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## Recipients of Academic Degrees from Higher Education Institutions in Israel Who Stayed Abroad Three Years and More

- 4.9% of all recipients of academic degrees from higher institutions in Israel between 1984/85 and 2004/05 had been staying abroad for three years and more in 2011.
- Close to 6.7% returned to Israel in 2011.
- The percentage of academic degree recipients staying abroad for three years and more is particularly high among those with a third degree (10.5%), and those with a second degree in medicine (7.2%).
- The percentage of third degree recipients in exact sciences and engineering who had been staying abroad for three years and more was about 3.7 times higher than the percentage of degree recipients in the humanities and social sciences (14.1% and 3.8%, respectively).
- The more time that elapses between the receipt of a first and second degree, the higher the percentage of academic degree recipients staying abroad three years and more.
- One-fifth of all first-degree recipients in music and over one-fifth of all third-degree recipients in mathematics had been staying abroad three years and more.
- Men showed a greater tendency than women to stay abroad for over three years.
- Academic degree recipients who stay abroad three years and are usually younger than their counterparts who remain in Israel.
- The percentage of academic degree recipients staying abroad for three years and more is higher among immigrants – especially those who arrived in Israel from the United States and Former USSR.
- The percentage of academic degree recipients staying abroad for three years and more is higher among Christians and Jews (5.7% and 4.9%, respectively) than among Moslems and Druze (1.4% and 0.6%, respectively).

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*The Central Bureau of Statistics conducted the survey for the Israel National Council for Research and Development at the Ministry of Science, and examined the phenomenon of extended residence abroad among academic degree holders who received degrees from institutions of higher education in Israel between 1985 and 2005. The data reflect the situation in 2011, and were matched with the database of Israelis staying abroad for a period of one year and more. Residence abroad for three years does not constitute evidence of the intention to stay abroad.*

**The survey was conducted for the Israel National Council for Research and Development at the Ministry of Science.**

The number of academic degree recipients from institutions of higher education in Israel has increased steadily, from 21,000 in 1984/85-1986/87, to 106,000 in 2002/03-2004/05. Between 1984/85 and 2004/05, 360,500 Israeli residents received academic degrees. As of 2011, 4.9% of them had been staying abroad three years or more.

The percentage of academic degree recipients staying abroad three years and more was particularly high among recipients of a third degree (10.5%). The percentage of second degree recipients in medicine was also relatively high (7.2%). In contrast, the percentage of first and second degree recipients (excluding medicine) staying abroad three years and more was relatively low (4.8% and 4.2%, respectively).

The percentage of academic degree recipients in sciences and engineering **who had been staying abroad three years and more** was substantially higher than the percentage of academic degree recipients in the humanities and social sciences (1.7 times higher among those with first degrees, 2.8 times higher among those with second degrees, and 3.7 times higher among those with third degrees).

**Table A: Percentage of Academic Degree Holders in Israel Who Had Been Staying Abroad Three Years and More as of 2011, By Degree Year and Field of Study**

Degree Year	Total	Recipients of first degrees			Recipients of second degrees			Recipients of a second degree in medicine	Recipients of third degrees		
		Total	Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering	Total	Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering		Total	Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering
<b>Total</b>	4.9	4.8	4.0	6.7	4.2	3.1	8.5	7.2	10.5	3.8	14.1
<b>1985-87</b>	8.1	8.1	6.7	10.6	7.0	5.1	10.6	8.9	11.3	5.6	13.6
<b>1988-90</b>	7.4	7.2	5.9	9.6	7.0	4.4	11.5	8.6	12.0	6.3	14.0
<b>1991-93</b>	6.4	6.3	5.3	8.4	6.0	4.2	9.9	8.1	8.8	4.2	10.6
<b>1994-96</b>	6.5	6.5	5.2	9.9	5.5	3.3	10.9	10.8	9.8	2.3	12.7
<b>1997-99</b>	5.7	5.7	4.8	8.8	4.6	3.6	8.8	7.9	13.1	3.4	17.7
<b>2000-02</b>	4.4	4.3	3.6	6.3	4.0	3.2	9.1	4.8	10.6	3.5	14.8
<b>2003-05</b>	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.8	2.5	2.0	4.8	3.3	9.4	3.4	13.8

