AP) is a scientific collaboration between Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the Israel Antiquities Authority, and Leipzig University. The project website states that "Tell el-Badawiya ("Mound of the Bedouins") is among the largest archaeological sites in northern Israel, dating from the Bronze and Iron Ages." The project aims at "shedding new light on the question of whether the Lower Galilee experienced an extensive occupational gap following the collapse of the Kingdom of Israel in the late 8th century BCE."²²

"Belongings: Jewish Material Culture in Twentieth-Century Europe and Beyond" (2024-2029)

This graduate school is advertised as the first German-Israeli research training group (RTG) in the humanities.²³ In this program, Universität Leipzig collaborates with Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Dubnow Institute, for an initial period of five years. Currently, the RTG consists of five research clusters that aim to enable the research of Jewish material cultures in Europe and in areas of Jewish emigration. It is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the Alfred Landecker Foundation. It includes 22 PhD students and two postdocs who are supervised by professors of both universities.

Ongoing indirect research collaborations

The Leipzig Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe)

A broad interdisciplinary cooperation dedicated to the study of globalisation projects in the past and present. Its regional network includes the Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture, Simon Dubnow, and the Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem that is partnered with Bar-Ilan University and the Open University of Israel.²⁴

RESILIENCE (Religious Studies Infrastructure: tooLs, Innovation, Experts, conNections and Centres in Europe) (2022-2026)

Leipzig University also cooperates with Bar-Ilan University via its affiliated Institute InfAi (Das Institut für Angewandte Informatik)²⁵ in the project RESILIENCE (Religious Studies Infrastructure: tooLs, Innovation, Experts, conNections and Centres in Europe) that is funded by Horizon Europe 2021.²⁶

CLIMOS - Climate Monitoring and Decision Support Framework for Sand Fly-borne Diseases Detection and Mitigation with Cost-benefit and Climate-policy Measures (2022-2026)

The Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung GmbH-UfZ, for which Leipzig University acts as the interface of intense cooperation,²⁷ is a participant in this Horizon Europe project alongside the University of Haifa and the Israeli Ministry of Health.²⁸

Integrated Research Infrastructure Services for Climate Change risks (2024-2028)

This Horizon Europe²⁹ project lists among its participants Ben-Gurion University, as well as the Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung GmbH-UfZ, which has substantial overlap in personnel with Leipzig University.

Leipzig University's partner institutions in Israel

Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ)

HUJ stands on occupied territory, and advances the illegal settlement of Palestinian land

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, founded in 1918 and officially opened in 1925,³⁰ was the first institution of higher education designed to advance 'Judaization' in its region, serving as a model or a pilot project for all the universities that followed it to become state pillars of regional 'Judaization' efforts. It was built on Mt. Scopus as a strategic foothold through which the Zionist movement established symbolic and political claims to Jerusalem.³¹ Today it consists of three campuses, the Edmond J. Safra Campus (Givat Ram), the Ein Karem Campus and the Mount Scopus Campus.

The Edmond J. Safra Campus was built on the ruins of the Palestinian village Sheikh Badr, after the Haganah paramilitary forced Palestinian residents out of their homes in 1948.³²

Mount Scopus Campus is also a strategic Zionist outpost built in illegally annexed East Jerusalem. After the 1948 war, Jordan assumed control of East Jerusalem, and Mount Scopus was officially declared a demilitarized enclave. From 1955 to 1967, Israel operated a covert military unit in the Mount Scopus enclave, in violation of the armistice and UN mandates by gathering intelligence, recruiting collaborators, and smuggling weapons onto university's grounds in preparation for seizing control of the mountain.³³ Following Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem in the early days of the 1967 war, the university administration promptly advocated for the

reopening of its original campus. Both the Hebrew University officials and administrators and the Israeli government thought that the location served a functional role as a marker of the frontier in the process of 'unifying' the newly declared 'Jewish capital'.³⁴ Hebrew University's administration committed to supporting Israel's territorial project to 'unify' Jerusalem by rebuilding on the isolated Mount Scopus site. The fortress-like complex, with its towering structure, still dominates East Jerusalem's skyline and asserts symbolic control over the city.

According to the Palestinian NGO Applied Research Institute–Jerusalem (Arij),³⁵ in 1968 the state of Israel confiscated Hebrew University, Israel confiscated 568 dunams³⁶ from the Palestinian village of Al-Issawiyyeh to extend Hebrew University.³⁷

The presence and activities of Hebrew University of Jerusalem continue to stimulate the development of illegal settlements in the Palestinian territory, providing housing to their students and employees, such as in the adjacent settlements of French Hill, Ramat Eshkol and Sheikh Jarrah. The expansion of the HUJ into annexed Jerusalem includes part of the Maiersdorf Dormitories, all of the Alan Bronfman Dormitories, the Students Village, the Lerner Family Indoor Sports Complex and the Gilbert Tennis Courts.³⁸ Furthermore the

HUJ benefits from the settlement infrastructure, the transport lines, and the access roads, which are all in the occupied territory, some of which are on privately-owned Palestinian land. The university clearly supports illegal settlements near campus, such as French Hill and Sheikh Jarrah, by providing infrastructure and services favouring settlers, and allowing Israeli police presence on campus.³⁹

HUJ is in possession of looted Palestinian texts and artefacts

Following the expulsion, the National Library and Hebrew University were granted custody “of the libraries and public and private collections in Palestinian West Jerusalem neighborhoods”⁴⁰ from the Israeli government. “Over the course of ten months during the 1948 war, workers of the National Library and Hebrew University appropriated 30,000 books, as well as newspapers and journals, on topics including Islamic law, interpretations of the Qur'an, literature, science, history, and philosophy”,⁴¹ breaching the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which define clear legal protections for cultural and intellectual property, and prohibit the appropriation of communal or private possessions in times of war. Hebrew University and the National Library have yet to acknowledge or take responsibility for their role in the Nakba and the “Judaization” of West Jerusalem, and for their ongoing theft of Palestinian books. The looted Palestinian books are still housed at the Israeli National Library, located in the same campus, and in the Israeli National Library. Moreover, in the Israeli project of overwriting history through the erasure of Palestinian history, in the early 1960s the National Library deleted the names of the Palestinian owners of the books and collections classifying them anew as ‘Abandoned Property’.

The HUJ is also implicated in the systemic appropriation and distortion of archaeological work in the OPT, in violation of the Hague Convention, which forbids the looting of cultural property during occupation.⁴² Archaeological digs pioneered by HUJ’s Institute of Archaeology are used to “service the expansion of Israeli military control and Jewish-Israeli settlement.”⁴³ One example is the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were seized from the Palestine Archaeological Museum and are now exhibited in Israel.⁴⁴ Another is HUJ’s oversight of the joint military and archaeological surveys and mapping of the area around the village of Susiya since 1969. Pursuant to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property, Regulation 43 of the Annex to the Hague Regulations, and UNESCO directives, occupying powers are expressly forbidden from undertaking independent archaeological excavations and are mandated to cooperate with local authorities in safeguarding cultural heritage sites.⁴⁵ HUJ’s archaeological research systematically erases Muslim history, tampering with actual research results in order to narrate the Jewish ownership of the land,⁴⁶ such as in the case of the “Path of the Pilgrims” excavations.⁴⁷ While most international academic journals reject articles based on illegal excavations in the OPT because of ethical standards, Israeli academic journals do not uphold these standards. The Israeli discipline of archaeology has thus built its own insulated scholarly ecosystem, in direct violation of international laws and regulations. HUJ continues to participate in excavations across the OPT.⁴⁸

"Without us there would be no industry [...] the Israeli knowledge industry relies almost entirely on public-funded infrastructure and investment, which is funded by taxes, such as the military technological units, primarily Unit 8200, the defence industries such as IMI and Rafael, academic research at universities and budgets of the Chief Scientist."

