

## **PREFACE**

We are pleased to present the latest in the series of publications on the demographic characteristics of applicants for studies, students (2004/05), and recipients of degrees from universities (2003/04), as well as on their studies. This publication presents data on applicants for second degree studies. As in previous years, these publications are based on record linkage between the Population Registry and files of candidates, students, and degree recipients, provided to the Central Bureau of Statistics by the universities (also from the Open University).

The data presented here pertain to enrollment in university programs, field of study and institution, by sex, population group, religion and origin. This information is important to organizations that deal with policy-making, planning and research related to the higher education system in Israel. Comparison of the data in the current publication with those from previous years allows the reader to track changes in the characteristics of candidates, students and degree recipients.

The use of existing data sources – files of the universities and the Population Registry – enables the Central Bureau of Statistics to reduce the expense and the time needed for generating and publishing the information. In this way, the CBS can meet the information needs of the public more efficiently.

The analyses in this publication were conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics, and were commissioned by the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education.

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