The Student Union's Structure

Student Council

The Ben-Gurion University Student Council is the managing council of the Student Union and consists of a group of representatives. The council is a group of students, representing the different departments, who are chosen each year in a personal and regional election by all Student Union Members. The council is a legislative body, guiding the operation of the Student Union. The council monitors their actions. The council elects the Student Union’s different goals, chooses its senior managers, approves the Student Union budget and decides on important matters. The council elections are held in the middle of the first semester. Any member of the Student Union can run for a place in the council. Come and take part, be involved, represent, change and affect important matters!

Student Union Management

The Student Union Management is in charge of acting out and promoting the daily Student Union activities. The management consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the 4 different Heads of Department: Academia, Student Involvement and Speaker-ship & Publicity. Directly under Management is the Operations Office, in charge of production of different services and activities offered by the Student Union. Each department acts for the students’ wellbeing in its own realm. The Chairman of the Student Union represents the students in the different university committees: Appeals Court, Disciplinary Court, Acting Committee, Senate, Committee of Student Matters, Board of Trustees, Scholarship & Dormitory Appeal Committees and more.

Academia Department

academia@aguda.bgu.ac.il

It’s goal is to assist you in finishing your degree successfully and taking care of all your academic needs.

The department’s services include:

- Counseling and guidance on academic and personal problems - Each faculty has a coordinator which may be contacted by e-mail.
- The department reception days are Sunday – Thursday at the Student Center, room 161.
- The Student Union’s Library has books at a low price and operates in cooperation with the Dean of Students Office. The library offers a variety of books for a whole semester or even for the entire year. The library is located at the Aranne Library.
- Exams and Summaries Bank - A collection of summaries, exam booklets and exam answers from all faculties at the Student Union’s website.

Culture Department

tzvi@aguda.bgu.ac.il

The department is in charge of recreation, fun and culturally enriching the students with a mass of events and shows - there are no dull moments!

Events

The Culture Department holds events throughout the year, starting from intimate gatherings with big-name creators, to major events such as the Student Day/ Festival. Of course, we cannot forget the sing-along nights, theatre performances, post parties, Purim Carnivall and more! fsukot@aguda.bgu.ac.il

Tuesday @ 6 - Intimate gatherings with big-name Israeli musicians. The Student Center becomes a concert hall and hosts top artists for an intimate performance and a talk with the students.

Sports activities - Student street ball and soccer leagues, an event-filled Sports Week, screening of important games on a massive screen and many more things | sport@aguda.bgu.ac.il

AFTER – The Student Union’s program for extra-curricular classes.

Student Involvement and Speaker-ship & Publicity

sps@aguda.bgu.ac.il

The department’s activity promotes meaningful social activities on campus by supporting student initiatives for social change and holding involvement events such as lectures, panels, movies and more. The department has several offices acting in different social matters: Student Union involvement charge of the different organizations on campus that work towards community involvement and social action in campus and beyond. Every Student Union Member can enter the center free of charge and enjoy the pools at the center. Extracurricular activities while using the gym extra payment.

IT Helpdesk

The Computation Helpdesk assists students with any problem concerning computer authorizations. The Helpdesk is in charge of creating passwords for students’ use throughout the year, for the various computer services on campus, and takes care of any issues a student might have with these. If you've got a problem when trying to enter the university website on email, contact us at tech@aguda.bgu.ac.il or at the number: 08-6477171.

Other Student Union Services

Student Union Service Office | mcerav@aguda.bgu.ac.il

The department acts for improving student welfare on campus; takes care of requests concerning dorms and their services, scholarship cards in case of loss, cheap fax services, registration to extracurricular activities as well as pick-ups/sales of tickets for different Student Union events. The office is located on the ground floor of the Student Center and is open between Sunday – Thursday.

Welfare Office | ir@ravsa@aguda.bgu.ac.il

Acts to improve student welfare on campus; takes care of requests concerning dorms and their services, scholarship requests within the Student Union and is always in contact with different services around town including Armona, water, transport and more. The office is also used as an address for any issues concerning the different university concessionaires (cafeterias, restaurants, etc.).

Lawyer Services

The Student Union lawyer gives free initial law advice to Student Union Members who need it. An appointment must be made through the Student Union Service Office. At the start of the school year the lawyer is available on several specific dates in order to sign the necessary affidavit for Armona discount requests. Follow the updates on the Student Union website and the BIC Facebook page in order to make an appointment at the beginning of the year.

