

17 Years of Leadership Development

Building on the legacy of former Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Argov, the Argov Fellows Program in Leadership and Diplomacy seeks to prepare around twenty exceptional Reichman University students in their final year of studies for future leadership positions for Israel and the Jewish world in a wide range of fields. Through a year-long, challenging interdisciplinary curriculum, the program strives to help students acquire the knowledge, tools, and skills necessary to work towards meeting the many challenges that Israel faces in our challenging global environment.

The program, conducted entirely in English, combines academic training, practical skills, experiential learning and mentoring. Its unique curriculum includes courses, seminars and "hands-on" workshops taught exclusively to Argov Fellows by leading academic and professional experts from around the world. The students participate in study tours to Europe, the United States and Israel. The fellowship year concludes with the public presentation of capstone group policy projects in which the fellows propose their solutions to major challenges facing Israel and the Jewish world.

The Argov alumni have carried on to, among others, eminent fellowship programs such as the Rhodes and Chevening, prestigious graduate programs at the world's top universities and leading positions in the public, private and non-profit sectors. The active Argov Alumni Association connects the program's more than 350 graduates located across the globe. Please find below brief bios of the Class of 2023, the program's seventeenth cohort and the Argov team.


Alyssa Annis (2000, UK/Israel), Government (International)

Alyssa grew up in Manchester, England before moving to Ra'anana as a teenager. She spent her two years of national service at Yad Vashem, working with survivors and groups who came to learn about the Holocaust. This experience inspired her to open her own social media page on Holocaust education to spread survivors' messages worldwide. At Reichman University (RU), Alyssa was president of the Model United Nations (MUN) Club where she led the first-ever conference in Morocco. She also interned at ACT.IL, combatting antisemitism on social media. Currently, Alyssa is the vice president of IMUNA and works at Graduway, a company that helps universities network and connect. She aspires to work in global Holocaust education, through the field of Jewish diplomacy, in order to ensure that future generations do not forget the dark past and can create a bright future.


Sharon Berhovski (1997, Israel), Government and Sustainability

Sharon was born and raised in Germany. Having attended a Jewish youth movement for most of her childhood, she always felt a deep connection to Israel. After finishing high school, she decided to go to Israel for a gap year, but it turned out to be a one-way ticket: at the age of 19, she joined the IDF, first serving in the IDF Spokesperson Unit and later shifting to serve as a commander in the Artillery Brigade. Sharon represented her track in the Student Union for over two years, served as a counselor for first-year students at the RRIS and participated in various clubs at RU such as Debate, Investment Group, GreenBiz and IDChina. She is working as the social media manager of the International School at RU and volunteers at the Lone Soldier Center in Tel Aviv. In the future, Sharon aspires to work in the field of sustainability in Israel, particularly in sustainable investment or green buildings.


Eran Bracha (1995, Israel), Business and Entrepreneurship

Eran was born and raised in Ramat Gan. In the IDF, he served for seven years in various operational and command officer positions and participated in the establishment of the multi-dimensional Unit 888 "Refaim." After completing his service, Eran founded a successful social project "Anashim Tovim" whose goal was to strengthen the sense of mutual responsibility and solidarity among the citizens of Israel during Covid-19 by collecting, repairing and donating computers to pupils. At RU, Eran participated in the StandWithUs Fellowship, international CO-OP program as a startup intern at Careloop.io, Berlin. He was on the management team of the Consulting Club and interned at the Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy. Zionism, social action, and influence flow through Eran's veins, and he hopes to combine business and social impact to benefit Israel and the world.



Josh Buchalter (1995, South Africa/Israel), Communications (International)

Josh grew up in South Africa, and a unique journey brought him eventually to Israel. In 11th grade he started working as a radio presenter acquiring strong speaking skills, leading to an opportunity in the US. This started a 5-year chapter working on cruise ships, eventually leading the marketing of luxury jewelry brands onboard, setting sales records, and traveling to 50+ countries. Moving to Israel was always his true calling, being strongly connected to Israel and Judaism, but it took a global pandemic which shut down the cruise industry to spur him to finally make the move. At RU, Josh participates in the Student Union, TEDx, Investment Club and StandWithUs Ambassador Club as well as the Ra'anana cricket team. He strives to contribute to the fight against Antisemitism, advocate for Israel internationally and create unity where division currently exists.