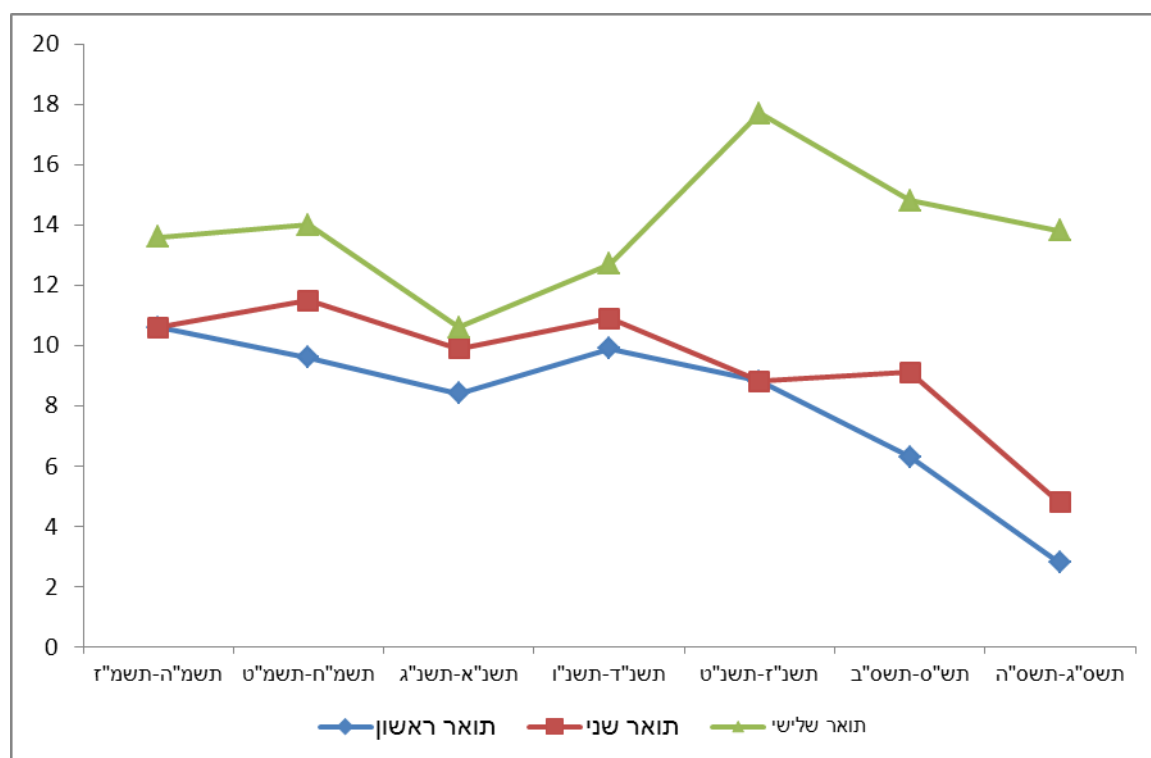
**Exact sciences and engineering include:** Medicine, Paramedical Professions, Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Sciences, Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Agriculture, and Engineering and Architecture.

**Social Sciences and Humanities include:** General Humanities, Languages, Literature and Regional Studies, Arts, Crafts and Applied Art, Special Programs in Humanities, Social Sciences, Business and Administration Sciences, and Law.

The percentage of degree recipients staying abroad three years and more was higher among those with more advanced degrees. For all degree recipients, the longer the period that elapsed from the time of receiving the degree, the higher the percentage of those staying abroad three years and more. The percentage of degree recipients staying abroad three years and more was relatively low among those who received a degree between 2002/03 and 2004/05 (except for third degree recipient in sciences and engineering). Essentially, the percentage of degree recipients staying abroad increased from 2.5% among those who received degrees between 2002/03 and 2004/05 to 8.1% among those who received degrees 18 years earlier.

The percentage of degree recipients staying abroad was particularly high among those who received a third degree in sciences and engineering between 2006/07 and 2008/09 (17.7% of all degree recipients in sciences and engineering).

**Diagram 1: Percentage of Degree Holders in Sciences and Engineering Who Had Been Staying Abroad Three Years and More, By Degree**



The percentage of degree recipients from universities who had been staying abroad three years and more was substantially higher than the percentage of degree recipients from colleges, and amounted to 5.8%.<sup>1</sup> The percentage of first degree recipients from colleges of education who had been staying abroad three years and more was lowest (1.5%). In all types of higher education institutions (by degree), the percentage of degree recipients in sciences and engineering was higher than in other fields.