Library

Aranne Library

Aranne Library is the Ben-Gurion University’s main library and is located by the Ben-Gurion Entrance (Irshai Gate). The library has four floors, and near the many books shelves you can find many areas for reading, studying and group studies. There are also computers, printers and photocopy machines available to students. The library has an Internet website, in which you can check out the catalogue of books, enter many academic information archives (after receiving authorization), extend lending time and more. For your information, during the exam period, the library is open until night in order to allow students to study. Opening hours are updated on the university’s website.

Sports Center

The Sports Center is located nearby the university near the Ramot Gate, and is 30 acres in total. At the center you will find a gym, extracurricular activities, 2 swimming pools and large expanses of green grass. At the center many

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY SERVICES

The Dean of Students Office

The office is dedicated to advancing students’ welfare including economic, personal, academic assistance to students in need. The office is in charge of the student’s dorms, study areas and individual psychological counseling to students as well as offering special scholarships and operating the Student Employment Unit.

The office is located on the second floor of the Student Center, reception hours are between: Sunday-Thursday, 10.00-13.30.

You may find further information on the University’s website.

Academia Department

academia@aguda.bgu.ac.il

The department is that all students will be aware of the Union’s activity and use the different services it offers.

The Student Union

The Student Union operates its own cinema on campus - The Negative, which screens two movies every night and brings the newest films to the campus, as well as cinematic classics from the past and nostalgic box office hits. The two Negative screening halls seat 250 people, and are used during the day as lecture halls for the various university departments. By night, however, they become a cinema by every criterion: Advanced sound and screen systems, HD-quality movies and a classic cinema look with discount prices. The Negative holds many affluent events each semester, such as the ‘Mad Movie Club’, interactive screenings of ‘The Rocky Horror Picture Show’ in addition to special events, dedicated to beloved themes, directors or actors. Student Union-Members can benefit from a very cheap annual subscription.

The Negative is located in building 26, 2nd floor – Just follow the scent of popcorn.

The Negative Cinema

The Negative Cinema brings the newest films to the campus, as well as cinematic classics from the past and nostalgic box office hits. The department has several offices acting in different social matters: Social / Community Involvement charge of liaison with the different organizations on campus that work towards community involvement and social action in campus and beyond. You may contact one of the two involvement coordinators with any idea or initiative you would like to undertake.

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Dear Students,
You are soon to begin your university studies in Israel, thus joining a large family of approximately 20,000 students studying in Ben-Gurion University. We have prepared this guide for you to help 'soften the blow' of (mainly) the academic life and introduce you to the vibrant student life in Be'er Sheva. New beginnings are always exciting but at the same time are also filled with anxiety and moments of uncertainty. We hope that reading The Full New Student Guide will answer all of your questions and ease you into Israeli university life as well as the academic world.

Good luck,
The Student Union

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BGU’s STUDENT UNION

The Student Union is the representative body of the students on campus. It is your address for any academic question you might have and is responsible for promoting and developing student life in Be'er Sheva.

The Student Union on the Ben-Gurion University campus has been active for many years to promote students well-being and is a center of cultural, social and academic activities. The Student Union’s website and Facebook page will help you with your new student life. On the website you can find updates on everything happening on campus, forums, activities, events, exam archives, course summary archives, a want-ad board, hitchhiking board, apartment rental board and more. With the help of our Facebook page you can stay connected with all the hottest updates, including important messages about school schedule changes, cultural events, pictures, videos and more. The Student Union is here first and foremost because of you and for you. We are here to solve any problem you may encounter throughout your studies and of course to enrich your lives whilst you study at Ben-Gurion University and live in Be'er Sheva.

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How do I register as a Student Union member?

- The first step on your way to becoming a Student Union member is by paying the welfare allowance for the university, which includes the Student Union membership fee. If you haven’t requested to cancel this welfare fee as you were paying your tuition fees, you now count as a Student Union Member.
- The second step which is most important for completing the process is signing up to the Student Union by registering on the Student Union website (www.bgu.ac.il). To register you need the username and password the university has given you.

- If you’ve tried to sign up with the password but failed – this is why...