- Prof. Isaiah Arkin, Vice president of Research and Development at Hebrew University⁴⁹

HUJ participates in military ventures including training, surveillance, and logistical support

The HU collaborates with the Israeli military on four major programmes: *Havatzalot*, *Gamla*, *Tzameret* and *Talpiot*.^{49,50}

Havatzalot is a program to recruit members of the IDF with the potential to excel as officers in the field of intelligence, in particular for intelligence units Haman or Unit 8200,⁵¹ that is the military's central collection unit responsible for amassing all intelligence transmissions, including phone calls, text messages, and emails.⁵² Over the course of their degree, soldiers are methodically exposed to the Israeli intelligence community and are trained in its capabilities and research methods. Between their semesters, soldiers participate in the "Intelligence Summer" program, where they move between Military Intelligence Directorate units as well as the police, Shin Bet, and Mossad, and conduct a research project for one of the units.⁵³

Gamla is a BA program for Intelligence Corps officers preparing for extended service at the rank of major.⁵⁴

Talpiot is a leading training program for soldiers the military has identified as having "leadership potential". It develops military technologies like the Iron Dome, combining military service with academic education.⁵⁵

Tzameret is a program that trains military physicians while enrolled in university medical programs. It allows students accepted on this program to serve in the IDF whilst studying for a medical degree.

The HUJ provides logistical supports to the Israeli military apparatus⁵⁶ and offers scholarships and privileges to students involved in military operations, including those participating in conflicts like the 2014 Gaza War.⁵⁷ It provides university's buildings for storing weapons.⁵⁸ It has been openly supporting Operation Iron Sword by "providing military units with logistics equipment".⁵⁹

The HUJ is directly involved in intelligence training. Its Middle East Studies and Criminology Institutes support military and intelligence services, including Shin Bet and Mossad, through tailored programs and research. At the Institute of Middle East Studies, the Intelligence Corps soldiers train through the Havatzalot program, working daily in direct violation of human rights according to international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention.⁶⁰ Training and cooperation with the Shin Bet and the Israeli National Police at HUJ, occurs at and through the Institute of Criminology, who promote in their papers "field-proven" strategies and technologies that

are "tested" on Palestinian populations. University staff are deeply integrated with the Israeli military. Many employees of HUJ rotate between academic and military jobs (ministry of defence, military, security agencies, weapon industry).⁶¹ The resulting increased military presence on campus comes at the expense of the safety and security of Israeli-Palestinian students and staff, who report having received insufficient protection and support from their university after instances of discrimination and intimidation on campus.⁶²

HUJ suppresses freedom of expression amongst its staff and students

HUJ's Palestinian-Israeli students face consistent discrimination and violence from other students, security, and police without adequate institutional support from the University. In 1958, Palestinian-Israeli students created the Arab Students Committee at HUJ, initially focusing on the military rule and permit system that restricted the fundamental rights of Palestinian citizens, especially their freedom of movement.⁶³ Any protest is regularly suppressed by university authorities and police, and Palestinian-Israeli students are penalized for peaceful protests or symbolic

actions such as refusing to shake hands with Israeli leaders. On campus the use of kuffiyeh is banned: any dissidence is punished with detention,⁶⁴ and this includes professors. Palestinian-Israeli students are also neither justly nor equally admitted at Law Studies and Medicine Studies programs.⁶⁵ On the other hand, students active in Im Tirtzu, a far-right Zionist organization blacklisting⁶⁶ and intimidating⁶⁷ critical students and professors, are rewarded with credit points by HUJ.⁶⁸

Ben Gurion University of the Negev (BGU)

BGU is implicated in the displacement of the Naqab's Bedouin population

Since its foundation in 1969, Ben-Gurion University has supported Israel's territorial and demographic "Judaization" of the Naqab region. Founded to motivate and promote Jewish-Israeli settlement in the Naqab, Ben-Gurion University offered education, employment, and economic opportunity to the region's Jewish residents while the Naqab's Indigenous Bedouin populations were concentrated in military-controlled areas and, like all Palestinian citizens of Israel, governed by military rule until 1966.⁶⁹ International human rights organizations have consistently criticized Israeli policies — including home

demolitions and systemic discrimination in land and housing— against Palestinian Bedouins, in violation of international human rights law.⁷⁰ At the same time, Israel has been implementing Jewish settlement expansion since the 1950s, and Ben-Gurion University has played a key role in supporting state policies that contribute to the dispossession of the region's Bedouin Palestinian communities. To encourage Jewish-Israelis from central Israel to relocate, the university partnered with the Israeli state to relocate military bases to the Beersheba metropolitan area, offering customized degree programs to attract thousands of career soldiers and their families.

BGU is deeply integrated with the military and weapons industry

Directly next to BGU's main campus, and integrated with the University's programmes, Gav-Yam Negev high-tech park "unites all of the vital elements of the Israeli ecosystem –academia, industry, and technological military units– in one place."⁷¹ Israel moved IDF headquarters adjacent to the park to increase the cooperation between the university and IDF.⁷² The new IDF campus houses technological units, Israeli Air Force units, and the headquarters of the military's Southern Command, responsible for dealing with threats from Gaza.⁷³ The University's subsidiary commercialization company, as for similar companies developed by all seven major public universities in Israel, is effectively streamlining weapon foreign export.⁷⁴

Amongst the numerous partnerships and militarised innovation programmes that link BGU with the Israeli military and its activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories:

The *Homeland Security Institute* which partners with *Elbit Systems*⁷⁵ and *Rafael Advanced Defense Systems*,⁷⁶ *Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)*,⁷⁷ the Ministry of Defense. With the last two partners, Ben-Gurion University developed two elite academic programs, *Lightning and Thunder*.⁷⁸

The University directly partnered with the IDF's elite intelligence division Unit 8200⁷⁹ in order to develop *Lavender*, an AI-based recognition program used by the IDF,⁸⁰ and *Gospel*, an AI-enabled system for detecting targets illicitly photographed by drones and, consequently, assassinations.⁸¹ *Lavender* processes data collected through surveillance of Palestinians to

generate target lists for airstrikes and drone operations. It is deployed in Israel's current assault on Gaza.

The *Ilse Katz Institute for Nanoscale Science & Technology*⁸² at BGU operates under the *Israeli National Nanotechnology Initiative (INNI)*. In fact, in 2006, the Israeli government planned to invest \$230 million in nanotechnology research and development over the following five years: "The war in Lebanon proved that we need smaller weaponry," said Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres. "It's illogical to send a plane worth \$100 million against a suicidal terrorist. So we are building futuristic weapons."⁸³

The BGU's Department of Mechanical Engineering conducts research and development of vehicles and robotic systems that can result in "potential military application."⁸⁴

BGU also trains the specialists who staff the Naqab's military industries. In partnership with the Intelligence Division, *Unit 8200* Alumni Association launched the *iMTech Training Center* to meet the employment demands of high-tech industries in the Negev, beginning the training in February 2024. After *Operation Cast Lead*,⁸⁶ which resulted in over 1,400 Palestinian deaths in 2008-09 through acts defined by Judge Richard Goldstone as war crimes, BGU offered training, scholarships and extra tuition to students who serve in active combat units, and special grants for each day of service to students who went on reserve duty, and other benefits. This policy has continued during *Operation Swords of Iron*.⁸⁷

BGU restricts freedom of expression among its students and staff

BGU actively denies the rights of protest and academic freedom to Palestinian student groups, whose political endeavours are constantly violently repressed.⁸⁸ A student who posted on social media in the days after the October 7 2023

Hamas assault was first given a reprimand of 40 hours of community service, then BGU requested their suspension.⁸⁹

University of Haifa (UH)