**Table B: Percentage of Degree Recipients from Israeli Higher Education Institutions between 1984/85 and 2004/05, Who Had been Staying Abroad Three Years and More as of 2011, By Type of Institution and Field of Study**

		First degree		Second degree		Second degree in medicine	Third degree	
		Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering	Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering	Sciences and engineering	Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering
Universities	5.8	5.3	7.6	3.1	8.5	7.2	3.8	14.1
Academic colleges	3.4	3.3	3.7	2.3				
Colleges of education	1.5	1.5						
Open University	2.4	2.1	4.7					

Substantial differences were found in the percentages of degree recipients from universities who had been staying abroad three years or more, by the university that granted the degree. The highest percentage of degree recipients staying abroad three years or more was found among graduates of the Weizmann Institute of Science (17.8%), and the lowest percentage was found among graduates of Bar Ilan University (2.9%). Among graduates from Bar Ilan University, the percentage of those staying abroad three years and more who had a degree in the fields of exact sciences and engineering was about 4 times higher than the percentage of those with a degree in social sciences and the humanities. These differences were found at all degree levels. Among graduates of Tel Aviv University, the differences in the percentage of degree recipients who had been staying abroad three years and more by field of study were substantial, albeit more moderate than in the rest of the higher education institutions.

<sup>1</sup> Most of the degree recipients in previous years were from universities. As mentioned, there is a relationship between the year the degree was received and the percentage of degree recipients staying abroad three years and more.

**Table C: Percentage of Degree Recipients from Israeli Universities between 1984/85 and 2004/05 Who Had Been Staying Abroad Three Years and More, by Institution that Granted the Degree**

		First degree		Second degree		Second degree in Medicine	Third degree	
		Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering	Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering	Sciences and engineering	Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering
	Total							
Weizmann	17.8				16.7			19.3
Technion	9.0	7.9	8.5	5.8	10.5	6.0	5.3	16.7
Hebrew University	7.1	7.5	7.5	4.5	8.5	7.2	4.5	14.2
Tel-Aviv University	6.9	7.5	8.6	4.1	7.7	8.3	5.0	11.4
Ben-Gurion University	4.3	3.7	6.2	1.7	5.0	6.3	1.7	9.7
Haifa University	4.1	4.8	5.7	1.8	6.5		3.3	9.5
Bar-Ilan University	2.9	2.8	6.0	2.0	8.0		1.8	7.8

In academic colleges, the percentage of graduates staying abroad three years and more among those who received their degrees between 1984/85 and 2004/05 was highest among recipients of degrees from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance (19.8%), followed by recipients of degrees from Bezalel – Academy of Arts and Design (7.6%).

**Table D: Percentage of Degree Recipients from Selected Academic Colleges in Israel between 1984/85 and 2004/05 Who Had Been Staying Abroad Three Years and More as of 2011, by Institution that Granted the Degree**

		First degree		Second degree
		Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering	Social sciences and humanities
	Total			
<b>Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance</b>	19.8	22.9		9.6
<b>Bezalel – Academy of Arts and Design</b>	7.6	9.3	4.8	
<b>The Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yafo</b>	5.8	4.8	6.8	
<b>Shenkar College of Engineering and Design</b>	5.3	6.8	4.2	
<b>The Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya</b>	4.0	3.4	7.6	2.8

Substantial differences were found in the percentages of degree recipients from Israeli higher education institutions who had been staying abroad three years and more, by the subject of study in which they received the degree. At the first degree level, the highest percentage of degree holders staying abroad three years and more was found in Music (22%); degree holders in Mathematics comprised a substantial percentage of those staying abroad three years and more at all degree levels (10.3% at the first degree

level, 16.7% at the second degree level, and 21.8% at the third degree level). The percentage of degree recipients in computer sciences was also high at all degree levels (7.7% at the first degree level, 14.5% at the second degree level, and 18.6% at the third degree level).