Suzy Donskoy (1998, Colombia/Israel), Government

Suzy was born in Bogotá, Colombia, where she was affiliated with the local Jewish community and served as president of her high school student council. She moved to Israel at 18 and served in the IDF International Relations Unit as an NCO of Golan International Liaison to the United Nations and later as a developer of training at the Military Diplomacy School. After her release from the army, Suzy traveled to India, where she completed yoga instructor training. As part of her vision, she sees the importance of connecting Israel with Latin America to generate growth and development opportunities. Throughout her career, Suzy aspires to make a meaningful impact on the integration of new immigrants into Israeli society.



Max Dunbar (1998, United States/Israel), Government (International)

Max was born and raised in Southern California where he was homeschooled. After high school, wanting to collect experiences and broaden his horizons, he moved to Karmiel in northern Israel. In the IDF, Max served as an NCO in the International Cooperation Unit on the Syrian border, where he interacted with foreign attaches and was a liaison between the IDF and UN peacekeeping missions. At RU, he is on the Dean's List and ranks 2nd in his class. Max is the president of the RRIS Debate Society and volunteers with the school's Writing Center as a tutor. In his spare time, he likes reading, playing the trumpet, hanging out with friends and drinking coffee. After graduating, Max aspires to complete a master's degree in international relations and to fulfill his dream of being a diplomat, helping to form better relations between states and people.



Noa Haliva (1999, Israel) Government

Noa was born and raised in Tel Aviv, where she mentored in the Scouts Movement and enjoyed long-distance runs by the beach. In the IDF, she served as a “jump master,” instructing hundreds of both Israeli and foreign paratroopers. Noa is an active reserve duty soldier who attended the “Lightning of the Heavens” IDF delegation, recreating the WWII parachute in Slovenia. At RU, she participated in the Shagi Project, “ProWoman” and StandWithUs Fellowship. In addition, she interned for an INSS research project examining the impact of fake news on national security. Noa is all about extreme and sports - holding licenses in diving and skydiving as well as a pilates instructor certificate. After completing a master’s degree in public policy, she plans a career in diplomacy combined with the social sector.



Ava Journo (1996, France/Israel), Government (International)

Ava was born and raised in Paris, France. After graduating from high school with honors, she decided to move to Israel and enlisted into the IDF as a combat soldier in the Artillery Corps. Ava’s main passions are diplomacy and politics, which led her to study government at RU. During her studies, she joined the Ambassador Club and the Model United Nations (MUN). Moreover, Ava volunteers for a NGO that aims to improve Israel’s image around the world and participated in the first delegation of young people from the United Arab Emirates to Israel. In addition, she sings and plays guitar. In the future, Ava would like to work for an international organization that defends Israel’s interests worldwide.



Meir Karakukli (1994, Israel), Government

Meir was born and raised in Herzliya. In the IDF, he served as a commander in the Combat Engineering 603 Battalion. After completing his service, Meir worked as a sous chef and a chef in three different restaurants and then flew to South America to travel. During this trip, he discovered his passion for climbing mountains. Throughout the trip, he climbed seven summits ranging from 3700~6380m. In 2019, Meir solo climbed Mont Blanc and began to make future plans regarding mountain climbing. In the summer of 2022, he started “Project 6k” in which he set out to climb seven summits above 6000m in under two months. Meir regards this project as a major stepping stone in his plan to climb the highest mountains in the world and as the first step towards realizing his vision of cleaning high-altitude mountains around the world.



Lior Kelly (1996, Israel), Government

Lior grew up in Ra'anana to a family that moved to Israel from India. Since high school, he has been passionate about diplomacy and politics and took part in several delegations representing Israel overseas. In the IDF, Lior served in combat intelligence and was awarded several certificates of excellence. After his service, he began working for "Krembo Wings," where he currently serves as the youth department manager in Tzur Yitzhack. Lior loves football and is a Maccabi Haifa and Real Madrid fan. In his free time, he also accompanies a lone soldier and a new immigrant child. At RU, Lior was the chairman of "IDI," a club focusing on practical diplomacy which conducted meetings with a wide range of ambassadors and diplomatic professionals. He aspires to a diplomatic career representing Israel in the global arena.



Tamer Masudin (1997, Israel), Government

Tamer was born in the Bedouin village Wady Al-An'am but spent most of his early years in Segev Shalom near Be'er Sheva. In high school, he was involved in social activism and informal education as a counselor for the "Hanoar Haoved Vehalomed" youth movement. Tamer also participated in "Kav Hazinuk," Israel's only ten-year leadership program, where he educated mixed groups of Jews and Arabs. Following two years of national service, he enrolled at RU, where he volunteered in the "Fighting Online Antisemitism" organization, wrote for Haaretz, interned for the spokesman of the Knesset Committee on Arab Society and ACT-IL. Tamer has participated in Israeli delegations to Arab countries, and he aspires to be Israel's first Arab Foreign Minister and to make a new peace in the Middle East.