UH advanced Palestinian dispossession since its inception

Founded in 1963, the University of Haifa received full accreditation in 1972. It was laid in Galilee, on the Carmel mountain that used to

be populated by Palestinians, who were expelled by Zionist militias and the Israeli military during the Nakba in 1948. Part of the campus replaces the Palestinian village of al-Khureiba.⁹⁰ Remains of this and other Palestinian villages were demolished, covered in forests of pine trees planted by the Jewish National Fund, and replaced with Jewish-Israeli towns and the Israel's largest national park, the Mount Carmel National Park.⁹¹ The campus overlooks the remains of destroyed and depopulated Palestinian villages on the slopes of the mountain below.⁹² The campus tower provided communication and relay antennas to the Israeli military until the early

2000s, thereby serving a dual academic-military use. The University provides urban planning and geography expertise to the Israeli government to support "Judaization" policies. In particular, it had a crucial contribution to the mitspim (lookouts) project, i.e. nuclei of Jewish settlement built on strategically hilltops throughout the Galilee to assert Israeli dominance over the land. In 1986 a total of sixty mitspim projects had been established as exclusively Jewish settlements, whose potential residents were selected through racializing criteria. The mitspim revealed to be a very effective strategy to "deterritorialize" Palestinians, increase the massive transfer of Palestinian land to the Israeli state, and face what was perceived as a "demographic problem."⁹³

UH provides extensive military training

Since 2018, the UH has offered a master's program in national security for members of the Israeli military and Israeli intelligence services such as Mossad and Shin Bet.⁹⁴ It houses further programs of this kind through three Israeli military academies: the *National Security College*,⁹⁵ the *Tactical Command College*, and the *Alon Command and Control College*.⁹⁶ Furthermore, the UH hosts three Israeli military colleges comprising the *Israeli Military Academic Complex*,⁹⁷ which "form the backbone of the IDF's elite training

programs,"⁹⁸ having offered, for instance, for 14 years the *Havatzalot* training program for Israeli security forces.⁹⁹ The UH offers also a Master program in Security Theory for the Israeli colonels and high-ranking members of Israeli security agencies, through the National Security College military academy, and master's degrees in Political Science to army battalion commanders and air force squadron commanders, with a specialization in "military security", through the Alon Command and Control College. It holds courses at the Israeli military base of Gililot,

considered to be an extension of the university,¹⁰⁰ and an “Ambassadors online” course that aims to provide students with “Hasbara” training in collaboration with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, furthering the spread of pro-Israel propaganda.¹⁰¹ It has provided equipment to soldiers carrying out the genocide in Gaza and established an emergency fund to provide stipends to student soldiers.¹⁰²

UH’s academic program serves the state’s territorial agenda

The UH has upheld two long-standing traditions in Israeli academia: erasing Palestinian academic contributions and undermining research that exposes the crimes of the Israeli state. As Rana Barakat argues, to insist that Palestinian testimonies be corroborated by Israeli soldiers constitutes a form of settler-colonial elimination of Indigenous people.¹⁰³ Even if Palestinian scholars offer a deconstruction of Israeli arguments, often debunking their results, the UH persists in holding an insular internal Israeli discussion about Israeli state violence, overlooking the vast research on the topic by Palestinian, Arab, and international scholars. In so doing, the university administration corroborates the state narrative and shields Israel from accountability for violations of international law.

The MA program in *Peace and Conflict Management*, advertised as a high quality study program with a special focus on the Middle East which “provides the perfect backdrop for students from around the globe to come together to learn about conflict and peacemaking”¹⁰⁴, offers field trips to OPT “to explore and experience the territory from the perspective of local leaders and inhabitants of the area.”¹⁰⁵ The program has explicitly focused on themes such as kibbutz’ “security from future infiltrations with new technology, and Israelis’ resilience demonstrated by living in communities along the border to cope with the constant worry of rocket

attacks and kites and/or balloons”.¹⁰⁶ Considering the status of the OPT, this one-sided construction reinforces the Israeli project of segregation and control of Palestinians, including through land confiscation, house demolitions, revoked residencies and deportation.¹⁰⁷

The UH’s *Department of Israel Studies* is focused on its “multidisciplinary approach to the land of Israel as a geographical unit, and to the historical processes and changes which took place throughout the history of this land,”¹⁰⁸ notwithstanding the illegality of what the state of Israel calls its land. The study program centers on “the history [in its broad sense] of the different nations and peoples who acted, lived and still live in the space of Palestine/Eretz-Israel, and in the State of Israel.”¹⁰⁹

Its’ *Faculty of Humanities’ Middle East Studies* have been shaped by the entanglement of university, military, and state expertise. Many founding scholars moved between or held parallel roles in academia and the security establishment or were otherwise bound by loyalty and secrecy commitments to state apparatuses.¹¹⁰ These soldiers complete a joint BA in Middle East studies and another selected field, alongside military training in intelligence gathering, to prepare for a minimum of six years as officers reaching the status of captains or majors in the Intelligence Corps.¹¹¹

UH leads archaeological digs in the OPT

Via its Zinman Institute of Archaeology, the UH led archaeological projects in Occupied Palestinian Territories near Nablus and in the Jordan Valley,¹¹² in explicit violation of Regulation 43 of the Annex to the Hague Convention, and of UNESCO's guidelines,

according to which occupying powers are prohibited from carrying out their own routine excavations, and are instructed to support local authorities in preserving cultural treasures and sites.¹¹³

UH develops military and legal doctrines for the purpose of occupation and repression

Israel is an innovator in interpreting international humanitarian law, with the OPT as its laboratory.¹¹⁴ Illegally governing the Palestinian population through military occupation for decades, Israel has developed a corpus of laws and legal interpretations to sanction its permanent military regime.¹¹⁵ As it waged military campaigns to subdue Palestinian protestors and insurgents —and came under international scrutiny— Israel began to advance arguments that its use of force against Palestinians constituted a new form of warfare, which could not be subject to regulation by existing bodies of law.¹¹⁶ Over the course of its interpretive innovations since, Israel has created the legal infrastructure to justify extrajudicial assassinations, torture, and deployment of what would otherwise be considered disproportionate use of force against civilian populations tantamount to war

crimes.¹¹⁷ UH's Faculty of Law has facilitated this legal innovation in service of the Israeli military and security state.

In the early 2000 the National Security College at UH with a team of academic and military experts,¹¹⁸ teaming up TAU's professor and Israel's distinguished ethicist Asa Kasher and Major General Amos Yadlin, wrote the Israel's "Ethical Doctrine for Combating Terror," a document supported by three military chiefs of staff who served during the height of the Second Intifada that is broadly considered to be Israel's "counterterror doctrine" and the basis for its military guidelines.¹¹⁹ The Faculty of Law hosts the Minerva Center for the Rule of Law under Extreme Conditions,¹²⁰ whose research, publications and general rhetoric is constantly supporting the efforts taken by UH to sustain and implement Israel's apartheid project.¹²¹

UH defames and intimidates dissenting academics, and discriminates against Palestinian-Israeli students

Both academic and non-academic efforts to investigate Israeli crimes in the regions past and contemporary history are, at best, obstructed and/or erased. The historian Ilan Pappé and his former MA student of the UH are among the most famous examples of how Israeli universities defame and intimidate researchers investigating Israeli crimes during the Nakba of 1948, when two-thirds of the Palestinian population were brutally expelled by the Zionist militias and later Israeli army.¹²² The trajectory of administrative repression of

Palestinian political expression at the University of Haifa showcases the broader procedural landscape in Israeli higher education, against the founding principles of its own constitution.¹²³ UH has a notorious reputation among Palestinian students for its severe repression of political expression on campus.¹²⁴ Long commutes due to the state-planned underdevelopment of public transportation from their villages and towns increase Palestinian student reliance on university dorms to complete their education. Yet, access to dorms is far from guaranteed, as

university dorm policies broadly discriminate against Palestinian students.¹²⁵ In fact, the UH has a history of denying dorm applications by Palestinian students.¹²⁶ Furthermore, at UH, which houses two full-service synagogues and additional prayer spaces for Jewish students,¹²⁷ Muslim Palestinian students had to wage an extended campaign for a single space to pray on campus.

