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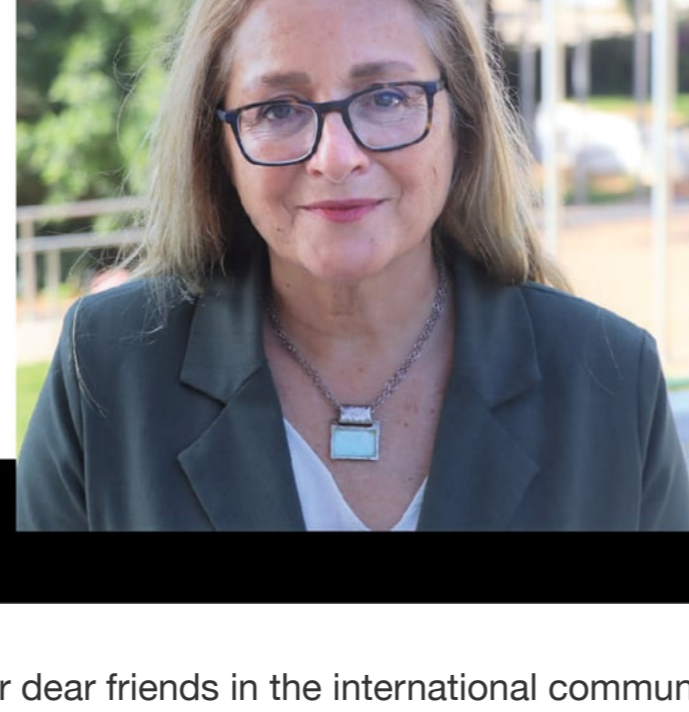
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TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY  
The Lowy International School

# The Lowy Quarterly

News & updates from TAU's global home. Tuesday, October 10, 2023.



## Message from the Vice President

*Prof. Milette Shamir*  
TAU Vice President International

To our dear friends in the international community,

Now is a very sad and difficult time for Israel. The media is reporting that more than 900 individuals have lost their lives in the terror attack on the State of Israel, more than 2,500 are injured and over 100 people have been kidnapped. These counts continue to rise and many of us are not just in shock, but mourning friends and loved ones.

At the same time, we have never been more united in our shared strength and resolve, and we know the best path forward is to support one another. We are incredibly proud of the way so many in our community have pulled together to offer help. We are also rejuvenated by the many touching messages of well wishes and care from our international friends and partners.

For The Lowy International School, our top priority currently is the safety and wellbeing of our international students and visitors – as part of this, we want to make it easier for all those in our international community to receive the latest information and communications.

**For this reason, we will be sending The Lowy Quarterly out as a bulletin with regular updates in the coming days.** In the short term this newsletter will be the primary way to receive regular updates from us, and we will resume the traditional intent of the newsletter in the future.

**We also ask that you please share the opt-in link for the newsletter with anyone who may want updates regarding safety, wellbeing sessions, protocol and scheduling at TAU's The Lowy International School. Opt-in to the newsletter can be done here:**

<https://telavivuniversityinternational1606128003.activehosted.com/v/11>

Your solidarity means so much to us, and we value your friendship and continued commitment. Thank you again for the many kind words and patience during this time.

Sincerely,  
Milette

## Informational Updates

- Start of Term** – Tel Aviv University, along with all other universities in Israel, is delaying the start of term by one week. The term will officially begin on Sunday, October 22.
- Hybrid Classes** – To provide flexibility during this time, classes in the beginning will be offered in a hybrid manner, meaning online classes will be available.
- Safety** – All members of the international community are instructed to follow the safety procedures in place. Currently, residents of greater Tel Aviv are asked to stay near secure areas. There are secure areas across TAU and in the dorms. For more information on safety protocols, see the FAQ below.
- Mental Health** – The Lowy International School recently offered a session for international students with a trauma psychologist and will offer more mental health supports in the future. TAU is significantly expanding the scope of psychological services available to the university community, including international students. There is a 24/7 mental health support line available, with services in English; if you or someone you know is struggling, please contact the Student Life Team, who is on call 24/7.
- Community Gathering** – The Student Life Team is coordinating small group gathering opportunities for students in accordance with government guidelines (50 people indoors; 10 people outdoors). These gatherings will occur in secure areas.

