



Ashkelon Academic College



המכללה האקדמית אשקלון
Ashkelon Academic College

**A WISE STEP TO A
PROMISING FUTURE**
www.aac.ac.il | *9990



Vision

Ashkelon Academic College (AAC) was accredited by the Council for Higher Education in 2003 as an independent academic institution, approximately forty years after it was established as a branch of Bar-Ilan University. The college is located in the seaside city of Ashkelon and mainly serves the residents of the Ashkelon area (Ashkelon, Ashdod, Lachish, and Malachi areas), with a population of about 450,000. AAC aims to facilitate the area's residents' access to higher education, improve their professional abilities and socio-economic potential, promote democratic and academic values in the region, and cultivate excellence, research, and knowledge.

Over the next ten years, AAC strives to double its undergraduate and graduate students and increase the number of academic faculty members, while focusing on teaching and research quality. To this end, AAC invests in developing its Research Authority, International Relations Office, the Center for the Promotion of Excellence in Teaching and the Center for Techno - Pedagogical Innovation.



Academic Leadership

AAC employs a cadre of experts in various fields. The late **Prof. Moshe Many**, former president of Tel Aviv University, served as the president of Ashkelon Academic College from 2002 to 2012, drawing on his leadership abilities and years of experience to build up the college during the decade of his tenure.

The following president, the late **Prof. Shlomo Grossman**, served as the president of AAC from 2012 to 2021. Previously, he served from 2003 to 2009 as Chairman of the Israeli Council of Higher Education's Planning and Budget Committee. Thanks to his efforts, a broad range of academic subjects are now offered to those living in the geographic periphery.



The current president, **Prof. Haim Breitbart**, has held a number of senior positions in the academic field in general and in colleges in particular. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Life and Natural Sciences at Bar-Ilan University, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Bar-Ilan University in Safed, President of the Safed Academic College, and head of the academic colleges at Bar-Ilan University. He is also a Senior Researcher in the field of male fertility and has numerous research connections around the world.



Prof. Shimon Sharvit, the college rector, previously headed Bar-Ilan University's Department of Hebrew and Semitic Languages as well as its Institute of Lexicography and serves as a member of the Academy of Hebrew Language.

Since the establishment of the college, Prof. Sharvit recruited high-quality lecturers, created small classes to facilitate personal learning, promoted teaching excellence, and acted to emphasize the importance of supporting students with special needs.



AAC founder **Dr. Pinhas Haliwa** has been serving as CEO since 1987. He was appointed when the institute was a small branch of Bar Ilan University with only fifty students. Recognizing the potential of the college, Dr. Haliwa gradually expanded the institute for higher learning, developed its new campus, turning the college into one of the largest public colleges in Israel. Under his leadership, the college became independent in 2000. Dr. Haliwa is an attorney with a Ph.D. in Political Science.



AAC Campus

Today, AAC operates 21 programs and departments, including four unique MA programs: Applied Economics, Social work, Criminology, and Clinical Criminology. All our departments work closely with public authorities and various industries. The cooperation ranges from incorporating visiting lecturers from various companies, internship options for students, and even welcoming a group of female inmates as regular students in the department of Criminology (BA).

The modern, advanced main campus has 120 technologically-equipped classrooms, an International Conference Center with three congress

halls, laboratories for various subjects, including computer science, cyber, psychology, nutrition, and nursing.

The 3500 square meter library serves approximately 5000 students and faculty members, who also have access to the college dormitories, a restaurant, an exhibition of archeological artifacts, a fitness center, open green areas, and a diverse culture program provided by the International Conference Center.