Tel Aviv University (TAU)

TAU maintains close ties with Israel's security and military sectors, and plays an integral role in the Israeli security state

While Tel Aviv University's first centre, the Academic Institute of Natural Sciences, was founded in 1953, TAU received full accreditation in 1969.

From developing weapons and military doctrine to hosting propaganda courses and suppressing dissent, TAU exemplifies the deep militarization of Israeli academia. It plays a pivotal role in Israel's national security ecosystem, serving not only as a hub for academic research but also as a core driver of military strategy, weapons development, legal justification of warfare, and propaganda efforts.

TAU collaborates extensively with the Israeli military and defence sector to develop and export technologies used by the Israeli army and foreign buyers. Through workshops, conferences, and joint research, the university facilitates direct interaction between military officials, security agencies, and defence corporations like Elbit Systems. TAU's *Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology* and its venture capital firm *TAU Ventures* have partnered with *Elbit*,¹²⁸ the Shin Bet through the *Xcelerator* start-up program,¹²⁹ and military-affiliated startups like *Xtend*,¹³⁰ which provides AI-guided drone systems currently

used in Gaza.¹³¹ These products are frequently tested on Palestinians under occupation.

In 2022, TAU established the *Elrom Center*, a joint research institute with the Israeli Air Force,¹³² aimed at advancing military doctrines and operational strategies. Military research and development in Israel is heavily dependent on universities; as former Major

General and TAU professor Isaac Ben-Israel put it, “Military Research and Development in Israel would not exist without the universities.”¹³³

In December of 2024, TAU hosted Israel’s first Defence Tech Summit, where weapons manufacturers and corporate leaders partnered with Israeli army officials.¹³⁴

TAU plays a crucial role in reproducing the ideologies of Jewish supremacy and colonialism, including developing military doctrines

The university’s *Institute for National Security Studies* (INSS) is Israel’s leading and most prestigious university-based think tank in the service of the state. INSS also plays an important role in the “public relations” aspects of Israel’s international public relations, in particular through research programs to combat the BDS movement and other campaigns criticising Israel. The *Dayan Centre for Middle Eastern and African Studies*, which belongs to TAU, was founded to connect the Israeli Intelligence Division and academia. TAU functions not merely as an educational institution but as a strategic partner in policies and practices that include war crimes, apartheid, and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian land.

Academics at TAU have actively worked to legitimise war crimes and ethnic cleansing. Professor Uzi Rabi in an interview called to “remove the entire civilian population from

the North [of Gaza].”¹³⁵ Colonel Sharvit Baruch was appointed as a lecturer at the Faculty of Law where she taught a course on international law just after she had overviewed the 2008–9 offensive on the Gaza Strip.¹³⁶ She works at TAU’s INSS, where the Law and National Security Program explicitly advances legal scholarship to mitigate international criticism of Israel and support it in evading accountability.¹³⁷ The INSS stated mission is to conduct research on—and offer the Israeli government analyses and recommendations about—issues central to the state’s “national security agenda.”¹³⁸ In 2008, the INSS published an article authored by a colonel and researcher of the institute with the title “Disproportionate Force: Israel’s Concept of Response in Light of the Second Lebanon War.”¹³⁹ The doctrine of Disproportionate Force consists of the use of disproportionate force to inflict devastating destruction and target civilians. It has been used in Gaza over the past decades, culminating in the current genocide.¹⁴⁰

TAU discriminates against Palestinian researchers and students

The Dayan Institute of TAU has barred access to classified military information for Palestinians with Israeli citizenship that was otherwise handed to its researchers for their studies.¹⁴⁸ In 2016, TAU told employees in its call center for tuition matters not to speak

Arabic with callers.¹⁴⁹ Since the beginning of the genocide, TAU has summoned Palestinian students for disciplinary proceedings for social media posts expressing solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.¹⁵⁰

TAU provides extensive military training through its academic program

On the educational front, TAU offers special programs for soldiers, reinforcing the connection between academia, the defence industry, and the IDF. One such initiative is the *Galim Program*, and since July 2023, the *Erez Program*, which trains military officers for elite combat roles. In the agreement signed with the Ministry of Defence upon winning the bid for this program, the university agreed to comply with the requirement (among others) that faculty must now conduct themselves in accordance with military restrictions. The university, the agreement demands, “undertakes to ensure that the academic staff will refrain from offensive statements toward the IDF soldiers studying at the institution, whether it is statements concerning their actual military service in the IDF or whether it is statements concerning them wearing uniforms. This commitment is essential.”¹⁴¹

In October 2023 TAU set up an emergency fund for students serving as reservists¹⁴² in the genocidal war called *Operation Iron Sword* by the IDF, and, shortly after, a crowdfunding campaign was set up to fund “care packages” for soldiers on the frontline.¹⁴³ In November 2024, the university published a video¹⁴⁴ on its social media channels publicising its engineering war room, where the university develops technology for the Israeli army, including a live-streaming facility for a dog-mounted camera used by a canine unit linked to deadly attacks on Palestinian civilians in Gaza.¹⁴⁵ The video says that the highest proportion of serving soldiers comes from the faculty of engineering of TAU and that the war room has been established to “invent solutions for the challenges of our fighters on the front line.”¹⁴⁶ For international students, the Low International School of TAU has set up a course on the ongoing genocide to spread war propaganda and delegitimise critique of the Israeli genocide of Palestinians.¹⁴⁷

Bar-Ilan University (BIU)

Bar-Ilan University conducts illegal archaeological excavations on Palestinian land

Founded in 1935, Bar-Ilan University is one of Israel's leading institutions of higher education.¹⁵¹ The university's faculties are all active partners in Israel's national science and technology initiatives. In particular, the Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, since its incipit, has collaborated with the Israeli Antiquities Authority, the Israeli military and Civil Administration to conduct excavations and research in archaeological sites in the OPT and on privately owned Palestinian lands.¹⁵² This is an explicit violation of Regulation 43 of the Annex to the Hague Convention, and of UNESCO's guidelines, according to which occupying powers are prohibited from carrying out their own routine excavations, and are instructed to support local authorities in preserving cultural treasures and sites.¹⁵³

In so doing, BIU has been supporting the Israeli state narrative about Jewish and Muslim life in the region that is selectively and unscientifically shaped by Israeli archaeologists: "Excavations led by academic departments of archaeology have eliminated and erased Palestinian and Muslim artifacts, compromising scientific standards to advance Israeli claims to land."¹⁵⁴

In particular, the department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology played an important role in denying the claims of Palestinian

villagers of Susiya,¹⁵⁵ in the South Hebron Hills of the Occupied West Bank, to their lands, arguing for the Jewish character of the city, while traces of its Muslim past were on purpose erased from the historical record.¹⁵⁶ Joint military and archaeological surveys and mapping of the area around the village of Susiya began in 1969 and excavations commenced in 1971.¹⁵⁷ Since the first digs at Susiya, archaeological research and Jewish-Israeli settlement have expanded in tandem.¹⁵⁸

In further violation of international law, the Staff Officer for Archaeology frequently gives private settler entities authority to manage and develop antiquity sites, such as in Tel Shiloh-Khirbet Seilun and the Biyar Aqueduct, and the Israeli Military Commander of the West Bank often places antiquity sites under the jurisdiction of nearby settlements, such as in Khirbet Alamit.¹⁵⁹ Another excavation supported by BIU has been used to legitimize and expand settlements on privately owned Palestinian lands at Khirbet al-Mazra'a. BIU has also been conducting excavations in the occupied West Bank at different locations (Khirbet Jib'it, Khirbet Marajim, Khirbet Tinah) in the 2020's.¹⁶⁰

In so doing, BIU explicitly uses archaeological knowledge production to facilitate Israeli expansion of illegal settlements in occupied territory, lending academic legitimacy to an unscientific and illegal settlement project.¹⁶¹

BIU has carried out research for the Israeli military and maintains close ties with Israel's security services

