



# The Lowy Quarterly

News & updates from TAU's global home. Thursday, August 1, 2024.



## Message from the Vice President

*Prof. Milette Shamir*  
*TAU Vice President International*

With August here, we are finally bringing our academic year to a close at Tel Aviv University (TAU). The original schedule looked quite different; then October 7 happened, followed by a war, and the school year was postponed. We adapted to the best of our ability, and we continue to adapt, focusing primarily on making sure no one in our academic community is left behind and that our students, staff, and faculty are all cared for. We [continue to focus on safety](#) and actively monitor the situation in Israel.

This past year, to say the least, has not been easy. At one point, approximately 25% of our students were called up into the reserves. However, our students have persevered, and I am very proud of all they have accomplished. Our researchers, too, have been showing remarkable resilience. Despite everything, they have made new discoveries, penned articles in top journals, asked hard questions, and searched for the right answers—including about all aspects of this heartbreaking year. Intellectual autonomy is a foundational principle for academia, and [we have more academic freedom here than the majority of other universities around the world](#), including those in the United States.

I recognize that this year has also been hard for many other universities, and that you continue to face your own challenges with campus division and with questions of free speech and its limits. Calls for the academic boycott of Israel continue to be heard, putting in danger the academic freedom that universities so cherish. This is an opportunity to thank those academic leaders who speak against this trend, and for your clarity of vision and for continuing to show others why these boycott proposals are dangerous and antithetical to our foundational principles. Thank you to the [European Commission](#), the [rectors of Dutch universities](#), the [Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany](#), and so many others. All of you are an important voice in these difficult times.

Yours,  
Milette

## Featured

### How TAU is Navigating Campus Coexistence



When the first academic term after October 7 was about to begin, Prof. Neta Ziv, TAU's vice president of equity, diversity and community, wasn't sure exactly what to expect, however she knew it would be complicated. [Read More...](#)

## In Other News

### Andi Murez Carries Flag at Paris Olympics

For Andrea "Andi" Murez—a newly-minted Tel Aviv University (TAU) international medical school alumna and recipient of a TAU Sylvan Adams Olympic scholarship—being able to compete and carry Israel's flag at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris has been one of the biggest honors of her life. [Read More...](#)

### The Lowy International School Supports 25 New Joint International Projects

Following calls for applications for joint projects, The Lowy International School at Tel Aviv University recently announced it will be supporting 25 new initiatives promoting joint research, academic exchange and other forms of collaboration with partner institutions. [Read More...](#)

### TAU Launches New MSc in Digital Health

With artificial intelligence and other digital technologies revolutionizing nearly all aspects of health care, TAU is launching the MSc in Digital Health—a new master's program anchored in a multinational network, which aims to equip those in healthcare with the tools they need to thrive in this new reality. [Read More...](#)

### Global Day of Engagement: Celebrating International Ties

On July 25, The Lowy International School hosted visits from Columbia University faculty, leadership of several Indian universities and a large group of American undergraduate students. [Read More...](#)

### TAU is Going Abroad

This year, with the largest turnout ever, The Lowy International School once again held an event for upcoming outgoing exchange students. Approximately 140 Tel Aviv University undergraduate and graduate students attended as they prepared to study at universities in Europe, Asia, Australia, North America and elsewhere. [Read More...](#)

[Read more news](#) from Tel Aviv University

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