



# Nimi Elkayam

“The Atidim in Industry Program is a gift. I am now studying for my degree in engineering at the Technion while interning at one of the best companies in Israel – Iscar Metalworking. It’s truly a win-win situation.”



Nimi Elkayam, 29, grew up in Kiryat Ata, near Haifa. All of his life he's tried to balance the ambition to get a college education and move ahead, with the need to work to help out his family. As the second of four children, and the oldest boy, he was given special permission from the army to work after his father disappeared from their lives.

It was also the army that gave Nimi the confidence to believe that he could be more than just a "simple worker", as his grandfather once suggested. He served in the logistics unit, first in the civil engineering division, and then as a senior instructor. "I was given a lot of responsibility and this gave me newfound self-confidence and intense motivation to go to college," says Nimi.

After his discharge, Nimi worked two jobs, as a gas station attendant and a Birthright Israel counselor, to help his mother. "I didn't have any money left over for college, but I knew that I had to go," explains Nimi with determination. "I worked double-shifts and eventually saved enough for my first year at the Technion." Nimi is majoring in mechanical engineering.

When Nimi found the Atidim in Industry program on the Internet he immediately applied. When he was accepted, it was



הדפוס בבית הדפוס של הסוכנות היהודית

like a precious gift. He received a full tuition scholarship, living expenses, a laptop computer and most importantly, he was "adopted" by Iscar, one of Israel's leading companies, founded by Eitan Wertheimer and invested in by Warren Buffet.

"I work one day a week, and the people at Iscar are wonderful. Essentially, they want me to concentrate fully on my studies so I can succeed. When I graduate I look forward to working at the company."

Iscar, maker of precision cutting tools, employs 2,000 people in Israel and is located in the Western Galilee, with the goal of strengthening this region. Nimi hopes to live and raise his family there. "I am already 29-years-old but I feel like I have such a wonderful future ahead of me," says Nimi. "There's no better program to invest in than Atidim."