BIU hosts military bases on campus and partnerships with the same arms manufacturers that are providing the weapons systems and doctrines for Israel's genocide, *domicide*¹⁶² and *scholasticide* in Gaza from 2023.¹⁶³

It works closely with the Shin Bet, Israel's notorious Security Services, which has been condemned by the UN Committee Against Torture for its use of torture and other illegal violent interrogation tactics.¹⁶⁴

The University's Engineering Faculty, while claiming to have a focus on social responsibility, prioritizing the well-being of people, communities and environment,¹⁶⁵ has had hackathons in collaboration with the Israeli military¹⁶⁶ and with

the Israeli arms producer Elbit,¹⁶⁷ that is notoriously implicated¹⁶⁸ in war crimes.¹⁶⁹ BIU runs together with Technion the Bareket master's program for training soldiers in data engineering for military application.¹⁷⁰

BIU explicitly and actively supports students or soldiers who participated or are participating in *Operation Iron Swords*, starting in October 2023: The university has launched fundraising campaigns and established emergency funds to assist student soldiers that may be involved in the alleged war crimes and plausible genocide currently investigated by the ICJ.¹⁷¹

BIU produces military and political doctrines for the purpose of legitimising the occupation and denying Palestinian identity

The *Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies* at Bar-Ilan University advocates for generating increased "hopelessness" among Palestinians as an occupation tactic. As its website states, it "seeks to advance a realistic, conservative and Zionist agenda in the search for security and peace for Israel. Over the years, BESA has been the first to successfully place on the public agenda issues such as the problematic aspects of Palestinian Statehood,"¹⁷² the danger of Arab chemical and biological weapons and missile stocks, Israel's relations with key countries such as Turkey and India, and the abuse of international institutions in the attempt to delegitimize Israel."¹⁷³ Furthermore, it has on its public agenda: "The dangers of radical Islam; the myths of Palestinian demography; the abuse of international institutions in the attempt to delegitimize Israel."¹⁷⁴ BESA's "experts discuss Israel's policy options in responding to Palestinian terrorism and reinforcing Israel's hold in its capital city. They discuss the expansion of Jerusalem, proposals for sharing Jerusalem, how to handle Arab neighbourhoods in Jerusalem, and Jewish prayer on Temple Mount."¹⁷⁵

BESA's 2024 *Summer Internship Program* lectures' topics were, among others: *IDF Innovation, US Strategy in the Middle East, Civil-Military Relations in Israel, and Energy Politics in the Middle East.*¹⁷⁶

In 2023, Israel's first "Hybrid Warfare" conference was organized by BESA with support from the European Union, its primary objective being to train government officials, diplomats, military personnel, security forces, and students in hybrid-era tactics.¹⁷⁷ BESA's research outputs speak of the transformation of campuses into facilities to develop technologies both for Israeli military use and for international export.¹⁷⁸ For instance, a paper was released in November 2018 by BESA, states that "Only a fourth massive round of fighting against Hamas can possibly bring the group to the conclusion the Arab states reached after four wars with the Jewish state in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973 – that the pain to be suffered is so great, and the chance of eliminating the Jewish state so slim, as to render violence pointless." "There are many who want to avoid war and shower Gaza with economic aid before defeating Hamas. This

would be an act of political delusion, not acumen. Solomon, the wisest of men, said there is a time for war and a time for peace. Now, alas, is the time for war. Now, alas, is the time for war.”¹⁷⁹ In another paper published by BESA, titled *Why Do the Arabs Hate the Palestinians*, we read: “Israel is rich while many Arabs and Muslims are poor; Israel is a paradise compared to some Arab countries, many of which resemble nothing so much as the last train stop before hell (see Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Sudan; the list goes on). In short, they despise Israel because it has succeeded in areas where they have failed.”¹⁸⁰ After operation *Guardian of the Walls* in 2021,¹⁸¹ one

paper advocated boycotting Palestinians;¹⁸² another warned against any Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank,¹⁸³ which is explicitly against international law according to article 49 of the fourth Geneva convention, UN security council’s Resolution 242 (1967), Resolution 338 (1973), Resolution 446 (1979) and Resolution 2334 (2016). According to BESA, “the demand for a continued Israeli presence in those areas (West Bank) is justified, both tactically and generally.”¹⁸⁴ This perspective practically calls for the continuation of policies that violate international law according to article 49 of the fourth Geneva convention, UN security council’s Resolution 242 (1967), Resolution 338 (1973), Resolution 446 (1979) and Resolution 2334 (2016).

BIU actively supports the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory via its satellite institution, Ariel University

Ariel University, established as the *College of Judea and Samaria* by Bar-Ilan University, was founded in 1982 in the Israeli settlement of Ariel.¹⁸⁵

Ariel’s founders sought to develop it into an Israeli urban centre in the West Bank, which would, in turn, provide services and facilitate the establishment of other smaller Jewish settlements and outposts.¹⁸⁶ The university is considered the engine of Ariel’s growth; it’s produced a demand for housing and is now marketed as a ‘student city’. The university transformed Ariel in Israeli public perception from an illegal and heavily militarized settlement into a suburb of Tel Aviv.¹⁸⁷ Like Ben-Gurion University in the Naqab, Ariel University directly facilitates the engagement of its students in regional Judaization programs. It collaborates with a government subsidized non-profit to offer its student residents affordable housing and a scholarship in exchange for their contribution to immigrant absorption and service provision in the settlement.¹⁸⁸ The university also grants academic credits to students volunteering for night shifts as guards and day shifts in farming in twenty-eight illegal outposts across the occupied West Bank, including on private

Palestinian lands.¹⁸⁹

Since its establishment in the OPT, the settlement of Ariel, which is in territory occupied by Israel since 1967, has continuously encroached on the lands of neighbouring Palestinian villages in violation of their rights and international law, specifically the Fourth Geneva Convention and the UN Resolution 2334.¹⁹⁰ In the face of repeated condemnation by the UN,¹⁹¹ international human rights organizations, and the governments of the United States and European Union, Israel continues to establish facts-on-the-ground and expand the settlement of Ariel and its university.¹⁹² The German government has also taken a clear stance on the matter: “The German Government’s position on the construction of Israeli settlements remains unchanged. They are illegal under international law and jeopardize future mutually agreed negotiations for peace and a life in security and dignity for both Israelis and Palestinians in the region.”¹⁹³

Ariel’s institutional independence from BIU was further extended in 2005, when the *Council of Higher Education (CHE) Judea and Samaria* granted recognition to the institution to begin operation as a “university center,” and changed its

name to the *Ariel University Center in Samaria*, getting its full accreditation in 2012, authorized by the Israeli military. The *CHE Judea and Samaria* officially recognized the institution at Ariel as a university, a move that was finalized with the approval of the major general of the Israeli military Central Command, the official regional sovereign authority in the occupied West Bank.¹⁹⁴ The normalization and development of Ariel University and the Israeli settlement of the West Bank have thus been intertwined. The institution confers degrees as a means of expanding Israeli

sovereignty and advancing the annexation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.¹⁹⁵ Even though the infringement by BIU of article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, UN security council's Resolution 242 (1967), Resolution 338 (1973), Resolution 446 (1979) and Resolution 2334 (2016) happened in 1982 to 2004, Israeli settlements in the OPT are still considered a war crime in international law which would make BIU a potential war criminal institution.

Conclusion

This report has argued that institutional cooperations between Leipzig University and Israeli universities must be suspended effective immediately and no new cooperations can be stipulated until Israeli universities end their participation and complicity in the illegal occupation of Palestine, the apartheid system and the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people. Which Israeli universities Leipzig University currently collaborates with and how has been detailed, to the best of the authors' knowledge. Any further collaborations, insofar as they exist, have to be disclosed by Leipzig University. The report has also laid out the specific ways in which Israeli universities are structurally embedded in the systems of oppression that violate the rights of Palestinians. In light of this, the report argues that there is a clear and unavoidable responsibility to act immediately to end any support of these violations. This responsibility is ethical, moral, and - as has been argued in the beginning of this report, as well as by numerous other researchers - legal. Finally, there is an inherent mandate for all members of Leipzig University, whether students or staff, not to participate in collaborations with nor activities hosted or organised by complicit Israeli institutions, as well as to exert pressure on Leipzig University to fulfil its ethical obligation and suspend all current institutional collaborations.