**Table E: Degree Recipients from Israeli Higher Education Institutions between 1984/85 and 2004/05 Who Had Been Staying Abroad Three Years and More as of 2011, by Subject of Degree (Percentages)**

<b>First Degree</b>		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>First degree recipients</b>	<b>% staying abroad three years and more</b>
<b>Music</b>	612	22.2
<b>English language and literature</b>	3327	13.2
<b>Mathematics</b>	4,319	10.3
<b>Psychology</b>	2,249	10.1
<b>Biology</b>	3,653	7.7
<b>Computer sciences</b>	11,261	7.7
<b>Second Degree</b>		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Second degree recipients</b>	<b>% staying abroad three years and more</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	544	16.7
<b>Computer sciences</b>	1324	14.5
<b>Genetics</b>	264	14.4
<b>Bio-medical engineering</b>	270	13.7
<b>Microbiology</b>	564	11.2
<b>Electrical engineering</b>	1544	10.8
<b>Third Degree</b>		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Second degree recipients</b>	<b>% staying abroad three years and more</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	399	21.8
<b>Computer sciences</b>	311	18.6
<b>Biochemistry</b>	409	17.1
<b>Mechanical engineering</b>	125	16.8
<b>Genetics</b>	296	16.6
<b>Pharmacology</b>	116	16.4
<b>Other biological sciences</b>	349	16.3
<b>Physics</b>	716	15.4
<b>Microbiology</b>	696	14.9
<b>Electrical engineering</b>	324	13.6

To examine whether those who received a high score on the psychometric exam showed a greater or lesser tendency to stay abroad for an extended period, the percentages of first degree recipients in 1994/95-2004/05 whose psychometric score was above 700 were compared with those whose score was below 700. The results revealed that in certain subjects (most subjects in the social sciences and humanities), the relative share of first degree recipients whose psychometric score was above 700 was higher than the relative share of first degree recipients in the same fields whose psychometric score was below 700. In contrast, the share of first degree recipients in the fields of Mathematics, Statistics and

Computer Sciences and Paramedical Studies whose psychometric score was above 700 and who had been staying abroad for an extended period was lower than share of first degree recipients in those fields whose psychometric score was below 700.

**Table F: Percentage of First Degree Recipients from Israeli Higher Education Institutions between 1984/85 and 2004/05 Who Had Been Staying Abroad Three Years and More as of 2011, by Psychometric Test Score**

<b>Field</b>	<b>Percentage of first degree recipients staying abroad for an extended period, with psychometric scores below 700</b>	<b>Percentage of first degree recipients staying abroad for an extended period, with psychometric scores above 700</b>
<b>General humanities</b>	3.5	11.1
<b>Languages, literature and regional studies</b>	6.1	16.4
<b>Education</b>	1.5	6.9
<b>Arts, crafts and applied arts</b>	8.9	7.7
<b>Social sciences</b>	3.8	9.6
<b>Business and management sciences</b>	4.1	9.1
<b>Law</b>	2.8	7.0
<b>Medicine</b>		4.0
<b>Paramedical studies</b>	5.0	3.1
<b>Mathematics, statistics and computer sciences</b>	7.6	6.8
<b>Physical sciences</b>	7.4	7.9
<b>Biological sciences</b>	6.7	10.3
<b>Engineering and agriculture</b>	4.7	5.0

Another characteristic of the degree recipients staying abroad three years and more was that they were relatively young. The degree recipients staying abroad three years and more had received their degrees at a younger age than did those who were not staying abroad for an extended period. In 2011, a large age difference was found among degree holders staying abroad three years who had received a third degree in the humanities and social sciences (a difference of 4.5 in the median age). A smaller age difference was found among recipients of second degrees in medicine.

**Table G: Median Age upon Receipt of a Degree among Degree Recipients from Israeli Higher Education Institutions between 1984/85 and 2004/05, by Field of Study and Length of Stay Abroad as of 2011**

	First degree		Second degree		Second degree medicine	Third degree	
	Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering	Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering	Sciences and engineering	Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering
Stayed abroad three years and more							
General median age	27.5	27.3	30.8	29.8	30.7	37.6	34.1
Median age men	28.2	27.8	31.2	30.1	31.2	37	34.2
Median age women	26.9	26.4	30.5	29.2	29.9	38.2	33.8
Did not stay abroad three years and more							
General median age	28.3	27.8	33.7	31.6	30.8	42.9	35.5
Median age men	29.5	28.5	34.4	32.3	31.5	41.4	35.6
Median age women	27.7	26.7	33	30.5	29.9	44.5	35.3

The percentage of men who received degrees from Israeli higher education institutions in 1994/95-2004/05 and had been staying abroad three years and more in 2011 was 1.4 times higher than the percentage of women (5.84% and 4.20%, respectively). For men and women, the percentages were even higher among degree recipients in the fields of humanities and social sciences and in the fields of sciences and engineering, at all degree levels.

