

Prof. Uriel Reichman, President and Founder of IDC Herzliya, shares how IDC continues to lead the way academically and socially during the pandemic

In March this year, we found ourselves, like much of the world, suddenly in the midst of a major, developing drama. We were operating amid great uncertainty. I made a special announcement regarding the coronavirus crisis and IDC Herzliya's preparedness for online classes and remote learning. Within a short few days, we went from frontal to online teaching.

IDC Herzliya management prepared intensely during this short period for the transition to online classes and remote learning, and provided students with academic and personal consultations. It was decided to begin the second semester several weeks later than originally scheduled, deferring it to straight after the Pesach holiday, to enable those students who needed to return to their home countries to do so and to allow the immediate crisis to pass.

In accordance with the government guidelines on the coronavirus, IDC Herzliya immediately started preparing for a new academic routine for the second semester: It was decided that classes and lectures, as well as various student services, would continue to be provided online, supported by a specially established technical support system. Enrollment for 2020-2021 would continue as usual and staff and support services were primed to make the process easy for incoming students. We held dedicated online information sessions and were in personal contact with numerous students by phone, email and online.



IDC HERZLIYA
RISES TO
THE CHALLENGE



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➤ I strongly believe that in every crisis there is also hidden opportunity. I have no doubt that if we are adaptable and demonstrate creativity, we will also learn and grow from the current predicament. Even though this particular crisis is new to us, we have already known many crises and challenges. States of emergency are not something new in Israel. We have on our side our resilience as a society and as a community, and we have already proved our ability to present a united front, strengthen one another, and meet difficult challenges.

IDC Herzliya has taken every possible measure to maintain the safety of our students, while working for our continuing renowned academic excellence and to ensure the viability of our institution. Mainly, we have been praying for normalcy and to be able to go back to studying in the classrooms on our gorgeous campus.

We have much to look forward to in the near future, with the building of a third dormitory building well underway, supported by **Shari Arison**, and the construction of the new Drahi Innovation Building, supported by the **Patrick and Lina Drahi** Foundation, together with **Joey Low**.

On the academic front, we are delighted to announce that, in addition to the Ph.D. in Law already being offered by IDC in the current academic year, we have been granted the authority to award [two further doctorates](#): a Ph.D. in Psychology from the Baruch Ivcher School of Psychology, and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the Efi Arazi School of Computer Science. These mark a significant milestone in the history of IDC.

IDC Herzliya will always continue to look forward, not back. ■