Appendices

Appendix 1: laws, conventions, resolutions, reports mentioned in this report

Convention concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land and its Annex: Regulations Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land (1907)

Second International Peace Conference, The Hague.
Refworld.

<https://www.refworld.org/legal/agreements/hague/1907/en/31788>

At the 1907 International Peace Conference, the signatories incorporated much of the Hague Regulations (1899) into the Annex to the Convention concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land of 1907. The three sections of the Hague Regulations (1907) and the first three sections of the Hague Regulations (1899) contained very similar wording and bound the signatories to regulations on the definitions of belligerents, the treatment of prisoners of war, the treatment of sick and wounded on land, permissible means of injuring enemies, treatment of spies, agreements between opposing forces, and the authority of military powers over occupied territories.

Article 43 of its Annexed Regulations limits the occupying military to rescue or salvage excavations for preservation of antiquities in occupied territory, and explicitly prohibits the occupying power from destroying, transferring ownership, or expanding these assets. Israeli archaeological activity significantly deviates from these restrictions. International law limits the occupying military to rescue or salvage excavations for preservation of antiquities in occupied territory, and explicitly prohibits the occupying power from destroying, transferring ownership, or expanding these assets.

The UN Mandate for Palestine (1947)

United Nations General Assembly. (1947, November 29).

Resolution 181 (II): Future government of Palestine

[A/RES/181(II)]. UN Digital Library.

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-185393/>

United Nations. History of the Question of Palestine

Timeline of events

<https://www.un.org/unispal/history/>

Refers to the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine, granted to Great Britain in 1922, which governed the territory after the Ottoman Empire's collapse. The mandate aimed to establish a Jewish national home and facilitate self-governance, but it also included provisions for protecting the rights of the existing Arab population. In 1947, the United Nations assumed responsibility for addressing the Palestine issue—a challenge it continues to face today. After exploring possible solutions, the UN proposed ending the Mandate and partitioning Palestine into two independent states—one Jewish and one Palestinian Arab—with Jerusalem designated as an international city (UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (II), 1947). Of the two proposed states, only the Jewish state declared independence as Israel. During the 1948 war with neighboring Arab countries, Israel expanded its control to about 77% of the territory of Mandate Palestine, including most of Jerusalem. More than half of the Palestinian Arab population either fled or was expelled. The remaining areas allocated to the Arab state under the UN plan came under Jordanian and Egyptian control. In the 1967 war, Israel occupied these territories—the West Bank and Gaza Strip—including East Jerusalem, which it later annexed.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

United Nations General Assembly. (1948, November 29).

[A/RES/217]. UN Digital Library.

<https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/03/udhr.pdf>

A landmark in the history of human rights, the Declaration was drafted by representatives from diverse legal and cultural backgrounds across the globe and was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 (General Assembly resolution 217 A). [1]

The Geneva Convention (1949)

United Nations Treaty Series, 75

<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/assets/treaties/365-GC-I-EN.pdf>

This Convention is the fourth revised edition of the Geneva Convention concerning the wounded and sick, succeeding the versions adopted in 1864, 1906, and 1929. It comprises 64 articles that ensure the protection of not only the wounded and sick but also medical and religious personnel, medical units, and medical transports. The Convention also affirms the recognition of distinctive emblems. Additionally, it includes two annexes: one with a draft agreement on hospital zones and another with a model identity card for medical and religious personnel. Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention states: “The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own

civilian population into the territory it occupies." It also prohibits the "individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory".

Germany's Basic Law (Grundgesetz) Art. 25

Federal Republic of Germany. (1949)

<https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/gg/BfR000010949.html>

Die allgemeinen Regeln des Völkerrechtes sind Bestandteil des Bundesrechtes. Sie gehen den Gesetzen vor und erzeugen Rechte und Pflichten unmittelbar für die Bewohner des Bundesgebietes. (The general rules of international law shall be an integral part of federal law. They shall take precedence over the laws and directly create rights and duties for the inhabitants of the federal territory).

United Nations Security Council Resolution 242
(1967)

Operative Paragraph One "Affirms that the fulfillment of Charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include the application of both the following principles: (i) Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict; (ii) Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force."

United Nations Security Council Resolution 338
(1973)

Adopted on October 22, 1973, during the Yom Kippur War, it called for an immediate ceasefire between Israel and its Arab neighbors (Egypt and Syria) and the implementation of Resolution 242, which aimed for a "just and durable peace" in the Middle East. The resolution also mandated the start of negotiations between the parties concerned under appropriate auspices.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution
32/161 (1977)

UN's General Assembly Resolution 32/161 (1977): Calls upon all States, international organizations, specialized agencies, investment corporations and all other institutions not to recognize, or cooperate with or assist in any manner in, any measures undertaken by Israel to exploit the resources of the occupied territories or to effect any changes in the demographic composition or geographic

	character or institutional structure of those territories.
United Nations Security Council Resolution 446 (1979)	Emphasizing the urgent need to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East, and reaffirming that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, dated 12 August 1949, applies to the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem: i) Declares that Israel's policy and practices in establishing settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 are without legal validity and represent a significant obstacle to the realization of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region; ii) Expresses strong regret over Israel's continued failure to comply with Security Council resolutions 237 (1967), 252 (1968), and 298 (1971), the consensus statement by the President of the Council on 11 November 1976, and General Assembly resolutions 2253 (ES-V) and 2254 (ES-V) of July 1967, as well as resolutions 32/5 (1977) and 33/113 (1978); iii) Reiterates its call on Israel, as the occupying Power, to fully respect the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention, to revoke previous measures, and to refrain from any actions that would alter the legal status, geographic character, or demographic composition of the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem—particularly the transfer of parts of its civilian population into these occupied areas.
United Nations Security Council Resolution 465 (1980)	Calls upon all States not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with settlements in the occupied territories.
UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (2015)	UNESCO's guidelines, particularly those associated with the 1954 Hague Convention and its protocols, restrict occupying powers from conducting routine archaeological excavations in occupied territories. Instead, these powers are obligated to support the local authorities in preserving cultural heritage and sites. The guidelines emphasize the need for cooperation and the implementation of necessary measures to safeguard cultural property during armed conflict and occupation. (The 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of

Armed Conflict has played a vital role in safeguarding cultural heritage. Its impact was further strengthened by the adoption of the Second Protocol in March 1999, which enhanced the level of protection for cultural property during armed conflict. This framework has been supported by several key international instruments, including the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, and the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention. More recently, in 2015, UNESCO Member States adopted a comprehensive strategy aimed at reinforcing UNESCO's efforts to protect cultural heritage).