## Spotlight on Campus

- So many at Tel Aviv University and beyond have been working tirelessly to provide support, protection and care for our community and for the victims of the horrific terror attack on the State of Israel. In the coming days, we want to share some of these stories of goodwill and heroism. Meanwhile, if you are on campus, please consider contributing to the donation and collection operation below.



10/10/23

## DONATION COLLECTION OPERATION

ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENTS OF  
TEL-AVIV UNIVERSITY

LOCATION ON GOOGLE MAPS/WAZE:  
GATE 7, ANTIN SQUARE (JAPNICA)  
TEL-AVIV UNIVERSITY  
HOURS: 13:00-19:00

WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY HELP IN OBTAINING:  
WARM CLOTHING, DRY FOOD, UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS, MEDICAL  
AND HYGIENE EQUIPMENT, ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS, BOXES AND  
OTHER THINGS THAT COME TO MIND

DONATIONS FOR FOOD AND MILITARY  
EQUIPMENT FOR SOLDIERS-

CONTACT NUMBERS:  
DANIEL YARON 052-698-5242  
HILLA ROSENBERG 054-799-9093



DO YOU KNOW MILITARY UNITS THAT NEED DONATIONS?  
?INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH TRANSPORTATION  
PLEASE CONTACT THE FOLLOWING NUMBER:  
EYAL LOFO 0506844937

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### How safe is it at Tel Aviv University right now?

Our top priority is the safety and wellbeing of our students and international community. We are vigilantly monitoring any changes in circumstances within the country and are in frequent contact with government agencies; our procedures and instructions are in alignment with wider governmental protocol and recommendations.

For those of you at TAU or who will be joining us, our focus is on taking care of you, keeping you safe and getting you the support you need. We are following the government safety recommendations for those in Tel Aviv, which currently involves ensuring proximity to a secure area. There are many safe and secure areas across TAU, including in the campus dorms. In the Einstein dorms, there is a secure area between building A and B; in the Broshim complex, there is a secure apartment (whose number starts with 01) on each floor of each building.

Additionally, while we will be continuing with all academic programs, we have implemented a hybrid format for the first few weeks to prioritize safety and provide a flexible learning environment. Once safety and circumstances allow, we will resume more extracurricular activities.

### What is day-to-day life like?

While we are limiting extracurricular activities and focusing on safety, we are also doing our best to support the wellbeing of our students on campus. For any students joining us, housing options in the dormitories remain unchanged, and students have 24/7 access to the Student Life Team to help with any questions or adjustments to day-to-day life. There are also mental health supports available.

We recently held an online orientation session and are looking to organize additional orientation sessions and small gathering opportunities in accordance with current official guidelines and protocol. Classes for all programs will begin in a hybrid format on Sunday, October 22. We will resume planned extracurricular activities and in-person classes when appropriate.

While Israel has experienced an unprecedented tragedy, we are also all very touched by the ways in which the TAU community has rallied together to support each other and Israel. Now is a time for care and kindness, and this sentiment is also very much felt on campus.

### Are there currently restrictions on educational or extracurricular activities?

Currently there are restrictions on both educational and extracurricular activities.

Educational classes have been postponed by one week to begin on Sunday, October 22 and will be offered initially through a hybrid format to prioritize safety and provide flexibility.

Regarding extracurricular activities, all gatherings are following current governmental protocol (no more than 50 people gathered inside and 10 people outside) and are taking place in secure areas. In general, any excursions organized by The Lowy International School are cleared by the Israeli National Security Center and the Ministry of Education and coordinated with appropriate authorities (including Israeli police and army); we do not allow trips to any areas prohibited or deemed unsafe.

### I need help with arranging travel/ordering food/getting mail or other day-to-day arrangements. Who can I contact to help?

