



**Ameer Haj-Ali, The 2018-2019
Open Gateway Fellow
at International House, UC Berkeley**



Ameer Haj-Ali is an Arab-Israeli scientist and engineer, born in 1995, and raised in Shefa-‘Amr. He is a first-year PhD student in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department at UC Berkeley where he aims to research new computer architectures and microarchitectures that will hopefully deliver the next orders-of-magnitude improvement in the energy efficiency and performance.

Prior to coming to Berkeley, he finished his M.Sc. studies at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology where he worked on enhancing the performance of modern computer systems with Professor Shahar Kvatinsky and made multiple journal and conference publications. He also finished four years of undergraduate studies in computer engineering at the Technion in only three years, graduating summa cum laude and receiving the valedictorian honor. During his undergraduate studies, he worked at Mellanox Technologies as a chip designer. He focused on creating design and automation tools that facilitated the formal and dynamic verification process.

As much as he loves research, Ameer loves to teach when he is not working on new computer architectures. He started teaching at the Technion from his second semester of undergraduate studies and was the youngest TA in the EE faculty. He also used to volunteer in the “Project for Equal Opportunities” at the Technion, where he gave Arabic tutorials to first year Arab students, whose dropout rate is far above national average, due in large part to the language barrier.

From his personal statement:

As I come from an underprivileged Arab minority, it was very important for me to address in my valedictory speech the equal opportunities the Technion promotes, hoping this message would resonate with Israelis of every cultural and religious background, and with people everywhere.

The obstacles I faced taught me the value of dialogue and respect for other viewpoints. With my unique perspective, I believe I can inspire others to succeed in the face of adversity. I hope that my graduation from Berkeley will inspire other members of the Arab minority in Israel to believe that with determination, anything is possible.



The Open Gateway Fellowship was established by multiple donors to support a term endowment fund for US or international first-year incoming Ph.D. student with demonstrated financial need.