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Abstract

For decades Arab citizens of Israel have repeatedly proposed the establishment of an Arab university in Israel. Although Arab students increasingly study in Israel's higher education institutions, Arab candidates still face obstacles in access to Israel's universities, especially to prestigious faculties such as medicine and many turn to pursue their higher education abroad. Instruction in these universities is in Hebrew, and the Arab national narrative and cultural heritage are generally ignored. In other world states, ethnic minority colleges have successfully promoted the social, political and economic status of these minorities. This paper discusses findings from qualitative research, using in-depth interviews with Arab local government employees, Arab and Jewish academics and politicians to explore the extent of support for an Arab university in Israel and to elucidate arguments for and against this proposal. Conclusions indicate that like minority universities in other countries, an Arab university could meet particular needs of the Arab population in Israel and contribute significantly to the state's

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academic excellence and economy. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)