Ori Meisel (1994, Israel), Law and Government

Ori was born and raised in Pardesiya. He participated in the "Tavor" pre-military gap year program and was one of the founders of the Keshet project, which provides content on Judaism, Zionism and trips for youth which today includes about 300 students. In the IDF, Ori served as a combat soldier in the Paratrooper's Reconnaissance Battalion and as the head of the unit's camouflage section. Following his discharge, he worked at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and lived for a year in Madrid working as a tour guide in the city. At RU, Ori took part in a student exchange project at IE University (Spain), the Housing Rights and Urban Development Clinics and the "Olim Le'mishpatim" Project which provides tutoring to students whose native language is not Hebrew. He aspires to pursue an advanced degree abroad and to foster business connections between the Israeli and international markets.



Omer Noam (1998, Israel), Law and Government

Omer was born in Israel and moved to New Jersey at the age of two, returning with her family at the age of 18. Prior to enlisting, she attended a pre-military program "Minesharim Kalu" at Kibbutz Maagan Michael. In the military, Omer served in the IAF International Affairs Unit, working closely with the United States Air Force. At RU, she was part of the university's team in the Red Cross Competition on International Humanitarian Law, placing first place in the national competition and representing Israel in the international competition in Mexico. Omer also heads the Israel Young Pugwash Club, which focuses on nuclear disarmament through "Track II" diplomacy, and works at a law firm specializing in insurance law. After interning in the international arbitration department of a commercial law firm in Tel Aviv, she plans to pursue a career in international law.



Lior Parnes (1996, Israel), Economics and Sustainability

Lior grew up in Kidron village, where she was a counselor in the "Bnei Ha'moshavim" Youth Movement. After high school, she spent a gap year as a counselor in a youth center in Jaffa. In the IDF, Lior served as a camouflage instructor in the "Egoz" Reconnaissance Unit, teaching soldiers about various types of terrain and how to camouflage, maneuver and survive in the wild. As part of her service, she served as a counselor at a JCC summer camp in Colorado. At RU, Lior participates in the Sustainability School's honors program. Over the past years, she has been exploring, studying and actively taking part in different projects in the fields of international development and education all over the world (Costa Rica, India and Ethiopia). Lior aspires to gain more experience and make a worldwide impact in these fields.



Elad Peleg (1993, Israel), Law and Business

Elad grew up in Herzliya. He served for six years as a loadmaster in the IAF, where he is a captain and an active reservist. Elad was the head of the Loadmaster's Academy and participated in many international operations and delegations abroad. At RU, he was elected as a class representative and participated in the Consulting Club. Elad is an "Heseg Foundation" Scholar. He volunteered as an instructor and led the new media activity as part of "Heseg Overseas." In addition, Elad designed the curriculum and helped to expand the operations of "Heseg Tsair," an initiative that helps boarding school students. He currently works as an analyst at Vintage Investment Partners, a venture capital firm in Herzliya. He intends to study for a master's degree abroad and aspires to pursue a career that combines his passions for policy, business, and entrepreneurship.



Roni Richter (1998, Israel), Government

Roni was born and raised in Hod Hasharon. In the IDF, she served as an operations officer in the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories unit (COGAT). Later, Roni also served as a liaison officer in the Ramallah area, where she was responsible for the coordination between the IDF and the international organizations and diplomats. At RU, she participated, among others, in the Debate Club, Prowoman Program and the Capital Markets Club. In addition, Roni completed an internship at the Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy at the "Israel and the Arab Gulf" Program and at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism. She especially enjoys ballet dancing, yoga and reading. Roni aspires to play a meaningful role for Israel in the global arena and to pursue a career in the fields of international relations, business and technology.



Sapir Reznik (1997, Israel), Government

Sapir was born and raised in Hadera, the daughter of parents from Ukraine and Moldova. Growing up, she participated in youth movements and initiated the local branch of "Krembo Wings" for children with special needs. Prior to her military service as an education officer in the Israel Navy, Sapir spent a gap year as the first Jewish Agency emissary in Boston, developing a passion for the connection between Israel and the Jewish Diaspora. At RU, she participated in the "Shagi" Program, "IDCONNECT" and especially enjoys her weekly music show on RU radio. She interned at a strategic communication company, joined a social activism group in Hadera and currently works for the Ramon Foundation's "SpaceLab" Program. In her free time, Sapir loves to hike, dance and read. She aspires to work with youth, Jewish communities abroad and is considering a career in journalism.