United Nations Security Council Resolution
2334 (2016)

Calls upon all States, bearing in mind paragraph 1 of this resolution, to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution
74/11 (2019)

Calls upon all states to respect and ensure respect for international law, in all circumstances, including through measures of accountability, consistent with international law.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution
77/126 (2022)

UN's General Assembly Resolution 77/126 (2022): Calls upon all States, consistent with their obligations under international law and the relevant resolutions, not to recognize, and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining, the situation created by measures that are illegal under international law, including those aimed at advancing annexation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion
(2024)

The Court considers that the duty of distinguishing dealings with Israel between its own territory and the Occupied Palestinian Territory encompasses, *inter alia*, the obligation to abstain from treaty relations with Israel in all cases in which it purports to act on

behalf of the Occupied Palestinian Territory or a part thereof on matters concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory or a part of its territory; to abstain from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory or parts thereof which may entrench its unlawful presence in the territory; to abstain, in the establishment and maintenance of diplomatic missions in Israel, from any recognition of its illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and to take steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of the illegal situation created by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Statement of ICC Prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan KC: Applications for arrest warrants in the situation in the State of Palestine (May 24, 2024)

The ICC Prosecutor acknowledges Israel's responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Amnesty International report: 'You Feel Like You Are Subhuman': Israel's Genocide Against Palestinians in Gaza (December, 5 2024)

This report documents Israel's actions during its offensive on the occupied Gaza Strip from 7 October 2023. It examines the killing of civilians, damage to and destruction of civilian infrastructure, forcible displacement, the obstruction or denial of life-saving goods and humanitarian aid, and the restriction of power supplies. It analyses Israel's intent through this pattern of conduct and statements by Israeli decision-makers. It concludes that Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 – A/HRC/59/23 (2025):

This report examines the corporate infrastructure underpinning Israel's settler-colonial strategy of displacing and replacing Palestinians in the occupied territories. While political leaders and governments continue to neglect their responsibilities, numerous corporations have profited from Israel's system of illegal occupation, apartheid, and, increasingly, acts of genocide. Addressing the corporate complicity outlined in the report requires holding the private sector—and its executives—accountable. International law assigns varying levels of responsibility, all of which warrant careful examination, especially in this context, where a people's right to self-determination and survival is under threat. Confronting this reality is essential to ending the genocide and dismantling the global structures

that have enabled it.

Human Rights Watch, Extermination and Acts of Genocide (December, 19 2024): Report on Israel Deliberately Depriving Palestinians in Gaza of Water.

B'Tselem Report: Our Genocide (July 2025) Research on Israeli war crimes since October 7, 2023.

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
Famine Review Committee (August 2025)

The FRC has determined that Famine (IPC Phase 5) is currently occurring in Gaza Governorate. As this Famine is entirely man-made, it can be halted and reversed. The time for debate and hesitation has passed, starvation is present and is rapidly spreading. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that an immediate, at-scale response is needed. If a ceasefire is not implemented to allow humanitarian aid to reach everyone in the Gaza Strip, and if essential food supplies, and basic health, nutrition, and WASH services are not restored immediately, avoidable deaths will increase exponentially.

United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel: Legal analysis of the conduct of Israel in Gaza pursuant to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide - A/HRC/60/CRP.3 (September 14, 2025)

The Commission concludes on reasonable grounds that the Israeli authorities and Israeli security forces have committed and are continuing to commit the following actus reus of genocide against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, namely (i) killing members of the group; (ii) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (iii) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and (iv) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group.

Appendix 2: Examples of other universities cutting, suspending, and reassessing ties with Israeli universities

Universities around the world have taken measures to cut ties with Israeli institutions engaged in military research or situated in illegal settlements, in order to comply with international humanitarian law. The following universities are among those that have taken such actions:

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|--|---|
| Belgium – Universiteit Antwerp – May 31, 2024 | Antwerp University introduces a moratorium on new partnerships with Israeli institutions, citing concerns about potential links between those institutions and the Israeli military. Suspends collaboration with complicit companies and universities. |
| Belgium – Universiteit Gent – May 31, 2024 | Ghent University cuts ties with all Israel Universities and commits to taking the lead in urging the EU to exclude Israel from EU research funding programs. |
| Belgium – Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) – May 26, 2024 | ULB states that it will suspend agreements and research projects with Israeli universities. |
| Belgium – Université de Liège – June 20, 2024 | Following a student encampment, University of Liège, while not having any bilateral partnership with Israeli universities, commits to not entering into any such partnerships as long as clear violations of international and/or humanitarian law are observed, and to suspend all direct cooperation with partners who contribute directly to Israel's acts of war against the people of Gaza, or who openly support the military action of the Netanyahu government, or who fail to respect human rights protected by international law. |
| Belgium – Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) – May 15, 2025; May 31 and 15, 2024 | Vrije University Brussels intends to withdraw from projects involving two complicit Israeli entities, commits to reviewing all projects in which complicit Israeli entities participate. |

Brasil – Universidade Federal do Ceará (UFC) –
January 8, 2024

Federal University of Ceará in Brazil cancels its partnership with Ben Gurion University. [1], [2]

Canada - June 9, 2025

Faculty and academic associations at 20 universities in Canada vote motions (and/or endorse and/or vote in support of, BDS campaign against Israel) calling on their institutions to boycott and divest from institutions and corporations complicit in Israel's grave violations of Palestinian rights and international law.

Canada – Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) – May 29, 2024

The University of Quebec in Montreal votes to ensure that no current or future academic agreement, “including with Israeli universities,” conflicts with its principles and for UQAM Foundation to ensure it has no direct investment in entities profiting from war.

Canada – University of Windsor – July 10, 2024

Following a student encampment, University of Windsor agrees to no institutional ties with Israeli universities “until the right of Palestinian self-determination has been realized”.

Finland – Helsingin yliopisto – June 2, 2024; May 21, 2024

Helsinki University announces a suspension of all student exchange programmes with Israeli institutions, but does not intend to restrict the academic freedom of its researchers to collaborate with their Israeli colleagues. Research cooperation with Israeli universities is not being suspended, however, despite protesters' demands.

France – Sciences Po Bordeaux – May 3, 2024

Sciences Po suspends the student mobility programs in Israel and the surrounding region by the administration, and agrees on reviewing the partnership with Ben Gurion University.

France – Sciences Po Strasbourg – October 30, 2024

Sciences Po suspends a student exchange agreement with the Reichmann University in Tel Aviv.

Ireland – University College Cork – May 9, 2024

UCC agrees to student encampment demands to divest from companies complicit in Israel's violations of Palestinian rights and establish an ethical/human rights framework to govern all

		partnerships, including participation in Horizon Eu.
Italy – Università degli Studi Firenze – July 15, 2025		Five faculties suspend their collaboration with Israeli universities: The Department of Mathematics and Informatics and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Department of Agricultural, Food, Environmental and Forestry Science and Technology with Ben-Gurion University; the Department of Architecture with Ariel University, the Department of Political and Social Sciences with Tel Aviv University's Blavatnik Centre for Cybersecurity; the Department of Economics and Business Sciences with Tel Aviv University.
Italy – Università Politecnica delle Marche – June 29, 2024		Following a student encampment, the Polytechnic of the Marche in Italy has ended ties with illegal Israeli settlement-based Ariel University. The university has also established a committee to review all institutional ties, including with the arms industry.
Italy – Università degli Studi Milano – April 10, 2024		University of Milan suspends agreement with illegal Israeli settlement-based Ariel University and pledges not to renew it following student mobilizations.
Italy – Università degli Studi di Palermo – June 6, 2024		The University of Palermo Academic Senate suspends Erasmus agreements under the KA171 and KA220-HDE programmes due to the lack of essential safety guarantees for those involved in cooperation partnerships at this particularly delicate time of international crisis, and suspends all agreements with Israel and undertakes to submit any future agreements to a round table discussion involving students.
Italy – Scuola Superiore Normale di Pisa – July 22, 2025		While not having any cooperation agreements in place with Israeli research bodies and academic institutions, it pledges not to enter into institutional cooperation or collaboration agreements with Israeli institutions, universities and research bodies which, upon closer examination, appear to be directly or indirectly involved in violence and occupation to the detriment of the civilian populations of Gaza and the West Bank until the end of the humanitarian crisis, the definitive ceasefire and concrete

commitments towards the reconstruction of Gaza, as well as until the restoration of respect for human rights in Palestine and international law, starting with the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 181, 194, 242 and subsequent resolutions.

Italy – Università degli Studi Torino – March 22, 2024

Suspends collaboration with Israeli academic institutions, but clarifies that the suspension only applies to the Maeci call for proposals. The academic senate votes bans participation in an initiative financing joint research projects between Italy and Israel, while rejecting calls for a broader cessation of ties with Israeli universities.