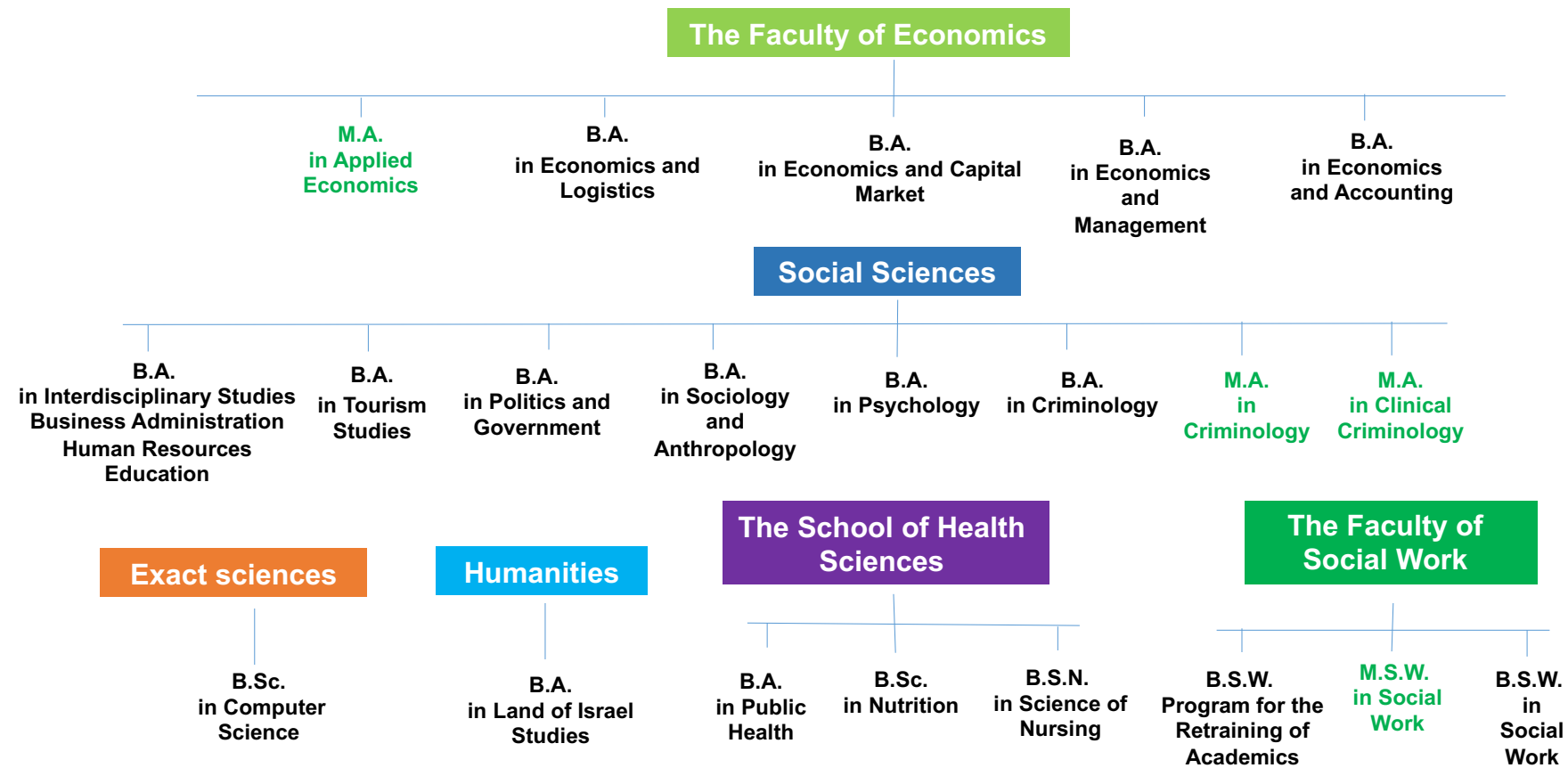
In addition, the college also operates a separate campus in Gan-Yavne, designed to accommodate the needs of the Ultra-Orthodox community.





Programs and Degrees

Faculties, Schools and Programs





Diversity and Social Inclusion

AAC is located in the southwest periphery of Israel, in an area of a diverse population comprising of new (and veteran) immigrants, secular and religious, Ultra-orthodox Jews, Bedouin Arabs, Ethiopian-Israelis, youth at risk, and students with special physical, learning, and mental needs.