The Student Life Team is on call 24/7 and is here to assist regarding all day-to-day matters. The team can be contacted at 052-5346188.

### What security measures are in place at the university?

The Lowy International School maintains frequent contact with government security agencies to stay informed of any potential escalations or risks on the horizon. In preparation for an emergency situation, all students receive safety training during orientation, a welcome kit with safety information, as well as regular communications. TAU maintains 24/7 security and staffing on campus and in the dormitories. For security reasons, anyone entering campus is required to show a student ID card or other form of ID and have their bags searched. Additionally, no one is permitted to enter a dormitory without a clearance chip (FOB).

Regarding the current circumstance in Israel, we are following the government safety instructions for those in Tel Aviv, which includes ensuring proximity to a secure area. There are many safe and secure areas across TAU, including in the campus dorms.

When an emergency situation arises, our priority is on contacting everyone promptly; our school requires that all students carry a working mobile phone with an Israeli number, and we maintain student social-media groups such as a WhatsApp group. We also employ a buddy system. The steps we take depend on the type of emergency; our [Safety, Security, Health and Wellness Guidelines](#) and our [Security Guidelines](#) provide greater details on approaches we would take should there be an emergency.

### What do I do if I hear a siren?

Sirens are part of the "Iron Dome" system in Israel, which alert and protect us at any given time.

When a siren is heard in Tel Aviv (where the University is located), you have approximately 1.5 minutes to make your way to a secure area. Once the siren stops, you should spend 10 additional minutes within the secure area. We also recommend that all members of our international community download the Home Front Command app, which will send push notifications in case a siren goes off around your location.

There are secure areas across TAU's campus and in the dorms. In the Einstein dorms, there is a secure area between building A and B; in the Broshim complex, there is a secure apartment (whose number starts with 01) on each floor of each building.

### I'm feeling anxious and scared. What should I do?

We want to emphasize that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness. It takes courage to acknowledge when you are struggling and to ask for help. We are here to provide you with the resources you need to prioritize your mental health. If you are struggling, please contact the Student Life Team at 052-5346188. They are on call 24/7. There is also a TAU mental health support line available 24/7. In the morning hours, you can contact psychological services at 03-6408505, or leave a short WhatsApp message with your name and number at +972-50-278037 and a psychotherapist will contact you.

In addition to seeking support, we encourage you to practice self-care, maintain a healthy lifestyle and connect with others. We recognize this may be a difficult time and we are here to help you.

### I'd really appreciate meeting and being with other people right now. How can I do this?

We understand the need to be with people at this time, and the Student Life Team is organizing small gatherings in secure areas, in accordance with guidelines. Please reach out to the Student Life Team at 052-5346188. You are not alone.

### What happens if things escalate in Israel?

Our top priority is the safety and wellbeing of our students and international community. We are vigilantly monitoring any changes to the circumstances in the country and are in frequent contact with government agencies. Should circumstances in Israel escalate and should there be a need for a change in protocol, we will communicate this to our international community.

While we will always reach out to our international students and researchers directly, subscribing to this newsletter is otherwise one of the best ways to receive any updates on changes in protocol for The Lowy International School.

### What should I do if I don't want to be at TAU?

We want to emphasize that we respect and support any decision made regarding your time with us at Tel Aviv University. Whether you decide to stay, return home temporarily or leave indefinitely, we will cooperate and assist with the necessary arrangements. We recommend contacting the Student Life Team for further assistance.

### What should I do in case of an emergency?

In the case of an emergency, The Lowy International School will be in direct contact with international students about next steps. Additionally, key emergency and mental health contacts can be found on our [Safety and Political Developments](#) webpage.

When an emergency situation arises, our priority is contacting everyone promptly; our school requires that all students carry a working mobile phone with an Israeli number, and we maintain student social-media groups such as a WhatsApp group. We also employ a buddy system. The steps we take depend on the type of emergency; our [Safety, Security, Health and Wellness Guidelines](#) and our [Security Guidelines](#) provide greater details on approaches we would take should there be an emergency.



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