

## Forum of Deans of Medical Faculties in Israel פורום דקאני הפקולטות לרפואה בישראל

### Press release

## Admission Plan for Overseas Medical Students Drafted as Reservists During the War Under Order-8

### Background

Due to the state of war imposed on Israel following the events of October 7th, Israeli medical students studying abroad were conscripted into IDF reserve duty for an extended duration. Some returned specifically to serve, others hadn't departed for studies abroad, and some were unable to resume their studies in foreign countries.

The Forum of Deans of Medical Faculties in Israel has undertaken a mission to alleviate the impact on students conscripted to reserve duty, acknowledging their vital contribution to the nation's defense. Subsequently, extensive deliberations, including external representatives, have been conducted to craft a comprehensive plan and establish transparent criteria for the admission of these students into Israeli medical faculties for the upcoming academic year, 2023–2024, detailed below.

- The plan in question is a one-off, unique initiative, due entirely to the circumstances of the current war in Gaza. It will apply only to the 2023–2024 academic year. None of the details presented here form a precedent for acceptance to studies in other years or in other fields of study.
- All students accepted to studies under the terms of this plan will be required to meet all the academic requirements concerning progressing from one year of study to the next, the same as all other medical students in Israel.

### **Candidates for admission:**

Candidates eligible for admission consideration encompass:

- Individuals conscripted under Order 8 on or after October 7, 2023, subsequently demobilized before November 15, 2023 (The date when the discussion on the outline was initiated), having served in the reserves for a minimum of 30 days. Additionally, candidates whose first-degree relatives were among the abductees or victims in the October 7<sup>th</sup> massacre.
- Those currently studying or accepted for medical studies abroad in recognized institutions under Prof. Yatziv's Reform.
- To execute this plan, a joint admissions committee will convene, comprising representatives from all medical schools in Israel. This committee will holistically review applications and ascertain the number of acceptances for each medical school and program duration (three, four, or six years) based on the individual school's capacity to accommodate additional students.

- The allocation among various institutions will consider student preferences. The committee's decisions will be conclusive.

**The fundamental condition for implementing this plan is the provision of full funding by the State for the additional students who will be accepted under the terms of the plan.**

#### Admission Requirements for First-Year Students - Academic Year 2023-2024

Approval for admission to a recognized medical school abroad under the Yatziv's Reform.

A minimum psychometric score of 700 for first-year admission.

#### Second and Third-Year Students:

Second-year students who meet the admission criteria for the first year, as outlined above, may be considered for admission to study in Israel in the first year and enrolled as part of the student body.

Students in the second and third years can accrue academic points through a student exchange program, contingent upon their institution's assessment of their syllabus and adherence to previous subjects. This process requires agreement from the student's parent institution abroad regarding the courses studied in Israel. The student will complete their studies and receive their degree from the overseas institution.

Third-Year Students: The syllabus studied during the third year will be evaluated for accreditation in Israel. Subject to agreement from the foreign institution and recognition of the courses, the student will continue their studies abroad.

Prof. Yatziv from the Ministry of Health will finalize academic accreditation with various foreign medical schools. A separate budget mechanism will be established for this group.

#### Fourth-Year Students from Abroad:

Admission to an Israeli medical school is contingent upon holding a bachelor's degree in medicine from a recognized institution abroad.

Minimum threshold conditions include a psychometric score of at least 680 and an 80 score at the end of the first degree.

Admitted students may join existing three-, four-, or six-year courses as determined by the admissions committee.

#### Fifth-Sixth-Year Students from Abroad:

These years are specifically designated for conducting clinical rotations in hospitals. The Ministry of Health will endeavor to secure academic accreditation for these rotations to take place in Israeli hospitals. Funding for these rotations will be available through the Ministry of Health.

The allocation of placements in hospitals will be managed by the Forum of Deans of the Faculties of Medicine. The degree will be conferred by the overseas institution, subject to its approval.

**Section 2: Reference to applicants for medical studies in Israel who were not registered or accepted for studies abroad.**

The Deans' Forum of the Faculties of Medicine in Israel acknowledges the relevance of granting recognition to candidates enrolled in the six-year medicine course for the academic year 2023-2024, conscripted under Order-8 after October 7, 2023, in a manner similar to their peers who pursued studies abroad. These candidates, despite applying to overseas institutions and undergoing the complete medical admission process, were neither admitted to any Israeli medical schools nor accepted for medical studies abroad. It is deemed essential to acknowledge their situation.

The forum suggests admitting some of these candidates to pursue medical studies in Israel (2023-2024), alongside the group of students from abroad.

Criteria for the admission of a limited number of these candidates for medical studies at the University of Israel will be developed promptly.

This detailed outline will soon be published separately.