AAC is open to all groups in Israel, and its academic and administrative staff, as well as its students, reflect the diversity of Israeli society. Motivated

by values of equality and social inclusion, AAC aims to be a source of social mobility, economic advancement, and academic excellence for the residents of the Ashkelon area. In addition, the college is committed to providing students entering its gates with the appropriate tools for significant integration into the labor force and enabling its faculty members to stand at the forefront of academic research.



High-Quality Teaching

AAC has established the Center for the Promotion of Excellence in Teaching which aims to provide students an exceptional and enriching learning experience. The center initiates workshops for improving teaching, conducts teaching satisfaction surveys, supports lecturers that seek to improve their teaching skills, integrates the use of cutting-edge technologies, and acts to reward outstanding lecturers. In the satisfaction survey initiated by the

National Union of Israeli Students, AAC was ranked in Israel's top five academic institutions, including colleges and universities.

In addition, AAC also operates the Center for Techno-Pedagogical Innovation which trains the faculty to utilize cutting-edge technological tools, positioning the college as a leader in teaching and learning innovation to meet the needs of the digital age.





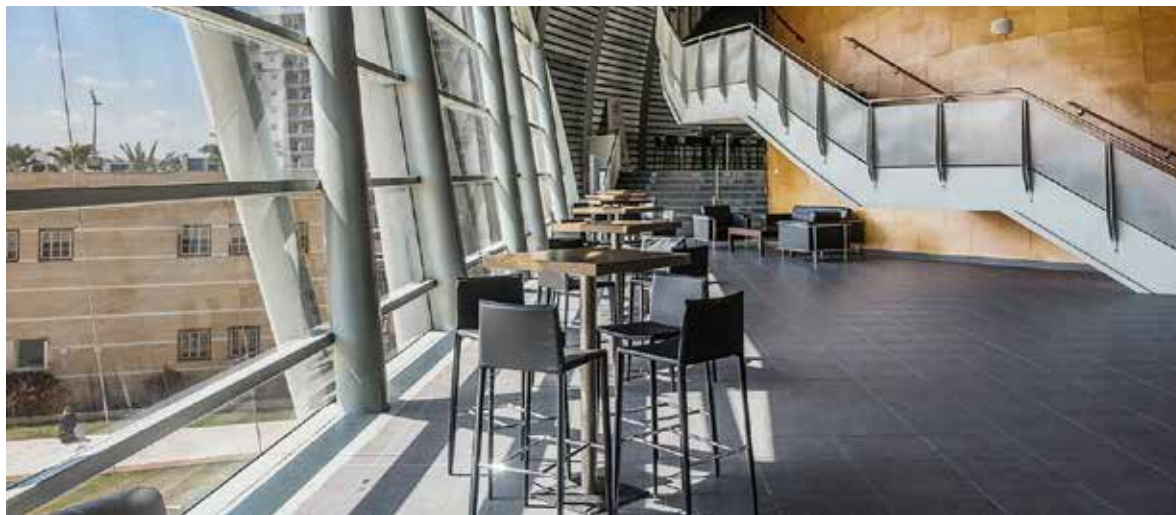
Student and Community Services

The students of AAC are offered various scholarships, modern dormitories, student association services, and a unique support center for students with special needs. This center provides individual mentoring for students with special needs, initiates dedicated workshops and lectures, adjusts personal assistance, and develops technological solutions. Additionally, the campus is fully accessible for students with physical disabilities.

AAC tutoring project "Perach" (flower) pairs children from an underprivileged background with students. The students act as "big brothers and sisters" to

the local children, providing them with close and personal attention and serving as positive role models. As such, the program imparts skills and knowledge both to the "big brothers and sisters" (students at AAC) as well as to the children to whom they provide guidance and assistance.

In addition, the college runs special programs for the community, including professional studies in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor, open events, academic re-training, and pre-academic programs for students wishing to pursue technical studies or continue for a full academic degree.



Our Graduates and Alumni

Many of AAC's graduates have been recruited for high-ranking positions in public service and the private sector. Some of them were integrated into the college's academic and administrative staff. A

high percentage of AAC graduates are working in their field of study. Many alumni maintain contact with their professors to this day.