Students who have received a password as part of the process of opening a new user (which registering to the university or via the telephone operator) is a temporary password only. This password is for signing up to courses and registering at the university only. After using your temporary password you have to change it to your secret password. The Computation Helpdesk is in charge of creating passwords for students’ use throughout the year, you must display an ID to get the new password. The helpdesk is located in building 58, room 003 and is active throughout the summer break. We recommend to new students who already live in Be'er Sheva, to visit the helpdesk before the beginning of the year.

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Important!

- the Student Union sends out an email to all students containing details about the different discounts and benefits that students can get during the start of the year fair, many businesses arrive on campus and offer special benefits to students. It is recommended to wait for this opportunity to receive all the information you need.
- During the start of the year fair, many businesses arrive on campus and offer special benefits to students. It is recommended to wait for this opportunity to receive all the information you need.
- students receive many discounts and benefits in various areas, here are some that you really wouldn’t want to miss out on:

  - **Arnona tax and water discounts**: Students deserve a discount in the Arnona land tax and monthly water bill, according to certain criteria. In order to receive this discount, one must have several forms filled out by the municipality’s Arnona department and Water Corporation. To help you with this bureaucratic process – at the beginning of the year, the Student Union brings representatives from the different organizations in order to take care of requests for discounts. Additionally, the Student Union lawyer signs the affidavit required for the Arnona discount, free of charge. Follow the updates on the Student Union website, email and Facebook page in order to make an appointment with said representatives at the various dates they’ll be at the university.
  - **Public transportation discounts**: In the framework of various agreements with the National Student Union, students are entitled to special discounts for use of the various public transports in Israel – buses as well as trains. All the details about the different discounts can be found on the National Student Union’s website at: nuis.co.il.
  - **Discounts at various businesses**: Many businesses offer special benefits and discounts to students, especially the big banks, insurance companies, cellular companies, cable and internet companies and more. At most banks, you can open a special student account that allows credit card benefits, student loans, commission discounts, etc. The cellular companies also offer cheaper deals to students, therefore it is a good idea to check and decide which one suits you the best. The cable and Internet companies offer you good discount packages as well so hurry up and check the different companies out before you make up your mind. Small businesses around the country as well as in Be’er Sheva offer sometimes special student discounts, so you don’t have anything to lose by asking. “Do you have a student discount?”
- **Important!**

During the start of the year fair, many businesses arrive on campus and offer special benefits to students. It is recommended to wait for this opportunity to receive all the information you need. Further information is also available on the Student Union’s website.

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Now that I’m a student, what benefits do I get?

Students receive many discounts and benefits in various areas, here are some that you really wouldn’t want to miss out on:

- **Arnona tax and water discounts**
- **Public transportation discounts**
- **Discounts at various businesses**

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I got into BGU! How do I get all the information I need?

- This is how to stay updated on everything that’s going on at BGU.

  - **The University Website** contains updates, information about the different faculties, departments and offices, phone book, etc. Additionally, through the university website, you can sign up for courses, find out personal information, check your grades and more | www.bgu.ac.il
  - **Student Union Website** On this website, you can find updates and articles about everything happening on campus and student life in Be’er Sheva, forums, exam and summary archives, a jobs board, hitchhiking board, apartment rental board and more. Through the website, which is updated daily, you can register to be a member of the Student Union by using the username and password the university has given you. www.bgu.ac.co.il
  - **The Student Union Weekly Update** - the Student Union sends out an email to all students containing details about the different Student Union events happening that week, important updates and information about various other interesting activities. Don’t forget to check your email frequently in order to be updated about what’s happening on campus and outside it! In order to receive this newsletter, you must sign up by sending an e-mail to: admin@post.bgu.ac.il
  - **The Ben-Gurion International Club (BIC) Facebook Page** - like us to connect with the unique student vibe which exists only here at Ben-Gurion University, stay updated on different activities and receive useful information | www.facebook.com/BGUC

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When do I get a Student ID card and what do I do with it?

You must keep your Student ID card throughout the entire period of your studies in order to enter the university grounds, receive Student Discounts, buy tickets for the different Student Union events and more. The university sends the ID card home by mail after you send a passport photo via the university website (a detailed letter about the process is sent to all new students).

What if I don’t get an ID card before the school year begins?

The university doesn’t always manage to send the ID card before school starts, and many students will receive them at their home address only during November. In the meantime, it is recommended to print out the year’s study permit which can be found on the university website >> Students. Get it stamped and signed at the Student Union Service Offices (at the entrance to the Student Center), and carry it with you at all times until you get your ID Card.