

Applications instructions: Psychology PhD program (“regular” track, post-MA)

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Introduction: The psychology department at BIU trains PhD students in three formal tracks. Two of these (the direct PhD track, which is quite rare, and the combined MA/PhD track, which is more common) require admission into one of the departments masters’ programs (i.e., the clinical, the social, or the experimental [cognition/emotion/neuropsychological processes] programs). The masters’ programs are taught predominantly in Hebrew. Students in these two tracks complete all of the masters programs’ requirements alongside their PhD course work and dissertation work.

A third track, referred to as the “regular” PhD track, is designed for applicants who have completed a masters with thesis in psychology at BIU or elsewhere. The instructions below pertain to this track alone:

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1. The first step in applying for a PhD involves contacting a potential advisor in the department to discuss potential ideas for doctoral research. Without a potential advisor’s interest, the applicant’s candidacy cannot be considered.
2. Applications for the PhD program are to be submitted between February and April of every year for the next academic year (for the acadmic year beginning in October 2020, the deadline was extended until mid July, 2020, to help address difficulties stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic).
3. Applications forms are completed through the Bar-Ilan Graduate School’s portal. Their forms require uploading original documents or verifications only. For up-to-date details about the Graduate School’s application portal, please contact Ms. Aviya Segal (Aviya.segal@biu.ac.il), who is responsible for new candidates.
4. **Please note:** The grade threshold for applying to the PhD track is a 90 GPA in MA-level classes, and a grade of 90 for the MA thesis.

In parallel to the application to BIU's Graduate School, each candidate should email the PhD program coordinator in the psychology department (Ms. Ayala Bracha, ayala.bracha@biu.ac.il) and send the following materials:

1. A list of potential recommenders that includes each recommenders name, institutional affiliation, phone, and email address. At least 3 academic support letters are required.
2. A written letter from the potential PhD advisor confirming their agreement to serve as an advisor. Only faculty who are Senior Lecturers, Associate Professors or Full Professors can serve as advisors; if the potential advisor is not yet a Senior Lecturer, a more senior faculty member must affirm their willingness to serve as co-advisor. This letter can serve as one of the academic letters of support noted above.
3. A preliminary (3-4 page) proposal, approved by the potential advisor(s), and detailing the background and preliminary hypotheses of a potential research project.
4. Applicants whose masters degree is from abroad or from a college (rather than a university) must verify that their degree is recognized prior to submitting their application materials.

One final note: because psychology is a regulated profession in Israel, students who complete an MA or PhD in psychology (and had the requisite BA studies in psychology as well) can apply to appear on the national registry of psychologists (the Pinkas), administered by the Ministry of Health. Appearance in the registry is one of several pre-requisites for completing an internship in applied fields of psychology (clinical, rehabilitation, medical, school, etc.). Applicants who do not have a BA in psychology may not be eligible to appear on that registry, even after completing an MA or PhD; this issue is handled, entirely, by the Ministry of Health, but we want to clarify it in advance for those candidates to whom it may apply.