



# Atidim in the IDF Pre-Academic Preparatory Frameworks

## Jawad Kanj

“ If I didn’t commit to the Atidim Program, I don’t know if I would have had the opportunity to study. It is important to have support and to know that I have a guaranteed framework for my studies, my army service and employment. This is a good, solid path. ”



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**Education. Excellence. Enrichment. Equal Opportunity.**  
The pillars of a strong society. The foundations for a bright and prosperous future, shared by all citizens of Israel. This is the mission we at Atidim, together with you, are striving to fulfill.

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Jawad Kanj (19) grew up in the northern Druze village of Maghar, near Tiberias. Like many gifted students, he quickly became bored with school and learned intensively on his own. In high school, he participated in the Technion's Sci-Tech Program for outstanding science students from all over the world. His research on "Characterization and Brain Mapping of Auditory Retention" was featured among the program's published works.

In addition to his studies, his activities as Student Council President and his passion for playing the tuba, Jawad dreams of being a pilot. However, when he was accepted to the pilot's course in the Israel Defense Forces, he was faced with a major dilemma: to do the course and

maybe not have the means to go to university; or, to join the Atidim program to study first and then go into the army but not necessarily as a pilot.

Jawad chose Atidim. "I see the Pre-Academic Preparatory Program as the beginning of my path to success. This is the first step into the academic world. From here I will go on to the Atidim in the IDF, serve as an officer in the army in my field of electrical engineering and physics, and then work in the professional army."

For Jawad, Atidim is the key to open another door of opportunity in his life. The program focuses on special communities of youngsters in dire need of advancement and enrichment – Ethiopians, immigrant children,

Druze, Bedouin and other minority or at-risk populations. It aspires to narrow academic gaps and integrate into academic institutions on the basis of equal merit and scholastic achievement.

The Atidim in the IDF program has had unprecedented success, ensuring that talented young people from lower socio-economic areas are able to finance their studies, continue through a high level military service and go back to serve their communities as leaders to strengthen and develop the potential in these areas. In 1999, the year before Atidim was launched, less than 1% of the Academic Reserves came from Israel's socially and geographically vulnerable

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periphery. Today, only five years into the program, over 40% of the IDF Academic Reserves is comprised of Atidim students.

Atidim offers today's disadvantaged youth a more positive and enriching future. By bolstering traditionally disenfranchised bright young people, including new immigrants, Atidim truly transforms the landscape of Israeli society.