Mexico – Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica (CIDE) – May 18, 2024

The Center for Research and Teaching in Economics reviews its agreement with Tel Aviv.

Morocco – Université Abdelmalek Essaâdi) – June 4, 2024

Abdelmalek Essaâdi University in Morocco pledges to review its 2022 academic agreement with complicit University of Haifa following a petition by 600 professors and staff members in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Netherlands – Gerrit Rietveld Academie Amsterdam – May 30 and 28, 2024

Gerrit Rietveld Academie suspends exchange agreements with complicit Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design and Jerusalem School of Visual Theater over “sufficient doubt whether the academies can operate independently from the Israeli government.” The arts academy commits to establishing an “ethical framework” for ongoing and new partnerships and supplier contracts.

Netherlands – Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten (KABK) – May 10, 2024

The Dutch Royal Academy of Arts agrees to cut ties with the Israeli institution Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, with which it had an active exchange program between 2017 and 2019.

Netherlands – Universiteit van Amsterdam – March 20, 2025, June 20, 2025

UVA suspends a student exchange agreement with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and halted any new Horizon Europe collaborations with Israeli organisations for the time being.

Netherlands – Radboud Universiteit – May 21,
2025

RU suspends institution-wide partnerships with Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Netherlands – Utrecht University – May 16, 2025

Utrecht University will not enter into any new collaborations with Israeli organizations until further notice.

Netherlands – TU Delft – June 10, 2025

Suspends immediately new collaborations with Israel and will not initiate new collaborations with Israeli universities and organisations due to serious concerns regarding potential involvement in genocidal violence and human rights violations within the context of the Israel–Gaza conflict.

Netherlands – The Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study – June 5, 2024

NIAS-KNAW) commits to refuse funding from Israel, to not participate in activities organized or sponsored by Israel, and to not invite official representatives of Israel to its events or venues.

Norway – OsloMet – February 24, 2024

Oslomet puts the exchange agreement with the University of Haifa on hold, pledges not to enter into any new agreements with complicit Israeli universities, and will work to end procurement contracts with suppliers linked to Israel's military or illegal settlements.

Norway - Universitetet i Sørøst-Norge – February 22, 2024

USN terminates the agreements with Haifa University, covering students exchange, and with Hadassah Academic College, covering academic cooperation and exchange of staff and students.

Norway – Universitetet i Bergen – December 11, 2023

UiB ends its cooperation, covering exchange programmes in art and design at bachelor's and master's level at the Faculty of Art, Music and Design (KMD) with Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design after it created a workshop on campus to design and sew uniforms and gear for the Israeli military.

Norway – Bergen Arkitekthøgskole – February 22, 2024

BA ends its cooperation agreements with Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design over its work with the Israeli military.

Norway – Nord Universitet – January 23, 2024

NU makes public its position on ending co-operation with Israeli institutions, issuing a statement calling for an immediate ceasefire.

Norway – Universitetet i Stavanger – June 6,
2024

UiS is terminating all institutional collaboration agreements with Israeli institutions, due to the war in Gaza, which is contrary to international law. Nor will UiS enter into any new agreements as long as hostilities are ongoing. UiS takes the initiative to terminate procurement agreements involving Israel through SIKT.

Slovenia – Univerza v Ljubljana – Univerza v
Ljubljani (UL) – May 22, 2024 ubljani (UL) – May
22, 2024

The University of Ljubljana's senate adopts decisions on assistance to Palestinian students and cooperation with Israeli institutions at a correspondence meeting. The UL continues to participate in current Horizon Europe projects funded by the EU, unless the EU proposes ending cooperation. For new international project applications, the university will assess potential links to military entities or support for violence—especially when involving Israeli institutions or institutions from countries engaged in foreign aggression or human rights violations—and will not join such projects before completing this review.

South Africa – University of Cape Town (UCT) –
June 24, 2024

UCT adopts Senate's motions refusing ties with "any research group and/or network whose author affiliations are with the Israeli Defense Force, and/or the broader Israeli military establishment" over Israel's Gaza genocide. [1] adopts two resolutions: while rejecting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's conflation of critique of Zionism and Israel's policies as antisemitism, UCT invites academics to not establish or maintain relationships with any research group or network affiliated with the Israeli Defense Force or the broader Israeli military establishment. [1]

South Africa – University of Johannesburg –
March 23, 2011

US was the first institution severing ties with Israel institutions, and ending its agreement with Ben-Gurion University.

South Africa – University of Venda – June 3,
2024

The Senate of the University of Venda in South Africa suspends with "immediate effect" all ties with complicit Israeli universities in a stand with the Palestinian people. The university's decision is informed by its "strong opposition" to apartheid.

South Africa – University of South Africa – May
28, 2024

“We make this statement understanding fully well the role that international solidarity played in supporting our struggle against colonialism and apartheid.” University of South Africa Senate endorses Palestinian call to boycott complicit Israeli institutions.

South Africa – University of Fort Hare –
December 14, 2023

University of Fort Hare, where Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu studied, commits to no institutional links with Israeli academic institutions “as these have played a key role in supporting settler colonial oppression and apartheid” against Palestinians.

South Africa – Nelson Mandela University –
May 6, 2024

Nelson Mandela University Senate votes to support a comprehensive boycott of complicit Israeli academic institutions and companies complicit in Israel’s crimes against Palestinians “to exemplify the legacy of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela” and to refrain from engaging in academic and cultural cooperation, collaboration, or joint projects with Israeli institutions.”

South Africa – University of the Western Cape –
May 24, 2024

Following campus mobilizations, University of the Western Cape will fully disengage from complicit Israeli universities in support of the Palestinian call, advocate for all South African universities to do the same, and divest from complicit companies.

Spain – Universidad de Barcelona – May 21
and 8, 2024

The University of Barcelona's board approves not to enter into agreements with Israeli institutions until the conditions in the Gaza Strip guarantee absolute peace and respect for human rights. In addition, the university will cancel the cooperation agreement with the University of Tel Aviv “immediately and indefinitely.” Also passes motion calling to calling for “the severance of institutional and academic relations” with Israeli institutions in solidarity with Palestine.

Spain – Conferencia de Rectores de las
Universidades Españolas (CRUE) – May 9, 2024

CRUE - 76 universities, 50 public and 26 private - decides to suspend collaborations with complicit Israeli universities to suspend collaboration agreements with Israeli universities and research centers that have not expressed a firm commitment to peace and compliance with

international humanitarian law.

Spain – University of Oviedo – May 10, 2024

UO states that it will suspend its collaboration with Hebrew University (HUJI), as it did with Russian institutions due to the conflict in Ukraine.

Spain – La Universidad del País Vasco / Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea – November 2023; June 23, 2024

UPV/EHU commits to not maintaining and to ending relationships with Israeli universities and entities that do not explicitly denounce the crimes against humanity occurring in Palestine.

United Kingdom – University College London – July 4, 2024

The Vice-rector of Gipuzkoa campus of the University of the Basque Country pledges no new agreements with Basque transport firm CAF as long as it continues to be involved in the Jerusalem light rail project that serves Israel's illegal settlements.

Following student & staff mobilizations, the Academic Board of University College London votes overwhelmingly to review the ties with arms companies or those supplying states accused of genocide; the investments in companies complicit in human rights violations.

United Kingdom – Trinity College London – June 4, 2025

Trinity College London votes to fully divest from all Israeli institutions and companies headquartered in Israel.

United States of America – Pitzer College – April 8, 2024

Pitzer College drops a study abroad program at the University of Haifa in Israel.

United States of America – University of California, Riverside – May 3, 2024

UCR agrees to explore the removal of its endowment from the management of the UC Investments Office, and the investment of said endowment in a manner that will be financially and ethically sound for the university with consideration to the companies involved in arms manufacturing and delivery.

Switzerland – Université de Genève – June 3, 2025 University of Geneva stops collaborations with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University.

Switzerland – Université de Lausanne – June 15, 2025 University of Lausanne stops collaborations with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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