

## The Customer Organization:

The Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies <https://rlgslsb.haifa.ac.il/?lang=en>

### Main activities:

1. The scholarly study of religions – with an emphasis on interfaith dialogue and interdisciplinary collaborations.
2. Public outreach that will facilitate inter-religious dialogue and understanding.
3. Dialogues among diverse religious leaderships and legal practitioners.
4. International symposium on religious diversity in Haifa

## The issue tackled:

As part of the laboratory's public outreach, students from the Department of Information Systems in collaboration with the office of the Department of Justice in Haifa have designed and implemented an application called Festival Ahead – a tool for personnel management with cultural sensitivity.

### The tool provides for:

1. Organizational planning of holidays taking into account the religious diversity of the workforce.
2. Sending personal seasonal greetings to employees at the right moment and in an appropriate format.
3. Improving the employees' sense of belonging and understanding through suggested workplace activities about holidays and customs.

The current version of the application is to begin beta testing at a number of sites in Haifa during first semester.

The students from the IS department undertaking this as a capstone project in October 2023 will develop a new application with international applicability, creating interfaces for adding additional religions, supporting additional languages and improving accessibility for differently abled users. The students will also support the beta testing program of the current application and gain experience in accessibility, maintenance skills and DEVOPS processes with a living application.

## Supervision:

**Academic Advisor:** Please contact one of the possible academic mentors this semester.

Religious studies laboratory contact: Dr. Uriel Simonsohn ([website](#))

## Skills Required:

Ability to work with a variety of customers and technologies. Ability to learn new technology as required. Cultural sensitivity. Knowledge of Github and Jenkins is an advantage but not a pre-requisite