**Table H: Percentage of Degree Recipients from Israeli Higher Education Institutions between 1984/85 and 2004/05 Who Had Been Staying Abroad Three Years and More as of 2011, by Sex and Field of Degree**

	Total	First degree		Second degree		Second degree medicine	Third degree	
		Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering	Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering		Social sciences and humanities	Sciences and engineering
Total	4.9	4.0	6.7	3.1	8.5	7.2	3.8	14.1
Men	5.8	4.7	7.1	3.3	9.0	7.7	4.5	15.6
Women	4.2	3.7	6.1	2.9	7.9	6.5	3.2	11.7

The percentage of degree recipients staying abroad three years and more was higher among the immigrants, and was particularly high among immigrants from the Former USSR who had received a third degree in Israel. More than one-fourth of the immigrants from the Former USSR and 19.6% of the immigrants from the United States who received a second degree in medicine had been staying abroad for three years and more as of 2011.



**Table I: Percentage of Degree Recipients from Israeli Higher Education Institutions between 1984/85 and 2004/05 Who Had Been Staying Abroad Three Years and More as of 2011, by Country of Origin and Academic Degree**

Country of origin	Total	First degree	Second degree	Second degree medicine	Third degree
United States	14.5	15.3	12.5	19.6	13.2
Former USSR	13.3	12.2	13.6	13.2	27.5
Argentina	11.4	10.8	10.7	6.0	20.1
Romania	6.2	6.4	4.1	7.8	12.2
Israel	3.7	3.7	3.1	5.9	7.5

A significant difference between members of different religions was found in the percentage of degree recipients staying abroad three years and more. The highest percentage of degree recipients staying abroad three and more was found for Christians (5.7%), followed by Jews (4.9%), Moslems (1.4%), and Druze (0.6%). The situation for second degree recipients in medicine (physicians) was exceptional. The percentage of second degree recipients in medicine who had been staying abroad three years and more was substantially higher among Jews (7.4%) than among other population groups.

**Table J: Percentage of Degree Recipients from Israeli Higher Education Institutions between 1984/85 and 2004/05 Who Had Been Staying Abroad Three Years and More as of 2011, by Population Group and Academic Degree**

	Total	First degree	Second degree	Second degree medicine	Third degree
Jews	4.9	4.9	4.1	7.4	10.0
Moslems	1.4	1.1	2.1	4.1	
Christians	5.7	5.1	8.4	3.2	
Druze	0.6	0.6	0.3	2.4	

Marital status is also a significant factor that affects extended stays abroad among degree recipients. The percentage of never-married first degree recipients without children who stayed abroad three years and more was twice as high as the percentage of married first degree recipients (10.3% of the never-married degree recipients aged 45+ who did not have children, versus 4.4% of the married degree recipients in that age group who had children). In the 30-34 age group, the percentages were 5% and 1.3% for the never-married and married degree recipients, respectively.

**Table K: Percentage of Degree Recipients from Israeli Higher Education Institutions between 1984/85 and 2004/05 Who Had Been Staying Abroad Three Years and More as of 2011, by Marital Status and Age**

	Age group	Without children			With children		
		Never married	Married	Divorced	Never married	Married	Divorced
First degree	30-34	5.0	2.6	2.5		1.3	
	35-44	8.8	6.3	4.6	5.4	5.4	4.3
	45+	10.3	4.9	3.6	4.6	4.4	4.0
Second degree	30-34	9.0	4.9				
	35-44	8.5	6.8	4.6		5.4	
	45+	6.7	3.5	3.2		3.5	3.2
Second degree medicine		11.6	7.9				
	45+	15.4	12.4			10.4	
Third degree	35-44	20.4	22.8	21.5		23.9	
	45+	13.8	7.9	8.0		12.1	10.3

The data on degree recipients from Israeli higher education institutions who had been staying abroad three years and more relate to the situation as of 2011, but are not an indication of the chances that these individuals will return to Israel. To obtain an estimate of the percentage of those who returned to Israel, the population of degree recipients who had been staying abroad three and more in previous years was examined. It was found that nearly 6.7% of those who had been staying abroad three years and more as 2010 were not staying abroad in 2011. The proportion of degree recipients who returned to Israel was relatively high among those with a second degree (7.5%), and relatively low among those with a third degree (4.1%). Among first degree recipients, the relative proportion was 6.8%, and among recipients of a second degree in medicine the relative proportion was 5.5%.