



**University of Haifa for Youth
Innovation Center**

We believe in the transformative power of higher education and are committed to improving social mobility through programs that attract underserved populations. Today, with only 34% of high school graduates from Israel's periphery seeking academic degrees, opening the doors of higher education at a younger age will serve as a strong driver of social mobility.

The University of Haifa for Youth is an educational outreach program designed to expose **1st generation university students and aspiring students** from Israel's northern periphery to the exciting world of academia. By participating in problem-solving workshops, laboratory tours, Science Days, and online classes led by leading researchers, the program aims to:

- **Empower students from underrepresented communities** to envision themselves succeeding in academic settings.
- **Nurture a love of learning and critical thinking**, preparing students for future academic pursuits.
- **Increase awareness and understanding** of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and how they can contribute to positive change.

Igniting Young Minds: "Access to high-quality educational academic experiences combined with fun social activities helps pupils experience learning in a new and meaningful way," explains Claudia Harel, Founder and Administrative Director. "Since the inauguration of the unit in April 2022, thousands of teens have been involved in our enrichment programs and about a hundred in full degree programs; Etgar, a prestigious undergraduate program for high school seniors studying computer science; and Kodkod, an intensive mathematics program for undergraduates."

The University of Haifa for Youth offers after-school and summer programs in a range of disciplines— from marine archaeology, marine and brain sciences to climate change-related fields. Through hands-on learning experiences, the University Haifa for Youth introduces students to scientific methodology, critical thinking, and quantitative reasoning. Its curriculum includes Advanced Placement (AP) courses, where students earn college credit.

A Dedicated Space: A dedicated innovation center on campus would be a catalyst for the University Haifa for Youth program, providing a stimulating and collaborative environment for young minds to spark innovation and tackle real-world challenges. This immersive environment would foster creativity, stimulate original thinking, and accelerate their transition from passive learners to active problem solvers. Over the course of the year, hundreds of students attend educational activities at the Center.



Request for Support: To close the achievement gap and ignite young minds in Israel's periphery, we seek funding for a dedicated space for the University of Haifa for Youth. **A generous gift of \$500,000 will enable the University to affix a plaque at the entrance to the University of Haifa for Youth's Innovation Center.**