Research and Publications Authority

Academic excellence depends on academic research at the highest level. Therefore, AAC acts to realize its academic faculty's research potential and advance international collaborations. Realizing the potential of the academic faculty is the primary goal of the Research Authority headed by Prof. Gila Chen.

The Research Authority promotes research activities, informs faculty members of calls for proposals, initiates training seminars, and assists in submitting research proposals.

Additionally, the Research Authority organizes joint seminars among different departments and assists faculty members in the book publishing process.



* LGBT – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender



International Cooperation

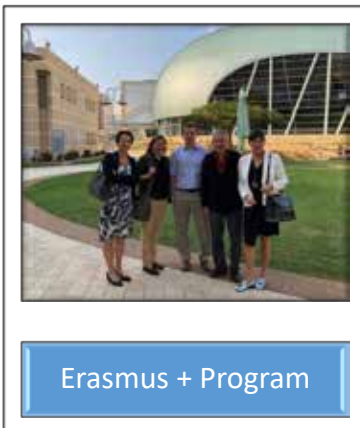
AAC invests much effort in developing meaningful collaborations with fellow academics and academic institutions. Our scholars are both members and

initiators of international research consortiums, cooperating with experts from other universities in Europe, the United States, and East Asia (for

example, Erasmus +, INCO, COST, and H2020 programs). The international relations office, headed by Dr. Elie Friedman, promotes exchange and

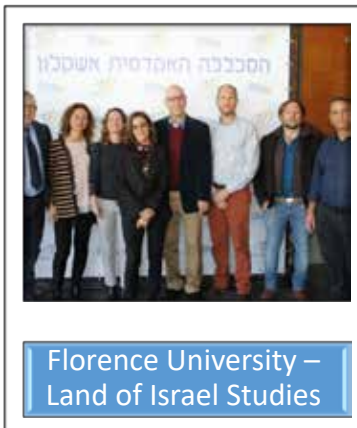
mobility agreements and initiates agreements with academic institutions worldwide.

Current Collaborations



Erasmus + Program

The joint project's overall aim is an enhancement of the public health workforce in Israel through sharing European educational experience, including Harmonization, Employability, Leadership, and Outreach.



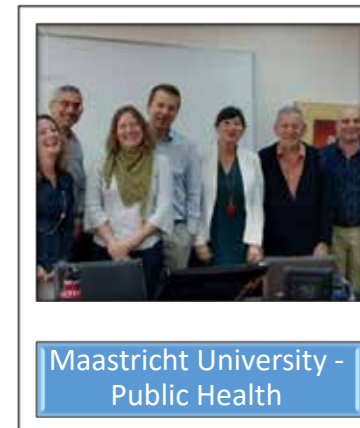
Florence University – Land of Israel Studies

Representatives from Florence University met with Land of Israel and Tourism students and agreed on a joint submission of a project to the European Union, as well as promoting further cooperation in preservation of various sites in Ashkelon.



Lausanne University - Political Science

Two delegates from AAC faculty members visited Lausanne University in order to promote the mutual cooperation. During their visit, they met with several representatives of the International Relations Office of the University.



Maastricht University - Public Health

During their visit, senior faculty members from Maastricht University met with AAC School of Health Professors, with the intention of incorporating a group of Israeli schools of public health for a proposed cooperative project.



NTU & NTUST Universities – Computer Science

AAC senior lecturers have been conducting joint research with colleagues from NTU and NTUST universities. Throughout this fruitful cooperation, AAC has been operating a nurturing student exchange program with those faculties.



Salzburg University - Tourism

Senior faculty members from Salzburg University visited Israel and toured the historic Old City of Jerusalem. In addition, Professor Brucker gave fascinating guest lectures to first, second, and third-year tourism students.



The City of Ashkelon

AAC is located in the vibrant and young city of Ashkelon (pop. 145,000) along the beautiful Mediterranean beach with a lively marina, shopping centers, and historical national park with ancient

remains dated 8000 years ago. Ashkelon is just a 45- minute drive from Tel Aviv and Ben-Gurion International Airport and a 60- minute drive from Jerusalem.





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