

Dear Teaching Staff and Students,

**Subject: Update on academic accommodations for students for the academic year 2022-23 during the "Swords of Iron" War**

**Summary:** The Moed B exam period of Spring 2022-23 and the Moed A exam period of Summer 2022-23 will start on December 17, 2023. Additional accommodations have been determined for reserve duty soldiers. All details are included in the letter below and in the Q&A page later in the document.

To accommodate our students facing unique challenges, and especially those on reserve duty during the ongoing **"Swords of Iron" War**, we have made the significant decision to update some of the academic accommodations published on 12.11.2023.

The key aspect of this amendment is to separate the remainder of the exam period from the academic year 2023-24 so that we can avoid an overlap between the two. This change is intended to allow our students to start the new academic year 2023-24 without any commitments tied to the previous academic year 2022-2023. Another important aspect is the acknowledgment that students on reserve duty serve for extended service periods, presenting them with significant challenges that make the return to exams and academic life particularly demanding. The academic schedule of studies also adds to the challenges. Therefore, students who have served in reserve duty will receive additional adjustments in the form of **"Exemption +"**, as detailed in the following letter.

The adjustment of the exam period and the start of studies according to this plan will enable the opening of the winter semester 2023-24 without further delay, allowing the new academic year to be as balanced as possible.

**Conduct of the Moed B Exam Period of Spring Semester 2022-23 and the Moed A of the Summer Semester 2022-23**

- The rest of the exams of the academic year 2022-23 will take place from December 17, 2023, to January 5, 2024, before the start of the winter semester 2023-24. The commencement date of the new academic year will be published later in a separate announcement.
- For all students who have not been enlisted, the spring and summer semester exams of 2022-23 will be conducted according to the outlined plan from November 12, 2023, while students on reserve duty may choose to receive exemptions from attending exams, as detailed below.
- There will be no exams on December 22, 2023 (Fast of Tevet 10), on December 25, 2023 (Christmas), and on January 1, 2024 (New Year's Day). On December 24, 2023 (Christmas Eve) and on December 31, 2023 (New Year's Eve), there will be no third round of exams.
- The schedule for the remaining exams of the academic year 2022-23 is available on the website of the Undergraduate Studies Office [here](#).

**Academic Accommodations for Reservists for the Academic Year 2022-23**

For those students, who served in reserve duty during the "Swords of Iron" war, the option of **"Exemption+"** will be available.

The term **"Exemption +"** indicates that the student is exempt from studying the course. The plus sign means that the credit points accumulate to the student's credit, as part of the degree

requirements. Courses with an **"Exemption +"** will not be counted for calculating semester honors or overall GPA.

Each faculty has the discretion to exempt a certain number of courses defined as critical for professional or academic qualification in any study track. This exemption will be determined by the faculty administration and will be binding. **The list of courses for which "Exemption +" cannot be requested will be published on the [website of the undergraduate studies office](#) on Wednesday, December 6, 2023.**

"Exemption+" will be granted according to the following guidelines:

- Students who have accumulated at least **30 days in reserve duty between October 7, 2023, and the beginning of the exam period** are entitled not to take the exams of the spring and summer of 2022-23. Instead, these students can choose to receive "Exemption +" for any course, in which they were supposed to take an exam between December 17, 2023, and January 5, 2024.
- Students who have served at least **10 consecutive days or 14 cumulative days during the exam period**, as well as students who served in reserve duty at least 5 consecutive days during the exam period due to emergency reasons and under special conditions, or within a short notice, are also allowed not to take the exams in the spring and summer of 2022-23. Instead, these students are entitled to choose "Exemption +" for any course they were supposed to be examined in during the exam period.

**Please note:** "Exemption+" is intended to serve as an alternative to the Moed B exam period. If you choose to take the exam in the Moed B exam period, you will not be able to request an exemption.

- Students, who served in reserve duty on the day of the exam (except for conferences/interviews where they can choose their participation date) are entitled not to attend the exam during the exam period in a course they were supposed to be examined in. Instead, they can receive an alternative option, such as an exam on another date (exam date for reservists).
- Students who have already received a numeric grade based on the Moed A exam period can choose to keep that grade. Requests for "Exemption +", binary grades, etc. (for the definition of these terms, please refer to the attached appendix) will be handled, based on the student requests, after the exam period.
- The above applies also to students who are parents and their partner has been enlisted on reserve duty, to academic reservists (atudaim), and students in compulsory or career military service.
- Students significantly and directly affected by the war, students with close relatives, who were directly affected, those who have been evacuated from their homes, etc., their cases will be handled on an individual basis, including the decision concerning the suitable academic adjustments. In these cases, the decisions will be made under the guidance of the Center for Counseling and Support at the Dean of Students Office.