Yakir Sheto (1996, Israel) Law, Technology, and Business Innovation (M.A.)

Yakir grew up in Ashdod, spending his childhood playing basketball all over the country. In the IDF, he served as a combat medic in the Nahal Brigade. After completing his service, Yakir lived in South Africa, worked as a basketball camp instructor in the US and participated in the "Heroes for Life" delegation to Ethiopia, volunteering in the Jewish community. At RU, he participated in the Committee to Eradicate Israeli Racism and the Legislative Process Practicum in the Knesset as well as served as the renovation coordinator for the Housing Rights Clinic. Yakir also participated in the Debate Club, Reservists on Duty and tutored in the "Kulna" Program. He currently works as a pre-intern in the Wix.com legal department. Yakir aspires to pursue a meaningful career involving law, business, and international relations alongside working to reduce the gaps in Israeli society.



Shira Tal (1995, Israel,) Computer Science and Entrepreneurship

Shira grew up in Ra'anana. In high school, among others, she chaired the student council and worked as a counselor in the "Madazim" young leaders movement. She is an officer and head of section in the IDF 8200 Intelligence Unit. In addition to participating in a program for female intelligence officers, she has served in a variety of positions in the realms of foreign relations, technological intelligence, information analysis and data science. At RU, Shira was on the management team of the Entrepreneurship Club's PULSE program to promote biotech entrepreneurship and a member of the ProWoman Club. She participates in the Entrepreneurship School's honors program and is currently establishing a med-tech venture through its acceleration program. Shira plans to continue her military service and then influence the fields of society, politics and technological entrepreneurship in Israel.



Adi Weiss (1997, Israel), Government

Adi was born and raised in Tel Aviv. Since her childhood, she has been volunteering at the SOS animal shelter for stray cats and dogs. In the IDF, Adi served as a combat soldier in the Search and Rescue Unit, receiving a promotion to serve as the company commander's signaler during her final year of service. Upon her discharge, she started volunteering at the "Association for Immediate Assistance for Holocaust survivors." With the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, Adi became a project manager at the association – organizing activities and special events for Holocaust survivors, maintaining social networks and fundraising. During her studies, she discovered a true passion for the world of sustainability. Adi aspires to promote Israel in the international arena by establishing the country as a key player of strategic importance in the global fight against the climate crisis.



Reouven Zana (1998, France/Israel), Business and Entrepreneurship (International)

Reouven was born and raised in Paris, where he pursued a career in fashion and design. After presenting his first collection during Paris Fashion Week, he decided to move to Israel and joined the IDF, where he served as a sniper in the Paratroopers Brigade. At RU, he is focusing on using his experience in design to help brands and companies define their message and strengthen their identity. Reouven is the co-founder and CEO of the 890th Paratroopers Foundation, a non-for-profit that brings together and helps thousands of the unit's alumni while being at the frontline of the fight for combat veterans' rights in Israel. He believes in the power of social entrepreneurship and acts as a mentor for lone soldiers during and after their military service. Reouven aspires to take a central role in social action by pursuing a career involving business, strategy and diplomacy.

The Argov Team



Dr. Alisa Rubin

Dr. Alisa Rubin is the founding academic director of the Argov Fellows Program. She is a senior lecturer at RU's Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy. Alisa formerly served as a non-resident senior fellow at the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution and worked as an equity investment analyst. She completed her Ph.D. in history and Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University, her M.A. in international economics and finance at Brandeis University and her B.A. (summa cum laude) at Yale University. Alisa specializes in international political economy and business-government relations. Her current research focuses on American higher education in the Middle East and the future of higher education in the 21st century. She is passionate about educating and mentoring aspiring leaders who seek to make a positive impact on our collective future.



Leeya Fryder

Leeya Fryder is the program manager of the Argov Fellows Program. She recently returned to Israel after spending three years in California as the Jewish Agency's Israeli Emissary to Stanford University and continues to be involved in the Israel Education sphere. Before her Shlichut, Leeya worked for the IDF Education Force for five years, supervising the educational content of the Officers Training School, Nativ course, and Ulpan. Leeya earned a B.A. in Social Work from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, where she specialized in Mental Health and Child Services. During her time in Be'er Sheva, she worked and volunteered in the Special Needs field and participated in "Osirn Shinuy" and Hillel BGU.