For students who have not been enlisted, the adjustments outlined in the decision from November 12, 2023, will apply.

For your convenience, all updates and academic accommodations related to the "Swords of Iron" War are available on [the Undergraduate Studies website](#).

## **Opening of the Academic Year 2023-24**

The academic year 2023-24 will commence after the end of the Moed B exam period of the spring semester 2022-23 and the Moed A exam period of the summer semester 2022-23.

A notification regarding the opening of the academic year 2023-24 will be sent separately.

The duration of each of the two upcoming semesters, Winter and Spring 2023-24, is still unknown but is expected to be around 10-12 weeks of instruction. Accordingly, the Technion teaching staff is preparing to adapt the content of courses given in the academic year 2023-24 based on their

professional judgment and the relevance of the subjects taught in the course to the rest of the study program in the various degrees or professional practice after completing the degree.

In the appendix attached to this letter, you will find a set of questions and answers that can assist you in making decisions regarding the continuation of exams and studies.

I am confident that together, with joint efforts, we can successfully conclude the academic year 2022-23 and, when the time comes, open the new academic year 2023-24.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "haick". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'h' and a trailing 'k'.

Prof. Hossam Haick  
Dean of Undergraduate Studies

## **Appendix – Questions and Answers**

### **1. What is “Exemption +” and what does the + stand for?**

"Exemption+" signifies that the student is exempt from studying the course. The "+" symbol indicates that the credit points are accrued to the student's accumulated credits as part of the degree requirements. Courses with an "Exemption+" are not counted for calculating semester honors.

### **2. What is the difference between "Exemption+" and Binary Grading?**

"Exemption+" is given based on studies at another academic institution, and also in special cases such as during a war when the student is not examined in the subject. A binary grade is considered an actual grade and it is granted only if the teaching staff determines that the knowledge of the student is sufficient.

### **3. What if I served my reserve duty during the spring semester but not during the “Swords of Iron” war?**

All accommodations outlined under paragraph 2.4 in the Undergraduate Studies regulations remain valid. The accommodations for reservists decided on November 12, 2023, and on December 3, 2023 (i.e., the adjustments mentioned in this letter), apply only to reservists, who served during the "Swords of Iron" war.

### **4. Are the accommodations that have been published still valid?**

Yes.

### **5. How do I replace a numeric grade with “Exemption+”?**

After the completion of Moed B exam period, you will have the option to request an “Exemption +”, conversion of a numeric grade to a binary grade, and other accommodations available for students who have served reserve duty. You have time to decide. When the time comes, we will send a separate message with detailed instructions. You can only make this exchange once, meaning, if you request to exchange a numeric grade for a binary grade, you won't be able to later request a reversion to the numeric grade, and you won't be able to request approval for the numeric grade. So, consider your request carefully.

### **6. How do we register for the Moed B exams, and do we need to do anything to take the exam?**

If you have decided to take an exam during the Moed B exam period of Spring 2022-23 or the Moed A of Summer 2022-23, there is no need to register for the Moed B separately. Just study well and show up for the exams.

### **7. Does the last grade still determine the final grade?**

Yes.

### **8. When will the studies begin?**

We still don't know. The studies will begin after the start of the release of reservists, but not concurrently with the exam period. Therefore, the start of the academic year 2023-2024 will only occur after January 5, 2024. A separate message about the commencement of studies will be published as soon as a decision is made.

**9. When will the academic year 2023-2024 end?**

We still don't know exactly, but we assume that the academic year will end around the Tishrei holidays, approximately in September 2024. The date will be determined once we know for sure when the academic year 2023-2024 begins.

**10. Should I choose "Exemption +", binary grade, or a numeric grade?**

The answer depends on the course. Some courses are crucial for further academic studies, for job placement, for completing a specialization chain, or for registration in the association of engineers. If you already have a grade or if you are unsure whether to take the exam – don't rush to decide on exemption or switch to a binary grade. Consult your faculty for guidance.

**11. Can I take the Moed B exam and only then choose the "Exemption+" option?**

No! The "Exemption+" option is only for those who did not take the exam at all in the course or only took the Moed A exam. If you take the Moed B exam, you will not be able to request "Exemption+" for that course.